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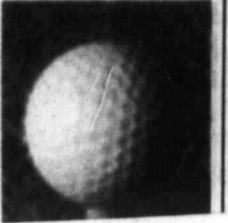
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THE PAMPA NEWS

Friday, July 14, 2006

Volume 102 • No. 85

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Architects firm plan for last of ISD board meetings

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Architects were busy today in Pampa adjusting their drawings for a third evening meeting this week concerning proposed renovations to Pampa High School.

Jay Edwards and his team with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper architects met with Pampa Independent School District board members, staff and a citizens advisory committee Wednesday and Thursday evenings to develop a master plan for future school facilities. Tonight, at 6 p.m. in the Pampa High School library, they will make their final presentation for this round of planning.

In a preliminary report this spring, the architectural firm indicated Pampa High School and Pampa Junior High School needed to be replaced. They said the elementary schools, thanks to renovation work done 10 years ago, are in relatively good shape. The support facilities and auxiliary facilities, including the football stadium and track, need major renovation. They recommended that Carver and Horace Mann be torn down.

As Edwards and his team continued to meet over the past couple of months with school officials and the advisory committee, the consensus of opinion appeared to center around replacing the junior high school and renovating the high school, although no decision has yet been made.

The meetings this week centered on Pampa High School. Based on previous discussions, the architectural team presented four scenarios related to the high school to the PISD officials and advisory committee Wednesday night.

The first one includes building a new library and girl's gym, a commons area that could be used as a cafeteria, demolishing the wood shop and adding a science wing and possibly a ninth grade wing of classrooms.

Mike Baker with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper said the additional wing, which would be built along the north side of the existing building east of the north "Best of the West" entrance,

See PISD, Page 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDC closer to getting director

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation took one more step toward hiring an executive director this week.

At their meeting Thursday, the Pampa EDC board of directors approved procedures for employing an executive director.

The procedures include the advertising of the position, reviewing applicants, setting up interviews, negotiating compensation and sending

a written offer of employment. When a candidate is hired, the board will notify the other applicants. All applications and resumes will be kept on file for 12 months and then discarded. Applicants may be required to have a medical exam, drug screen, criminal history check and credit check. Any falsification of material in an application will eliminate the candidate or, if the candidate has been hired, will result in immediate termination.

The board also reviewed bids for creating and hosting a Web site for the Pampa EDC.

• Lee Carter of Pampa offered a static site for \$1,075, a flash site (some animation) for \$1,275 and hosting for \$25.

• CentraMedia bid \$750 for a static site, \$2,500 for a flash site and hosting for \$29.95.

• Advanced Marketing bid \$810 for a static site, \$1,260 for a flash site and

See EDC, Page 3

Grand opening



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
Owners of Pampa's AmericInn who cut the ribbon at Thursday's grand opening were, from left, Leslie O'Loughlin holding dog, Scott White and Jamie White, surrounded by the Chamber of Commerce Gold Coats.

Channel 10 to air news from PHS

NewsChannel 10 of Amarillo is kicking off its 2006 Summer Celebration Tour Monday with a visit to Pampa.

The CBS affiliate will broadcast its 6 and 10 p.m. news broadcasts from the front lawn of Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester.

The NewsChannel 10 anchor team, consisting of Walt Howard, Kari King, Wendi Finney, "Doppler" Dave Oliver and Jason Zielinski will be on hand.

Between newscasts, station personnel will provide games, free food and giveaways, including T-shirts, West Texas A&M University football tickets, and coupons. NewsChannel 10 has partnered with United Supermarkets to provide free hot dogs, ice cream, chips and drinks.

See NEWS, Page 2

Woman reports suspicious call to authorities

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

At least one Pampa resident has received calls from persons claiming to be representatives of Medicare who asked for personal and banking information in an apparent case of fraud.

Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing said Thursday that the resident had reported the calls to Gray County Sheriff's Office. The caller had told the resident that due to the war in Iraq, the federal government's debt had become so large that the Medicare program was being revamped.

The caller then said that the woman was one of those who would continue to receive benefits; he just needed to confirm her birth date, Social Security number and bank information.

"She asked why she hadn't heard anything about this on the news, and they said they were keeping it quiet," Rushing said. "She said she wasn't giving him the information, and he hung up."

The resident also reported the incident to the Pampa News. She said she had received four calls over a two-day period from various persons claiming to be with the "National Medicare Office" in New York.

"They were very demanding," she said of the callers. "I called the Social Security office, and they said it was definitely fraud."

The callers, the last of whom claimed to be the office's manager, asked for her birth date, Social Security number,

See CALL, Page 3

CRMWA: City's water content to under go change

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Meredith.

SANFORD — Pampa's drinking water will soon be half ground water from Roberts County and half lake water from Lake

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority approved a proposal to increase the amount of ground water in the mixture they send to their 11 member cities, including Pampa, at

their quarterly meeting here Wednesday.

Kent Satterwhite, general manager of the water authority, said the mixture had been 55 percent lake water and 45 percent ground water. The increase in ground

water is due to dropping water levels in Lake Meredith.

Satterwhite said the overall allocation of water to CRMWA's member cities

See WATER, Page 3

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

ELLIOTT, June E. — 10 a.m., Trinity United Methodist Church, Amarillo.
HARVEY, Lloyd Rankin — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Nelson Family Cemetery, St. Joseph, Mo.
LADD, Audrey Ann — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
THOMPSON, Madge Marie — Graveside services, 1 p.m., Rock Cemetery, Duke, Okla.

June E. Elliott, 76

June E. Elliott, 76, of Amarillo, died Wednesday, July 12, 2006.
 Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Trinity United Methodist Church. Officiating will be the Rev. Scott Richards, pastor. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery with arrangements by Memorial Park Funeral Home, 6969 E. I-40.
 Mrs. Elliott was born in Stroud, Okla. She attended Texas State College for Women in Denton.
 She was a secretary/book-keeper for A.M.P.I. and had received a 25 year ring.
 Mrs. Elliott was a long-time member of Community of Grace United Methodist Church before moving her membership to Trinity United Methodist Church where she was actively involved in their Saints Alive Choir.
 She had received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Vista Care Hospice in Lubbock in 2004 and 2005. She continued her volunteer work with NursCare Hospice in Lubbock.
 She had also received numerous awards for her volunteer work with the Amarillo Police Department.
 She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Elliott; son, Jimmy Mixon; grandson, Greg Elliott; and granddaughter, Bailey Langham.
 Survivors include her children, Ann and husband Dr. Walter Irwin of Quitaque, Charles Elliott and wife Melanie of Spearman, D.J. and husband Edd Geoffroy of Angel Fire, N.M., Jo Mixon of Lubbock, Bobby Elliott and wife Tammy of Amarillo; grandchildren, Faith and Steven Bernoff, Michelle and Robert Johnson, Matt and Holly Langham, Taydawn Hawkins, Justin Geoffroy, Michelle and Izzy Vasquez, Amber Elliott, Ace Elliott, Marcus Bowers and Blaze Elliott; 14 great-grandchildren; and her beloved pet, Bullet.
 The family suggests memorials be to Trinity United Methodist Church, Amarillo.

PISD

Continued from Page 1

could be a three story wing housing the ninth grade on the first floor and science labs on the second and third floors. An option, he said, would be to make the wing two stories, housing just the science labs.

The existing girl's gym and library would be torn out to make room for kitchen, cafeteria and commons area.

A new girl's gym would be built on the south end of the MPACT building across the street between the baseball fields and the stadium.

The school's administrative offices would be moved to adjoin the commons area and look out over the parking lot on the north side of the high school.

A new auditorium and fine arts building would be built on the west end of the main high school building, but Edwards said that would probably have to be done at some time in the future for financial reasons, although it would be in the master plan.

"Not everything in the master plan," Edwards said, "would be done now."

The area where the administrative officers are now located would be turned into classroom space.

In the second scenario, Baker said the existing high school building would remain as is while a new girl's

gym would be build where the tennis courts are now. The tennis courts would be moved to Austin Elementary School.

A ninth grade wing would be added to the north side of the main building at the east end.

More classrooms would be added on the north side of the main building where the girl's gym is now.

A commons area, cafeteria and kitchen would be built between the main building and McNeely Field House.

The third scenario would place a new library and science labs in front at the east end of the main building. The science labs would be on two floors. The library would be a single story.

The administrative offices, commons area and kitchen would be clustered on the north side of the main building, opening to the north parking lot.

The commons area, Edwards said, would be a multifunctional area, serving as a cafeteria with a raised platform that could be used as a stage.

The auditorium, which is not large enough to seat the entire high school student body, would be turned into two stories with six classrooms on each floor.

The girl's gym would be moved to the MPACT building.

Scenario four would put parking in front of the building where part of the lawn is now. The auditorium would have some renovation, but no expan-

sion, and a walk way would connect the fine arts building to the main building along on the north side.

A commons area would be located on the north side, east of the north entrance, and be connected to McNeely Field House by a corridor. The girl's gym would remain where it is.

A science wing would be built at the east end of the main building.

The plans laid out by the architects were not detailed, but Edwards said that they are just dealing with the square footage for now. More detailed plans would be developed later as school officials and advisory committee members chose the direction they would like the plans to go.

Edwards said he would have some cost estimates for tonight's meeting, but that the four scenarios all involved about the same total space and were close in costs.

"There's not a whole lot of differences in all of them," Baker said.

Edwards estimated the total costs of what they were proposing to be in the range from \$18 million to \$20 million.

"We will have to squeeze that down," he admitted.

Wednesday night, he estimated the cost of building a new junior high at \$22 million.

If a bond issue is proposed and passes, the maximum amount the school district can raise for replacement and renovations would be about \$39 million.

Emergency Services

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls

during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
Thursday, July 13
 4:08 p.m. — One unit and

two personnel responded to the 600 block of Zimmers on a hazardous material spill.

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 100. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 72. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high around 97. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly

cloudy, with a low near 72. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy and hot, with a high near 99. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 73. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97.

South wind around 10 mph. Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 73. South wind around 10 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy and hot, with a high near 97. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 72.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy and hot, with a high near 101.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer:

Wheat	4.40
Milo	3.61
Corn	4.50
Soybeans	4.85

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

OXY	103.22	+0.82
BP PLC ADR	71.16	+0.18
Cabot Corp	31.83	-0.39
Celanese	19.51	-0.14
Cabot Oil Gas	46.37	-0.21
Coca Cola	43.06	-0.04
VLO	64.31	-0.20
HAL	73.25	-0.48
TRI	38.79	-0.25
KMI	99.99	+0.11
XCEL	19.29	+0.02
Kerr McGee	69.91	-0.01
XOM	64.68	+0.61
Nat'l Oilwell	61.17	-0.31
Limited	24.20	-0.08
Williams	22.90	+0.11
MCD	32.99	-0.18
Atmos	28.25	-0.02
Pioneer Nat	44.34	-0.36
ICP	64.71	-0.07
COP	67.07	-0.01
SLB	66.61	+0.38
Tenneco	22.56	-0.41
CVX	65.97	+1.03
Wal-Mart	43.74	-0.42
OKE	35.49	+0.08
NS Gp	52.94	-0.15

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GARAGE SALE, Saturday 7-??, 104 N. Nelson. Will have baby items.

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News

Cont. from Page 1

Local organizations will also provide entertainment, activities and refreshments.

The Summer Celebration Tour continues Tuesday in Guymon, Okla.; Wednesday, Dumas; Thursday, Clovis, N.M.; and Friday, Canyon.

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GRAY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

Appraisal records expected to be approved by board

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Pending hearings by the Gray County Appraisal District's review board will not delay approval of the current appraisal records, according to Pat Bagley, chief appraiser.

"As long as we settle 95 percent of the total values, the board can approve the appraisal records. This becomes the appraisal roll," Bagley said.

The review board met July 6 and 7 to hear protests filed by residential and commercial property taxpayers concerning valuations of their taxable property.

Four hearings, two of which concern commercial property and two residential, are scheduled for July 20. Each of those had asked for another hearing date, Bagley said, and the board had asked for more information from the two commercial property taxpayers concerning their valuations.

Six residential accounts were reviewed last week at the hearings. Two of those hearings resulted in the valuations being lowered, while the remaining four were not changed, Bagley said.

Five commercial accounts were reviewed, with three commercial taxpayers appearing by affidavit. No changes were made to any of the commercial accounts at that time, Bagley said.

Property taxpayers have 30 days from the date they receive their valuations in the mail to file a protest if they wish. A hearing date is scheduled and the protester is given 15 days' advance notice of the hearing, Bagley said.

"We encourage them to come and talk to us, because if they do have a problem, we can help them solve it," he said.

Valuations may be lowered, unchanged or raised as a result of protests and hearings.

'As long as we settle 95 percent of the total values, the board can approve the appraisal records. This becomes the appraisal roll.'

— Pat Bagley
Chief appraiser

EDC

Continued from Page 1

an hourly rate of \$45 for maintaining the site.

Amarillo InTech bid \$550 for a static site and \$19.95 for hosting.

The board delayed approving a bid until they could see sites produced by the bidders.

Kathy Cota, Pampa EDC secretary, reported that she had contacted Rodney

Wichert, concerning a student contest to design a logo for the EDC. Seven students had designed and turned in logos, but the board wanted to make the contest available to the 2006-2007 students as well. The board is offering a \$250 scholarship to the winner.

The financial report indicated that the Pampa EDC's beginning balance was \$20,000, a sum put in the EDC's account by the City of Pampa in March. The June 26 balance was

\$12,236.28.

The one-half cent sales tax collection to fund the EDC started July 1, according to the Dwight Fiveash, president of the board. The first revenues from the collections are expected to be deposited into the EDC's account in late August or early September.

The next scheduled meeting of the Pampa EDC will be at 11 a.m. July 25 in the Nona Payne Room of the Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

Call

Continued from Page 1

and routing number, account number and a check number off of her bank checks.

"They said if they didn't get this information, I'd lose my Medicare," she said.

The callers told her that if they were given the information, not only would her Medicare continue, but every member of her household, regardless of age or

circumstance, would be covered for all health issues, including dental and vision care. She would get a new card in the mail with a new number, and was to use that card in place of her Social Security number, which would no longer be valid.

The Social Security Administration already has the needed information on persons who have already been receiving benefits, Rushing said. Such information could be used in cases of identity theft and other

costly crimes, he said.

"Your bank won't call for information like that, either," Rushing said.

The representative whom the woman talked to when she called the Social Security office said that agency would not call people on the telephone for such a reason, and suggested the woman call the Medicare Prescription Drug Fraud Waste and Abuse Hotline at 877-772-3379 to report the fraudulent calls.

Water

Continued from Page 1

will not change for now.

The water authority may consider cutting those allocations, however, when they meet in October, depending upon weather conditions and the lake level. They could cut total allocations from 29 billion gallons per year for the 11 cities to 23 billion gallons.

Pampa City Manager John Horst said Pampa has never used its full allocation and doesn't expect any problems, but he did express concern over the continuing decline of the lake's water level.

The water authority over the past few years has expanded the water rights they hold in Roberts, Gray, Hemphill and Ochiltree counties to about 300,000 acres. Initially, they bought about 70,000 acres of water rights in Roberts County for a well field that would increase the quantity and improve the quality of water to their member cities. The well field proved to be a wise move as drought conditions decreased the amount of water in Lake Meredith.

Satterwhite said Thursday afternoon that even with recent rains the water level in the lake has not risen.

He said he and other staff members at CRMWA went up the Canadian River this week above the lake, but there was no water flowing

into the lake from the river. Upstream, he said, the river was flowing, but it appeared to be soaking into the ground before reaching the lake.

The CRMWA board also authorized Satterwhite to move forward with expansion of the ground water well field at their Wednesday meeting.

The water authority plans to drill four to seven new wells in their well field at a cost of up to \$1 million per well. The additional wells will provide more than three billion gallons of water a year.

Satterwhite said the present wells are pumping at capacity.

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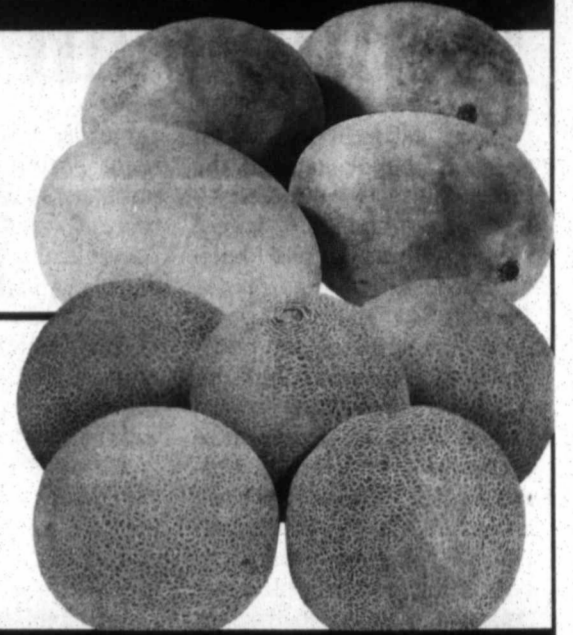
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Viewpoints

Republican voters back Senate's immigration bill

Now that Felipe Calderón seems to have won and the threat that was embodied by Chavista Andrés Manuel López Obrador has been defeated, it is time for the Republicans in the House to look beyond their own noses and deal generously with our neighbor to the south.

The Mexican people have just rejected a leftist anti-American alternative and embraced free-market capitalism in a dramatic vote. It is one thing for middle-class Americans to do so, but for Mexicans, many of whom are impoverished, to turn away from a candidate who promises a 20 percent pay increase and free gas and electricity and embrace a free-market alternative is a testament to the sense, perspective, balance, wisdom and maturity of the Mexican electorate.

Would that our own politi-

cal leaders had such gifts.

Respected Republican pollster Lance Tarrance reports that the House Republicans are misreading their own base in their hardened and doctrinaire opposition to an earned-citizenship program and in their efforts to besmirch this alternative by calling it "amnesty."

Tarrance's poll, only of Republican voters, found that the base embraced the idea of an earned path to citizenship, in which illegal immigrants could "earn legal status and eventual citizenship by working, paying taxes, learning English and waiting their turn behind people in their home countries who are already waiting in line for visas." The Republican sample backed this proposal 80-17 percent.

Conversely, the Republicans rejected out of hand the House-passed

option, in which "illegal immigrants could earn legal status as a foreign worker but would have no possibility of ever becoming citizens," 25-70.

In all, when the Senate and House versions of the immigration legislation were fairly explained to voters — in some detail — Republicans backed the Senate version 75-17 but only broke even on the House bill, 47-46. Asked if the Senate bill constitutes "amnesty," the dirty word in the immigration debate, 39 percent said yes but 49 percent said no.

The fact is that Republican voters are far ahead of their Neanderthal leaders on the immigration debate. They

recognize that, as The New York Times reported, three-quarters of illegal immigrants work for major corporations and have income taxes withheld from their paychecks like other American workers.

What is more, this three-quarters contribute to Social Security even though they have no prospect of ever receiving benefits.

In truth, the Republican leaders object to the earned path to citizenship not out of any justifiable sense of concern for those who have not flouted the law to become immigrants but because they do not want the current crop of illegal immigrants to register and vote out of a self-

filling prophecy that they will back the Democrats.

But the results of the 2004 elections in the United States and the 2006 elections in Mexico both attest to the fundamental conservatism of the Latino voters.

In the United States, it was the swing in Hispanic support to the Republicans that did much to enable Bush to achieve a three-point margin in the popular vote. Where Gore had carried Latinos by 30 points, Kerry's margin was under 10.

And, in the most recent Mexican elections, the leftist demagogue, who played on popular resentment against American immigration policies, was only about to win slightly more than one-third of the ultimate vote while the Harvard-educated technocrat, Calderón, was elected by a narrow plurality.

The future of the Republican Party in America depends on its ability to appeal to Hispanic voters. If the newly enfranchised Latino immigrants side with their African-American brethren and bloc-vote for the Democratic Party, it will be a death blow to the GOP as Hispanics cast an ever larger share of the national vote.

President Bush has recognized the importance of outreach, even at the price of increasing the Hispanic electorate. The House leaders should follow the president on this issue. More to the point, they should heed the opinions of their base and reach out to legalize Hispanic illegal immigrants and set them on a path to earned citizenship.

Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

Dick Morris
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 14, the 195th day of 2006. There are 170 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 14, 1789, during the French Revolution, citizens of Paris stormed the Bastille prison and released the seven prisoners inside.

On this date:

In 1798, Congress passed the Sedition Act, making it a federal crime to publish false, scandalous or malicious writing about the U.S. government.

In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry relayed to Japanese officials a letter from former President Fillmore, requesting trade relations.

In 1881, outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias "Billy the Kid," was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner, N.M.

In 1933, all German political parties, except the Nazi Party, were outlawed.

In 1958, the army of Iraq overthrew the monarchy.

In 1965, the American space probe Mariner 4 flew by Mars, sending back photographs of the

'A man must be both stupid and uncharitable who believes there is no virtue or truth but on his own side.'

— Joseph Addison
English essayist and poet (1672-1719)

planet.

In 1965, U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. died in London at age 65.

In 1966, eight student nurses were murdered by Richard Speck in a Chicago dormitory.

In 1976, Jimmy Carter won the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in New York.

In 1978, Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky was convicted of treasonous espionage and anti-Soviet agitation, and sentenced to 13 years at hard labor. (Sharansky was released in 1986.)

Ten years ago: Fire crews were battling blazes covering more than 16,000 acres in California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon and Utah. In Northern Ireland, a car bomb ravaged a country hotel soon after the building was evacuated. (A shadow group calling itself Continuity claimed responsibility for the blast.)

Five years ago: In a boost for President Bush's hopes to build a defense against ballistic missile attack, the Pentagon scored a hit with an interceptor that soared into space from a tiny Pacific isle and destroyed its target, a mock nuclear warhead. China convicted American business professor Li Shaomin of spying for Taiwan and then ordered him deported.



Tasers are a good law enforcement tool

As people around the country debate the use of Tasers by police agencies, they should always keep in mind the alternatives. The Taser is a device that gives a person an electric jolt that temporarily disables him. Normally, it is not fatal, but some people have died after being stunned, though it's my understanding that as of now no death has been directly linked to the electric jolt.

The larger problem is this: Once a police officer says, "You are under arrest," you must and will be taken to jail. Hopefully, you will go voluntarily, but if you physically resist arrest, then the officer or officers must use whatever force is necessary to subdue you and take you to jail. They have no choice. In most states, resisting arrest is itself a felony, and in many states a police officer

is authorized to use lethal means to arrest a felon.

This means a physical fight, because the only logical reply to force is counterforce. In the past, most police officers carried clubs and blackjacks. The old-fashioned blackjacks were a lump of lead on a steel spring wrapped in thin leather. Both these and clubs can inflict serious injuries, even fatal injuries sometimes.

Today, in most departments, officers are equipped with pepper spray and a Taser. These are provided as nonlethal means of subduing someone who is resisting arrest. So, if you remove these nonlethal tools from the officers, what is the alter-

native? I'd rather be stunned than cracked on the head with a club. I'd rather be stunned than shot.

Happily, most people don't resist arrest. Professional petty criminals know the routine and know it's pointless to resist. Usually, those who resist are people who are out of control due either to mental illness or to the effects of drugs, or they are people who have committed a serious felony and know they will go to prison. These conditions, however, do not relieve the arresting officer of the necessity of physically subduing the person.

Police officers deserve to be cut some slack by the public. They are the only

public officials who are legally authorized to take a human life without a trial. They take this terrible responsibility seriously, and I can assure you the overwhelming majority of local and state law-enforcement officers have no desire to kill somebody.

The flood of make-believe violence produced by the entertainment and gaming industries makes killing seem like a casual affair, but it is not, and nobody knows this better than a policeman who has been forced by circumstances to take a human life.

The problem for the police officer is that out on the street, in the presence of a violent individual, he has no time to consider the situation leisurely, much less call in medical professionals

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **June 30**
Austin American-Statesman on when \$15,000 a year is too much money:

The U.S. Senate should reconsider its vote that stopped a proposed increase in the national minimum wage, which has been stuck at \$5.15 an hour for about nine years. With the Bush administration touting a healthy, growing economy, and after billions of dollars of tax cuts including cuts for businesses the nation can well afford a wage increase for those of us at the bottom of the work ladder.

A Democratic proposal to raise the

minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour won a small majority of the Senate last week on a 52 to 46 vote, with most GOP senators including Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn, both of Texas opposed. But that was eight short of the 60 votes needed to clear a procedural hurdle. A Republican alternative, to raise the minimum wage to \$6.25 an hour, was rejected on a 53 to 45 vote, with Democrats opposed.

The Senate and the House, whose GOP leadership appears to be ducking the issue, ought to be embarrassed by their failure to raise the minimum wage for so long. Early this month, the House rejected a challenge to its own scheduled salary increase of \$3,300 a year, which would raise House members' salaries to \$168,500 a year

\$34,900 higher than it was in 1997, the last time Congress raised the minimum wage. Congress has awarded itself a pay increase the past seven years in a row.

In comparison, a worker earning minimum wage for a full-time job makes about \$10,700 a year. If the Democrats had their way, that would go up to about \$15,000 a year; if the Republicans had theirs, it would go up to \$13,000. Democrats say about 7 million workers would benefit from a minimum wage increase.

Republicans voting against the proposed increase gave the usual arguments: It's too expensive, especially for small businesses, and discourages hir-

See MONEY, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

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Publisher: Sean Smith

Editor: Dennis Spies

Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods

Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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Texas gasoline prices up slightly for third straight week, AAA says

HOUSTON (AP) — Gasoline prices rose slightly across the state to reach \$2.86 per gallon, marking the third straight week of increases, AAA Texas reported Friday.

Escalating tensions in the Middle East have renewed fears that supplies from the region may be disrupted, said Rose Rougeau, a spokeswoman for AAA Texas. Corpus Christi held steady with the

lowest average price, for regular self-serve, at \$2.70 per gallon, according to the group's weekly gasoline price service. The highest average price for gasoline was the Galveston-Texas City area, at

\$2.93 per gallon. The national average for regular self-serve gasoline rose two cents, reaching \$2.96 per gallon, according to AAA Texas.

People in the news

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Mr. T has given himself a makeover.

The former television action star shed the piles of gold chains that were his signature look after witnessing the destruction from Hurricane Katrina.

"As a spiritual man, I felt it would be a sin against my God for me to wear all that gold again because I spent a lot of time with the less fortunate," the actor said Thursday at the Television Critics Association's summer meeting.

"I saw some, I call it 'sorry celebrities.' They'll go down there and hook up with the people to take a photo-op. I said, 'How disgusting.' If you're not going to go down there with a check and a hammer and a nail to help the people, don't go down there."

Mr. T, whose real name is Lawrence Tero, stars in "I Pity the Fool" debuting in October on TV Land. He dispenses advice to viewers who are struggling with life's problems.

The former star of "The A-Team" said he's about more than his rough-and-tough image.

"Yes, I am qualified to beat people up. But I am pretty intelligent," he said. "That's what throws people off. If you've been through something, that gives you an authority that you can speak on certain things. That's why people relate to me. I pull no punches."

NEW YORK (AP) — Britney Spears, who is pregnant with her second child,

says she's not ready to retire from performing.

"I can't wait to do that again," Spears, 24, tells Harper's Bazaar in its August issue, on newsstands July 25. "But I really have to take my time and do it right and be safe. Actually ... not that safe. When you perform, you have to be dangerous."

'As a spiritual man, I felt it would be a sin against my God for me to wear all that gold again because I spent a lot of time with the less fortunate.'

—Mr. T Actor

The pregnant pop princess also says she would "definitely" consider a musical collaboration with her husband, Kevin Federline, 28. His debut hip-hop album, "Playing With Fire," is expected to be released next month.

"I'm so proud of Kevin," Spears says. "He's been working so hard on his own album since I got pregnant with Preston," the couple's first child, who was born last September.

"Preston's just like a rocker kid," she says of her 10-month-old son. "He is a beautiful baby. We're very close, and attached."

Spears, who darkened her

hair and bared nearly all for the camera of lensman Alexi Lubomirski for the Bazaar photos, says her first pregnancy made her feel "paranoid" because she was new at everything.

"This one, I was like, I just gotta wing it. It was weird for me at first because of who I am; wherever you go they expect you to look a certain way. I'm not supposed to be this huge pregnant superstar."

Spears plans to get back into fighting shape after Baby No. 2 — due this fall — is born.

"After this baby, I'm going to get really intense with that."

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been more than 20 years since the Who blasted their way through a major concert tour. This fall, they'll give it another go.

The opening date will be Sept. 12 in Philadelphia, Pete Townshend and Roger Daltrey announced Thursday. They will then wind their way through the U.S. and Canada before jumping next year to South America, the Far East, Australia and Europe.

Stops on the tour include New York, Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Seattle, Los Angeles and Toronto.

The Who will perform songs from their new "mini-rock" opera, "Wire & Glass," and their upcoming studio album, tentatively titled, "Who 2," set for release Oct. 23. It will be their first studio album since 1982's "It's Hard."

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Reese

Continued from Page 4

cent people in the vicinity.

Parents should especially stress to teenage children that under no circumstances should they ever attempt to flee a police officer, resist arrest or talk back sarcastically. If there is a problem with the arrest, the place to sort that out is in court.

Police officers are human beings, just like the rest of us. They can have bad days. Their job in itself is stressful. When they stop a car at night, they don't know who the driver is. He might be a teenager with a heavy foot. He might be some guy who just robbed a store and murdered the clerk. He might be a serial killer or a wanted felon. The officer, who wants to go home to his family, must necessarily be cautious and stern. And, if you are the driver, you don't want to do anything that the officer can interpret as a threat.

Keep your hands visible at all times and wait for his instructions. If you go rummaging in the glove box for registration papers or reach behind you for your wallet before he asks for them, he might think you are reaching for a gun. That's a good way to get killed.

Tasers and pepper spray are good law-enforcement tools. They can be abused, of course, because police are humans and can make mistakes, but even when they are abused, the consequences are most often not fatal, nor do they result in permanent injuries. I would be reluctant to ban them.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

— who aren't available anyway. The officer has to act and often must make a decision in seconds. His obligation is to protect himself and other inno-

Money

Continued from Page 4

over the past eight years. But Senate Democrats voted against the smaller increase proposed by Republicans because it had provisions to cut taxes and exempt more businesses from the federal wage and hour law.

Polls show that most Americans support a higher minimum wage. A survey in March by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press found that 83 percent of Americans favored raising the minimum wage by \$2 an hour. The same survey showed that 72 percent of Republicans also supported a \$2 increase.

People making the lowest wages don't have much political or market power. Just because we can keep their wages so low doesn't mean we should. Republicans in Congress should drop their opposition and raise the minimum wage.

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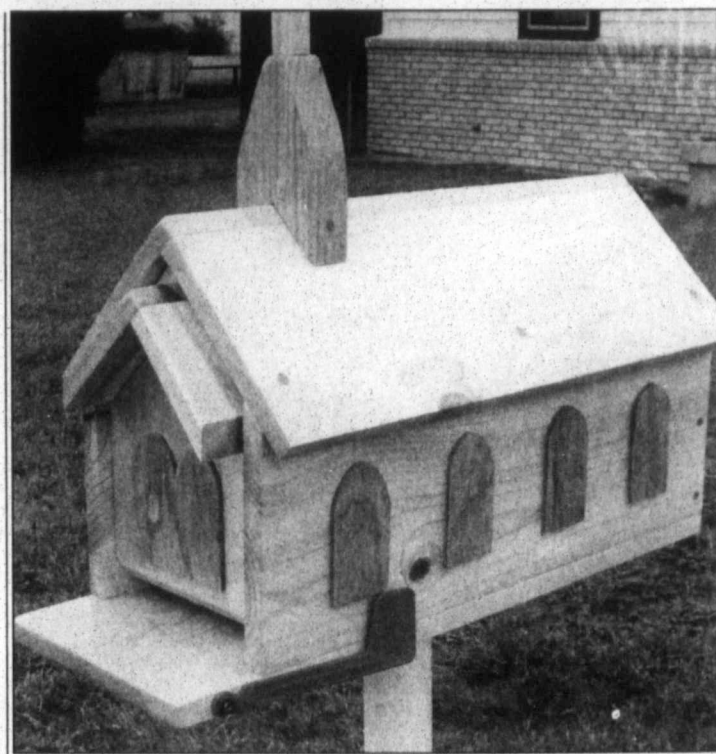
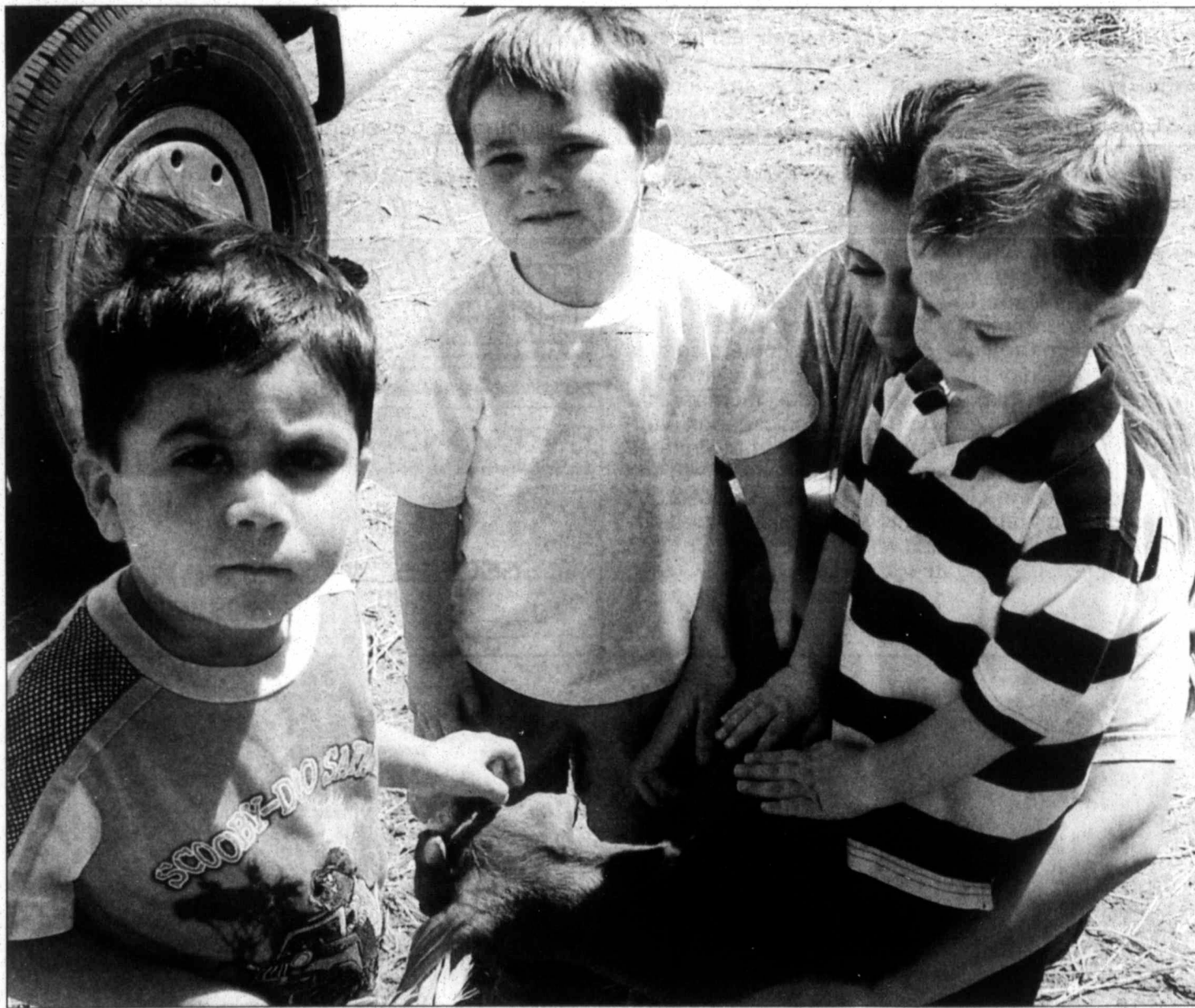
Religion

Mother's Day Out



▲ Cason Steward, from left, Connor Hampton and Ryan Mayberry pet a chicken during a Mother's Day Out trip recently. Beverly Alexander is director of the Mother's Day Out group at Pampa's First Methodist Church.

▼ Ryan Mayberry, Noah Land and Jayton Whittington pet this little goat during a Mother's Day Out outing recently. Pictured with the children is Kelly Mayberry. Beverly Alexander is director of the Mother's Day Out group at Pampa's First Methodist Church.



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Monday July 17th

7 PM

at the First Baptist Church in McLean

Curtis Simpson, a former resident of McLean, now a member of The Red River Boys sings all over the area. You will be greatly blessed! A Love offering will be taken and the proceeds will help with the expense of our City Wide Vacation Bible School.

**Come Join Us!
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"Beyond The Sunset"

In the summer of 1936, Virgil Brock, a well-known Christian musician and his wife, Blanche, were at Winona Lake, Indiana for an evening with the Rodeheaver School of Music. On this particular evening, the sunset was fabulous. As faculty members talked about the splendor of the setting sun against the lake, Horace Burr, a faculty member and cousin of Virgil's, exclaimed, "My, that sure is a wonderful sunset. Thanks for picturing it for me." Horace Burr, you see, was blind. When someone commented on Horace's seeing, he replied, "I can see. I see through other people's eyes, and I see beyond the sunset." Later that evening, Virgil Brock wrote this hymn and dedicated it to Horace Burr.

Ref: Robert J. Morgan

This hymn history brought to you by



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Hitting home runs all the time

How about a few thoughts on home run hitting that doesn't focus on steroids? Sound like a good idea? Well, here we go.

If a baseball player could hit a home run every time he chose to, how often would he hit a home run? Would he ever say, "Oh, I'm tired of hitting home runs, I think I'll just hit a single this time."

Or would you ever expect him to say, "I'm tired of scoring so many runs, so I think I'll just strikeout this time."

Would any sane player ever talk like that, think like that? No way! You're probably thinking, "Nobody is that stupid."

Well, I beg to differ with you. I know lots of husbands and wives who are just that foolish.



Mike Sublett

Hi-Land Christian

One of the tools that I use in counseling is a "Home Run List." I have each wife/husband make a list of five things that their spouse can do for them that will be just like a million dollars.

That is their "Home Run List" and it is always right because they know for sure what makes them feel so wonderful. Then I have each husband/wife make a list of five things that

See SUBLETT, Page 8

Church briefs

Four Pampa churches are teaming up to host a joint vacation church school "Fiesta" from 6-9 p.m. July 17-21 at First Presbyterian Church. The four churches

are First Presbyterian, First Christian Church, HiLand Christian Church and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

The event will conclude

with a swim party at M.K. Brown Municipal Pool. The school will incorporate Bible study, fun music, snacks and recreation. For more information, call 665-2936.

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6pm to 9pm

Monday through Friday

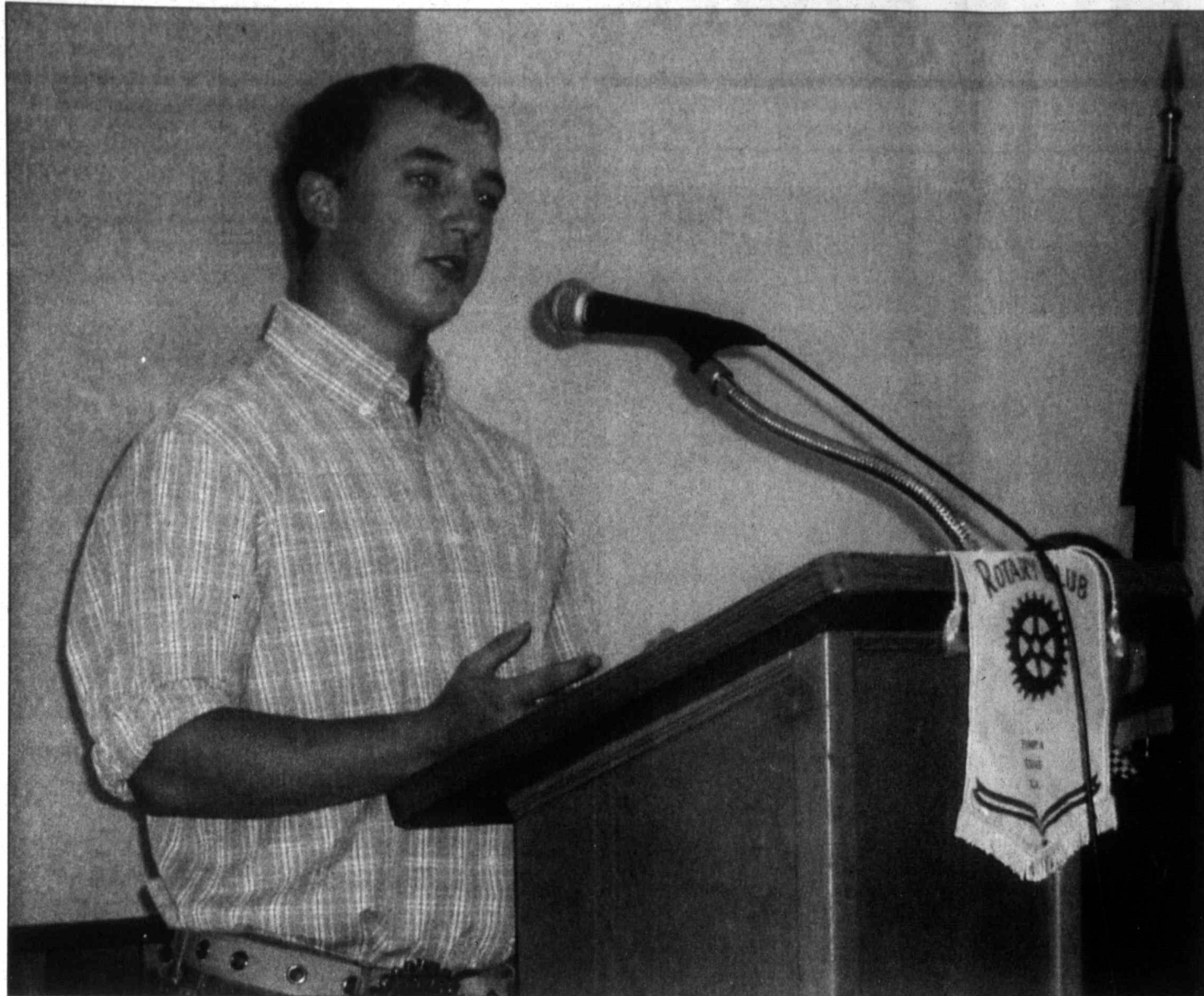
Host Church: First Presbyterian Church • 525 N Gray St.

There will be a Swimming Party on Friday evening at
the M.K. Brown Pool

COME JOIN THE FUN AT



Rotary camp



Christopher Campbell addresses a recent meeting of Pampa Rotary Club. Campbell is one of four high school seniors from Pampa High selected for sponsorship to Rotary Youth Leadership camp at Lone Tree Ranch in Capitan, N.M. The five-day leadership camp will engage the Rotary West Texas District 5730 campers in an exchange of ideas and opinions to cultivate their individual leadership abilities. Campbell is the son of Bob and Martha Campbell.

Pampa News photo by SEAN SMITH

Events calendar

• **Pampa Community Concert Association Presents "Live On Stage"** has released its current concert schedule. The schedule is as follows: "The Centurymen" 7 p.m., Sept. 20, First Baptist Church in Pampa; pianist Alpin Hong, 2:30 p.m., Oct. 1, M.K. Brown Auditorium; "Puttin' on the Hitz, A Salute to Irving Berlin," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15, Borger High School Auditorium; Bronn and Katherine Journey, harpist and vocalist, 7:30 p.m., March 19, M.K. Brown Auditorium. Membership fees are \$30 for adults, \$70 for families; and \$15 for students. For more information, call 665-0343 or 665-2631.

• **Habitat For Horses, Inc.**, is in the area distributing horse feed, hay, medical and barn supplies. The volunteer organization will continue to organize feed and hay drives to the fire damaged area and coordinate distribution centers as needed. For more information, call (866) 434-5737 or (806) 681-5858.

• **Lefors Lions Club** will hold its monthly chicken cookout at 12:30 p.m. July 16 at Lefors Senior Center. The menu will consist of chicken, cole slaw, beans, and rolls. Each plate will be \$5. Pie will be available at an extra cost.

• **Amarillo Museum of Art** will open to a "Free Family Festival" from 1-4 p.m. July 16 to celebrate the summer 2006 exhibition "Material Terrain: A Sculptural Exploration of Landscape and Place." Follow the gallery hunt clues and discover the artwork. Receive prizes for completing the hunt. Enjoy live music. Create

your own unique art. Learn about sculpture from children-friendly films. Treat your taste buds with complimentary refreshments. The museum is located at 2200 S. Van Buren.

• **Registration for the second summer semester at Clarendon College-Pampa Center** will last through July 17, the day classes officially begin. Courses will be conducted Monday through Thursday and include English Comp I and II, Microbiology, Web Site Design, Fundamentals of Criminal Law, Non-Western World Literature, State Government, U.S. History, General Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Micro-Economics, Interpersonal Speech and Social Issues. To learn more or for a complete schedule, call the campus at 665-8801 or e-mail david.bradford@clarendon-college.edu. Offices are closed Fridays.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m., July 19, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

Astronauts to conduct late inspection of shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Astronauts planning one final damage inspection of Discovery at the international space station were confident Friday that the space shuttle would glide back to Earth next week without any problems.

"We've got a great ship and it's ready to come home. It's going to be a safe landing," pilot Mark Kelly said in interviews. "Based on what we've seen so far and what the risk is, I think all of us feel really comfortable."

NASA space station flight director Rick LaBorde praised the crew Friday, saying: "We got our money's worth out of them."

"The mission has gone just outstanding," he said.

The extra shuttle inspection Friday is the first to occurred this late in a mission. It was devised by NASA to make sure there's never again a disaster on par with the Columbia accident which killed seven astronauts in 2003.

The crew planned to inspect Discovery's left wing using sensors at the end of a 50-foot-boom attached to Discovery's 50-foot robotic arm. The sensors will scan for any near-invisible holes and cracks in the wing caused by micrometeoroids, the dust-sized particles that make up the

vast majority of debris circling Earth.

The space debris now also includes a spatula that astronaut Piers Sellers accidentally let go of during a spacewalk Wednesday. NASA said the spatula posed no risk to the space station or shuttle.

Sellers joked Friday that he would go to Home Depot to replace it upon his return. "I'm sure it will come out of my pay," he said.

Friday's inspection, on Day 11, follows similar scans Discovery's crew conducted as it closed in on the space station on Day 2 and the close-up examinations of "areas of interest" on Day 4 of the 13-day mission.

Discovery's commander, Steve Lindsey, also maneuvered Discovery into a backflip before docking on the third day so that the space station's two crew members could photograph the shuttle's belly for any signs of damage.

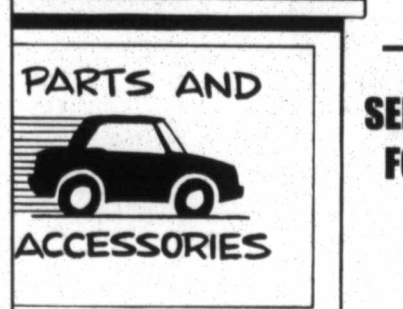
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Sublett

Continued from Page 7

they can do for their spouse that will be a definite home run for the one that they love. One list for them. One list for their spouse.

Do you know what the first thing is that I notice about the lists as a counselor? Most husbands know pretty well how to hit a home run in encouraging their wife, in making her feel cherished and adored and special. And most wives know very well how to hit a home run with their husband, how to make him feel like the man he wants to be.

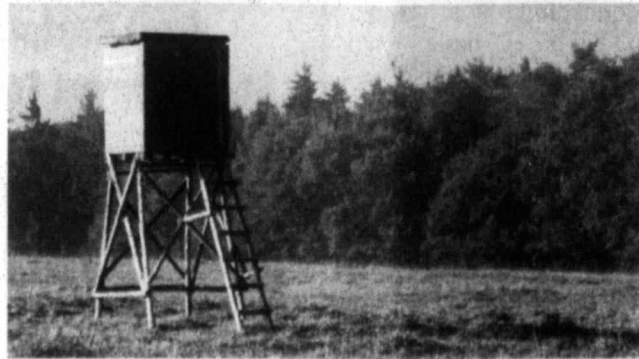
What then are the two obvious questions? 1) Why doesn't every husband choose to hit several home runs for his wife every day? 2) Why doesn't every wife choose to hit several over the fence every day for her husband?

Hitting home runs in baseball might not be a matter of choice, but in marriage that is exactly what it is. Why don't husbands and wives choose to hit more home runs for each other?

Know why? You're not going to like the answer. Selfishness. Many husbands and wives are so busy thinking about themselves that they regularly take their spouse for granted. They just overlook his/her needs.

So pretend that today is the first day of baseball season and choose to hit a home run for the one you promised to be faithful to "until death do us part." In fact, why not just choose to hit three or four home runs today?

And if you are thinking to yourself, "But I don't know five things that my wife/husband considers to be a home run." Then ask. Then write those five things down and wear that list out. Then maybe you can be the Home Run King or Home Run Queen in your home. God bless.



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My mother says I'm tearing our family apart. On Mother's Day, my 8-year-old daughter teased her 9-year-old cousin, asking who'd like her last bite of dessert. When he said he wanted it, she said, "Just kidding!" My nephew went running into the house wailing like he'd been hit. I was in the middle of telling my daughter what she did was wrong and she should apologize, when I heard my brother, "Harry," ask my nephew why he was crying. My nephew said my daughter had teased him over the dessert, and Harry said, "Well, she's a little bitch!" I was horrified. My daughter and sister-in-law heard it, too. When I went inside to talk to Harry, he told me he didn't mean it that way and that he could say anything in his house that he wants. My daughter and I left, and I haven't talked to him since. He has apologized to my daughter with numerous justifications for what he said, but he hasn't apologized to me for what he called my daughter and the way he talked to me. We have had two family birthdays since then (including another at my brother's), and my daughter and I haven't attended either one. My mother is taking Harry's side, saying I'm too sensitive and the word isn't that bad. Am I wrong to think that calling an 8-year-old a "bitch" is horrible, degrading and uncalled for? -- **SISTER OF A TRASH MOUTH**

DEAR SISTER: Probably not. But your brother has already apologized to the "injured" party for what he said, and he does not owe you one. I'm voting with your mother. You have already punished yourself and your daughter enough by missing out on the family birthday parties. Enough, already!

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, I became acquainted with a woman I'll call "Julie." We were neighbors and talked often. One

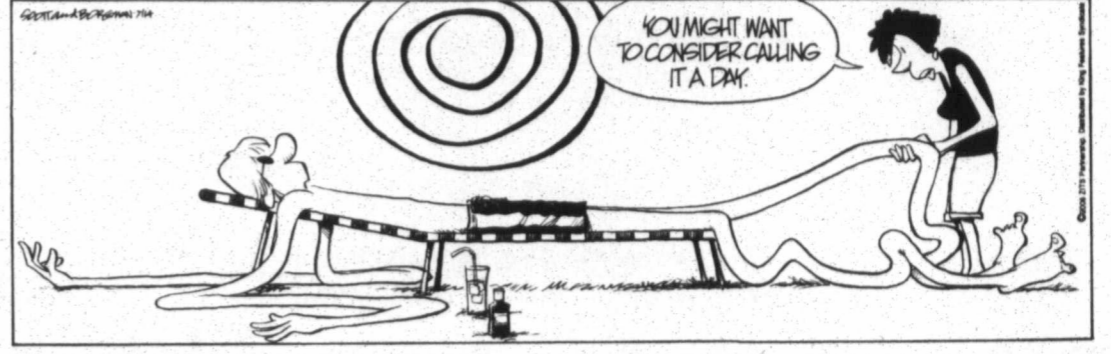
day, she confided that she was in a verbally and emotionally abusive marriage. She said she was a prisoner in her own home and didn't know what to do. To make a long story short, I let myself get sucked in. I trusted her. I helped Julie financially to retain a lawyer and found her and her children a nice place to live through another friend of mine, "Sue." Sue knew of Julie's situation because I told her. She, too, was very kind to Julie. Not only was Julie always late with her rent (there was no reason for her to be), she broke her lease and lied about why she had to move. My issue is that I unwittingly sucked Sue in for Julie's "cause." I feel terrible and responsible, even though I have apologized to Sue about it. Julie has made no effort to contact us since then. I recently learned that Julie has "befriended" a prominent single man from church. (She's not yet divorced.) I believe he is getting sucked in the way I was. He has connections and has helped Julie find another job. He has also helped her move. Should I let him know what kind of person Julie really is, or use this as a learning experience, mind my own business and move on? -- **CONNED IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR CONNED: Would you keep silent if you knew there was a pickpocket loose in the congregation? You should not only tell the man what your and Sue's experience was with this woman, you should also clue your clergyperson in on the fact that there is a predator loose in his flock. It may not make you popular, but at least your conscience will be clear.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Like

1 Doorstop untended shape gardens

6 Cerberus guards it

11 Old market

12 Home

13 Sub system

14 Fencing play

15 Secretarial goof

17 Dance bit

18 Cobbler's tools

20 Thoth's symbol

22 Tall tale

23 Shorebirds

26 Elroy's dog

28 Attire

29 Foil

31 Soccer's Hamm

32 Eternally

33 Car scar

34 Go by bus

36 "In your dreams!"

38 Eat up

40 Damages

43 Home of some alligators

44 Outdo

45 Bamboo eater

DOWN

1 Existed

2 Freud topic

3 1969 Beatles song

4 Shows age

5 Tombstone name

6 Computer of film

7 Vitriolic studio

8 1963 Ray work

9 Keenness

10 Percolate

11 Kuwait export

12 Shepard in space

13 Prudent

14 Marshes

15 Do studio

16 1963 Ray work

17 Demolish

18 Tiff slang

19 Idolized

20 S&L offering

21 Sawyer of news

22 Grating sound

23 Thought exhibit

24 Pitching stat

25 Coffee, in slang

26 Mole, e.g.

Yesterday's answer

30 S&L

31 Sawyer of news

32 Grating sound

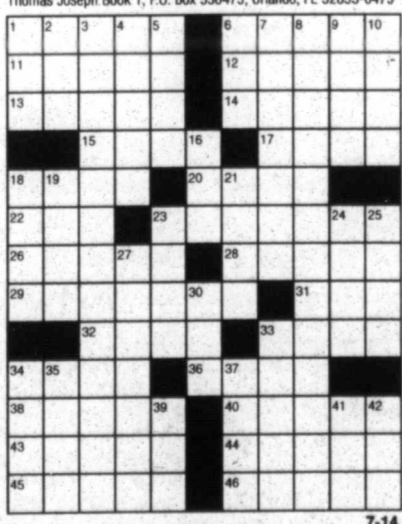
33 Thought exhibit

34 Pitching stat

35 Coffee, in slang

36 Mole, e.g.

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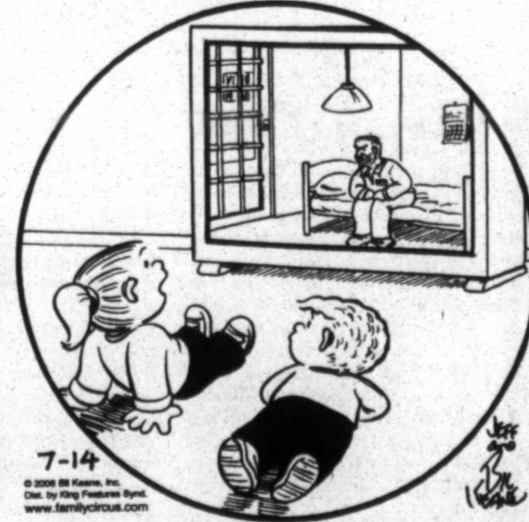


Marmaduke

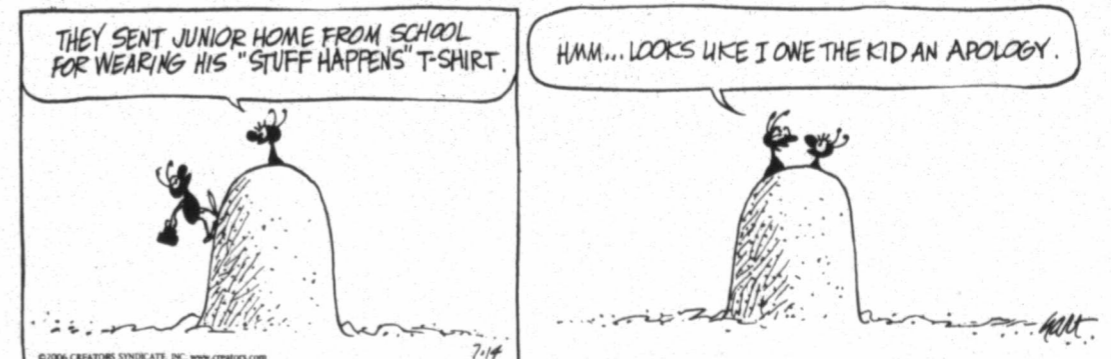


The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



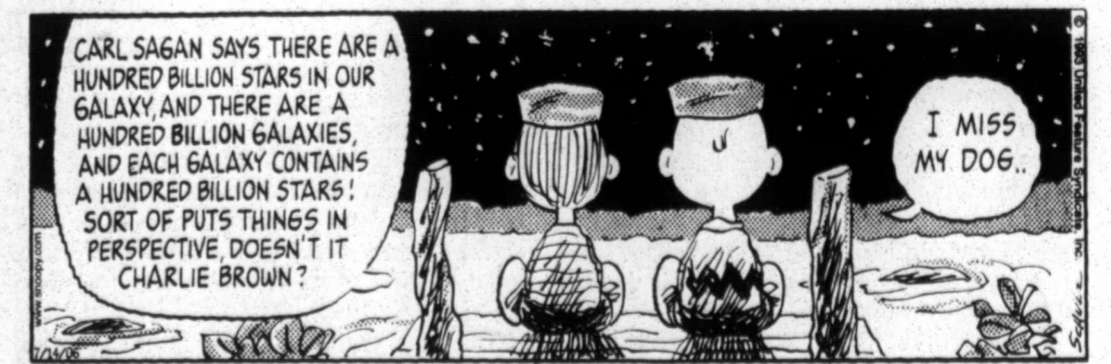
B.C.



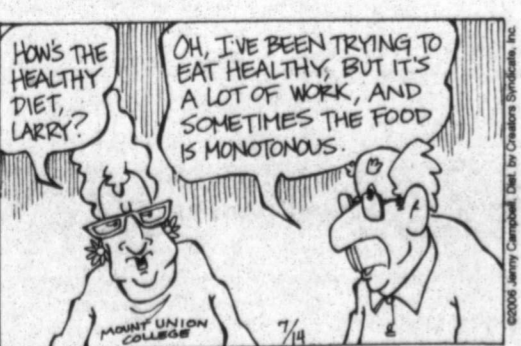
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Bahiagrass can be wise addition to forage program, researcher says

By ROBERT BURNS
Extension News

OVERTON — Where coastal bermudagrass is commonly called "the queen of forages," bahiagrass is often considered the unwanted offspring.

But in these times of expensive fertilizer, bahiagrass — in some areas, under some conditions — can be a wise addition to a forage program, said Dr. Gerald Evers, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station forage researcher.

Whether bahiagrass is an unwelcome guest or a valued addition to the family depends upon many factors, Evers said. Soils, available moisture and stocking rates — all have to be considered. But in these times of high fertilizer costs, the degree of management the producer can afford plays a major role.

"Bahiagrass primarily gets bashed because it invades bermudagrass pastures if they haven't been fertilized properly," Evers said. "Another disadvantage is that it lacks drought tolerance compared to hybrid bermudagrasses."

Under drought conditions, bermudagrass will stay green and continue to grow, where under the same conditions, bahiagrass will not grow at all, he said.

Despite its bad rap, bahiagrass shouldn't be bashed unconditionally, and it as its place with other forages, he added.

Bahiagrass' biggest advantage is it will survive on sandy, acid, infertile soils.

This means, as fertilizer prices increase, bahiagrass becomes more attractive, Evers said.

"With little or no fertilizer, bahiagrass can be as productive as bermudagrass — unless moisture is limited," he said.

If high fertilizer prices are coupled with low cattle prices, many producers may feel forced to cut back on fertilizer applications. The resulting low fertility can damage hybrid bermudagrass stands.

"With bermudagrass, you've got to apply some fertilizer every year to maintain the stand," he said.

With bahiagrass, however, producers can go into a 'holding pattern' until cattle markets are strong again. Given moderate amounts of



(Texas Cooperative Extension photo by ROBERT BURNS)

The biggest advantage of bahiagrass is that it will survive on sandy, acid, infertile soils, said Dr. Gerald Evers, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station forage researcher.

fertilizer, a bahiagrass stand will make a good recovery after such a hiatus.

Hybrid bermudagrass pastures may be slow to come back or need to be re-sprigged if an annual fertility program is interrupted, Evers said.

Bahiagrass does best south of the Lufkin/Crockett area in East Texas for two reasons. One, the milder winter weather is beneficial to bahiagrass, which is less cold tolerant than bermudagrass.

Second, the ground is generally more level in that area, which means sandy soils are slower to dry out, Evers said.

"North of that (region), the area is too sandy and drought-prone for good bahiagrass production," he said.

In northern counties, bahiagrass may have success in some areas, as long as moisture is good, but Evers doesn't recommend starting new stands.

"If they don't have it already, they may not need to plant it, but (even north of Lufkin) producers can learn to manage it for better productivity."

There are a few points to remember about bahiagrass, according to Evers:

— When bahiagrass growth is less than four weeks old, its nutritive value is usually close to that of coastal bermudagrass.

— Use limited fertilizer: 50 to 70 pounds per acre per year, applied in the spring, is sufficient.

— Bahiagrass forms a thick, tight sod that tolerates continuous grazing and makes it competitive with weeds.

— Bahiagrass greens up earlier in the spring than bermudagrass and stays green later in the fall, until temperatures drop to 29 F or below.

Evers started a bahiagrass variety test at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Overton in the spring of 2004. His goal was to compare new and experimental varieties with Pensacola bahiagrass under East Texas conditions. Evers used Pensacola as the standard because it is the most common, improved bahiagrass variety in East Texas.

Evers tested four varieties in addition to Pensacola:

— Rapid Germination Tifton 9, a new variety from Georgia not yet on the market.

— Tifton 9.

— Sand Mountain, an experimental variety from Alabama.

— Argentine, a South American variety.

The first year's tests were hindered by drought and weed competition. Evers continued the tests in 2005.

Conditions were better than in 2004, but rainfall still limited, with the Center weather station recording only 16 inches during the April through October growing season. The average rainfall for the period is more than 25 inches.

Bahiagrass yields ranged from 2,100 pounds of dry matter per acre for Pensacola to 3,400 pounds for Rapid Germination Tifton 9. Argentine yields were a little more than Pensacola, but not significantly so.

"Argentine production was probably limited by its lack of cold tolerance," Evers said.

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UT-Austin may soon open nanotech institute

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas at Austin may soon open a nanotechnology institute that officials hope could make the Lone Star State a major player in the emerging scientific field.

University of Texas System regents gave Chancellor Mark Yudof permission on Friday to seek grants from the state and industry leaders to help create the South West Academy for Nanoelectronics.

"I think people will look back in five, 10 years and see this was a true catalyst for this state and this community," board Chairman James Huffines said.

UT-Austin also has applied for a startup grant from the Nano Electronics Research Corporation, a subsidiary of a consortium of six high-tech companies. The research corporation already has issued grants to fund the creation of nanoelectronics centers at UCLA and SUNY-Albany.

Nanotechnology is the science of manipulating the tiniest units of matter — no larger than a billionth of a meter or 1/100,000th the diameter of a hair — and making use of the unusual properties

many substances exhibit at those scales.

Chemists, physicists and biologists say such research could lead to affordable solar energy or microscopic robots that attack bacteria or cancer.

Under the proposal approved Friday, the UT System would contribute \$10 million to the project for facilities, labs and equipment for eight senior faculty members.