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# THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, October 16, 2006

Volume 102 - No. 165

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## Supporters say timing of school bond issue is good

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the second of a five-part series on the upcoming school bond election.

BY DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

While \$47 million is a lot of money, there may never be a better time for the Pampa Independent School District to borrow the money.

As supporters of the \$47 million bond issue gather in advance of the Nov. 7 election to decide Pampa's future, members of Pampa Citizens for Pampa Children point to the timing of the bond issue. With a new cap on part of school district budgets across the state and the delay in issuing bonds if voters approve it, Pampa property owners could fund the bond issue and still pay lower taxes than they do today.

Pampa attorney and Pampa High School graduate Don Lane is heading up Pampa Citizens for Pampa Children.

"The committee came out of the Facilities Committee that was originally appointed by the school board," Lane said. "Our committee is called the Pampa Citizens for Pampa Children."

It has been duly registered with the school district as an organization in support of the Pampa-ISD bond issue that will be voted on Nov. 7.

"Mark McVay is the treasurer, and I'm the chairman of the committee," Lane said. "We have organized and are working toward getting the public informed about the facts regarding the bond issue."

There are three major areas cov-

ered by the bond issue, Lane said.

"One is the renovation of Pampa High School," he said. "The second is to build a new junior high. The third is to renovate and make changes in the current junior high building so that it will house the Pampa Learning Center, the administrative offices and the service center."

The latter will help consolidate PISD support services into one location.

The best estimates show that there will be a savings in the cost of operations of the school district since support services are scattered throughout the school district, Lane said.

"I personally feel that this is a very important issue before the pub-

lic," Lane said.

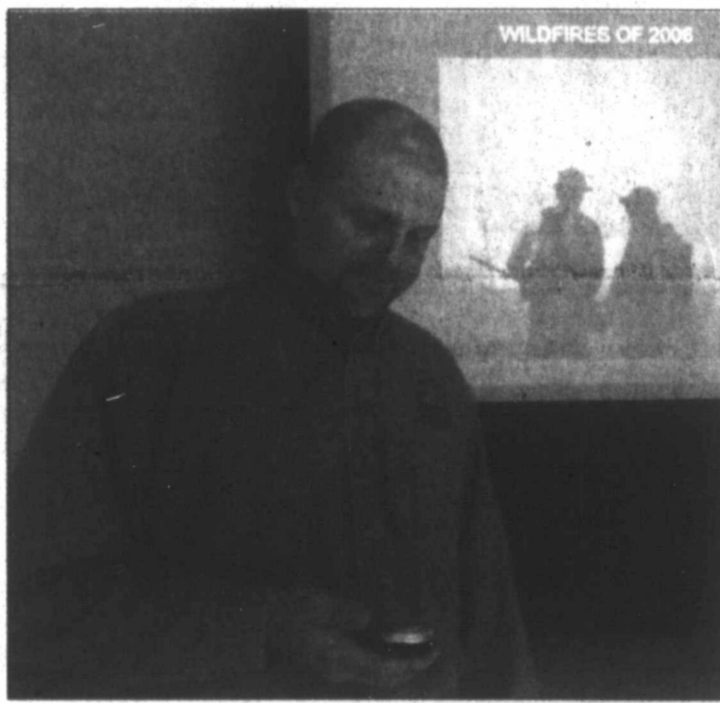
Based on all the studies and personal tours, Lane said Pampa Junior High and Pampa High School, Carver and Horace Mann buildings are obsolete and should be replaced.

The Texas Association of School Administrators performed one of the studies looking at the educational deficiencies in PISD facilities. Then, the school board hired the architectural firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper to do an architectural and engineering study.

Each group arrived at much the same conclusion, Lane said, but for different reasons.

"There are other needs in the school system," Lane said, "but the

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER  
Jeff Bonner, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologist in Pampa, flips through slides for his presentation on wildfires in the Texas Panhandle last March.

## Wildfires beneficial to wildlife

BY DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

AMARILLO -- "I had never seen anything like it," said Jeff Bonner, a biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, "and I grew up in the Panhandle."

He said when he was growing up, there would be small grass fires, but never like the wildfires that swept across the eastern Panhandle last March threatening towns, burning rural homes, devastating ranching operations and killing livestock. Twelve deaths were eventually blamed on the fires.

In total, Bonner said about 800,000 to 900,000 acres burned in the Texas Panhandle last spring.

Speaking to a joint meeting of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association and Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers in Amarillo this month, Bonner said the long-term impact of the fires on wildlife is all positive. There has been increased forage and improved forage quality with the regrowth, said Bonner.

The new shoots of growth are highly palatable and nourishing, he said, and there

tends to be a wider diversity of plants.

"You get an increase in plant diversity," Bonner said, "you get an increase in wildlife diversity."

From a wildlife standpoint, Bonner said the fires were positive in the long-term for the prairie habitat and the wildlife that lives there.

A combination of circumstances came together in mid-March to set off the blazes that burned almost a million acres of grasslands in the Texas Panhandle.

"This really got started back in 2004," Bonner said, "because of the fall and winter moisture that we got that year."

That moisture led to a lot of forage production, but the rain stopped in September 2005. There was no meaningful moisture during the fall of 2005 and the winter of 2005-2006.

"And always in March in the Texas Panhandle, the wind blows," Bonner said.

The high winds also carry fire and embers

See **FIRES**, Page 3

## County OKs filling vacancy, turns down bid by Switzer

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Gray County commissioners this morning approved filling a vacancy in the county clerk's office with a part-time employee plus an election administrator, but turned down 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer's request to use some of her forfeiture funds to give one of her employees a raise.

County Clerk Susan Winborne addressed commissioners at their 9 a.m. meeting in the second-floor courtroom of the county courthouse concerning a vacancy in her office left by an employee who resigned. Winborne asked commissioners to approve hiring a part-time employee plus pay a share of the salary of a proposed election administrator.

State Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa is supporting a bill in the Legislature that would allow local election entities to pay for an election administrator, Winborne said. The new position would be contingent on the bill, which has not yet been voted on, being passed by the Legislature, she said.

If the state does not approve the proposed bill, Winborne said, she would ask commis-

sioners to make the part-time employee full-time.

The difference between a full-time and part-time employee's salary in the clerk's office would be \$12,850 annually. The county would pay \$13,000 of the proposed election administrator's salary, Winborne said.

The new election administrator would be in charge of local elections and voter registration. Other local election entities, such as the school districts, would also have to agree to the election administrator's position and to sharing in the cost of the administrator's salary, Winborne said.

A motion by Precinct 4 Commissioner James Hefley died for lack of a second after Switzer asked approval to give Carey Mackey, her office manager, a raise using the 31st District Attorney's forfeiture funds.

Hefley had moved to approve the request. Switzer said she could use the funds for law enforcement, but had to have approval by county commissioners to use the funds for salaries.

See **COUNTY**, Page 2

### Colorful crafts



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS  
Glenda Hankins, owner of Bengleton Glass Art, displays her wares at Pampa Fine Arts Association's Arts and Crafts Festival, held Saturday and Sunday at M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium. The glassware Hankins showed is painted on the inside.



## Schools

Continued from Page 1

conclusion was made that these were the highest priority projects that could be funded within the tax valuation and PISD tax and debt structure."

"The tax rate is broken into two categories," said Lee Porter, chairman of the PISD Facilities Committee and school board member.

The Maintenance and Operations Budget tax levy is capped at \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. The Interest and Sinking Fund tax levy is capped at 50 cents per \$100 valuation.

"Last year, the tax rate for the school district was \$1.555," Porter said.

That included both the Maintenance and Operations Budget and the Interest and Sinking Fund.

"If this bond issue is passed," Porter said, "then the tax rate in the future will be \$1.47."

The State of Texas is cutting the Maintenance and

Operations tax rate from \$1.50 to \$1.00.

"We would pick up 42 cents in additional taxes," Porter said.

On a \$50,000 home, the taxes in 2006 were \$544. The taxes in 2008 with the bond issue would be \$511.

On a \$100,000 home, the district property taxes were \$1,321 this year, but would be \$1,241 in 2008 with the bond passing.

And the change in taxes won't affect senior citizens.

"If you're over 65, the amount of taxes that you pay is frozen," Porter said. "This bond issue will not have any effect on you at all."

Pampa accountant Doug Ware said the dollar amount of property taxes is frozen for seniors the year they turn 65. They can never go above that amount, but he said they can go lower.

The annual tax on a homestead valued at \$50,000 in 2005-2006 was \$389 for a person who turned 65 in 2005. In 2006-2007 it is \$356. In 2007-2008, it will be \$365.

For a person who turns 65

in 2006, the taxes on that \$50,000 home were \$389 in 2005, but drop to \$356 for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and remains there in 2007-2008.

For a person who turns 65 in 2007, the taxes on a \$50,000 house were \$389 in 2005-2006, are \$356 in 2006-2007 and will be \$365 in 2007-2008 with the bond issue.

Ware said that the Maintenance and Operations tax rate for 2005-2006 was \$1.50 and the Interest and Sinking tax rate was 5.5 cents. That totals \$1.555 per \$100 valuation for 2005-2006.

Ware said that the tax rate would drop for the 2006-2007 school year before rising slightly in 2007-2008 when the bonds are issued.

The total tax rate for 2005-2006 was \$1.555. The total rate for 2006-2007 is \$1.425, which reflects the 1997 bond issue but not the new issue. If the new bond issue passes, it will raise the total tax rate to \$1.460. It would be higher than 2006-2007, but it would still be lower than 2005-2006.

Ware said the total tax rate would be lower than last year's and the district would have facilities that would last many more years.

In the case of the new junior high school, Mike Baker, with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, said it should last 75 years. Renovations to the high school should extend its life another 25 to 30 years, about the same or longer than the 25-year bond issue.

"I've always believed that education is critical to a community," Lane said. "Many of us no longer have children in school and don't even have a prospect of having grandchildren in school here, but I still believe that it's my responsibility and I think the community's responsibility to provide updated facilities that will permit our young people to achieve the best education possible so they'll be competitive in this new technological world we all are facing."

**TUESDAY:**  
Consolidation of offices at the old junior high.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS  
Edna Chisum, right, enjoys the scents of candles made from soybeans at Vicki Ray's Soy Inspirations booth Saturday at the Pampa Fine Arts Association's Arts and Crafts Festival. The festival, which featured a variety of arts and crafts, was held Saturday and Sunday at M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium.

## Fires

Continued from Page 1

across highways and rivers.

"Those are things that would ordinarily stop them," Bonner said.

With 12 percent humidity and 40 mph wind, the flames spread rapidly.

"Those are all the little pieces that happened to fall together just right last spring," Bonner said.

It is fire that keeps grasslands clear of trees and shrubs and that make the habitat for wildlife living there.

Prairie chickens don't like any vegetation more than eight to ten feet tall, he said.

"They have to have a lot of weeds and wildflowers that attract bugs and insects," Bonner said. "Those same flowers that are attracting bugs and insects produce seed."

Antelope, Bonner said, are primarily weed eaters.

"They like nice open country where they can see," Bonner said.

Only 10 percent of their annual diet is grass.

"Fire will enhance the production of weeds," Bonner said. "That's

important for antelope."

He said there are also all types of ground-nesting birds in the neighborhood that depend upon open country.

In 2005, in the area that burned, Bonner said there were 11 active leks of prairie chickens.

"After the fire came through in 2006, only six of those 11 were active," Bonner said. "There were only half as many birds."

The fire that burned through Gray County was 15 miles wide and about 50 miles long, Bonner said.

Bonner said that a spotlight count along McClellan Creek in Gray County showed 26 white-tailed deer in 2005.

After the fire in 2006, his survey still showed 26 deer.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's 2005 survey estimated 2.5 antelope per section in the herd northwest of Pampa.

"After the fires," Bonner said, "they increased to 3.1."

Another nearby herd of antelope, Bonner said, grew from 2.5 antelopes per section to 6.6 antelopes per section.

"After a fire like this," Bonner said, "you know it comes back. You know it looks better than it had."

## Cut in water allocations will not affect Pampa

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

A cut in water allocations won't hurt Pampa, city officials said today.

At their quarterly meeting in Plainview last week, the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority board voted to cut total water allocations from Lake Meredith from 90 million acre-feet to 85 million acre-feet.

Pampa City Manager John Horst said today that the cut in allocations would not impact Pampa, one of 11 member cities who get their water from the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

Horst said that Pampa has

never used its full allocation in the past. In fact, the city has been selling part of its allocation to the City of Lubbock.

"We'll still be about to sell some of our allocation," Horst said.

In other business, CRMWA contracted with a company to study demands on the authority's water in the future in preparation to developing a master plan.

Lake Meredith's water level was up today following a weekend of showers. Today's level was 54.92 feet, or about 111,000 acre-feet. That's up from the August low of 53.66 feet, a record low for the lake.

## Lefors ISD to meet Tuesday

A special meeting of the Lefors Independent School District board of directors will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the high school library at 209 E. 5th to consider a School FIRST report.

The regular meeting of the board will follow at 6:45 p.m.

Among items to be con-

sidered are approval of a county extension agent as an adjunct faculty member, a TAKS report, approval of a 504 police, and recommendation of a candidate for the Gray County Appraisal District Board.

The superintendent's report will round out the meeting.

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# Viewpoints

## Luxury hotels competed in oil boom town of Rankin

Like a battered medieval castle, the empty red brick building stood for years on the hill overlooking the West Texas oil town of Rankin in Upton County.

The building was the old Harlan Hotel, opened for business at the height of the oil boom as a competitor of the Yates Hotel, built by Ira Yates, promoter of the famed Yates Oil Field.

Neither hotel succeeded in running the other out of business — in fact, both of them eventually closed for lack of business. But only the Yates still stands.

Rankin, founded in 1911 after the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway bypassed the original county seat of Upland, had no need for a large hotel until Oct. 28, 1926. That's when the Yates No. 1-A blew in at 400 barrels a day.

By 1928 Rankin had grown large enough to incorporate as a city. It had a new courthouse, a new

school, a busy bank, and a weekly newspaper that seldom lacked for news. Soon Rankin also had a 46-room hotel, the three-story brick and concrete Yates.

The hotel's grand opening in July 1929 made page-one news in Rankin and elsewhere around the Permian Basin. The high-rise, "fire-proof" Yates Hotel billed itself as the finest hostelry in West Texas, at least on the left side of San Angelo.

According to popular legend, the colorful Ira Yates and another entrepreneur, former Upton County district clerk R.C. Harlan, had a little falling out over something or other. Typical Texas oil baron that he was, Harlan built the city's second large hotel and named it in his honor.

At one time, as many as 10 hotels of sorts did a flourishing business in Rankin, but the Harlan and Yates amounted to the Waldorf

Astoria and Ritz of the town once claiming a population of 10,000.

According to one Rankin old-timer interviewed in the 1960s, both hotels made a lot of money for their respective owners — others say one owner did better than the other. No matter, during the wild and woolly boom days, neither hotel suffered for clientele.

**Mike Cox**

Texas Tales



Another local legend, surely true, is that numerous big oil deals came to reality on the basis of a handshake in one or the other of the hotels. And, bootleg whiskey washing down their gullets about

as fast as oil spewed from the ground they leased, not a few oilmen lost their proverbial shirts (and more) in friendly poker games in smoke-filled rooms at the Harlan or Yates.

Also, as more than one Rankin resident later admitted, numerous other activities not exactly printable took place in the two hotels.

However, with the great boom soon a thing of the past, and oil crews moving on to new fields, both hotels started to decline in business as Rankin dropped in population during the Great Depression to only 672 residents by 1940. The emergence of tourist courts — motels to a later generation — also dealt the Harlan and Yates severe blows.

The Harlan closed its doors first, followed by the Yates a few years later.

When the Harlan went out of business, an Odessa man bought it.

He, in turn, handed it over to a Midland wrecking contractor. The company demolished about 50 percent of the old building and then stopped for reasons local folks never completely understood.

After 1964, only the first floor of the three-story Harlan survived. The windows of the vacant building looked out over the one-time boom town like hollow eyes in a crushed skull. Grass grew in the once well-trod threshold, and fallen pieces of roofing rattled in the steady wind that blew across the hill.

The Harlan stood like a bombed-out ruin until 1969. But civilized societies don't leave their dead lying out in the open, and the people of Rankin finally removed the deceased hotel from view. Today, not a brick remains.

The Yates Hotel, though no

See **HOTELS**, Page 5

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 16, the 289th day of 2006. There are 76 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 16, 1978, the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church chose Cardinal Karol Wojtyla to be the new pope; he took the name John Paul II.

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.

In 1859, abolitionist John Brown led a group of about 20 men in a raid on Harper's Ferry, Va.

In 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic, in New York City. (The clinic ended up being raided by police and Sanger was arrested.)

In 1946, 10 Nazi war criminals condemned during the Nuremberg trials were hanged.

In 1962, the Cuban missile crisis began as President Kennedy was informed that reconnaissance photographs had revealed the presence of missile bases in Cuba.

In 1964, Harold Wilson of the Labor Party assumed office as prime minister of Britain, succeeding Conservative Sir Alec Douglas-Home.

In 1964, China set off its first atomic bomb, code-named "596," on the Lop Nur Test Ground.

In 1981, Israeli war hero Moshe Dayan died in Tel Aviv at age 66.

In 1987, a 58 1/2 hour drama in Midland, Texas, ended happily as rescuers freed Jessica McClure, an 18-month-old girl trapped in an abandoned well.

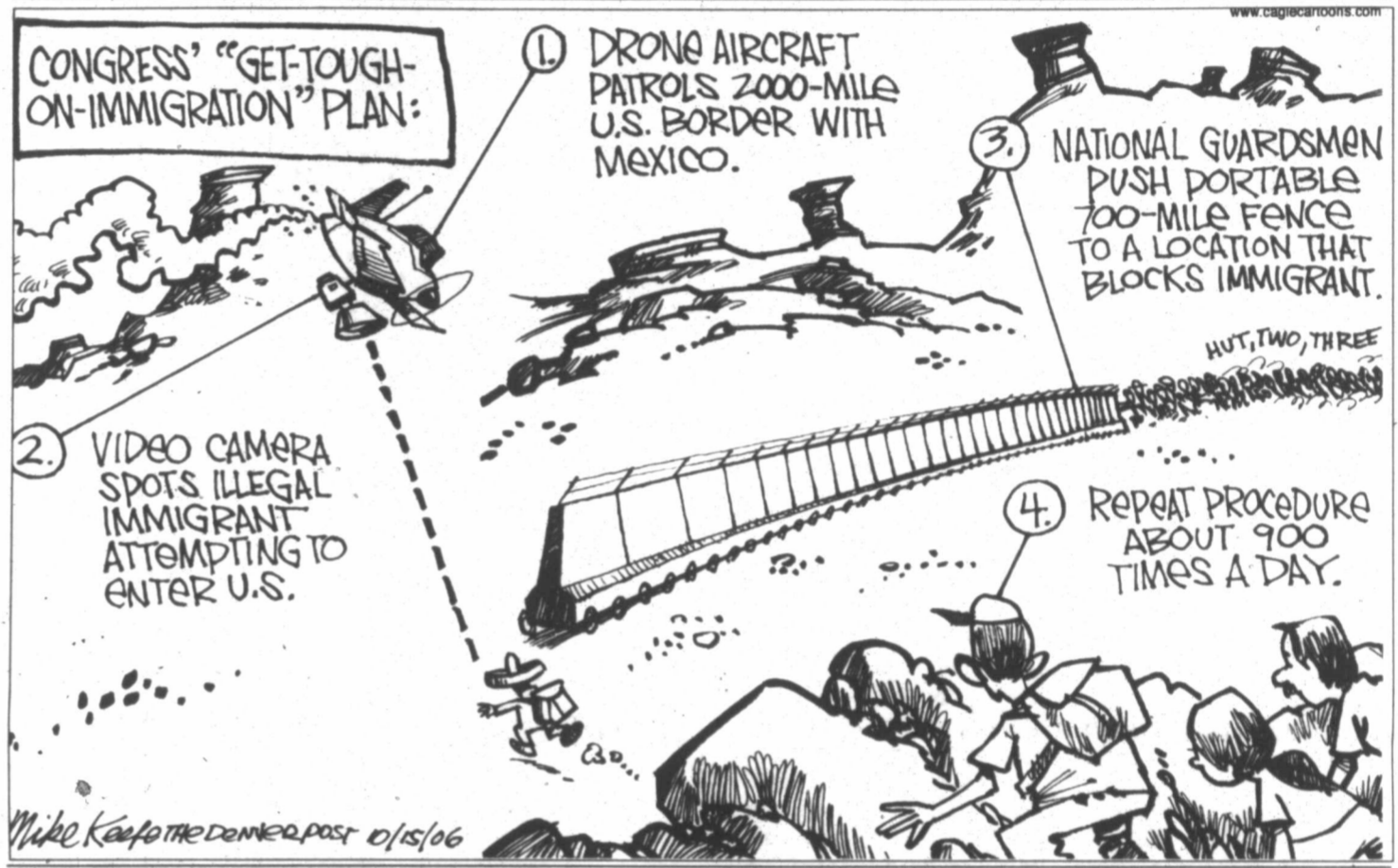
In 1991, a deadly shooting rampage took place in Killeen, Texas, as George Hennard crashed his pickup truck into a Luby's Cafeteria and opened fire, killing 23 people before taking his own life.

Ten years ago: Republican Bob Dole challenged President Clinton's ethics and honesty in their final debate. Soccer fans trying to squeeze into Mateo Flores National Stadium in Guatemala City stampeded, killing 84 people.

Five years ago: U.S. bombs struck the Red Cross compound in Afghanistan, injuring a guard. Twelve Senate offices were closed as hundreds of staffers underwent anthrax tests. Jazz vocalist Etta Jones died in New York at age 72.

*'One learns in life to keep silent and draw one's own confusions.'*

— Cornelia Otis Skinner  
American actress and author (1901-1979)



## Webb possesses statesman potential

I don't usually mess around in other people's Senate races, but since my first American ancestors were born in Virginia, I'd like to put in a word for James Webb, who's running against George Allen for U.S. Senate in the old commonwealth.

I have nothing to say about Allen. Compare the two men's records. There's no contest.

Webb graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968. He was one of 18 graduates chosen for the Superintendent's Commendation for outstanding leadership. The Vietnam War was boiling-hot in 1968, and Webb could have taken a commission in the Navy, where the chances of seeing combat in Vietnam would have been not absent, but certainly less. That's not Webb's way. He took his commission in the Marine Corps.

All Marine Corps officers go through one of the toughest training courses of any of the services — The Basic School for Marine Corps officers. Webb was No. 1 in his class and joined the 5th Marines in the An Hoa Basin west of Danang.

There, leading young men as platoon leader and later a company commander in tough ground fighting, he earned the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two

Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. Nobody has ever challenged his awards, nor has he ever repudiated them or the war he won them in. The Navy Cross is next to the Medal of Honor.

**Charley Reese**

Columnist



When his hitch in the Marine Corps was up, he went to law school, and while there undertook, pro bono, trying to clear the name of a young Marine convicted of a war crime in Vietnam. The young man committed suicide three years later, and most lawyers would have said, "Well, I gave it my best shot, but the man is dead, and there's no point in going on."

That's not Webb's way. He fought on until, three years later, he cleared the Marine's name. He's a man to whom truth and honor are more than words. He's not a giving-up kind of guy.

Webb was appointed counsel for the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and while in that post was the first to

propose and lead the fight to include an image of an African-American in the statue that stands at one end of the Vietnam Memorial. There were no Brownie points to be earned for leading that fight. He did it because he knew firsthand of the sacrifices that African-Americans had made in that war. He did it because it was right.

In 1984, he was appointed assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, and in 1987, he was named secretary of the Navy. One year later, he resigned because he refused to agree with Congress' intent to slash the Navy's force structure. When was the last time you heard of a politician or a high-ranking bureaucrat resign as a matter of principle?

But there's more. Webb has written six best-selling novels. "Fields of Fire," which is how I came to know about him, is considered the classic novel of the Vietnam War. He also won an Emmy for his PBS coverage of Marines in Beirut, Lebanon, and, most recently, he published an outstanding nonfiction book, "Born Fighting," a history of the Scots-Irish in America.

Jim Webb is a true scholar-warrior, and I don't have the words to say what a blessing to this country having such a

See **REESE**, Page 5

## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Oct. 9

Austin American-Statesman on a possible conflict in Korea:

There are two places on earth where the 20th century Cold War remains frozen in place: Cuba and North Korea.

Cuba is isolated, harmless and awaiting the death of its longtime Communist leader, Fidel Castro.

North Korea, too, is isolated. But it is not harmless, and the Cold War there could be warming up. North Korea is believed to have a few nuclear weapons, though no effective way to deliver them, and last week it announced that it would soon conduct a

nuclear weapons test.

Americans need to sit up and take notice we may be headed for a dangerous confrontation.

The reaction to the North Korean announcement from the U.S. government went beyond protest to unveiled, though still unspecified, threat: "We are not going to live with a nuclear North Korea; we are not going to accept it."

Those were the words of Christopher Hill, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. He spoke at the U.S.-Korea Institute, recently set up at Johns Hopkins University.

Hill also said this of North Korea: "It can have a future or it can have these weapons. It cannot have both."

Hill gave no details on just what the

United States would do if North Korea goes ahead with a nuclear test, nor did he say whether that response would be limited to economic sanctions or include a military response. But economic sanctions against North Korea have not worked in deterring the dictatorial regime of Kim Jong Il. The Bush administration is reported to be drawing up plans for more sanctions should North Korea proceed with a test.

But it is not at all clear that anything the United States does especially without the support of South Korea, China, Japan or Russia will make any difference to North Korea. And although those countries, too, have publicly criticized North Korea for its nuclear

See **KOREA**, Page 5

## THE PAMPA NEWS

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Fax: 806-669-2520

email: editor@thepampanews.com

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# U.S. optimistic on China enforcement of U.N. sanctions against North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration, citing new inspections by the Chinese of trucks bound for North Korea, said today it expected China would do its part in enforcing a U.N. resolution punishing its reclusive ally for its nuclear program.

The United States is pressing China for tough action against North Korea ahead of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's trip this week to Asia.

R. Nicholas Burns, under-secretary of state for political affairs, pointed to the fact that Chinese customs inspectors had begun inspecting cargo trucks bound for North

Korea in the border city of Dandong. Japan and Australia, meanwhile, announced today that they might take measures beyond the new U.N. sanctions against North Korea for that country's reported nuclear test.

"We have indications this morning the Chinese are beginning to apply this to their very long land border" with North Korea, Burns said on CBS' "The Early Show." "We also have announcements from Japan and Australia. I spoke to both governments this morning. They are both implementing this."

He said there will be

"enormous pressure on China to live up to their responsibility" in enforcing United Nations punishment of its ally, North Korea. "We are all banking on that."

Rice travels to the region Tuesday for a series of talks aimed at easing tensions among countries already on edge from the North's claimed nuclear test.

China, which voted Saturday for the U.N. penalties, has balked at cargo inspections to prevent trafficking of certain banned weapons and technology.

"I'm quite certain that China is going to live up to its responsibilities," Rice said Sunday, adding she was willing to have "conversations" during her trip on how best to enforce the resolution.

The United States' U.N. ambassador portrayed North

Korea's detonation last week as a public humiliation for China, which shares a long border with North Korea and is the North's chief ally and supplier of crucial shipments of food and energy aid.

If China were to cut its support, John Bolton said, it "would be powerfully persuasive in Pyongyang," the North's capital. "They've not yet been willing to do it. I think that China has a heavy responsibility here."

Rice, who joined Bolton in making the rounds of the Sunday talk shows, plans to visit Asian partners this week to consult about the resolution. "I understand that people are concerned about how it might work so it doesn't enhance tensions in the region, and we're perfectly willing to have those conversations," Rice said.

## Reese

Continued from Page 4

man in the U.S. Senate would be. He would stand out in that herd of mediocrity, and the people of Virginia would never have to worry that this man would sell out to the lobbyists and special interests.

I'm worried about the race. At the present, he's tied with Allen. I'm worried because one of the signs of a sick republic is when people can't distinguish good men from bad

ones or outstanding men from mediocre ones. What's the point of good people running for office if the public is always going to choose the backslapping demagogue?

Jim Webb is a true American hero and has the capacity to be a statesman rather than a politician. That's the only race I'll be watching election night. The outcome will say a lot about the state of the nation.

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

## Korea

Continued from Page 4

weapons effort, none has given any indication it would either join or welcome military action by the United States. South Korea, of course, could suffer enormous destruction.

Unlike Iran, whose leaders want both to acquire nuclear weapons and have publicly called for the destruction of Israel, North Korea appears to want such weapons primarily as a deterrent, for it clearly is in no position to conquer any of its neighbors. The regime would probably be most dangerous if it felt its existence was truly threatened, for then its ruling

elite would have nothing to lose in starting a war and using every weapon available.

President Bush is right to keep pushing for ways to stop North Korea from continued development of its nuclear weapons. Let's hope that diplomacy backed up with economic sanctions and other nonmilitary steps will achieve his ends.

But if diplomacy and sanctions fail to work, that should not automatically mean that the United States resorts to military action, at least not without congressional approval. As our experience in Iraq has amply shown, overthrowing an evil regime is not necessarily followed by peace and prosperity.

## Hotels

Continued from Page 4

longer accommodating landmen and wildcatters, is now home to the Rankin Museum.

Author's note: This is a

revised version of "Death of a Hotel," which first appeared in my long out-of-print first book, "Red Rooster Country." (Pioneer Book Publishers, 1970.)

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a dozen Texas-related books.

## Events calendar

• **Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. Thursday in the private meeting room at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. The meeting is open to interested women 50 and older. For more information, call 669-9297 or 669-9916.

• **The next Third Thursday** at Amarillo Museum of Art will be from 6-9 p.m. Thursday. The event will include a film on the artists of Llano Estacado, a performance by Amarillo Woodwind Quintet, a coffee tasting and art activities for children and adults. For more information, contact Amarillo Museum of Art at (806) 371-5050.

• **Red Hat Ex's Society** will meet Oct. 24 at Southside Senior Citizens Center. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 669-6533.

• **The Senior Ambassadors Coalition** in Amarillo will host the free Eighth Annual Senior Fall Festival from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 26 in the North Exhibit Hall of Amarillo Civic Center. Medical experts will offer screenings for cholesterol, glucose, balance, memory, blood pressure, nutrition, spine, pulse postural assessment, depression and more. Information will also be available on such topics as Alzheimer's, crisis intervention, diabetes, home safety, estate planning, volunteer opportunities. For more information, call the coalition at (806) 372-3381.

• **Amarillo College's Lamplight Youth Theatre Co.** will present Improv Night at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 27 in Ordway Hall in Amarillo. The evening will consist of 15 to 20 on the

spot skits. Admission is \$5. Proceeds are used to fund the non-profit children's theater. To purchase tickets, call (806) 371-5353.

• **An exhibit of prints and memorabilia** from the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure will be on view from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., now through Oct. 30 at A.G. Edwards office, 801 S. Fillmore, Suite 170, in Amarillo.

• **Wayland Baptist University Llano Estacado Museum** will be the site of a seven-hour seminar Oct. 31 for health professionals. The seminar will be conducted by Dorothy Yeager, MS, CFCS. Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m. The deadline to pre-register is Oct. 30. Cost of the workshop will be \$89. Continuing education credit has been approved

for Texas and New Mexico nurses. For more information or to pre-register, call 1-888-836-7684.

• **The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center** has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: Oct. 30-31, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** Does it make me a horrible daughter if I don't want to take my mother to visit my older sister who lives 90 miles away? According to my mother, it does. I have always taken her in the past, even when it was the last thing I wanted to do. I was divorced for several years, but three years ago I married a wonderful man, and now I have a life. I suppose in the past my mother felt I had nothing better to do. When I act like I'd rather not go, she says things such as, "I'll be dead someday, and you won't have to bother with me." I hate that. She also tries to drag my husband into the argument, saying he won't "let" me go, as if to suggest that I really want to go and it's his fault. My husband says she's jealous that I have him in my life, and she feels like he's taken me from being at her beck and call. What do you think? — **FEELING GUILTY IN TENNESSEE**

**DEAR FEELING GUILTY:** Your husband has keen insight. You're feeling guilty because your mother plasters on the guilt like a baker spreads frosting. If you are her only mode of transportation, perhaps it's time to suggest that if she wants a visit with your sister, your sister should pick her up - or better yet, come to visit Mama.

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter, "Madison," became engaged a couple of months ago, and she and her fiance have set their wedding date for April of next year. My stepdaughter, "Brittany," who has been living with her boyfriend for years and has two kids with him, has just decided they will be getting married at the end of March 2007. I find it very strange that all of a sudden a wedding is in the making, I suspect she has ulterior motives. We are planning an expensive wedding for Madison, which was already decided upon way before

Brittany's wedding was even mentioned. Brittany is now expecting us to pay for it. What is our financial obligation? — **ANNOYED IN LAS VEGAS**

**DEAR ANNOYED:** In light of the fact that Brittany has been living with her boyfriend for years and has already started a family, I do not understand her rush to beat your daughter to the finish line. It appears she's trying to upstage Madison -- and is not being subtle about it. A wedding is a gift, not an obligation, on the part of parents. So please do not allow yourself to be intimidated into doing anything that is beyond your finances.

**DEAR ABBY:** My high school girlfriend and I were married after dating for 6 1/2 years. The marriage lasted less than a year because she was unfaithful. About five months after the split, I began dating a fellow law student. It has been fantastic. In fact, we have spent only four nights apart since we made our relationship official. How long should I wait between my divorce and proposing to my girlfriend? — **EAGER IN INDIANAPOLIS**

**DEAR EAGER:** Once your divorce is final, there's no reason why you can't propose to your girlfriend as soon as you wish. However, I would caution you to hold off on marrying quickly. Theoretically, this romance could be considered "on the rebound." You have spent very little time in your life unattached. If you're smart enough for law school, you should understand the wisdom of allowing this enjoyable relationship to ripen until you and she are both confident it will last a lifetime. Time is on your side, so please don't rush it.

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



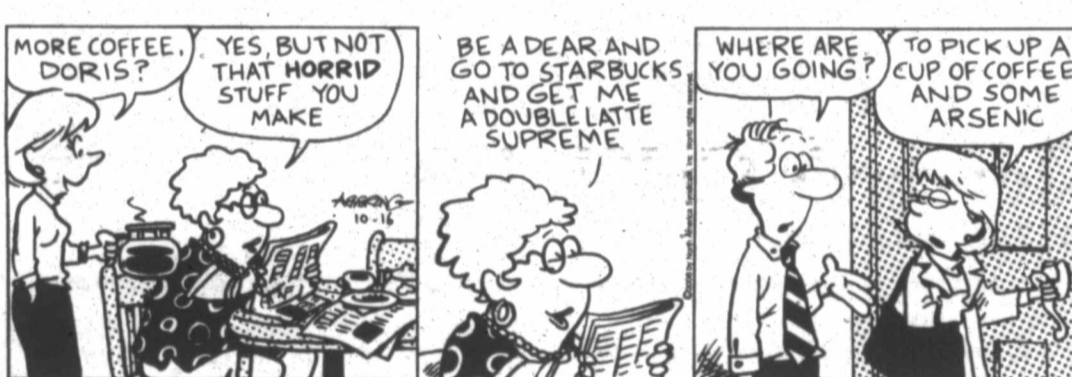
## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



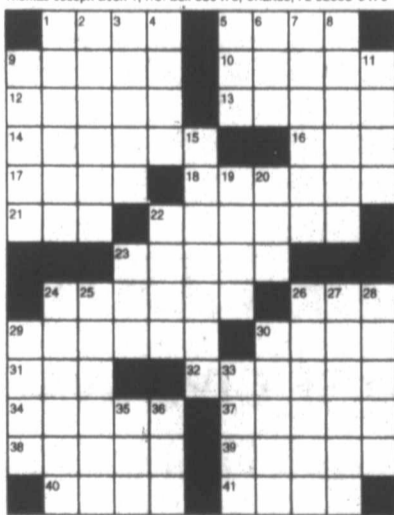
## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Ages and ages
  - 1 Melody
  - 5 Berets
  - and beanies
  - 9 Suggest
  - 10 Wonderland visitor
  - 12 Put up
  - 13 Gallantry
  - 14 Gain energy
  - 16 Greek vowel
  - 17 "Exodus" author
  - 18 Walks proudly
  - 21 Place for peas
  - 22 Cloysingly sweet
  - 23 Scout's job, for short
  - 24 Indifference
  - 26 Addition to an acct.
  - 29 Government department
  - 30 Composer Edouard
  - 31 Freud topic
  - 32 Form couples
  - 34 Settle a debt
  - 37 Concealed
  - 38 Cease-fire
  - 39 Like a cliff
  - 40 Erupt
- DOWN**
- 1 Bullfight star
  - 2 Log-on need
  - 3 Shaving goofs
  - 4 Question from Caesar
  - 5 Cleveland player, for short
  - 6 Chicken — king
  - 7 Accumulate
  - 8 Enterprise engineer
  - 9 Invigorate
  - 11 Historic times
  - 15 Excite
  - 19 Brad Pitt
  - 20 Enter a marathon
  - 22 —
  - 23 "Norma"
  - 24 Boring tools
  - 25 Support top
  - 26 Actor McGavin
  - 27 Steers clear of
  - 28 Appear suddenly
  - 29 Ernie's pal
  - 30 Deceive
  - 33 Church area
  - 35 Royal flush
  - 36 Evergreen shrub

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## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

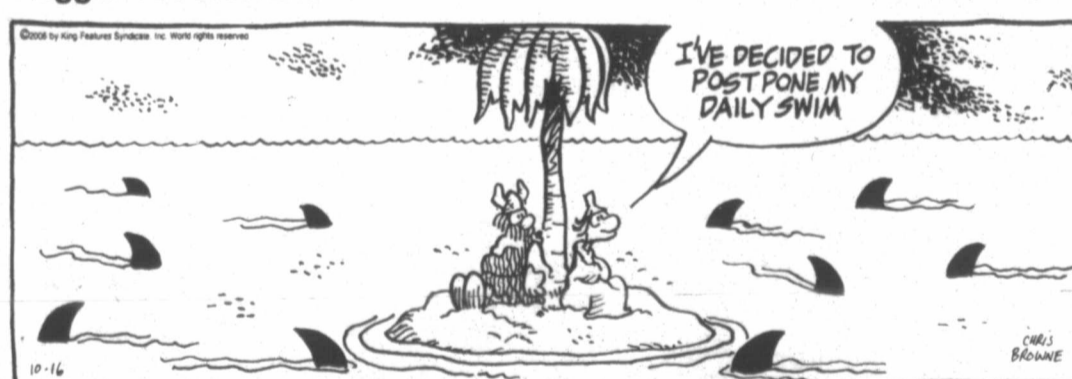
By Bil Keane



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



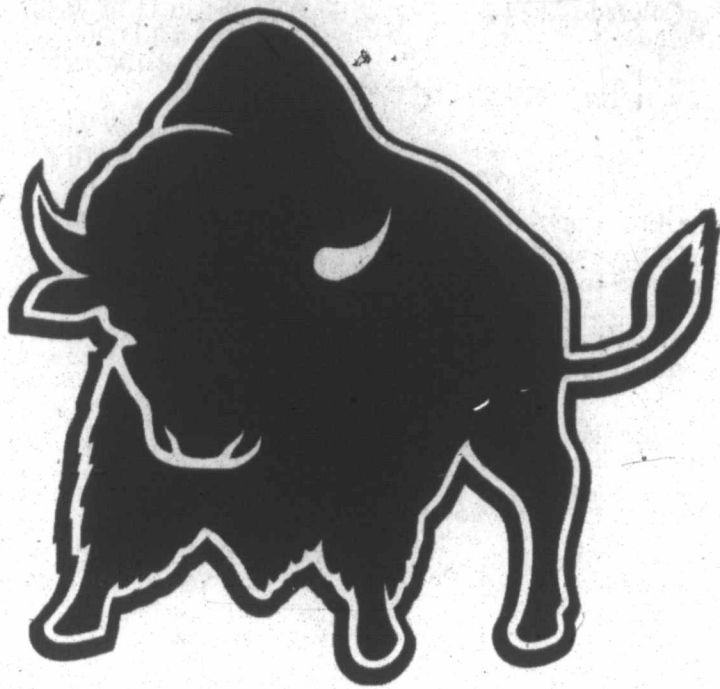
## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



# Sports Day



## Prizes up for grabs for WTAMU fans when Buffs make national TV debut

CANYON — As the No. 6 Buffalo football team prepares for Thursday night's nationally televised match up with undefeated Abilene Christian at Kimbrough Memorial Stadium, the West Texas A&M athletic department has announced that it will offer several ticket and fan promotions for the game.

Thursday will be "Maroon and White Night" where the first 4,000 fans to the game will be given a free T-shirt, courtesy of Amarillo National Bank and United Supermarkets. Also on game day, kids wearing Kids Inc. jerseys will be admitted free to the game through the stadium's southeast gate.

Reduced ticket prices will also be available this week. From Monday through Wednesday tickets will sell for \$5 at the WTAMU ticket office, located on campus at the Virgil Henson Activities Center, and for \$6 at all Panhandle Tickets outlets. Get your tickets early, because all tickets will be full price on the day of the game.

## Monday's Golf briefs

### Samsung World Championship

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP) - Lorena Ochoa took a huge step toward dethroning Annika Sorenstam as the LPGA Tour player of the year, overwhelming her Sunday with a 7-under 65 that turned a three-shot deficit into a two-shot victory in the Samsung World Championship.

Ochoa was relentless at the start, a little lucky in the middle and solid down the stretch at Bighorn to win for the second straight week and fifth time this year, tops on the LPGA Tour and almost enough to wrap up the points-based award that Sorenstam has captured the last five seasons.

Trailing by two shots at the turn, Ochoa hit a 60-foot putt on the 10th hole that banged into the back of the cup, hopped out briefly and then, dropped back in the hole for a birdie that turned into a two-shot swing when Sorenstam made bogey from a bunker.

The 24-year-old Ochoa, the winner last week in her native Mexico, stood on the green in mild shock, then smiled and shook her head.

Ochoa matched the best score of the tournament. Juli Inkster earlier posted a 65, which was 10 shots better than her playing partner, Michelle Wie. The 17-year-old from Hawaii had more trouble in the desert and finished with a 75, her worst score on the LPGA Tour this year and her eighth consecutive round without breaking par.

Wie finished 17th in the 20-player field.

**Frys.com Open**  
LAS VEGAS (AP) - Consistently hitting his approach shots close and remaining cool and collected on the tense final holes, rookie Troy Matteson shot a 3-under 69 to win the Frys.com Open for his first

### PGA Tour victory.

Matteson, the three-time All-American from Georgia Tech who had to complete the last six holes of the rain-delayed third round early in the morning before beginning the final round, held off Ben Crane and Daniel Chopra by one shot.

Matteson finished at 22-under 265. Crane, a two-time winner on the tour, shot a 65; and Chopra, left looking for his first victory, had a 66.

The 26-year-old Matteson won twice last year on the Nationwide Tour and broke the developmental tour's money record with \$495,009. His initial tour win wrapped up a three-week stretch when he was edging toward the top, with a tie for eighth in Mississippi earlier this month, and a tie for sixth last week in Greensboro.

Playing in the final group with Chopra and nursing a one-shot lead, Matteson stuck his second shot on the 444-yard, par-4 18th within 8 feet of the pin. After Chopra missed his birdie try from 18 feet, Matteson needed only to two-putt. He barely missed the first, then tapped in for the victory.

### Administaff Small Business Classic

SPRING, Texas (AP) - Jay Haas won his sixth career Champions Tour title when rain forced the cancellation of the final round of the Administaff Small Business Classic.

Haas shot a 9-under 63 on Saturday to take five-stroke lead at 17-under 128. He earned \$240,000 for his fourth victory of the year and also passed Loren Roberts in the Charles Schwab Cup points race. Bruce Lietzke and Tom Purtzer tied for second.

It was the second week in a row a Champions Tour event ended after two rounds.

## Cowboys stampede Texans, 34-6

IRVING, Texas (AP) - Terrell Owens was more pronounced with each of his touchdown celebrations.

Things were finally going well in Dallas for Owens, who revealed a little more of his personality after each of his three second-half TD catches in the Cowboys' 34-6 victory over the Houston Texans on Sunday.

"With everything going on the last few weeks, that's all I ever wanted, just go out there and play football," Owens said. "I hadn't gotten started up until this point. This is something to build on."

Owens did a little dance after his first TD catch at Texas Stadium as a Cowboy, a 3-yarder despite pass interference against the defender. That came on the opening drive of the second half and put Dallas ahead to stay.

After making a nice adjustment for a 21-yard TD between two defenders, Owens spiked the ball in the end zone and again on the sideline. He then did the same with his helmet before standing on the bench and facing the cheering fans.

"He made a great play. That's why he is who he is," said Dexter McLeon, one of the two defenders. "Those plays took a lot out of us. We were in position, we had great coverage. That gave them the momentum and a lots of energy."

When T.O. scored again, he made sure he was standing on one of the logo helmets in the end zone. He then arched his back and spread his arms in the same look-at-me pose that once got him in trouble when he played there against the Cowboys. After giving the ball to someone in the stands, he ran

back across the field waving his arms and fans responded with more cheers and a standing ovation.

"For him to have the game he did and make the impact he did, yeah, it was important to get it going," said Drew Bledsoe, who was 17-of-28 for 168 yards and threw the first two TDs - neither of them perfect passes, but balls Owens could handle.

"I told him, 'Dude, just trust me,'" Owens said. "I really gave Drew some opportunities and he really saw what I can do once he throws the ball."

Until Sunday, Owens' tenure in Dallas was marked by problems: The hamstring injury that landed him on a stationary bike and off the field for most of the preseason, a fine for being late to work, a broken hand, an accidental overdose, screams of "Why am I here?" during and after last week's loss against Philadelphia and a shouting match this week with passing game coordinator Todd Haley.

It was such a feel-good day that Owens and Haley even shared a quick embrace after the first touchdown. But that doesn't mean everything is forgiven between the two.

"He respects me as a player and I respect him as a coach," Owens said. "That's all that needs to be said, and that's all that needs to be done."

Owens had the fourth career three-TD game, the first since a 2004 game in Dallas the night of his infamous skit with one of the "Desperate Housewives" when he was playing for the Eagles.

For the Cowboys (3-2), it was an emphatic recovery from a tough loss to the Eagles and a great way of avenging

an embarrassing loss to Houston (1-4) four years ago when the Texans beat Dallas 19-10 in their first-ever game.

Dallas is within a half-game of NFC East-leading Philadelphia after the Eagles lost at New Orleans on Sunday. Next up for the Cowboys is a Monday night game against the New York Giants, the team they're tied with for second place in the division.

Coming off their first win and a bye, the Texans marched to the Dallas 1 on the game-opening drive. But they managed only a field goal, then didn't get closer than the Dallas 31 until the game's final minute.

Houston led 6-3 at halftime, but David Carr threw interceptions on consecutive drives in the third quarter and Edell Shepherd fumbled on a kickoff return. Dallas turned all three take-aways into points.

"The momentum totally flipped. There's no excuses. They kicked our butt in the second half," coach Gary Kubiak said. "It's definitely frustrating."

Carr was 15-of-27 for 128 yards with the two interceptions, matching his total the first four games. But for only the seventh time in his 65 career games, Carr wasn't sacked.

**Notes:** Julius Jones ran for 106 yards for Dallas, and Marion Barber III had a rushing TD for the fourth straight game. ... Mat McBriar's 75-yard punt was the second longest in Dallas history. His 56.8-yard average (on four punts) was a single-game team record. ... Bill Parcells has now beaten all 32 current franchises.

## Nice save



Courtesy photo

Caragan Nikkum hustles after a ball before it goes out of bounds during a recent U-10 division game at the Pampa Soccer Association soccer fields located at 348 Naida St. Nikkum plays on the Thunder & Lightning team which is coached by Don Vanhouten. PSA organizers are accepting registrations for future league play. Information can be obtained on the Web at [www.pampasoccer.net](http://www.pampasoccer.net). The association will host the Top O' Texas 4V4 Tournament XI Saturday.

## Mets' bats come to life in 12-5 NLCS win

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Their bats had been quiet for 14 innings and they had just fallen behind early for the second straight night. Then Carlos Beltran sent the ball soaring over the wall, and the New York Mets woke up.

"One swing of the bat," David Wright said, "can get us going."

It sure did.

Wright and Carlos Delgado also homered, and Beltran added his second solo shot of the game in a 12-5 Busch-whacking of the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday night that tied the NL championship series at two games apiece.

An offense that was so appalling in Saturday's 5-0 loss quickly became enthralling, and the Mets ensured the pennant will be decided back at Shea Stadium.

"It's all even now. It's, 'Who wants it more?'" Wright said.

Now that Delgado's in the postseason, he's starting to own it. He put New York ahead for good at 5-2 with a three-run homer in the fifth, then busted open the game with a two-run double in a six-run sixth.

Beltran boosted his NLCS home-run total to seven in 11 games, Wright

broke an 0-for-13 slump with his homer and Jose Valentin added a three-run double in the sixth as New York went ahead 11-3.

"You create your own momentum," Delgado said. "You just have to approach every game like it's the last game you're going to play."

New York set a team record for runs and homers in a postseason game, more than enough offense to back Oliver Perez, who was forced into the rotation because of injuries to Pedro Martinez and Orlando Hernandez.

New York had 14 hits at Busch Stadium, one night after getting just three.

"When you have good hitters like we do, you're not going to hold us down too often," Mets manager Willie Randolph said.

But before the series returns to Shea Stadium, Tom Glavine (15-7) is to start for the Mets on Monday night, with Jeff Weaver (5-4) pitching for the Cardinals in a matchup of Game 1 starters. Both would be pitching on three days' rest, though rain is possible.

Glavine has pitched 13 scoreless innings in the postseason.

"He knows what it takes, and we're just going to come out tomorrow and play good ball again," Delgado said confidently.

Beltran went 3-for-3 with two walks and is hitting .333 in the NLCS. Delgado is hitting .414 (12-for-29) with four homers and 11 RBIs in the postseason, batting .400 against the Cardinals with three homers and nine RBIs.

"I played 12-and-a-half years and never sniffed the playoffs," he said. "I'm enjoying these playoffs. It's a blast. But I guess it's going to be that much sweeter when you win it."

Perez, acquired July 31 from Pittsburgh along with Roberto Hernandez in the Xavier Nady deal, gave up solo homers to David Eckstein, Jim Edmonds and Yadier Molina. He never retired the side in order but lasted 5 2-3 innings.

"I did my job, kept us in the game, and that's what's most important," Perez said.

Only the second pitcher to start a postseason game in a year he finished the regular season 10 games under .500 (3-13), Perez had been 0-7 on the road this year.





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1 Public Notice
before the Honorable 223RD DISTRICT COURT of Gray County, at the Courthouse in said County in Pampa, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 27th day of september, 2006 in the above entitled cause.

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Real estate listings table with columns for school district (Austin, Lamar, Travis, Wilson), area (North and North East, South West, West and North West, South East), price, and sq. ft.

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Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the General Election held on November 7, 2006 will be tested on October 18, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at Gray County Clerk's Office, 205 N. Russell, Room 200

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# TCFA says beef outlook positive despite rising production

AMARILLO — If you were to focus on the 6 percent increase in beef production in 2006, you might think the cattle market is poised for a major correction. However, according to Randy Blach, executive vice president of Cattle-Fax, the market has held its own this year.

"We've seen fed slaughter increase 800,000 to 900,000 head this year over last year and production is up 6 percent," he told members of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. "Yet fed cattle prices

are only going to end up \$1.50 to \$2 lower than they were a year ago. So we've gotten along very well."

Blach was speaking at a joint meeting of Texas' two major cattle organizations recently. The Texas Cattle Feeders Association was holding its annual convention in Amarillo and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association was conducting its fall board and committee meetings.

The reason fed cattle prices have held up reasonably well in the face of higher supplies is demand, both domestically and internationally. Blach says aggregate beef

demand in the U.S. has been a little softer this year.

"But I think it's important that we step back and look at what's really going on," he told TCFA and TSCRA members. "Demand is growing for Choice, the upper two-thirds of Choice, Prime and beef sold in many branded beef programs. Choice price is higher even though Choice beef supplies are up 2 percent for the year. So we're not seeing the same softening in demand on the higher quality products that we're seeing in aggregate."

On the international front, Blach

says the trend toward regaining lost export market share was important. Because of declining imports and growing exports have resulted in net beef supplies — the amount of beef that Americans end up consuming — being up only 2 percent, in spite of a 6 percent increase in U.S. beef production.

"This really reflects the importance of trade and continuing the trend of growing exports as our domestic production continues to increase during the next several years."

Due to the drought situation, we have definitely slowed the rate of

expansion on the nation's cow herd, he said.

"It looks like cow numbers will be up 1 percent in 2007. Fed cattle slaughter will likely increase another 500,000 head in 2007 and beef production will increase about 2 percent for the year compared with 2006," he projected.

Fed cattle prices in 2007 will be slightly softer, but not significantly different from what cattle feeders experienced this year. "We'll still end up averaging \$84 to \$85 on fed cattle in 2007 and have a practical range from the low \$90s to the upper \$70s," he predicted.

## Realtor convention



Realtors from all over the state of Texas attended the Texas Association of REALTORS® Convention/Trade Expo recently in Arlington. Attendees had the opportunity to earn required continuing education units and hear keynote speakers, such as Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, on various issues concerning homeowner rights, mortgage fraud and property appraisals. Above: Rebecca Baten, Secretary of the Pampa Board of REALTORS®/TAR Director; Avis Wukasch, chairman-elect of Texas Association of REALTORS®; Benny McMahon, President/CEO of Texas Association of REALTORS®; and Diane Jennings, Association Executive of the Pampa Board of REALTORS®, Inc.

## Oil tax fight rages in California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — In any other year, a \$60 million opposition campaign fueled by a deep-pocketed industry would almost certainly spell doom for a California ballot initiative.

But the infusion of \$40 million by a Hollywood producer has given environmentalists pushing Proposition 87, an oil-production tax, plenty of financial firepower against the petroleum companies that oppose it.

The battle over the so-called oil tax has become the costliest initiative campaign in California history, with a combined \$104.4 million raised so far on both sides.

That surpasses the pharmaceutical industry's lobbying in last year's special election on two prescription drug measures and a \$93 million contest in 1998 by Indian tribes to legalize tribal gambling.

"The numbers are so amazingly large," said John Matsusaka, president of the Initiative and Referendum Institute at the University of Southern California, who specializes in economics and government.

The stakes got higher last week with the introduction of a television commercial in which former Vice President Al Gore promotes the initiative.

"Here is the truth the oil companies won't

tell you," Gore says in the 30-second spot. "Half of the foreign oil they're importing to California is from the Middle East. As a result, California is dangerously dependent on foreign oil."

Spokeswoman Kalee Kreider said Gore has been following the California initiative campaign in an effort to educate people about global warming.

One of the initiative's goals is to reduce oil dependence in California by 25 percent over the next decade, which would reduce the greenhouse gases that scientists blame for warming the Earth's atmosphere.

Proposition 87 would tax companies drilling for oil in California until the state has generated \$4 billion. The money would be set aside for loans, grants and subsidies to promote alternative fuels and more energy-efficient vehicles.

A Field Poll from early October showed 44 percent of likely voters supported the initiative, down from 52 percent in July. Historically, California voters have approved 40 percent of ballot initiatives.

Hollywood producer Stephen Bing has given a little more than \$40 million to support the initiative, the largest donation by an individual to an initiative in state history.

# FALL

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