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See expanded weather on Page 2

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SEE PAGE 9



THE PAMPA NEWS

Volume 103 • No. 78

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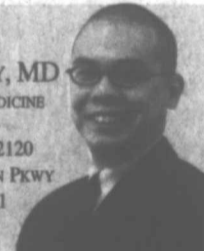
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Courtesy photo
Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples recently recognized Raymond and Dorothy Barrett of Barrett Farms at the Family Land Heritage ceremony in Austin at the Capitol. Barrett Farms in Gray County was honored for their acceptance into the Family Land Heritage Program for 100 years of agricultural operation. Barrett Farms has been in continuous agricultural production since 1906 by the same family.

Local couple, farm honored in Austin

AUSTIN — A Gray County couple was recognized last month in Austin as Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples and the Texas Department of Agriculture recognized 126 farms and ranches at the 32nd annual Family Land Heritage ceremony.

Raymond Barrett and Dorothy Barrett of Barrett Farms received a certificate from Staples.

The ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber at the Texas Capitol. The event recognized families who have kept their farms and ranches in continuous agricultural production for 100, 150 and 200 years.

To date, more than 4,200 Texas farms and ranches in 232 counties have been recognized by the Family Land Heritage Program. Three counties, Dawson, Hale and Winkler, were added to the list of counties with honored farms and ranches for the 2006 induction.

"The farm and ranch owners we are honoring have an incredible agricultural legacy to share, one that has spanned generations and seen dramatic changes over the last century," Staples said. "These families have faced challenges head on and persevered to make Texas agriculture what it is today — an \$85 billion economic engine."

This marks the sixth year the Texas Department of Agriculture will honor farms and ranches in the 150-year category. TDA will recognize 12 properties that were established between 1827 and 1856.

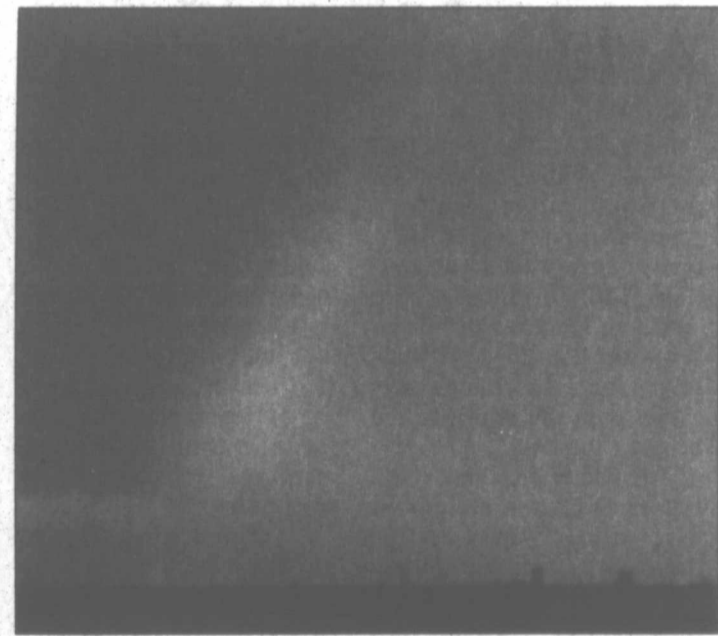
Farms and ranches recognized
See **BARRETT**, Page 3

Fireworks trash



Photos by DELLA MOYER
Trash littered FM 749 about three miles south of Pampa this morning. Authorities have been notified and are investigating who might have left the trash on the roadway.

Pot of gold marker



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
A rainbow west of Pampa this morning was evidence that the town received some rain. West Texas Mesonet reported that Pampa received .57 inches of rain between midnight Wednesday and 9:30 a.m. today. The forecast calls for mostly sunny weather over the next few days with highs in the mid to upper 80's.

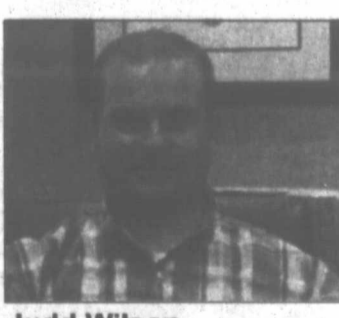
W&W promotes Wilson

By **KERRI SMITH**
Staff Writer

W&W Fiberglass Tank Co., which was founded in 1978 by Wayne Wilson, has a new president. Judd Wilson was promoted from vice president of sales to president of the company.

Over the years, W & W Fiberglass has manufactured high-quality fiberglass tanks for the oil and gas industry. They are also a major supplier for industrial, agricultural, chemical and environmental companies as well.

Wayne Wilson, the former president, will become the CEO of the company as he



Judd Wilson
turns over day-to-day decision making responsibilities to Judd Wilson.

Judd Wilson is a 1993 graduate of The University of Texas at Arlington. He has been vice president of sales for 13 years, in which the company has seen growth.

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Putting around



The nice weather last weekend prompted Peter Espino, left, Key'Shawn Morris, center, and Stephanie Morris to go out for a round of putt-putt golf at Putt-A-Round, 900 Duncan.

Water logged Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma could get more

By SEAN MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The floodwater slowly subsided today in parts of Oklahoma and Kansas, but forecasters said an approaching storm system could hamper efforts to clean up after weeks of heavy rain damaged homes, businesses and roads.

The biggest concern was at Lake Texoma along the Oklahoma-Texas border, where water was projected to spill over the Denison Dam later today, said Bryan County Emergency Management Director James Dalton.

"(We're) warning residents along the Red River to move all livestock, equipment and other necessary belongings to higher ground," Dalton said. "We are also urging residents to have an initial evacuation plan, should conditions threaten homes in the area."

In Missouri, a 16-year-old girl was killed when she drove her SUV through a flooded low-water crossing and was swept into a creek. Authorities found her body inside the submerged vehicle Wednesday night. The weather had already been blamed for 11 deaths in Texas in the past two weeks.

Severe thunderstorms formed along a cold front as it sagged southward out of Kansas and Missouri toward Oklahoma on Wednesday.

Floodwater was ebbing in several northeastern Oklahoma communities, but meteorologists predicted more problems because lakes and reservoirs were already filled to capacity.

The worst flood damage was in Miami, where the Neosho River crested at about 29 feet, its highest stage since 1951, before beginning its decline.

"We're starting to see an average drop of about a half-inch every hour," City Manager Mike Spurgeon said.

A shelter set up in the city housed about 55

people, and flood damage was expected to affect about 600 homes, Spurgeon said.

U.S. Rep. Dan Boren took an aerial tour to assess the damage with representatives from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. Boren, a Democrat, promised to do whatever he could to secure federal assistance for the victims in his state.

About 50 Oklahoma Army National Guard troops worked 12-hour shifts providing security in flood-ravaged neighborhoods.

In Texas, heavy rain spread across wide areas of the state on Wednesday, causing minor street flooding. More than half the state's counties were under flash flood watches, flash flood warnings, flood warnings or a combination of watches and warnings Wednesday night.

The Trinity River in the Dallas-Fort Worth area was expected to crest at 37 feet during the night, about 7 feet above flood stage. Corpus Christi recorded nearly 3 1/2 inches of rain by Wednesday evening on top of 10 inches that fell on Monday.

In Kansas, water was receding in the community of Osawatimie as drainage structures were opened on the Pottawatomie River, and power had been restored to about 60 homes, allowing those residents to return, Miami County officials said.

At least 1,000 people were out of their homes throughout southeast Kansas, said Sharon Watson, spokesperson for the Kansas adjutant general.

In northeastern Oklahoma, the Caney River began slowly falling after cresting at 34.18 feet, according to the National Weather Service. The river, which forced hundreds of residents near Bartlesville from their homes this week, wasn't expected to fall below flood stage until Sunday night, the weather service said.

30-year mortgage rates drop to lowest level since June

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rates on 30-year mortgages sank this week to a one-month low, while rates on most other mortgages also fell, good news to prospective home buyers.

Freddie Mac, the mortgage company, reported today that 30-year,

fixed-rate mortgages averaged 6.63 percent. That was down from last week's 6.67 percent rate and was the lowest since early June, when rates stood at 6.53 percent.

The moderation is welcome for people in the market to buy a home. In mid-June, rates on 30-year mortgages climbed to 6.74 percent, an 11-

month high.

Rates on many mortgages have ebbed in recent weeks as investors' fears about an inflation have eased.

"Long-term mortgage rates continued to move lower for a third consecutive week, in part reflecting a moderation in core inflation," which excludes food and energy prices,

said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac's chief economist.

The Federal Reserve in deciding to hold a key interest rate steady last week noted that some readings on core inflation have improved. The Fed's key rate has been at 5.25 percent for a year, offering borrowers a period of steadiness.

Fed nutrition education spending programs fail

PANORAMA CITY, Calif. (AP) — The federal government will spend more than \$1 billion this year on nutrition education — fresh carrot and celery snacks, videos of dancing fruit, hundreds of hours of lively lessons about how great you will feel if you eat well.

An Associated Press review of dozens of rigorous scientific studies shows that these programs almost never change the way kids eat. And there is no indication they will make a dent in the growing epidemic of childhood obesity.

"Any person looking at the published literature about these programs would have to conclude that they are generally not working," said Dr. Tom Baranowski, a pediatrics professor at Houston's Baylor College of Medicine who studies behavioral nutrition.

The evidence is in the children. Nationally, obesity rates have nearly quintupled among 6- to 11-year-olds and tripled among teens and children ages 2 to 5 since the 1970s, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The medical consequences of obesity in the U.S. — diabetes, high blood pressure, even orthopedic problems — cost an estimated \$100 billion a year. Kentucky cardiologist Dr. James W. Holsinger Jr., nominated as the next surgeon general, says fighting childhood obesity is his top priority.

Thus far, the federal government had put its money on education as the solution. But a review of 57 trials aimed at changing kids' eating habits found just four showed any real success.

That reinforced a slew of

disappointing studies:

—Last year a major federal pilot program offering free fruits and vegetables to school children showed fifth graders became less willing to eat them than they had at the start. Apparently they didn't like the taste.

—In Pennsylvania, researchers went so far as to give prizes to school children who ate fruits and vegetables. That worked while the prizes were offered, but when the researchers came back seven months later the kids had reverted to their original eating habits: soda and chips.

—In studies where children tell researchers they are eating better or exercising more, there is usually no change in blood pressure, body size or cholesterol measures; they want to eat better, they might even think they are, but they're not.

The studies don't tell Leticia Jenkins anything she doesn't know. She's one of the bravest teachers in America — not because she gave her seventh and eighth graders 30 sharp knives to chop tomatoes, onions, jalapenos and limes for a lesson on salsa and nutrition, but because she understands the futility of what she is trying to do.

"Oh, it's so hard, because at the end of the day sometimes I take a moment, I think gosh, I did all this and we still see them across the street picking up the doughnuts and the coffee drinks," she said.

The challenges to changing the way children eat are as numerous as the factors that have prompted the obesity epidemic in the first place.

Barrett

Continued from Page 1

nized for 150 years include: Borrego Creek Ranch in Atascosa County, Ingram Place in Bastrop County, Historic Palmito Hill Ranch in Cameron County, Rocking iRi/Shiloh Farm in Delta County, Treibs Ranch in Gillespie County, Brown-Bosse Farm and Ranch in Grimes County, Tate Ranch in Lavaca County, Double CC Farm & Ranch in Morris County, Thomas Farm in Parker County, Hale Ranch in Rusk County, White Ranch in Somervell County and BryanLoch Farms in Washington County.

Cowboy poet and entertainer Red Steagall performed at the ceremony. Ron Oliveira, a well-known Texas broadcaster, served as master of ceremonies.

The Family Land Heritage ceremony gold sponsors include Texas Farm Bureau, Heartland Alliance of America, Capital Farm Credit, Heritage Land Bank ACA, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas and

Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Blue Bell Creameries, Country World and Ag Workers Mutual Auto Insurance.

Other area honorees include Armstrong County, Hudson and Heck Farm, 1906, C.M. Hudson Jr.; Briscoe County, Watters Place, 1906, Sandra Kay (Watters) Smith; Childress County, Fields Cottonwood Ranch, 1906, Joy Rose and Barbara Currie; Gray County, Barrett Farms, 1906, Dorothy (Dixon) and Raymond Earl Barrett, and Ruth (Matheny) and Floyd Lee Barrett; Hale County, Eagle Wing Farms, 1902, June (Patterson) Terrell, Debra (Terrell) Riddle and Thomas Patt Terrell; Hutchinson County, Holt Farm, 1905, Nolan Holt and Jan and Larry Holt — Holt-Eisenhauer Farms, 1905, Anita (Holt) Eisenhauer and George Edward Eisenhauer; Lipscomb County, Akers Ranch, 1906, Doris and Robert Milton Akers — Altmiller Farm, 1906, Brad Altmiller, Wendell Altmiller, Russell Altmiller and Dale Henry Altmiller; and Ochiltree County, Cudd Country, 1906, Anna Lee (Lehman) and Kenneth Leon Cudd.

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Viewpoints

Monetary rewards are *never* unwelcome ...

We here at the Pampa News office recently underwent a week of chaos coinciding with the laying of new tile in the front of the building. That project necessitated removing all desks, most furniture, computers, etc., from the affected areas.

This is when I discovered I only enjoy wide-open spaces if they occur out-of-doors, a no doubt irrational anxiety that must stem from spending too many of my formative years with, like, four- to six- other people in a trailer house. I like trailer houses, by the way.

To continue ... While the tile was being installed, the editorial staff was banished to the composing department headed by Brenda Cook.

Mrs. Cook not only graciously made room for us in her department but went to the additional trouble of seeing that our computers were hooked up properly to the network — with all the necessary hardware and headaches THAT entails. Poor Mrs. Cook even shared her desk and monitor with me since my own rather temperamental computer went psycho in this temporary setting.

Two of our press guys labored and strained (cheerfully, I might add) hauling all the heavy stuff way to the back of the building. All of which brings to mind a recent survey by OfficeTeam administrative staffing service and employees who go

above and beyond their basic duties.

According to a news release from OfficeTeam, more than a third of "professionals" consider that today's U.S. businesses and firms, er, well ... stink in the gratitude/reward department.

"More than one-third (35 percent) of professionals polled recently said businesses are ineffective at rewarding their employees' strong performance. Thirty percent of managers surveyed agreed," the news release said.

Skyla Bryant

News Editor

I find this quite interesting. Reportedly, the survey included 150 senior execs from 1,000 of the nation's largest companies as well as 534 full- or part-time employees.

What I especially like is OfficeTeam's take on possible remedies for the situation. (Though, I don't think the release stressed the importance of MONETARY rewards quite enough for my satisfaction. Never let it be said I am not greedy.)

Here are some suggestions supplied by OfficeTeam besides mone-

tary rewards:

—**Say thanks.** Don't underestimate the power of saying 'thank you,' either in writing or in person."

Although, I think "in writing" is so much better, don't you? That way you can flaunt it in front of your fellow employees. Modesty is sooo passé.

—**Celebrate achievements.** Honor employees' accomplishments in front of their peers. Staff events recognizing individuals or groups can enhance morale while highlighting exemplary behavior."

Let me now say: Cleanliness is cause for celebration. Reward that employee whose desk is never seen when it finally is

Plan a party!

—**Give the gift of time.** (I like this one. It ranks right up there with monetary bonuses.) Reward staff accomplishments with extra days off or extended lunch breaks. Time away from the office allows staff members to recharge after major projects."

AND ...

—**Provide plum assignments.** (Of course, this only applies to employees who aren't phobic about extra responsibility.) Give strong performers the option of working on desirable projects. Doing so improves their motivation and enthusiasm for their work, and encourages others to excel in their positions."

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 5, the 186th day of 2007. There are 179 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 5, 1947, Larry Doby made his debut with the Cleveland Indians, becoming the first black player in the American League.

On this date:

In 1811, Venezuela became the first South American country to declare independence from Spain.

In 1830, the French occupied the North African city of Algiers.

In 1865, William Booth founded the Salvation Army in London.

In 1935,

President Roosevelt signed the National Labor Relations Act, which provided for a National Labor Relations Board, and authorized labor to organize for the purpose of collective bargaining.

In 1940, during World War II, Britain and the Vichy government in France broke off diplomatic relations.

In 1946, the bikini bathing suit, designed by Louis

'If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.'

— Henry David Thoreau

Author (1817-1862)

Reard, made its debut during an outdoor fashion show at the Molitor Pool in Paris.

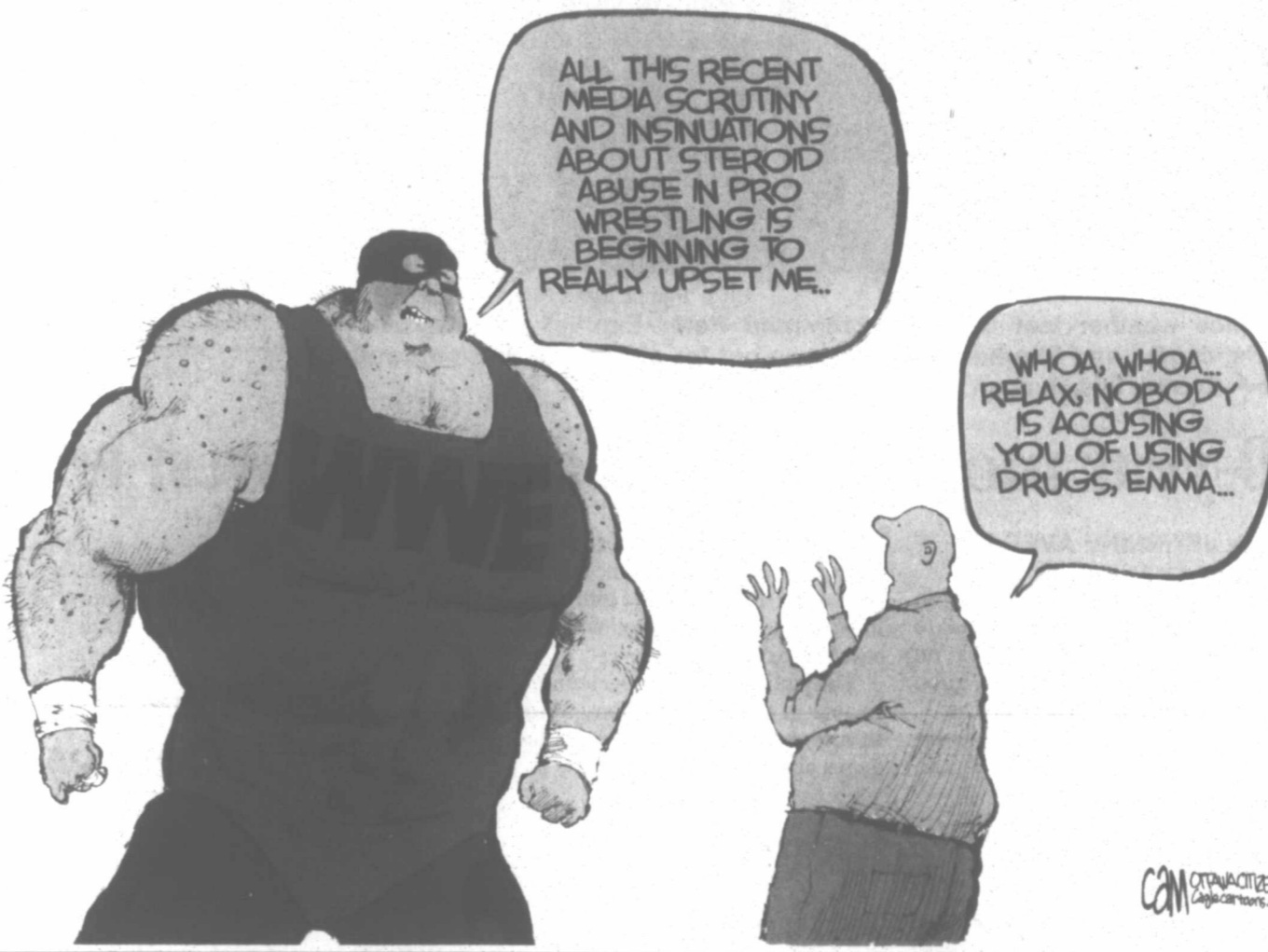
In 1954, Elvis Presley's first commercial recording session took place at Sun Records in Memphis, Tenn.; the song he recorded was "That's All Right (Mama)."

In 1975, Arthur Ashe became the first black man to win a Wimbledon singles title as he defeated Jimmy Connors.

In 1977, Pakistan's army, led by General Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, seized power from President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. (Bhutto was executed in 1979.)

In 1991, a worldwide financial scandal erupted as regulators in eight countries shut down the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Ten years ago: NASA scientists brainstormed to fix problems that left Mars Pathfinder's robot rover stuck aboard the lander. Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen launched a bloody coup that toppled First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh. Sixteen-year-old Martina Hingis became the youngest Wimbledon singles champion this century as she beat Jana Novotna, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the women's finals. (Charlotte "Lottie" Dod won in 1887 at age 15.)



Looking back on a few trendy events

I never realized how long I have been involved with the Internet until the other day. A friend asked me when I first saw the "dancing baby." Wow. My mind raced back to a simpler, more geeky time when the Internet was dominated by nerds like myself. At that time, phrases such as "Internet Pop Culture" were contradictions in terms. However, looking back, a few "trendy" events occurred.

•**The Dancing Baby**
AutoDesk is a company that specializes in 3D modeling software. In 1996, they released a demo of their newest product which included the Dancing Baby. Their intent, of course, was to show off the capabilities of their software. However, by 1997, this little file was being e-mailed all around the globe. It took on a life of its own.

New versions of the dance started to appear including disco, hip-hop and country routines.

The baby even made guest-star appearances on the TV show Ally McBeal.

Interestingly, Autodesk (http://www.autodesk.com) does not acknowledge their creation on their Web site ... except in an obscure trademark reference deep on a back page.

Catch all of this baby's moves at MegaBaby (http://www.megababy.com)

•**Hampster Dance**
No, it's not a spelling mistake. "Hampster" is actually the formal last name of "Hampston Hampster," a real, furry rodent, owned by Canadian Deidre LaCarte. In

1998, she and her sister had a competition to see who could receive the most visitors to a Web site.

Deidre won with her "Hampster Dance" site. In case you never saw it, the page displayed hundreds of miniature dancing hamsters while Roger Miller's "Whistle-Stop" from the 1973 soundtrack of "Robin Hood," played in the background.

The site gained national notoriety when Earthlink, a major Internet Service Provider, featured the wiggling rodents in a TV commercial. The Hampsters have released a few CD's, but as their fame dwindled, so did their sales. You can still see these little guys at their official site,

"Hampster Dance" (http://www.hampsterdance.com).

•**Mahir Cagri - I KISS YOU!!!**

Mahir Cagri's home page (http://www.ikissyou.org) is another simple site which gained popularity through e-mailing. Cagri, a Turkish gentleman whose site calls for world peace as well as invites beautiful women to stay with him in Turkey, has since claimed it was all a hoax.

Claiming to be "the most popular homepage ever," Cagri said his site received more than 1 million hits in a week during its high-point in 1999. The site was closed Nov. 12, 1999, but fans rebuilt it and posted it elsewhere. Cagri claims that many of the comments about women and sex were placed

See INTERNET, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **June 25**

Austin American-Statesman on teacher incentives:

When it comes to improving student performance, the primary focus should be on teachers. Match low achievers with quality teachers, research says, for the fastest and best improvement.

That is not happening in too many Austin schools. In fact, it's quite the opposite, according to studies by University of Texas researcher Ed Fuller and Education Trust, a Washington-based think tank.

The research shows that the Austin district pays teachers at schools with

high degrees of poverty and large percentages of minority students less than it pays teachers at the district's wealthier, more diverse schools. And the wage gap is wider in Austin than in most other large Texas school districts.

If low-income schools were NFL teams, the rules of parity would prevail and those schools would get the top picks of talented teachers. But it doesn't work that way in the school business, where superintendents are competing with other districts for top teachers. That gives teachers especially talented and experienced ones the upper hand in negotiations.

But school districts aren't helpless in such matters. It's disappointing that the Austin district hasn't adopted tac-

tics of some other professions by using incentives, bonuses and larger salaries to lure talented teachers to lower performing schools. We've noted before that the job at those schools is tougher, so teachers who work at those campuses deserve higher pay. But pay is primarily based on experience and that has opened a salary gap in Austin schools along racial and wealth lines.

The damage of not having an incentive system in place is obvious at several schools.

Johnston High School in East Austin lost nearly half of its teaching staff last fall. The teachers who replaced them were largely inexperienced.

See EDUCATION, Page 5

WORLD ECONOMICS

European bank keeps key interest rate steady at 4 %

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The European Central Bank held its benchmark interest rate steady at 4 percent on Thursday, as unemployment is dropping and inflation appears to be under control in the 13-nation region that shares the euro.

The decision followed a move by the Bank of England to raise rates by a quarter of a percentage point to 5.75 percent.

With markets traditionally quiet in August, analysts have suggested the European Central Bank may raise rates again in September to 4.25 percent — making car loans and home mortgages more expensive for the 317 million residents who account

The ECB has raised rates about once every quarter since December 2005 in bringing its benchmark rate to 4 percent.

for more than 15 percent of the world's economic production.

The decision, which markets had expected, pushed the euro to \$1.3630 in afternoon trading, up from \$1.3611 it bought Wednesday.

The ECB has raised rates about once every quarter since December

2005 in bringing its benchmark rate to 4 percent. In doing so it has managed to keep inflation at bay and growth from stalling.

Unemployment in the euro zone is at a record low of 7 percent; inflation remains around the bank's target of "close to but below" 2 percent.

With housing costs cooling off and mixed reports on German investor and business confidence, some experts wonder whether further increases are likely beyond September.

A poll of 52 financial institutions by Dow Jones Newswires found that all agreed the rate would be left unchanged at the meeting.

Internet

Continued from Page 4

there by a hacker.

His fame scored him a world tour sponsored by eTours.com, denounced by some fans as an attempt by eTours to capitalize and exploit Cagri's new status. eTours, however, did claim to have donated to Cagri's charities.

•Flash Mobs

You just received an e-mail from an anonymous source: It instructs you to "Synchronize your watch with an Internet Atomic clock. Then, meet at a specific public place at 6:51 p.m. on Thursday. Dress in blue and hold a red flower over your head for three minutes. Then, leave quickly." Folks, you've just been a part of a flash mob.

Here's how it works: Hundreds of people in a city sign up on an anonymous e-mail list. The list owner, then randomly sends out messages to the subscribers with specific instructions, telling you to gather at a specific spot at a very specific time and perform some silly act. Then, you leave quickly, as if nothing ever happened.

The sponsors of these activities call it performance art. It's quite popular on both coasts and especially in Denver, Colo. To find a "mob" in your area, check out FlockSmart (<http://www.flocksmart.com>).

•Net Trends

So, what do dancing babies, gyrating hamsters, a Turkish Romeo and strange-acting crowds have in common. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. BUT, they all went on to be historical mile-markers on the Information Superhighway.

I'll see you in Cyberspace!

Education

Continued from Page 4

enced. That kind of turnover was nothing new for the chronically low-performing high school.

Though the district is trying to slow revolving doors of Johnston and other lower-performing schools, its response has been inadequate. Starting this fall, the district will offer stipends to teachers who agree to work at the district's highest needs schools, meaning schools such as Johnston, where nine of 10 students

are at risk of failing. There are nine such schools, but the stipend program will target just five of the schools.

That's a start.

But the stipends seem too small to be effective in recruiting experienced teachers who, under the program, will get \$1,000 more to work in high needs schools. The incentives make sense for teachers who last more than three years at a high needs campus: They will earn \$3,000 more a year.

If the district is serious about recruiting better teachers to lower performing schools, then it must offer pay or bonuses on the front end that truly reflect the difficulty of the jobs.

Events calendar

- **Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation** will offer "Life Choices" from 1:30-3 p.m. Monday through July 13 for ninth and 10th graders; "The Hot Head Cool Down" from 2-4 p.m. July 16-20 for youth 11-14 years of age; and "Dating Smart" from 2-4 p.m. Aug. 1, 3, 8 and 10 for girls 15-16 years of age. Cost of each class is free. "The Hot Head Cool Down" and "Dating Smart" will be presented at the agency's Children's and STAR facility, 1500 S. Taylor, in Amarillo. "Life Choices" will be conducted at DSC Library in Hereford. For more information or to register for the classes, call (806) 359-2005 in Amarillo or (806) 363-7695 in Hereford.
- **The summer exit level TAKS** for 2006-07 upperclassmen will be administered at 9 a.m. at Clarendon College-Pampa Center on the following dates: Tuesday (English language arts); Wednesday (math); July 12 (science); July 13 (social studies). Passing all four parts of the test is a requirement for high school graduation.
- **A Christ-centered support group** for cancer survivors and caregivers will meet at 7 p.m. July 12 in the parlor of First United Methodist Church. The group will be hosted by Kevin Taylor and Gloria Willson. For more information, call 669-3544.
- **Ogallala Water Gardeners Pond Tour** is scheduled from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and from 9-11 p.m. July 14 in Amarillo. The tour is divided into either a daytime or a nighttime tour. Ponds on the tour are at 6300 Sunlake Drive, 105 Rolling Trail, 926 W. Hastings, 119 W. Central, 5206 River Road, 5209 Boyd, 3201 Century, 6310 S. Bowie, 301 Mourning Dove

Drive, 8201 Canyon Drive and 3805 Fleetwood. Tickets are available in Amarillo at Coulter Gardens, Fish Pros, Panhandle Greenhouses, Uncommon Twists Garden Center, Pride Home Center and Amarillo Botanical Garden.

• **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). 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(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., July 18, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. July 19 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. New members are welcome. For more information, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.

• **Borger will be the site** of the second round of Texas Historical Commission Preserve America workshops scheduled from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at Hutchinson County Museum.

• **The 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.**, upcoming schedule of activities include the following events: 61st National Convention, Aug. 13-19, Harrisburg, Pa.; National Airborne Day, Aug. 16; and 45th All Ohio Day's, Oct. 19-20, Clearwater, Ohio. For more information and membership details, call (937) 898-5977.

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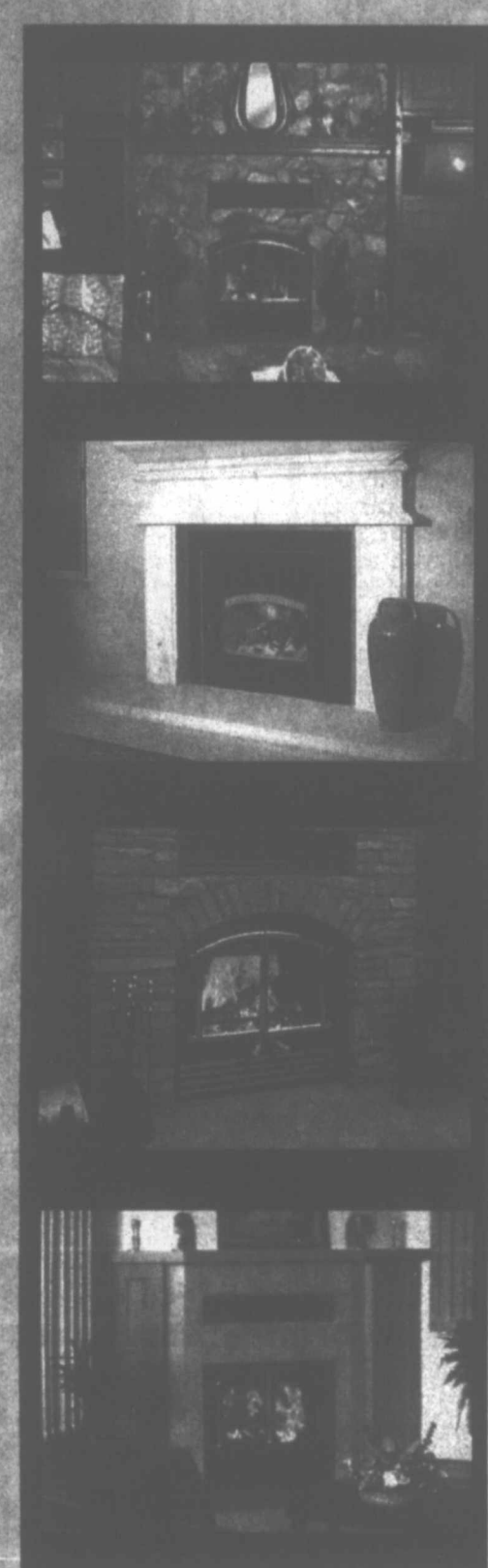
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Fireside Comfort Hearth & Home, 530 W. Brown, is a mom and pop business owned by Boyd and June Thurman since March 1999.

When the couple established Fireside Comfort, they offered one line of stoves. In the intervening years, the business has grown to offer a total of 15. The store has wood, pellet, gas stoves and inserts, stove pads, venting materials/supplies and premium wood pellets.

"We have quality appliances you can trust," Mr. Thurman said, "from such name-brand dealers as Avalon, Blaze King, Buck, Country Stove, Engauser, Harman, Hampton, Votul, Regency and Quadra Fire as well as RSF, Majestic, Heatilator, Vanguard and Desa."

The products carried by Fireside are either made in Canada or the U.S.A., the couple said.

"The manufacturers are offering exceptional warranties," Mrs. Thurman added, "We may not have what you want, but we can get it. We pride ourselves on being the friendliest dealer in the Panhandle."

The home-owned operation provides a full-supply of premium wood pellets sold by the bag or by the ton. Fireside Comfort has a yearly pellet early buy sale between April and May this year at discount prices to the public. Buck stoves are discounted by \$150 until May 15 as well, and the pellet early-buy special is \$220 per ton.

"In times of outage - due to bad weather - everyone needs an alternative heat source," Mr. Thurman said.

Mrs. Thurman is a Pampa native. Mr. Thurman comes from Harper, Texas, in the Texas Hill Country.

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AREA

Local Texas Cooperative Extension leader announces her retirement

By KAYLEDBETTER
Extension News

AMARILLO — After 34 years in the Texas Cooperative Extension program, Donna Brauchi has worked her way from a home economics agent to a district leadership position and now to retirement.

Brauchi, who most recently served as District 1 administrative director, will retire on Aug. 31. A retirement reception in her honor will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Aug. 24 at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd.

Dr. Bob Robinson, regional program director for agriculture and natural resources and a longtime co-worker, described Brauchi as the "ultimate professional leader."

"Donna is highly respected by all within the Texas A&M University System, as well as the citizens of the state," Robinson said.

Brauchi started her professional career as a county agent in home economics in 1973 with a six-week training assignment in Ochiltree County before moving to Hemphill County. In 1981, she assumed the Gray County agent position, where she stayed for 16 years.

She was appointed as the new Extension director for family and consumer sciences in District 1, which encompasses 22 counties in the Panhandle, in 1997. Her office moved to Amarillo and she commuted from her home in Pampa.

Her title and official duties changed in 2003 when Extension implemented an "organizational excellence" program. Under the excellence program, Brauchi was named district Extension administrator, with personnel and management responsibilities for all agriculture, family and consumer science and 4-H agents in District 1.

Robinson said this organizational



Brauchi

change didn't happen without some controversy, because it was a different way of doing business, but "Donna helped make the transition smoother than we ever thought possible. She fostered that change in administration."

Dr. Ed Smith, director of Extension in College Station, said Brauchi, "is so good about seeing the big picture and she's such a good communicator. She's good at telling our story to the agents as well as the leadership."

Brauchi said in looking back at her career, she counts her time as chair of the state committee that analyzed the roles and responsibilities of district Extension directors, which was a basis for the Organizational Excellence Plan, among her outstanding professional accomplishments.

Ranking also as top achievements were her involvement with the New Extension Agent Training and Orientation and the First Step for Success program.

The NEATO program started in

1999 when Dr. Kathy Volanty, Extension district director in Lubbock, and Brauchi worked to implement the program at the district level. Now it is being utilized statewide to train new agents in the areas of programming, people and personal development, she said.

And most recently, she helped develop the First Step for Success program, which allows Extension agents at the county level to train for one month among their peers before taking on a new office.

"We're in the pilot phase right now, but it will be implemented statewide in September," Brauchi said.

Brauchi holds a bachelor's degree in home economics and a master's degree in home economics education from Texas Tech University.

Within the Extension Service, she has served as district director of the Texas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and has held a regional leadership role as northwest district director of the Texas Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

She received the Texas Extension Superior Service Award for Administration and the Texas 4-H Volunteer Leader's Association Meritorious Service to 4-H Award, both in 2006, as well as numerous other awards.

Smith said because of Brauchi's strong leadership, it will be important to find the right person with experience to come in and replace her.

That leadership and involvement won't stop with retirement, Brauchi said. Only now, she intends to provide it as a volunteer.

"I'm looking forward to becoming a part of the community again, now that I will have time and won't have the commute," she said. "I plan to go back to doing the things I love, but haven't had time for, as a volunteer within the system."

Subway derails in London

LONDON (AP) — A subway train derailed in east London during rush hour today. Thirty-seven people suffered minor injuries in the accident, which police said was not terror-related.

About 700 passengers were evacuated after the Central Line train derailed at 9:04 a.m. between the Bethnal Green and Mile End stations, British Transport Police said.

Paramedics treated 37 patients for minor injuries and 11 were taken to the hospital, the London Ambulance Service said in a statement.

Passenger Jacqui McElroy, 34, said the train seemed to lift up as it rounded a corner at Bethnal Green.

"Obviously the first thing that goes through your mind is 'Is it terrorists?'" she said. The accident may have

been caused by an obstruction on the tracks, according to Transport for London, which operates the system.

Bob Crow, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union, said in a statement that subway workers had repeatedly raised concerns with transport authorities that contractors working in the area where the derailment occurred were not properly storing equipment.

The train remained upright throughout the incident, police said. Britain's Press Association reported that six cars may have gone off the track.

Emergency workers finished evacuating passengers from the derailed train and the one stuck behind it by 11 a.m., Transport for London said, adding that neither train was full.

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Senate bill seeks to attract more visitors to post 9/11 America

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has lost billions of dollars and an immeasurable amount of good will since the Sept. 11 terrorism attacks because of a decline in foreign tourists.

Several senators are now trying to get the government involved in bringing those visitors back.

The Senate Commerce Committee has approved a bill to establish a nonprofit public-private corporation to promote the United States as a tourist destination and clear up misperceptions about U.S. travel policies. It also would create a new office in the Commerce Department to work with other agencies on fixing visa policies and entry processes that discourage visits.

Visits to the United States from countries outside of Canada and Mexico totaled 21.7 million in 2006, down 17 percent from a peak of 26 million in 2000, according to Commerce Department figures. In the same period, cross-border travel around the world was up 20 percent.

"The global pie of international travel is steadily increasing, while the U.S. share has been slowly decreasing," said Roger Dow, president and CEO of the Travel Industry Association.

Visits from the six countries that provide the most tourists — Britain, Japan, Germany, France, South Korea and Australia — have dropped 15 percent since 2000 while travel from those six to other countries was up a robust 39 percent. There were 4.2 million arrivals from Britain, last year, down 11 percent from 2000, and 3.7 million visits from Japan, down 27 percent.

"It's a situation that really

'The global pie of international travel is steadily increasing, while the U.S. share has been slowly decreasing.'

— Roger Dow
Travel Industry Association official

is disastrous when you take into account the overall global trends in international travel, and the fact that the U.S. currency makes travel to the country so attractive," said Adam Sacks, managing director

for tourism economics at Oxford Economics. The weakening of the dollar against the euro and other currencies makes the money of foreign tourists go further.

Oxford Economics, in a recent analysis of travel policies written with former Homeland Security Department Secretary Tom Ridge, said the 17 percent drop in visits since 2000 has cost the United States \$100 billion in lost visitor spending, almost 200,000 jobs and \$16 billion in lost tax receipts.

It noted that the United States is the only global destination without an ongoing program to promote itself. Greece spends \$150 million a year, Australia \$113 million and Britain \$90 million.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Young Mom in Oklahoma" (May 7), who wrote asking if it was OK to discipline her 4-year-old by smashing his toys with a hammer. Your response was appropriate. However, that mother should be encouraged to attend parenting classes or speak to her son's pediatrician regarding her problem with how to discipline her son. I am very concerned for the child's well-being if she even has to ask if it's OK to smash his toys with a hammer. — **A MOM WHO CARES**

DEAR MOM: You were not the only person to suggest that "Young Mom" attend parenting classes. I heard from other parents and child-care professionals who were appalled at her behavior. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As a student and researcher in psychology, I've come to learn that the only way time-outs work is if the parent uses "time-in." This is time in which the parent engages in positive physical contact with the child (such as a pat on the head, a hug or a high-five). Being in the room with the child while the child plays and engaging in conversations with the child during play are other important parts of time-in. Time-out then becomes a punishment because you are taking the child away from the positive and loving environment you created using time-in. Because the child finds time-in rewarding, he/she will not want to experience time-out and thus will stop the negative behavior. — **GRADUATE STUDENT IN PSYCHOLOGY**

DEAR ABBY: I feel for "Young Mom in Oklahoma," but don't see how smashing a 4-year-old's toys will have any effect other than instilling violent behavior in her son. Parents should not try to intimidate their children, but rather help them find solutions and/or ways to make better decisions.

As a child development associate, I have been trained in positive discipline. It is a wonderful tool for parents, and many classes are offered nationwide. — **OFFERING ALTERNATIVES IN KENTUCKY**

DEAR ABBY: You were on the mark about not smashing the 4-year-old's toys in front of him, but I think giving away a child's toys at his age is quite harsh. For goodness' sake, this is a 4-year-old, and he will have his moments and meltdowns. Removing a toy with the promise of returning it with **GOOD** behavior is a far more positive reinforcement. — **OLDER MOM IN WISCONSIN**

DEAR ABBY: I took all my daughter's toys out of her room and made her earn them back with good behavior. This may seem drastic, but it worked well. She is now 5, and she's great. All the sassy acting-up she did before is gone. (She also has a newfound respect for her toys.) P.S. I really liked your advice about giving the toys to charity. Some toys my daughter didn't want to earn back, and we let her take them to Goodwill. It was a positive learning experience for her. — **BEEN THROUGH IT IN OREGON**

DEAR ABBY: I was an extremely disobedient child (later diagnosed with ADHD), so my parents set up a token system. For every good thing I did, I got a token. Disorderly conduct resulted in tokens being removed from the jar. There were prizes that could be earned with a certain number of tokens. The prizes included going to the movies with my parents, going to lunch with them and various other activities with them. The key was that the prizes were not material, but based on my relationship with my parents. — **JENNIFER IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.**

For Better Or For Worse



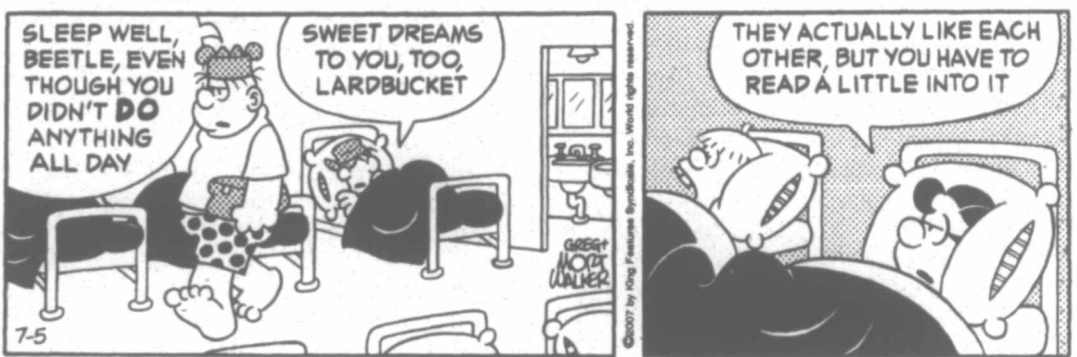
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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Elephant of stories
- 6 T-shirt choice
- 11 "Thereby hangs —"
- 12 Asian capital
- 13 News summary
- 14 Mountain chain
- 15 Siamese baby
- 17 Bitterly cold
- 19 Annoy
- 20 Gaul invader
- 23 "Becket" actor
- 25 Hamlet, for one
- 26 Gift to Troy
- 28 Completes
- 29 Looked after
- 30 — Moines
- 31 Go a round
- 32 Like some humor
- 33 Power-house
- 35 Confine
- 38 Pal of Mickey and Donald
- 41 1836 battle site
- 42 Nostalgic song
- 43 Muscular power

44 Comfy spots

DOWN

- 1 Watering hole
- 2 Put away
- 3 Remote area
- 4 Jai —
- 5 Gator or gecko
- 6 Movie ogre
- 7 Primary
- 8 In addition
- 9 Record of events
- 10 Canard
- 16 New Jersey city
- 17 Did galley work
- 18 Make amends
- 20 Beech and hickory
- 21 Big name
- 22 Poor racing
- 24 "— bodkins!"
- 25 Oxford city
- 17 Did galley work
- 27 Pencil cross-section
- 31 Already
- 33 FDR portrait setting
- 34 Planted agent
- 35 Possesses
- 36 New Haven student
- 37 Game piece
- 39 Suitable
- 40 Word of accord

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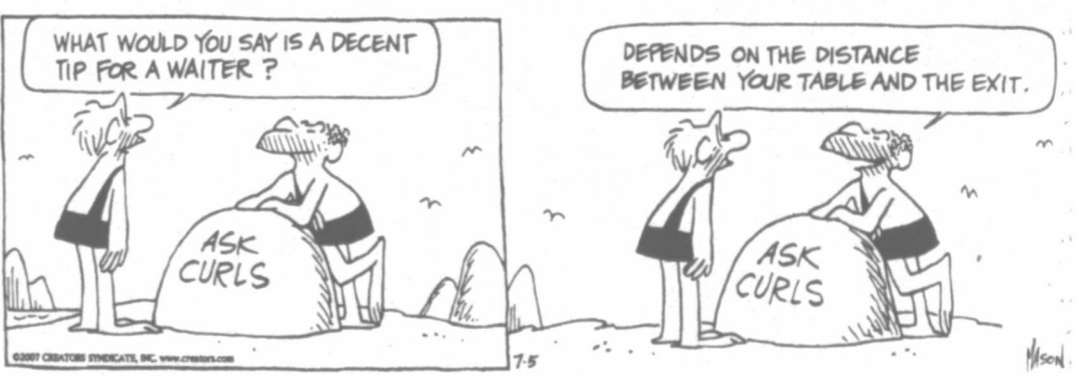
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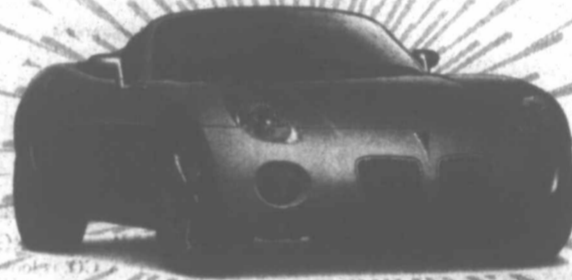
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U.S. struggles with Turkish demands on Kurds

By DESMOND BUTLER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. and Turkish officials say that the United States needs to step up efforts to prevent Kurdish separatists from operating cross border attacks on Turkey from Iraq.

The issue has taken on greater urgency as Kurdish guerrillas have escalated attacks in Turkey and provoked Turkish threats to launch a military incursion into Iraq, a move that could have serious implications for the U.S. efforts to stabilize Iraq.

U.S. officials say they consider the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK to be a terrorist organization and are working closely with Turkey to combat the threat. But officials have had few examples of success against the PKK to point to.

Responding to criticism of U.S. inaction from Turkey, U.S. Brig. Gen. Perry Wiggins, deputy director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff suggested that the United States was focused on its own mission in Iraq.

"We continue to work with Turkey," Wiggins said. "Our military's focus is on Iraq and the situation in Iraq."

He added: "As the secretary of defense has said, any disruption up in Northern Iraq would not be helpful at this time."

The comment came a week after

Turkey's military chief, Gen. Yasar Buyukanit asked the government to set political guidelines for an incursion into northern Iraq. The Turkish military has said that an incursion may be necessary because the U.S. and the Iraqi governments have failed to stop attacks across the border.

The issue is highly sensitive in Turkey, which has been battling the PKK since 1984 in a conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people. Tension over whether the Turkish military will take action in Iraq has intensified as the country approaches an election later this month.

The PKK has escalated attacks this year, killing at least 67 soldiers so far. More than 110 rebels were killed in the same period.

During the 1990s, Turkish troops penetrated Iraqi territory several times, sometimes with as many as 50,000 troops. The Turkish forces withdrew, leaving behind about 2,000 soldiers to monitor rebel activities.

Buyakanit complained to senior White House officials including Vice President Dick Cheney during a U.S. visit in February and Turkish officials have continued to press the case in Washington.

"Clearly our expectations are not being met," said a Turkish diplomat in Washington, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak

on the record. "We are using every channel to express our unhappiness about what is not happening."

Meanwhile, Turkey, a key NATO ally continues to provide vital support to U.S. operations in Afghanistan and Iraq through Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey, one of the most important U.S. military assets in the region.

Privately, some U.S. officials are raising concern that the United States has not moved aggressively to allay Turkish concerns. They say that U.S. policy makers are underestimating the risk that Turkey's pursuit of the PKK in Iraq could lead to a wider conflict with the Kurdish forces which are a key part of the Iraqi army.

One senior U.S. diplomatic official says that the likelihood of Turkey invading Northern Iraq ahead of the July 22 Turkish elections is very high.

The official, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that the U.S. government had not focused sufficient attention or resources to address Turkish concerns.

"I think we ought to be doing everything we can to counter the PKK," the official said. "The biggest problem is getting the U.S. to do what it should do."

The official added that inaction by the U.S. risks alienating Turkey.

"I think that 70 million Turks are important," the official said.

Odds and ends ...

Detroit employee sues city over co-worker's perfume, saying strong fragrance stops her work

DETROIT (AP) — An employee in the Detroit planning department who claims she is severely sensitive to perfumes and other cosmetics has sued the city, saying a co-worker's strong fragrance prohibits her from working.

Susan McBride's lawsuit, filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Detroit, says the work environment is in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She wants a ban on such scents at work — and unspecified damages.

City spokesman Matt Allen declined to comment, telling The Detroit News the city does not normally comment on litigation or personnel issues.

McBride, who joined the planning department in 2000, says problems started a year ago when the co-worker, who isn't identified in the lawsuit, transferred into her department.

"This employee not only wore a strong scent, but also plugged in a scented room deodorizer," the lawsuit states. "Ms. McBride was overcome by the smell almost instantly, causing her to go home sick."

The co-worker later agreed to stop using the room deodorizer, but kept using perfume, the lawsuit states.

Police say jogger's well-placed foot helped them catch suspect in wallet-snatching

FERNDALE, Mich. (AP) — The long arm of the law caught up to a suspected thief, but not without help from a jogger's well-placed foot.

The suspect allegedly stole a wallet from a 72-year-old woman Friday evening at a store in this Detroit suburb. He was running down busy Nine Mile Road with a store employee in pursuit when, police Detective John Thull said, "an unknown woman jogger stuck her foot (out) and tripped him."

"The suspect fell and threw the wallet to the ground and the jogger just kept on going. We never even got her name to thank her."

The suspect got up, got on a bike and continued fleeing, but a woman in a car followed him. He pedaled several blocks before a police officer stopped him.

"We might not have caught this guy without the jogger's momentary intervention," Thull told The Daily Tribune of Royal Oak.

Ag official: Farm bill on track for this year

By HENRY C. JACKSON
Associated Press Writer

AMES, Iowa (AP) — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said he is content with the pace of negotiations for the new farm bill, even if the bill hasn't been sorted out as quickly as some would like.

Many in Washington would like legislation completed this month, but Johanns cautioned that it might not be done until fall.

"No one is going to rush to the point of doing poor policy," he said Tuesday. "If we need time, we'll take the time. A lot of work has been done on this."

Johanns' comments came after criticism this week by some — including Sen. John Thune, R-S.D. — who have said the pace of negotiations might force Congress to renew the old farm bill, and possibly delay new legislation for two years because of the 2008 presidential elec-

tion. Johanns said he doesn't see that happening.

"This is the year we write the farm bill — 2007," Johanns said. "We've known that since the last farm bill

'This is the year we write the farm bill — 2007. We've known that since the last farm bill was passed in 2002. Farmers need the certainty of the farm bill.'

— Mike Johanns
U.S. Agriculture secretary

was passed in 2002. Farmers need the certainty of the farm bill."

Johanns' comments were made to reporters after he spoke at a town hall meeting on the farm bill in Ames, hosted by Rep. Tom Latham, R-Iowa.

Johanns expressed cautious optimism about a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report that showed near historic highs for corn acres planted this year.

"We are going to have a lot of acres planted into corn ... but nothing's in the bin yet," he said.

High yields this fall could allow farmers to replenish reserves that have been depleted by high demand for corn by the ethanol and livestock industries, he said.

Earlier in the day, Johanns and five members of Iowa's congressional delegation attended the dedication of a new U.S. Department of Agriculture center that will be used to research animal diseases, such as avian flu.

The building is the second component of a \$460 million

project that is expected to be completed in 2009.

"This facility will expand on more than four decades of research," he said. "I can safely say we are the best in the world, right here in Ames."

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