



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 87
LOW 66

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

PEDC to host Texas Municipal League Thursday

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Pampa Economic Development Corp. Web site should be up and operating this weekend.

EDC board member Shawn Clifton told board members Thursday that the Web site, www.pampaedc.com, should be online within 24 to 48 hours. He said it would likely need some tweaking but it would be operating.

Board President Kenneth May announced that Pampa would host the regional Texas Municipal League from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the

M.K. Brown Auditorium. There will be a dinner at 6 p.m. following the meeting.

In other business, the EDC adopted their 2007-2008 budget. It will be forwarded to the Pampa City Commission for approval.

Gary Sutherland, the board's treasurer, said the 2007-2008 budget is a reflection of the 2006-2007 budget.

Sutherland indicated that he had worked with EDC Executive Director Dwight Fiveash in developing the numbers. Sutherland said that

since they are just getting started some of the areas are based on estimates.

The budget reflects one salary, \$60,000 annually for the executive director, although there was discussion of adding an assistant at some point in time, preferably someone with computer knowledge that could regularly update the EDC's Web site. The budgeted amount for an administrative assistant is \$30,000.

The EDC has budgeted \$3,600 for utilities, \$30,000 for travel expenses, \$12,000 for office expenses and

Internet service, \$6,000 for accounting services, \$9,600 for dues and subscriptions, \$3,000 for insurance, \$3,600 for employee insurance, \$18,000 for taxes and \$12,000 for promotional materials.

The budget also allows \$42,000 a year for legal fees.

The total budget is \$237,000 with an estimated income of \$984,000. The EDC is financed by part of the sales taxes collected in Pampa.

Sutherland said the income has

See EDC, Page 3

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JIM BRUTON

Downpour



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

According to West Texas Mesonet, Pampa received 1.42 inches of rain between 2:30 and 4 p.m. Thursday. Evidence of this was seen at Central Park when the creek waters rose to the foot bridge. A peak wind speed of 55 mph was also recorded.

Golf pro says carts need to be replaced

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

David Teichmann, the pro at Hidden Hills Golf Course, said it's time to replace the golf carts at the city's course.

Presenting his capital improvement requests this week, Teichmann said Hidden Hills has traditionally traded in their golf carts every four years, and he said it makes economic sense.

"This is the fourth year for our golf carts," Teichmann told the Pampa City Commission during a work session this week as the commission begins work

on putting together the city budget for the next fiscal year.

The gross revenue for the golf carts for the last four years was \$567,466, he said.

"We have 44 carts," Teichmann said. "That's nearly \$13,000 per golf cart."

Each golf cart has generated an average of \$12,896 over the last four years.

He said each cart makes about 635 rounds of golf. That translates to about 3,425 miles over the last four years.

"This will be their fourth season," Teichmann said. "What we've done in the past is trade those carts in and get a

new fleet."

He proposed keeping two of the carts he now has at the course and trading in 38 carts.

"They're worth about \$1,300 a piece," Teichmann said.

For 38 of them, they would have a trade in value of about \$49,400.

"If we bought 40 new carts at \$3,200, that's roughly \$128,000," he said.

The difference that the city would have to pay would be \$78,600.

"It's a good investment to keep trad-

See GOLF, Page 3

Pitner requests crime scene building

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner told the city commission this week that his department has accomplished a lot of the technology updating they needed over the last three years, but he had two capital improvements that he would like to fund.

Pitner is requesting \$25,000 for a secure crime scene building and \$38,500 to complete the department's in-car mobile camera system.

He said he would like to complete their in-car video cameras this year.

The cameras, he said, monitor what the officers are doing in the field and are required under racial profiling laws.

"Our old systems are basically conking out," Pitner said.

The department has 18 units. Seven of them are new.

Next week, he said the servers that hold the data will be installed.

The \$38,500 will be for seven additional units to replace the older camera systems.

The others will be included in the police department's vehicle replacement program.

Pitner said the old system used VHS tapes, which take a lot of room. The new system is digital and will be archived on DVDs.

"It will save a lot of time and money," he said.

In the long run, he added, the new system will pay for itself in savings with regard to the videotapes and labor.

"Handling the tapes, copying the tapes," he said, "we have a lot of money in equipment there."

With regard to the crime scene build-

See POLICE, Page 3

Stowers selected VP of PEDC

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Dennis Stowers is the new vice president of the Pampa Economic Development Corp.

Stowers, who was appointed to the board by the Pampa City Commission Tuesday, was elected vice president at the EDC meeting Thursday.

Former board president Dwight Fiveash resigned at the end of May in order to take the job as the EDC's executive director the first of June. The board's vice president, Kenneth May, moved into the president's position and Stowers was named vice president.

Stowers, 53, was born in Topeka, Kan., and grew up in Berger. His family moved to

Pampa in 1968, and he graduated from Pampa High School in 1972.

After high school, he worked in the oil fields, at Cabot and for his father's company, Comanche Oil and Gas.

In 1979, he and his brother Keith formed their own company, Myriad Resources Corp.

"We're still operating it," Stowers said, but we sold most of the assets to Cano Petroleum of Fort Worth in April, 2006."

He's also a partner in Fluid Compressors Partners, which manufactures natural gas compressors.

Stowers' choice to join the Pampa Economic Development

See STOWERS, Page 3

Bowl Over Cancer scheduled Saturday

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

A reminder that the Bowl Over Cancer benefit will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday at Harvester Lanes for \$10 for two games of bowling and shoes. Half of this money will go directly to three cancer patients to use for medical expenses or to donate to a charity.

Rick Foster, who works at

See CANCER, Page 3

Walk to Remember honors lost children

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Residents of Skellytown will be in Oklahoma City on July 22 to participate in the Walk to Remember, hosted by Compassionate Friends.

Bruce and Debbie Brame and their children Kori and Josh Throckmorton and Jacob Brame will walk in memory of daughter and sister, Bailey, who passed away on July 30, 2004, at the age

See WALK, Page 3

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
		
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west-southwest.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 90. Northwest wind around 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East-northeast wind around 10 mph becoming south.

Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 65.

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer.	
Wheat	5.46
Milo	5.24
Corn	6.03
Soybeans	7.88

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa	
OXY	62.25 +0.50
BP PLC ADR	74.96 +0.18
Cabot Corp	47.24 +0.08
Celanese	41.42 -0.04
Cabot Oil Gas	38.05 +0.52
Coca Cola	52.66 +0.03
VLO	77.86 +0.75
HAL	35.48 +0.49
TRI	53.81 -0.04
KMI	NA NA

XCEL	20.70 -0.05
Anadarko	52.74 +0.78
XOM	90.28 +0.66
Nat'l Oilwell	110.60 -0.12
Limited	27.39 -0.16
Williams	33.78 +0.08
MCD	51.66 +0.01
Atmos	30.63 -0.03
Pioneer Nat	49.16 -0.05
JCP	75.05 -0.41
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Tenneco	36.15 -0.20
CVX	93.36 +0.06
Wal-Mart	48.79 -0.04
OKE	53.97 +0.29

New York Gold	668.30
Silver	13.18
West Texas Crude	72.50

Report finds fewer teens having sex

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer high school students are having sex these days, and more are using condoms. The teen birth rate has hit a record low.

More young people are finishing high school, too, and more little kids are being read to, according to the latest government snapshot on the well-being of the nation's children. It's good news on a number of key wellness indicators, experts said of the report being released Friday.

"The implications for the population are quite positive in terms of their health and their well-being," said Edward Sondik, director of the National Center for Health Statistics. "The lower figure on teens having sex means the risk of sexually transmitted diseases is lower."

In 2005, 47 percent of high school students — 6.7 million — reported having had sexual intercourse, down from 54 percent in 1991. The rate of those who reported having had sex has

remained the same since 2003.

Of those who had sex during a three-month period in 2005, 63 percent — about 9 million — used condoms. That's up from 46 percent in 1991.

The teen birth rate, the report said, was 21 per 1,000 young women ages 15-17 in 2005 — an all-time low. It was down from 39 births per 1,000 teens in 1991.

"This is very good news," said Sondik. "Young teen mothers and their babies are at a greater risk of both immediate and long-term difficulties."

The birth rate in the 15-19 age group was 40 per 1,000 in 2005, also down sharply from the previous decade.

Education campaigns that started years ago are having a significant effect, said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth, a Washington-based nonprofit group that focuses on prevention of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Obituaries

Thomas Isaih Harbour, 32

McLEAN — Thomas Isaih Harbour, 32, died July 13, 2007.

Darville E. Atherton, 82

WHEELER, Texas — Darville E. Atherton, 82, died July 9, 2007, at Wheeler.

Funeral services were to be at 2 p.m. today, Friday, July 13, 2007, in the First Baptist Church Wheeler with the Rev. Bill Stiles, pastor of the Allison Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in the Wheeler Cemetery at Wheeler, Texas, under the direction of Wright Funeral Home.

The beloved patriarch of the Atherton family passed from his earthly life into the presence of his Savior; and welcoming members of his family July 9, 2007. Darve was at home with his grandson, along with his companion of many years, his little dog "Cuddles."

Darville was born June 17, 1925, in the Zybach Community, the second of four children, to Floyd and Mattie Edwards Atherton. He graduated from Briscoe High School in 1942. He served two years in the United States Marine Corps, 1st Division. He married Sammie Lee Dougherty on Jan. 5, 1947, at her parents home North of Wheeler. To this union four sons were born.

He accepted Jesus Christ as a youngster, being baptized in a horse tank by Preacher Bryant. Darve was pretty sure the preacher held him under extra long just for good measure and to be sure it "took."

Darville was very proud of his tour of duty in the Marines, and often said "Once a Marine, always a Marine." He enlisted during World War II and saw action in the South Pacific theater, helping take Guadalcanal, and being present and seeing the famous flag raising on Iwo Jima. He sustained a

head wound when the landing craft he was in was blown up as they reached the beach on Pelileu, where he received a 30 percent disability, and for which he was decorated with the Purple Heart.

As he and other wounded personnel were being flown to the army hospital on Guadalcanal, the plane he was in crash-landed on a jungle island, leaving Darve with many memories that remained fresh in his mind throughout the years. He said that after the plane came to rest, he shook the pilot's hand and thanked him for landing them safely. Darve would always smile and chuckle as he related that the pilot told him he "could've done better if he had a runway." Before being Honorably Discharged, he served in China.

Darville spent two years doing road construction in Borger, and in 1948 he began dairy farming, cattle ranching and farming on the first land he and Sammie purchased, 640 acres located 8-miles north of Wheeler, which came to be known as the "Home Place," being bought from Sammie's parents. Over the course of years, the Atherton land holdings increased considerably, due to many long hours of hard work that he, his wife, and sons invested in their places. In the 1960's he bought the Callan, Anderson, Watts, and Smith places, and began an extensive haying and ranching operation, while doing custom haying and wheat harvesting. He raised milo, cotton, irrigated alfalfa, and grasses.

On a routine day in 1967, he and his two older sons were burned in an explosion on north Callan, east of Wheeler. They all suffered major burns, and his eldest

son, Arville Dean, died from stress complications of his burns. Darve was told his own hands were so badly burned that he wouldn't be able to use them. In spite of the personal heartache he and his family were enduring, being told that he wouldn't have manual dexterity, only served as yet another personal challenge to him, and he bested the odds, just as he had done after his military injuries.

He became active in Soil Conservation efforts and was named the National Outstanding Comeback Farmer for Wheeler County in 1971. He served as Chairman of the Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District, giving 25 years of outstanding service. He said his interest in conservation began when he participated in the WPA and planted windbreak trees.

Darve served on the Briscoe School Board for several years.

Darville was a previous member of the Briscoe Baptist Church, where he served as Sunday School Superintendent and Church Treasurer. He and Sammie moved their membership to the First Baptist Church in Wheeler when they moved east of town in the mid 70's.

He was devoted to Sammie and spent several hours every day with her, encouraging her during meals and trying to make her as comfortable and happy as possible.

Generosity was his nature, with him making many donations to worthy organizations. Anonymously, he helped numerous others, while personally sacrificing.

He was a member of the America Legion, VFW, and other military organizations. He was a 50-year Master Mason, a current member of

Shamrock Masonic Lodge #929, following in his Dad's footsteps, as both were Past Master of the Masonic Lodge #1099 of Wheeler.

Darve had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed visiting with his many friends and family. He always had a ready smile, handshake, pat on the back or hug for whomever he encountered. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and was a loving son and brother. His passing has left a void in our hearts that will never be filled on earth.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sammie Lee Atherton in 2004; three sons, Arville Dean Atherton, Lee Royce Atherton and Micky "Mick" Atherton; one granddaughter, Kathy "Renee" Atherton; and his parents, Floyd and Mattie Atherton.

Survivors include one son, Russell and wife Noveta Atherton of Wheeler, Texas; two brothers, Darrell and wife Frankie Atherton of Willis, Texas; one sister, Ladell and husband Ted Atwood of Pampa, Texas; four grandchildren, Angel Atherton Thomas, Chynna Atherton Lopez, Michael Atherton and Nikki Atherton; four stepgrandchildren, Deann Aderholt, Kelly Aderholt, Misty Snelgrooves and Jennifer Allen; seven great-grandchildren, Stephen Penny, Sierra Atherton, Jacoby Napier, Kamonte' Martin, Bailey Sydney, Isaiah Lopez and Aviana Lopez; three stepgreat-grandchildren, Whittney Brownfield, Teesha Coone and Torree Coone; and three great-great-grandchildren, Jace Martin, Julius Atherton and Aron Atherton.

Memorial Requests: Cal Farley's Boys Ranch and Ja Nee Goad Memorial.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Three traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were reported in the 2500 block of Fir, the intersection of Tyng and Starkweather, and the intersection of Kingsmill and Cuyler.

Motorist assistance was provided in the 800 block of West Kingsmill and the 1600 block of North Nelson.

Animal control officers made calls concerning animals in the 800 block of Henry, the 300 block of Miami, the 900 block of Finley, the 1000 block of Sierra, the 100 block of

South Sumner, the 800 block of Beryl, the 1000 block of Farley, the 500 block of Somerville, the 600 block of Somerville, the 12000 block of East Frederic, the 1100 block of South Nelson, the 200 block of South Cuyler, the 100 block of South Sumner and the 2000 block of Hamilton.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1200 block of Duncan.

Welfare checks were made near the intersection of Kentucky and Sumner, the 1000 block of North Hobart and the 800 block of North Dwight.

Civil matters were reported in the 300 block of Tignor and the police department lobby.

A silent/abusive 911 call was reported from the 500 block of Warren.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1400 block of Somerville.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of East Francis, where two passenger windows of a vehicle were broken.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of West, the 600 block of Frost and the 1900 block of North Christy.

Domestic disturbances

were reported in the 2700 block of North Perryton Parkway and the 2200 block of North Dwight.

Warrant service was attempted at one location.

A runaway was reported in the 1200 block of East Kingsmill.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 200 block of Henry and the 300 block of North Hobart where an XM satellite radio valued at \$80 was stolen.

A prowler was reported in the 1100 block of Terrace.

Theft of \$50 worth of water was reported in the 2200 block of North Nelson.

Identity theft was reported in the 600 block of Russell.

Forgery of a check worth \$680 was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Thursday, July 12
 Taurus Demond Harris, 31, of Blythville, Ark., was arrested by GCSO on a grand jury indictment for possession of a controlled substance.

Cornelius Chestnut, 37, of North Charleston, S.C., was

arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for possession of marijuana.

Darryl Craig Horton, 37, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a warrant out of Wheeler County for assault causing bodily injury.

Joseph Ben Willis, 23, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for assault causing bodily injury to a family member and issuance of a bad check.

Jessie Salley, 22, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for theft more than \$50 and less than \$500, invalid driver's license and no seat belt.

Fire

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

Thursday, July 12
 12:41 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1800 block of Lynn on a good intention call.

12:55 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 300 block of North Houston on a grass fire.

10:12 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Crane on a call for lifting assistance.

New law toughens penalty for corpse desecration

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry has signed legislation that makes desecration of a human corpse a felony and offers counseling to jurors subjected to graphic images or testimony during trials.

The Jennifer Cave Act intends to strengthen current law, which, depending on the circumstances, considers

corpse desecration a misdemeanor.

"Unfortunately, we live in a world with criminals who would harm others," Perry said during Thursday's signing. "Crimes against others have always been intolerable, and now, those who commit such offenses in this state will face even stronger penalties."

The law, co-authored by Rep. Juan Garcia, D-Corpus Christi, and Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, goes into effect Sept. 1.

Sharon Cave, whose 21-year-old daughter Jennifer was shot, stabbed and partially dismembered, asked Garcia to draft the legislation.

CITY BRIEFS

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

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THE BROTHERS Civic Club will be having a "Sausage Wrap Cookout", 636 S. Gray, noon-? Sat. July 14th!

BEADERS & Readers: Sale of books, surplus beads & jewelry. Fri. July 13 9-6 & Sat. July 14 8-noon. 122 W. Foster.

MCLEAN COUNTRY Club Dance, Sat. July 14th, to Deanna and the Western Swingsters, 8-11:30pm., \$8 ea.

THE BURROWS of Clarendon, will be at 801 W. Foster, Sat. 9am. Jellies, peaches, baked goods & other goodies.

Do you agree...?

...with the election administrator position being proposed in which different Gray County entities would split the cost of the salary and fees?



Jeremy Elliott
Panhandle
Perforators

"I think that's a waste of money. They should spend that money on the city parks instead"



Trina Hernandez
Pampa ISD
Pampa

"I think the plan needs to be investigated further before anything is decided."



Bechy Hassler & Stacy Sanchez
S & H Cleaning Service
Skellytown

Hassler: "It's a good idea as long as that person does everything for the election process and no other people have to hassle with it."
Sanchez: "I'm for it if that person takes care of all the loose ends for elections and the elected officials make sure they are doing their job correctly."



Brent Carroll
Panhandle
Perforators

"I think the people that have done it in the past should continue. They don't need to be lazy because it's part of their job."



Trey Carroll
Panhandle
Perforators

"The elections are only one month a year, so what would that person do the rest of the year?"

Do you have a suggestion for the "Question of the Week?"
If you do, please drop a card off in the basket on the front counter of The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, or mail it to P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066.
(no phone calls please)

Parole recommendations withdrawn

AUSTIN (AP) — State juvenile prison officials have canceled the release on parole of more than 150 young offenders after learning many served minimal time for violent crimes such as murder and sexual assault.

The revelations have prompted the scandal-plagued Texas Youth Commission to review its entire parole criteria, officials said Thursday.

State adult parole officials, who supervise released juveniles, raised questions after reviewing the potential parolees' files. They told lawmakers many of the young offenders on the list for parole could pose a threat to the public.

After reviewing the initial list, House Corrections Committee Chairman Jerry Madden, R-Richardson, demanded the juveniles' cases be reviewed again.

"Some of these crimes were horrendous. There's no way these offenders should be on the street," Madden said.

The young offenders who were initially recommended for release and parole included: One juvenile who served less than three years of a 40 year sentence for the slaying of a classmate; a sex offender who had previously assaulted a TYC employee and a youngster serving time for molesting six children who was reprimanded for

indecent exposure and possession of a weapon while incarcerated.

"They all did meet the existing TYC standards for release on parole," said TYC spokesman Jim Hurley. "But after further consideration, we are not comfortable with our recommendation, and we are pulling all of them back for a much more in-depth review. We are going to take a good, hard look at all those files."

Current policies require several agency employees — from case managers to psychologists to superintendents — to approve such paroles.

Stowers

Continued from Page 1

Development Corp. is based on his concern for the community, he said.

"I've been here most of my life," Stowers said. "I want to see our community prosper and do well. I want to see it do better than our neighboring communities."

He said there is a need for the business community to step up and make Pampa a better place than it was when they started their businesses.

Stowers said they need to leave a better legacy to their children and the rest of the community.

"I'd like to see housing development take a front position with the EDC," he said. "I think our biggest problem is our housing."

Stowers said he'd also like to see business incentives for existing businesses here that would like to expand.

"Another thing I'd really like to see is something developed within the community for our children," Stowers said. "What the EDC's role in that is, I don't know at this point, but I think we've got to provide some things for our kids. I don't know what that is right now."

He said he would like to see a plan or program that would make students in the Pampa schools aware of the incentives that are available and the scholarship programs that are available for higher education.

"That would be better for our kids," Stowers said. "I don't think we have a whole lot of guidance in that area. I think Pampa Economic Development Corp. extends to the economic development of our children as well as our businesses."

He said Pampa businesses and Pampa's children need to do better in this financially driven world.

EDC

Continued from Page 1

been significantly higher than had been anticipated. Originally, the EDC had projected a monthly income of

about \$80,000. Sutherland said it has been running closer to \$100,000.

Sutherland said he has been trying to keep about \$25,000 in an interest bearing checking account. The rest has been going into certificate of deposits.

In his treasurer's report, he said the EDC has \$851,712.76 in CDs,

\$22,813.68 in checking and a note from MXT, LLC, for \$72,589.84. Sutherland said MXT has made two payments on their loan.

The next EDC's next meeting will be at 11 a.m. July 24 in the Nona Payne Room of the Pampa Community Building.

Golf

Continued from Page 1

ing every four years," Teichmann said.

Maintenance, parts and labor to keep the carts another three years would be prohibitive, he said.

The cost to replace the batteries would be about \$18,000. He estimates that parts would cost about \$17,000 and labor would also be about \$17,000.

After three more years, the value of the carts, Teichmann said, would be

only \$100.

"You lose all your equity," Teichmann said. "If you keep them three more years, they'll be worth \$100 to \$200 a piece is all."

He said his suggestion is to continue trading them in every four years.

The golf pro said the city also needs to update the sprinkler system at the golf course.

"We operate a sprinkler system with some 400 heads," he said.

The system was hard-wired and over the years, the wires have separated.

Teichmann said there is now new technology that will tie them all in through radio control.

"What we would like to do,"

Teichmann said, "is get radio transmitters on all those boxes."

He estimated that it would cost about \$60,000 to set up a radio controlled irrigation system on the 192-acre course. He said such a system would be easier and less labor intensive than what is there now.

"We've got to set one box at a time now," he said. "If we want to change it, we've got to drive to every box."

Teichmann said there is no central control to the system now.

The change should take care of the system for the next 10 or 15 years, he said.

Police

Continued from Page 1

ing, Pitner said he would like to build a 30 by 40 foot shop for evidence such as vehicles.

"At one time we had a bay at the service center when I first came here," he said.

They had used the U.S. Bus building, but there are problems there with keeping the evidence secure.

"We need a secure area," he said.

Pitner said they also want to store their crime scene van and equipment there. He said their van is a 2001 model and should last a long time, but it's been sitting outside.

"It needs to be out of the weather," he said.

In addition to storage, Pitner said

they need space for vehicle searches.

"We're basically working three homicides right now," he said. "All three of them involve vehicles."

He said that presently they have no place to properly process those vehicles.

Pitner said he thinks they can build a crime scene barn, heated and insulated for \$20 a square foot or less.

"That's about \$24,000," Pitner said. "I think \$25,000 will be enough."

Walk

Continued from Page 1

of 13. "Compassionate Friends is a national non-profit organization that offers friendship, understanding

and hope to bereaved parents and family members following the death of a child," Debbie Brame said.

If other area residents have experienced the loss of a child and would like the Brames to carry that child's name on a banner during their walk, they can be contacted at 848-2320.

Cancer

Continued from Page 1

Clifton Supply; Marion Wine, a custodian at Travis Elementary; and Tanner

Dyson, a Pampa High School junior, are this year's recipients from the benefit.

Door prizes will be given away and there will also be a raffle to raise funds for these three individuals.

Texas Plains Women's Center

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Viewpoints

Silence, freedom golden after you have a baby

Do people realize what a huge responsibility and life changing experience it is to have a baby? I don't think enough people really know how this event will change their lives and their relationships forever. Now, don't get me wrong, I love my 4-year-old son more than anything in the world and I wouldn't change being a mother either, but I feel my husband and I were really over- due. We were old enough, had been married long enough to have a stable relationship and were financially stable.

I was 36 and my husband was 35 and we'd been married for 15 years when we had our son. Why did we wait so long? We didn't want to have a child while he was

in the Navy. I didn't want to raise a child by myself and he didn't want to miss out on the majority of how the child changed and grew, so he got out of the military and we both had steady jobs and then we made the decision to have a baby.

When you have a baby, you lose most of your freedom. When you used to be spontaneous and jumped up to go out to eat or to the movie, now you have to consider if it's the child's feeding or nap time. If you do decide to go out, you have to take everything (including the kitchen sink) with you. There's the car seat, diapers, bottles, formula or baby food, wipes, extra clothes, toys, etc. And that's just for a short trip.

If you take a long trip, you

have to take the bassinet, stroller and tons of clothes and diapers. You want to have medication on hand for everything also, if the store isn't open when the baby gets sick (and the baby will get sick a lot). Medicine for colds, a fever, diarrhea, constipation, diaper rash, dry skin, stuffy nose, runny nose, pink eye and the list never ends.

Usually the mother has to decide whether to stay at home with the child or return to work. I chose to go back to work and put our son in day care, which is not cheap. In Dallas, we paid \$165 a week and that didn't include

diapers or formula. When he was about 3 months old, he started having horrible ear infections and would run 104 degree temperatures. My husband and I took turns missing

work, but we missed a lot. Finally, after missing so much, I almost lost my job because we didn't have any family or friends there who could help us out with baby-sitting.

Even though our son didn't go to day care when he was sick (because they can't go back until they are fever free for 24 hours), we had to pay every week or we would lose his spot. So, not only

were we paying for day care that he didn't attend, we made less money due to missing work and then all of the doctor bills were huge. Luckily, after about five ear infections, the doctor decided on tubes which helped a lot, but we had to have them done twice because one fell out immediately.

When you have a baby, your quiet time and sleeping in late end. I've never been so sleep deprived in my life for the first few years because our son didn't sleep all night until he was 2 years old. Forget sleeping in late on Saturdays when they are toddlers because they are used to getting up at 6 a.m. during the week, so guess what happens on the weekend? Also, when you have toddlers, it's great to have

them talk to you and communicate, but it never stops. You can't go to the bathroom alone or talk on the phone or play on the computer without getting interrupted.

My husband and I don't watch what we want on TV anymore because we let him watch cartoons or family oriented shows. When we do go to the movies, it's to see "Cars" or "Shrek" and normally halfway through he has to use the bathroom two or three times or wants to leave and go home. We don't watch shows on TV or the movies that have bad language or adult themes any more because it isn't appropriate for him.

When our son was learning to eat grown up food, See SMITH, Page 5

Kerri Smith

Staff Writer



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, July 13, the 194th day of 2007. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 13, 1793, French revolutionary writer Jean-Paul Marat was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday, who was executed four days later.

On this date:

In 1787, Congress enacted an ordinance governing the Northwest Territory.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City.

In 1878, the Treaty of Berlin amended the terms of the Treaty of San Stefano, which had ended the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78.

In 1886, Father Edward Joseph Flanagan, the founder of Boys Town, was born in County Roscommon, Ireland.

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

In 1967, race-related rioting that claimed some two dozen lives broke out in Newark, N.J.

In 1972, George McGovern claimed the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Miami Beach, Fla.

In 1977, a blackout lasting 25 hours hit the New York City area.

In 1978, Lee Iacocca was fired as president of Ford Motor Co. by chairman Henry Ford II.

In 1985, "Live Aid," an international rock concert in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, took place to raise money for Africa's starving people.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright returned to her Jewish roots in the Czech Republic, finding the names of family members killed by the Nazis inscribed on a Prague synagogue wall. (News reports revealed that Albright, who had been raised a Roman Catholic, had Jewish relatives, many of whom had died in the Holocaust.)

Five years ago: The nation's governors opened their summer meeting in Boise, Idaho, with high health care costs the main topic. Photographer Yousuf Karsh died in Boston at age 93.

One year ago: Israel imposed a naval blockade against Lebanon and blasted the Beirut airport and army air bases; Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets into Israel.

'There are people who want to be everywhere at once, and they get nowhere.'

— Carl Sandburg
American writer
(1878-1967)

REPORT: TOO MANY BABIES WATCHING TV



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Can we still distinguish good from bad?

When President Teddy Roosevelt attended the funeral of a member of British royalty, he declined the offer of a gilded carriage for the funeral procession. Roosevelt told his British hosts that it would be inappropriate for the head of a republic. He would therefore walk.

One of President Franklin Roosevelt's favorite things to do was to pack a lunch, drive up into the Pine Mountains, pull off the road, spread a blanket and enjoy a picnic lunch with two or three of his friends.

In 1933, an assassin opened fire on Roosevelt during an appearance in an open car in Miami. The mayor of Chicago, however, was in the way and took the bullets. The Secret Service members immediately started to speed away, and

Roosevelt ordered them to stop and retrieve the wounded mayor. At first they didn't, until he shouted, "Damn it, back this car up and get the mayor!"

They did, and carried the wounded mayor to the hospital in the president's car. The mayor later died.

President Harry Truman always took a vigorous daily walk — on the streets of Washington. When his term ended, he and his wife took a cab to the train station, where they returned to Missouri. Truman, by the way, refused all offers to serve on corporate boards of directors. "You don't want me, you want the presidency, and that's not mine to sell,"

he said.

If you will recall the funeral procession for Princess Diana, you will remember that the royal

princes walked the route to Westminster Cathedral. Imagine that — British royalty walking

down a street jammed with common people.

The last time President George W. Bush visited the British Isles, the Air Force had to fly over a fleet of 16 armored limousines for use of the president and his entourage.

If you are young and don't like to read (I hope this hasn't become a redundancy), then you are probably unaware of the transition

from a republic to an empire. One of the reasons I'm so contemptuous of modern politicians is that I don't compare them with each other; I compare them with the great men of the past. The last elected president who had genuinely great accomplishments on his resume was Dwight Eisenhower.

There is no such thing as a flawless politician. We should never expect perfection in anything involving human beings. But there very much is such a thing as character, and that's where we've gotten careless in our choice of leaders.

The foundations of character are honesty, courage and fidelity. An adulterer who is unfaithful to his wife is hardly likely to be faithful

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese

Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Publisher: Sean Smith

Editor: Dennis Spies

Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods

Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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

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

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

July 2

San Antonio Express-News on corruption in Mexico:

Guided by the philosophy that preventing a fire is easier than stopping one, Mexican officials are taking a new approach to corruption: They are trying to stifle it on the front end.

For years, authorities have purged police forces in noble but misguided attempts to end corruption, cleansings that often swept the dismissed cops into full-time positions with organized crime.

Those days may be ending. As part of a crackdown on drug

gangs, federal police officers will undergo psychological reviews to determine which cops may be corrupted by the warring cartels, the Associated Press reported.

If this attempt to cleanse law enforcement seems silly and naive, it may be wise to remember that American businesses often give prospective employees psychological tests. And there is nothing silly about the other measures that would supplement the psychological testing: polygraphs, drug exams and investigations into whether the assets of the officers are in line with their earnings.

The move follows a series of incidents in which federal police have been caught working for drug cartels.

"We are well-aware that the Mexican

people are demanding police be honest, clean and trustworthy," Public Safety Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna told the AP. "It's obvious that there are mafias that don't want the situation to change so they can continue to enrich themselves under the protection of corruption and crime."

Almost 300 officers will be subject to the reviews, and those who flunk the polygraphs and drug exams will be kicked off the force.

Drug cartels, their operations abetted by corrupt law enforcement officers, are believed responsible for about 2,000 murders in 2006.

If the Mexican government can reduce the pool of corrupt cops, the

See MEXICO, Page 5

Smith

Continued from Page 4

husband and I ate in shifts, so we never ate together. It was easier to feed him alone and then eat yourself. I can't remember the last time we had a meal without cutting up the food, picking off the lettuce or spilling the juice. We don't go to nice restaurants anymore, but instead go to "kid friendly" places.

Please do not take this article the wrong way and think I'm an awful mom or don't love my son. I love being a mother, but it is very hard work and at times is very frustrating and exhausting. I just wish more people would think about

some of the bad and hard times that come with children instead of only thinking about the wonderful times.

This child will be your responsibility for at least 18 years and probably longer than that. Make sure you are mature enough, have a good enough relationship and will be able to provide for the child financially. You don't have to be rich, but food, diapers and medical care are not cheap.

There are choices that can be made - birth control for one. And if you do get pregnant and don't feel like you are ready, there's always adoption. I was adopted and have had a wonderful life and am thankful every day that my birth mother was selfless enough to realize she wasn't ready for a child, so you can do the same.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

to his oath of office. John F. Kennedy was an adulterer and a playboy, but he was the first president to be marketed like a bar of soap or a tube of toothpaste. It becomes more and more difficult these days to distinguish between accomplishment and image.

To get even an idea of a person's character, you have to look at his whole life, not just the public image. People rarely, if ever, change their character after adoles-

cence. Hopefully, they will grow in knowledge and perhaps wisdom, but most people remain the same people they always were as far as character is concerned. Self-indulgent cowards don't become brave stoics.

Viktor Frankl, a Jewish psychiatrist who survived the Holocaust, discovered that the hellish experience didn't change anybody. Those who were bad remained bad, and those who were good remained good. I suppose the question for us today is, Have we lost the ability to distinguish between good and bad?

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

Mexico

Continued from Page 4

benefits should be twofold: The cartels will be hamstrung in their recruitment

efforts, and the police force, rid of dirty cops, will be more effective.

The plan isn't foolproof, but it is a serious attempt to address a huge problem, and it illustrates the bold and proactive approach Felipe Calderón has taken since he assumed the presidency.

First claim filed under Delaware victims' law

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — A man who says he was molested as a teen by a Catholic priest on Thursday became the first person to sue under a new law allowing child sexual abuse victims to seek damages for misdeeds that occurred years ago.

Robert Quill, 52, a Wilmington native who lives in Marathon, Fla., filed a federal lawsuit alleging that as a teenager, he was molested at least 300 times by the Rev. Francis G. DeLuca, who worked for the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington for 35 years.

Quill's lawsuit alleges that church officials in Wilmington knew as early as 1958 that DeLuca was sexually abusing young boys, yet allowed him to serve as a priest for a generation.

The lawsuit was filed less than 48 hours after Gov. Ruth Ann Minner signed a law abolishing Delaware's two-year statute of limitations on personal injury lawsuits for victims of child sex abuse.

In the early 1990s, DeLuca, 77, retired to his hometown of Syracuse, N.Y., where he pleaded guilty last month to repeatedly sexually abusing a boy there.

Shortly after he was arrested in New York, Wilmington Bishop Michael Sartarelli released the names of 20 diocesan priests, including DeLuca, against whom the diocese had substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse.

The Diocese of Wilmington had no comment on the lawsuit, spokesman Bob Krebs said.

Events calendar

- **Ogallala Water Gardeners Pond Tour** is scheduled from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and from 9-11 p.m. Saturday 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.

- **Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation** will offer "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 BBB of the Texas Panhandle**, in partnership with Schooler Funeral Home of Amarillo, will present several summer seminars at no charge to the public. "Scam or No Scam" is scheduled at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Amarillo Public Library Southwest Branch; "Identity Theft" at 6 p.m. Aug. 7 at Kids Inc. in Amarillo; and "Reverse Mortgages" at 6 p.m. Sept. 25 at an as yet undetermined location. For more information, call (806) 3779-6222.

- **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., Wednesday, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

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

- **The next Third Thursday at Amarillo Museum of Art** will occur between 6-9 p.m. Thursday. This month's event will include music with Marc Darby, coffee tasting, a film, and art activities for adults and children. For more information, call (806) 371-5050.

- **Pampa Cancer Support Group** will meet at 6:30 p.m. July 24 on the second floor of Pampa Regional Medical Center.

- **The Old Mobeetie Texas Association** will stage its annual "Old Mobeetie Music Festival" July 27-29 on the grounds of the Old Mobeetie Jail Museum in Mobeetie. Admission will be \$10 Friday, \$12 Sunday or \$18 for a weekend pass. Admission Sunday is free, and children 12 and under are free all three days. Featured performers will include Star Canyon, the Batten Family, From the Heartland, Wichita Mountain Bluegrass, Blue Persuasion and more. For more details or more information, log onto www.mobeetie.com on the Internet; e-mail omjm@pan-tex.net; or call (806) 845-2028.

- **The postmark deadline** for Hi-Plains Poetry's "Adult Poem in Your Pocket Poetry Contest" is July 31. The deadline for the free student contest is Sept. 15. Adult members pay \$3 per entry. The fee for non-members is \$5. Rules and membership applications can be found at www.poetmariannelogan.com on the Internet.

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Praise & Worship

A Weekly Series Highlighting Pampa's Churches



A new larger sanctuary, left, is almost complete for Lighthouse Covenant.

Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship



Wall of Honor for members from this area who have served or are currently serving in the military.

Church name: Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship, 1733 N. Banks, 669-6915.

Ministers: Pastors Ed and Jennie Barker.

Services: Sunday — 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship, 6 p.m. Evening Evangelistic Service; Wednesday — 7 p.m. Bible Study.

Activities: Manna Ministries: (food distribution) the last Saturday of each month, led by Bob and Debra Epperson. We distribute food packages to as many as 100 families each month. Orders are taken earlier in the month. Contact church office for details.

Hard Core Motorcycle Ministries: Our vision is to be an evangelic arm of the church through personal relationships with the biker community and all others who need a helping hand, equipping the converts through discipleship, a life committed to the disciplines of prayer, studying the Word and church attendance and to fulfill the Great Commission of going into all the world reaching the lost as our motorcycle ministry is led by David Foreman.

Women's Ministries: Our women's ministries meet once or more each month for fellowship and ministry to one another. Led by co-pastor Jennie Barker, the ministry reaches out to the women of our city to include them for fellowship, ministry and recreation regardless of their church affiliation.

Senior adult ministries: Trips, fun, fellowship, Bible studies and a variety of other activities are in store for our senior adult ministries, known as SAM and led by Pat and Nola Moore.

Members: 75 - 100.

Denomination: International Pentecostal Holiness Church.

How long here: 46 years.

Goals: To use the newly constructed sanctuary for evangelism, worship and ministry to all who enter our doors without judgment, criticism or condemnation. To use our newly developed fellowship hall for great times of fun and reaching out to the lonely, unattached people of our community.

Other activities: Men's ministry, children's activities and teens are growing groups in our church. KIDS Church (kids in divine service) meets every Sunday morning for music, Bible study and treats while the adults meet in the sanctuary.

Main goal: To reach the spiritually lost in our area through providing teaching, evangelism, programs and encouragement. We strive to disciple those who commit their lives to Christ in the same manner. Our greatest desire is to fulfill the Great Commission that Christ gave the church in Matthew 28:18-20 to, "Go into all the world through missions."

Church message: That the just shall live by faith, not by "good works" of the person or the goodness of their lives, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Responsible parties: Senior pastors, the eldership and other leaders.

Information: Our motto is "A home for your heart." Our creed is "In essentials - unity; in non-essentials - liberty; in all things - love."

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Religion



Local First Assembly to stage 'Breaking Free MEGA' camp

First Assembly of God in Pampa is currently gearing up to offer a special summer sports event called "Breaking Free MEGA Sports Camp." The camp is open to children in first through fifth grades and will be conducted nightly from 6 to 9 July 16-20 at the church.

"We want to give the kids the chance to learn more about sports, discover character-building concepts and have a whole lot of fun," said Leland Lewis, pastor of First Assembly.

Sports Camp, kids can pick between soccer, basketball and cheerleading. It doesn't matter if they've played at the sports all their lives or just started yesterday. MEGA Sports Camp can help participants improve no matter what their skill level.

All sorts of drills and practice games will get kids focused on the fundamentals that make athletes great. Plus, MEGA Sports Camp strives to create a positive and encouraging environment that will pump up the confidence and self-esteem

of the young athletes.

Between sports sessions, coaches will lead the children in song, tell stories and offer lessons that illustrate the importance of truth, confidence, wisdom, faith and teamwork.

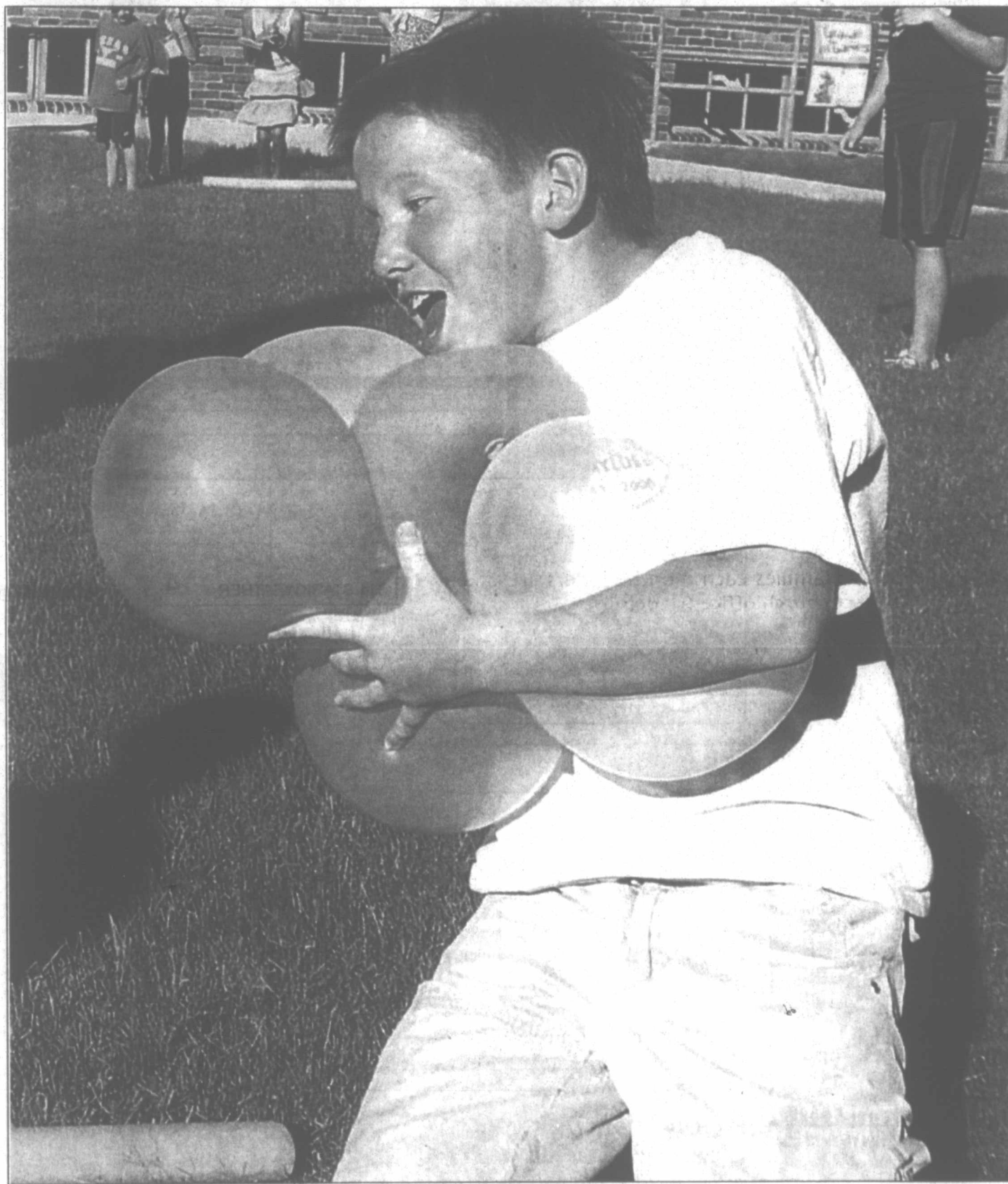
"And most importantly," a news release from the church said, "kids will discover God's great love for them."

To learn more or to pre-register for the camp, call 665-5941 or stop by the church office at 500 S. Cuyler.

COURTESY PHOTO

First Assembly of God in Pampa will stage "Breaking Free MEGA Sports Camp" from 6 to 9 p.m. July 16-20 for children in first through fifth grades. Above: (front) Christian Porter, (middle) Emily and Jacob Clark, Zachary Butler and (back) Blake Linscomb. To learn more or to register, call 665-5941.

VBS



COURTESY PHOTO

Colin Sutherland works at getting in shape for the upcoming vacation Bible school slated Aug. 6-10 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Titled "Great Bible Reef," the school will be conducted between 6 and 9 each evening and is a collective effort of St. Matthew's, First Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church and Hi-Land Christian Church.

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Giving is so much more than tithing

I remember visiting my daughter, Christina, and her family in Chicago. The pizza was unbelievable, and the hot dogs were spectacular. But they were not my most powerful memory from the trip. Yes, I spent magnificent hours with my two grandkids and some special time with Christina and my son-in-law, Adam. But none of those were the most lasting memory either.

GREAT, but not the most lasting. While there, God allowed me to witness something that I believe I will still clearly remember on the day I depart for heaven.

Mike Sublett
Hi-Land Christian



Adam and Christina are involved in youth ministry at the Naperville Church of Christ near Chicago. Their church is about to build a new facility and do significant remodeling to their current facility to enable them to more effectively serve the surrounding community. The cost: \$13,000,000. So needless to say they are trying to challenge everyone in the church to give above and beyond their tithe. The theme has been: "It's not about giving equal gifts, but giving with equal sacrifice."

In a private conversation with their preacher, Rich Little, I shared a story about my first experience with sacrificial giving on the part of a whole church. It was when I was in Bible college and the church was raising \$100,000 for mission work. A fiery preacher, Alan Bryan, was asked to be the keynote speaker.

He began by saying that the Lord had given him a hard, challenging message to share, but that he questioned his right to challenge them to sacrifice when he wasn't. So he reached behind the pulpit and picked up a very old shotgun and placed it on the communion table.

He said, "This was my great-grandfather's, then it was my grandfather's, then it was my dad's, now it is mine, and I was going to give it to my son. So you know how important this shotgun is to me. I am giving it to your mission work. Now I have the right to speak hard, challenging words to you, and you have the duty to listen."

And he did.

See SUBLETT, Page 12

"The Lily Of The Valley"

William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, sought to establish a ministry in Salisbury, England. The Army workers were treated badly as bricks and eggs were flung at them as they preached on the streets. A local builder and amateur musician, Charles Fry, offered along with his three strapping sons - musicians all - to serve as bodyguards. The next day, the four Frys showed up bearing their weapons - two cornets, a trombone, and a tuba. They played their music while fighting off hooligans, and thus was born the first of the now-famous Salvation Army Brass Bands. Fry wrote this hymn in 1881, and it was published that year in the Salvation Army magazine, *The War Cry*.

Ref: Robert J. Morgan

This hymn history brought to you by



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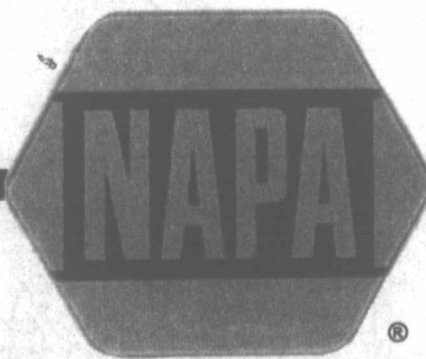
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I raised our two sons and two daughters. One son and both daughters married well. Our other son, "Neil," is gay. He and his partner, "Ron," have been together 15 years, but Neil's father and I never wanted to know Ron because we disapproved of their lifestyle. When I was 74, my husband died, leaving me in ill health and nearly penniless. No longer able to live alone, I asked my married son and two daughters if I could "visit" each of them for four months a year. (I didn't want to burden any one family, and thought living out of a suitcase would be best for everyone.) All three turned me down. Feeling unwanted, I wanted to die. When Neil and Ron heard what had happened, they invited me to move across country and live with them. They welcomed me into their home, and even removed a wall between two rooms so I'd have a bedroom with a private bath and sitting room — although we spend most of our time together. They also include me in many of their plans. Since I moved in with them, I have traveled more than I have my whole life and seen places I only read about in books. They never mention the fact that they are supporting me, or that I ignored them in the past. When old friends ask how it feels living with my gay son, I tell them I hope they're lucky enough to have one who will take them in one day. Please continue urging your readers to accept their children as they are. My only regret is that I wasted 15 years. — **GRATEFUL MOM**

DEAR GRATEFUL MOM: You are indeed fortunate to have such a loving, generous and forgiving son. Sexual orientation is not a measure of anyone's humanity or worth.

Thank you for pointing out how important it is that people respect each other for who they are, not for what we would like them to be. You could have learned that lesson long ago, had you and your husband contacted Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) when you first learned that Neil was gay. Among other things, the organization offers support groups and education for parents who need to learn more about gender issues. (The address is 1726 M St. N.W., Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20036.)

DEAR ABBY: Some friends asked us to store furniture and other belongings in our basement for a month. That was three years ago. We have lost contact with them and no longer know where they are. My husband and I want to clean out the basement, but we disagree about what to do with the other couple's items. I want to have a garage sale, and afterward give any unsold items to charity. My husband wants to put the items out for trash pickup. What is the ethical solution? And what should be done with the money from the garage sale? — **ANNE IN PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KAN.**

DEAR ANNE: Donate it all to charity and forgo the garage sale. That way there will be no question of your ethics because there will be no money.

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Assurance

1 Terrible

6 Conform

11 Chili

12 Battery

14 Ceremonies

15 Fail to see

17 Yonder

18 Lot

20 Andy's boy

22 Bat wood

23 Audiophile's storage

26 Reunion

28 Isolated

29 Waited

31 Birth

32 Exploring

33 Dance

34 Swimmer

36 Epps of "House"

38 Follow

40 Some messages

43 Goblet

44 Peter of "M"

45 Spots

PACK	LAHORE
LURE	AVALON
IRON	RECEDE
EASYMARK	
SAD	SECTS
DOWNS	ERROL
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TILDE	BASED
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CALICO	MANY
ADORES	ALTO
LAXEST	SKIN

Yesterday's answer

19	Be that	33	South	
4	Free, in a way	— may	Seas	
5	Minus	21	Ask for	
6	Way off	help, in a way	34	Base
7	First	way	35	Con
8	Just the opposite	23	Relinquish	
9	Inking	24	Leg bend	
10	Comfy	25	Percolate	
16	Turf	27	Halloween	
18	Stadium	30	Dude's	
21	beginning	39	Snaky	
22	General assembly?	41	1040	
23	Since	42	Summer	
24	Free, in a way	org.	sign	
25	Minus	44	Summer	
26	Way off	45	sign	
27	First			
28	Just the opposite			
29	Inking			
30	Comfy			
31	Turf			
32	Stadium			

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Marmaduke



"I was okay with the basement. I even liked the media room. But when did you put in a swimming pool?"

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"Don't we have any haze screen?"

For Better Or For Worse



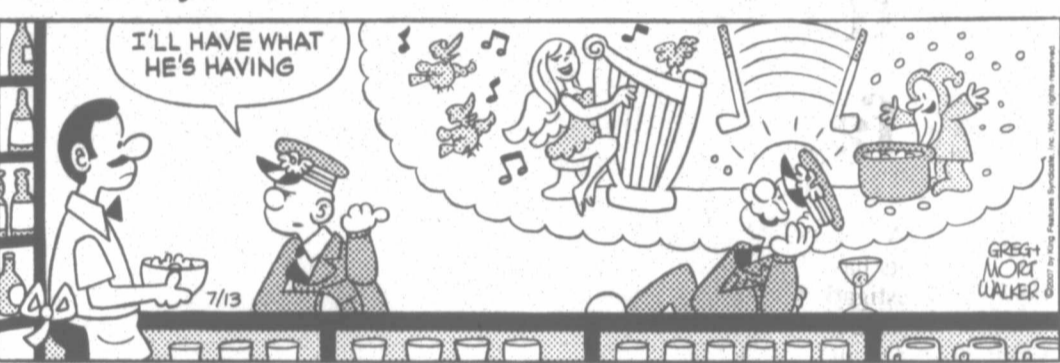
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

Winning surge creates interesting problem for Rangers

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — No team won more games than the Texas Rangers over the past month. Before the All-Star break, they won six of their last seven series.

That winning surge has provided a sense of optimism and hope going forward under rookie manager Ron Washington after the Rangers got off to such a horrible start.

It also has created an interesting problem for a team that was 19 games under .500 in mid-June and seemingly ready to listen to trade offers for key players like Mark Teixeira, Eric Gagne, Kenny Lofton and Sammy Sosa.

"We're behind the eight ball still, but the things that we accomplished to this point, we feel good about," Washington said. "We feel like when the second half

starts, we'll just continue to play good baseball and see where we stand."

Without a second-half comeback like the 1978 New York Yankees though, the Rangers (38-50) will miss the playoffs for the eighth straight season. They still have a lot of ground to make up just to finish with a winning record for only the second time since 1999.

Considering those post-season odds, general manager Jon Daniels has to balance the strides that have been made this season with building for the future — and the pieces that can be added for that by dealing. Daniels was already getting calls from likely contending teams last month.

Even after their 15-8 stretch, the Rangers are still buried in last place 15 games behind the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels. Their

winning streak included going 6-0-1 their last series, their first unbeaten seven-series stretch since 2001. They beat division leaders Detroit and Los Angeles and splitting a four-game series at Boston, which has the best record in the majors.

Only Detroit and the Chicago Cubs matched the Rangers' 15 victories the past month.

"We're playing better now, but to start off the way we did, it stunk," said starter Kevin Millwood, who has won four of five starts since two stints on the disabled list before June. "Hopefully, we can continue playing the way we have been lately and see what happens."

Texas, which lost 50 games before the All-Star break for only the seventh time in team history, opens a three-game series Friday at the Angels. Texas would still

be 14 games back in the standings if it wins another series by taking two or three games.

"We know we dug ourselves a really huge hole, but that's over with now," said All-Star shortstop Michael Young, who didn't want to make any second-half predictions. "I'm not going to think of records or anything like that. Just continue to play good baseball. Obviously, we want to win as much as we can, but it's tough to sit here and think of a record goal."

The '78 Yankees overcame a 14-game deficit after July 18 to force the playoff game against the Red Sox that included Bucky Dent's famous homer. (Texas is 14 games back in the AL wild-card race).

Unless the Rangers want to try for a miracle this season, they are still in position

to be sellers before the trade deadline.

Sosa and Gagne have made impressive comebacks and Lofton, the 40-year-old center fielder, has also had a significant impact. All are signed only through this season and could be attractive to other teams.

Texas is also likely to listen to inquiries about Teixeira, the switch-hitting first baseman who is eligible for salary arbitration this year and can become a free agent after next season — with no guarantees he will or wants to stay.

When Teixeira returns from the disabled list Friday after missing 28 games because of a strained left quadriceps, there is a 2 1/2-week window before the trade deadline to prove to other teams he's healthy. Texas has shown it can win without him, going 16-12

while he was out.

The Rangers have also been winning with third baseman Hank Blalock, second baseman Ian Kinsler and starter Vicente Padilla on the DL.

The biggest question could be whether to deal Gagne and/or setup man Akinori Otsuka. Or they could try to keep both relievers for 2008 behind a seemingly improving rotation that is secured past this season. Texas starters are 11-6 with a 4.33 ERA the last 23 games.

Gagne was limited to 15 1-3 innings the past two seasons after elbow and back operations, but the 31-year-old right-hander is 2-0 with 12 saves in 13 chances and a 1.32 ERA in 28 appearances. Otsuka, pushed back into the eighth-inning role when Gagne was signed, is 2-1 with four saves and a 2.51 ERA in 34 appearances.

Doctor for wrestler who killed family, self faces an expanded federal probe

ATLANTA (AP) — Federal agents have expanded their investigation of pro wrestler Chris Benoit's personal doctor to include former patients and other patients of his who have died. The Associated Press has learned.

An affidavit by a federal Drug Enforcement Administration agent that was part of a warrant to search Dr. Phil Astin's west Georgia office for a third time said investigators on Tuesday seized 68 boxes of documents, including patient records and billing statements.

The affidavit said agents were in part looking for medical records of inactive or deceased patients, including medical tests, test results and physician notes.

The search followed a statement agents received last Friday from an unidentified source who was associated with Astin's practice and has known him personally for about 10 years. The

source said files for former patients or patients who have died may have been stored in a copy room at Astin's office, the affidavit said.

The records "will be relevant and material to this ongoing investigation," the affidavit said, without elaborating.

Also seized from Astin's office, the affidavit states, were records of a Nov. 19, 2002, prescription for 200 mg of the injectable steroid depo-testosterone that was written for an unidentified patient.

A sheriff's official previously said that Astin also is being investigated in the February 2006 death of another wrestler, Michael Durham. State officials have not returned repeated calls in recent days seeking details on that case.

Last week, Astin pleaded not guilty to federal charges of improperly prescribing painkillers and other drugs to two patients other than Benoit in 2004 and 2005. He

was released on \$125,000 bond, but is restricted to his home except in limited circumstances.

Court documents filed Tuesday disclosed that federal prosecutors plan to seek a superseding federal indictment against Astin after reviewing documents seized from his Carrollton office.

Astin's lawyer, Manny Arora, said Thursday he wasn't aware of the latest search of Astin's office, but wasn't surprised by it either.

"It's their job to look through everything," Arora said. "I want them to look through everything, so if there is an acquittal in this case there will be no more doubt about anything that Dr. Astin's done."

Police have said Benoit strangled his wife and son and then hanged himself on a piece of exercise equipment in his suburban Atlanta home the weekend of June 22.

Authorities found anabolic steroids in Benoit's home. Some experts believe

steroids can cause paranoia, depression and violent outbursts known as "roid rage."

Another court affidavit said Astin prescribed a 10-month supply of anabolic steroids to Benoit every three to four weeks between May 2006 and May 2007.

Astin has told the AP he prescribed testosterone for Benoit, a longtime friend, in the past but has not said what, if any, medications he prescribed when Benoit visited his office June 22, the day authorities believe Benoit killed his wife.

Since the deaths, toxicology tests have been conducted on Benoit's body to determine if steroids or other drugs were present. Blood-alcohol tests also were conducted on his body, and chemical tests were conducted on the bodies of the wife and son.

Some of the tests have been completed, but authorities are keeping the results secret until all the tests are complete.

Golden State's Jackson looking to complete community service

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (AP) — Back in his hometown for a basketball camp bearing his name, Golden State's Stephen Jackson said he has completed court-ordered community service stemming from his role in a 2004 brawl in the stands during a game at Detroit.

Up next: more community service, this time for last month's guilty plea to a felony count of criminal recklessness for firing a gun outside a strip club last year in Indianapolis.

"Detroit's finally over, and Indy, I'm going to knock that out next week," Jackson said in the Thursday edition of the Port Arthur News. "After that, I'll be off everything, no more court, no more anything."

Jackson averaged 15.5 points per game last season for the Pacers and the Warriors. He scored 19.9 points per game during the

playoffs and was instrumental in eighth-seeded Golden State's first-round upset of top-seeded Dallas, despite getting ejected from two games.

This is the first year for Jackson's weeklong camp in Port Arthur, where he led Lincoln High to the 1995 state championship before transferring for his senior year to Oak Hill Academy, a basketball factory in Virginia.

Jackson, 29, was scheduled to appear at a local library Thursday for an NBA Read To Achieve promotion.

He also lends his name to the Stephen Jackson Academy, a private school that began last school year with 15 students. It has classes up to sixth grade and is housed at a Baptist church. Classrooms and a gym are under construction in downtown Port Arthur.

North Carolina State Bar issues disbarment order for Duke lacrosse case prosecutor

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The North Carolina State Bar on Thursday issued a formal order disbaring former district attorney Mike Nifong for his handling of the now-discredited Duke lacrosse rape case.

Nifong must surrender his law license to the bar no later than 30 days from when he is served with the order. He also must pay costs associated with his June ethics trial.

A disciplinary hearing

committee decided to disbar Nifong after finding he had committed at least two dozen violations of the state's rules of professional conduct. The violations included lying to the court and withholding DNA evidence that showed genetic material from several males — though none from a Duke lacrosse player — had been found on the accuser.

The accuser had told police she was attacked by three men at a March 2006

lacrosse team party where she was hired to perform as a stripper.

Nifong secured indictments for rape, kidnapping and sexual offense against three lacrosse team members, but the rape charges were dropped in December after the accuser changed a key detail of her story, and state prosecutors who later took over the case at Nifong's request dropped the remaining charges in April.

toward the goal. Newly entered sub Chris Wondolowski tapped it in to complete the scoring. Defender Jim Curtin started his first game for the Fire since June 9. Houston defender Ryan Cochrane left the game in the 45th minute after a head collision with Chicago's Bakary Soumare.

Pat Onstad made six saves for the shutout.

Dynamo ends Fire's winning streak

BRIDGEVIEW, Ill. (AP) — Houston's Nate Jaqua and Joseph Ngwenya each had a goal and an assist to spoil Juan Carlos Osorio's coaching debut for the Chicago Fire in the Dynamo's 4-0 win Thursday night.

Houston took the lead in the 31st minute when Wade Barrett crossed the ball into the box and Stuart Holden knocked it in over outstretched Fire goalkeeper

Matt Pickens. In the 58th minute, Ngwenya kicked a weak ball past three Fire defenders to Jaqua, who fired a shot into the upper right corner for a 2-0 lead.

A few minutes later, Jaqua found Ngwenya, who beat defenders and Pickens, got to the end line and shot the ball into the lower left side of the net.

In extra time, Dwayne DeRosario sent the ball

A-Rod goes from neglected to needed in a New York minute

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Talk about a U-turn: All those New Yorkers who volunteered to drive Alex Rodriguez back to LaGuardia Airport within weeks of his arrival, and almost every day since, suddenly can't imagine life without him.

Remember the tank top A-Rod's wife wore to Yankee Stadium nearly two weeks ago? The one with the two-word obscenity printed on the back that the New York Post splashed on the front page and the locals found so offensive?

Well, the only thing that would offend most of them at the moment is finding out that Cynthia Rodriguez borrowed it from her husband's closet. Because now that the New York dailies again are speculating whether A-Rod could be going, going, gone at season's end, it might be easier to ship the Statue of Liberty out of town instead.

The Yankees showed up for Thursday night's contest at Tampa Bay still trailing the AL East-leading Red Sox by 10 games. But fans understand that without

Rodriguez' off-the-charts contributions so far, calculating the "games-behind" figure would have required the use of their toes as well. That explained why unidentified team executives have been quoted as saying the club is willing to negotiate an extension for Rodriguez whenever his agent, Scott Boras, gets around to calling.

The first time the subject was broached in March, Boras said he was instructed to hold off on contract talks during the season, and that remains his stance in public.

"We have always been under the plan that it's something we would talk about at the end of the season, and we've had no discussions with anyone," Boras said Thursday, then quickly added, "Don't expect to."

Wily as he is, Boras knows the current panic has more to do with slow news days than a real shift in the Yankees' negotiating stance. But he also knows the longer it drags on, the easier his work likely will be come November, not to mention much more lucrative.

The funny thing is that A-Rod never had it quite this

good in New York. For all the things he's tried to win over fans and teammates — moving from shortstop to third, trash-talking opponents, even baring his soul about visits to a shrink — nothing has made him look better than being surrounded by similarly high-priced, but woefully underperforming teammates. And because details of his salary have been published over and over the last few days, even the most committed A-Rod haters have to concede he's a bargain.

Rodriguez gets a \$27 million salary this year, but thanks to the shrewd deal general manager Brian Cashman cut to bring him to New York, Texas Rangers owner Tom Hicks still has to kick in about \$11 million of the total. As one of the tabloids noted, that means the Yankees are getting A-Rod's services for about 60 cents on the dollar.

For purposes of comparison, Andy Pettitte, who's 5-6 with a 4.27 ERA, will cost the Yankees about the same. And Jason Giambi, who's

See LITKE, Page 10

Se Ri Pak leads Jamie Farr Classic again

SYLVANIA, Ohio (AP) — Se Ri Pak isn't sure why she plays so well at the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic. Everyone else in the field wonders what her secret is, too.

The four-time tournament winner shot an 8-under 63 on Thursday to take the first-round lead. It was the best opening round in the tournament's 23-year history.

Alena Sharp was two shots back at 6 under. Only three others were within five shots of the lead, including defending champion Mi Hyun Kim.

Pak bogeyed her first hole, after hitting into the rough, then strung together three consecutive birdies. She ran off five birdies on the back nine, making a 25-putt on the 17th hole.

She is trying to match Mickey Wright's tour record of five victories in one event and knows the course better than any player in the tournament.

"Everyone asks why, I don't know," she said. "I always feel comfortable here."

Pak won her first Farr title in 1998 when she was 20 and always seems to be in contention. She also won in 1999, 2001 and 2003.

Canada's Alena Sharp had seven birdies and one bogey to shoot 65. Her approach shot on the final hole nearly bounced in for eagle. Sharp is having her best season since turning pro in 2005.

"I learned last year how to make the cut," she said. "This year I feel I have a good shot at winning a tournament."

"I don't want to get ahead of myself. It's only Thursday."

She has a history this year of starting fast before fading. She was within a shot of the lead after one round at the Wegmans LPGA last month only to finish tied for 64th.

Pak made a 15-foot putt on No. 11 and a 12-foot putt

on the next hole to charge out in front. She then finished her round with a pair of birdies.

"I've won so many times and have so many great memories," she said. "Maybe that's why my game is a lot more solid on the golf course."

Rookie Jin Young Pak, playing in her first tournament since hurting her back two months ago, finished at 4 under.

"I'm just happy I can play," she said.

The Korean with the same last name as the first-round leader said she knew about this tournament before she left home because of Se Ri Pak's success.

The dry, fast course provided a slew of low scores in the morning, a sharp contrast from a year ago when heavy rains drowned the fairways and threatened to cancel the tournament.

But strong, shifting winds made the course at Highland

Meadows Golf Club a challenge later in the day.

Kim bogeyed her final hole after the wind pushed her tee shot far right. U.S. Open champion Cristie Kerr, playing in the same group, also bogeyed the blustery hole.

"It messed with us," Kerr said.

Kim had five birdies and two bogeys to shoot 68. She won last year's tournament with an 18-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff to beat Natalie Gulbis.

Morgan Pressel also shot 68 and was tied for third.

"I just hit a few too many shots that got away from me," she said.

Kerr was among eight players six shots behind the leader at 2 under. Also at 2 under were Brittany Lincicome and Laura Diaz.

Absent were the tour's top two money leaders, Lorena Ochoa and Suzann Pettersen, along with 2000 tournament winner Annika Sorenstam.

Vinokourov, Kloeden at 6th Tour de France stage despite injuries

SEMUR-EN-AUXOIS, France (AP) — Alexandre Vinokourov and Andreas Kloeden started the sixth stage of the Tour de France on Friday, riding with injuries that left their prospects of finishing the race in serious doubt.

Both riders crashed Thursday, with Kloeden sustaining a hairline fracture to his tailbone that prevented him from even sitting up straight in his saddle Friday.

Vinokourov had 15 stitches in his right knee.

"He's a warrior," Astana team manager Marc Biver said of Vinokourov. "He never spoke about pulling out."

With the race set to hit the Alps on Saturday, both Astana riders — considered leading contenders

for this year's Tour — will be in trouble if their injuries don't significantly improve.

The sixth stage took the riders on a 124-mile trek from the Burgundy town of Semur-en-Auxois toward the foot of the Alps in Bourg-en-Bresse.

Climbing the Alps is hard enough without having constant back pains or pedaling with only one fully functional leg.

"It's impossible for Kloeden to sit up in the saddle," Biver said. "It will be very hard for him (to continue)."

Kloeden ended up in a ditch on Thursday, while Vinokourov landed on hot tarmac that tore skin off his knees and right buttock.

Bonds' record-breaker could draw interesting reaction on the road

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — If Barry Bonds doesn't splash his 756th home run into the bay, the record-breaker could come in Hank Aaron's old hometown. Or at the home of the Giants' biggest rival. Or maybe a ballpark where fans usually throw back balls.

And that could be pretty awkward. Picture a major moment in sports taking place in front of a crowd that didn't want to see it happen.

"I can't imagine they wouldn't want that to happen at home anyway," Milwaukee pitcher Ben Sheets said at the All-Star game. "That's a big record. You almost need to give it its due. The only place you can really give it its due is at home. Make sure you tell him that, too."

Bonds enters a three-game weekend series at home against the Los Angeles Dodgers with 751 homers, four shy of tying Aaron. After this week, the Giants visit Wrigley Field for four games against the Chicago Cubs, then travel to Milwaukee to play the Brewers three times.

Milwaukee is the hometown of commissioner Bud Selig, a close friend of Aaron's. Selig still hasn't said whether he'll be in attendance when Bonds breaks the record. There are also plenty of Aaron fans left in the city where Hammerin' Hank began and ended his career.

While Bonds gets booed at almost every opposing ballpark because of his prickly personality and alle-

gations of steroid use, a celebration could be particularly strange in Milwaukee.

"Obviously he's a lightning rod," Sheets said. "It's an honor that should be celebrated not taken away from. I'm not sure people will appreciate what just happened. At least you know in San Francisco that people will be there to honor what just happened. I don't know what would happen in Milwaukee. It's Hank Aaron's record. I just don't think it would be a good idea."

Brewers shortstop J.J. Hardy admitted he wouldn't mind witnessing history, provided his team won the game.

"I think it would be unbelievable to see it," Hardy said.

If the past is any indication, Hardy's best chance might not be until the Brewers come to San Francisco on Aug. 24.

Starting with career homer No. 500, nearly every milestone shot Bonds has hit has come at home.

That list includes homer No. 71 that broke the single-season record in 2001, No. 600 the following year, the shots that tied and passed Willie Mays for third place all-time in 2004, No. 700 later that season and No. 715 last year to move past Babe Ruth.

About the only noteworthy homer to come outside of San Francisco occurred just across the bay in Oakland. With plenty of Giants fans in the stands last year, Bonds tied Ruth with No. 714.

When Aaron broke Ruth's record in 1974, the Braves tried to make sure he did it at home.

Aaron hit the record-tying shot on opening day in Cincinnati and then sat out the following game as the Braves tried to guarantee the record would be set in Atlanta.

Commissioner Bowie Kuhn ordered the team to play Aaron in the series finale against the Reds and Aaron did not homer. Selig said earlier this week he didn't think there would be a similar issue with the Giants and Bonds.

Bonds said he doesn't have the time at his age to worry about where his biggest record-breaking home run comes, but is pretty sure people will want to

see it wherever it happens.

"They boo, but all them cameras flash every time I swing, don't they?" Bonds said. "Boo, but click, click, click, click, click, click. The fans like baseball, guys. Fans enjoy the game of baseball. Regardless of what anybody says, they're going to come. They want to see it happen."

Including some of Bonds' opponents.

San Diego pitcher Greg Maddux said he was a little disappointed that Bonds wasn't in position to set the record late last month when the Padres came to San Francisco. He could another chance to see it when the Giants visit San Diego the first weekend in August. That series comes after the Giants play three games at Dodger Stadium.

Attorney who leaked BALCO grand jury testimony gets 2 1/2 years in prison

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An attorney who admitted leaking the confidential grand jury testimony of Barry Bonds and other athletes to a reporter was sentenced Thursday to two and a half years in prison, by far the harshest penalty to result from the government's sprawling probe of steroids in sports.

Troy Ellerman, 44, pleaded guilty in February to allowing a San Francisco Chronicle reporter to view transcripts of testimony by Bonds, Jason Giambi, Gary Sheffield and other athletes embroiled in the steroids investigation. Giambi admitted taking steroids while Sheffield and Bonds testified if they did take performance enhancing drugs, they did so unwittingly.

After the newspaper published the players' embarrassing accounts after they had been promised confidentiality, the judge overseeing the case recommended that the Department of Justice launch a leak investigation. Ellerman initially blamed

federal investigators for leaking the testimony and argued that the case against his client be tossed out because of government misconduct. He also lied to a judge about not knowing the source of the leaks.

"This affected, and infected every aspect of the judicial system," U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey White said.

White also rejected Ellerman's argument that he should get a lighter sentence because President Bush commuted former vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby's 2 1/2-year prison sentence for perjury to probation. White said to do so would open the door to doling out unduly lenient sentences for other white collar criminals.

"If Mr. Ellerman is dissatisfied with his sentence, he should seek a commutation from the president," White said.

White also asked prosecutors about a letter Bonds' attorney Michael Rains filed in the case arguing that the

slugger was a victim of Ellerman's actions and that Ellerman was not the only leak in the high-profile case.

Rains says he has evidence that sources other than Ellerman — but still unknown to him — had leaked confidential grand jury evidence to the Chronicle and other publications.

"Since Mr. Bonds has yet to be indicted, I have not been in position to introduce evidence concerning the leaked grand jury materials related to this case," Rains said in his letter to the judge. "In the event that Mr. Bonds is indicted, I would certainly welcome such an opportunity."

But on Thursday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Raphael told the judge that the government's leak investigation concluded with Ellerman's conviction. Raphael conceded that there had been other "little leaks" in the case, but that investigators were focused on finding the culprit of the grand jury breach.

"We do not believe that there is any other source," Raphael said. "We have no specific evidence that someone else leaked grand jury transcripts."

Ellerman was a successful Sacramento attorney when Victor Conte, founder of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, known as BALCO, hired him following a 2003 raid of the Burlingame nutritional supplements lab by federal agents.

He also later served as the attorney for BALCO vice president James Valente, and it was while he was representing Valente that he allowed reporter Mark Fainaru-Wada to view the players' grand jury testimony.

The leaked testimony was featured prominently in Fainaru-Wada's book co-written with Lance Williams called "Game of Shadows," which recounts the alleged steroid use of Bonds, who is five home runs away from breaking Hank Aaron's career home run record.

Litke

Continued from Page 9

parked on the 15-day disabled list, driven in one-quarter as many runs and appeared in roughly half as many games, will take home \$21 million.

Despite the headlines of recent days, the answer is actually very, very good — thanks to that long ago boo-boo by Hicks.

Because of a clause Boras tucked in there long

ago, A-Rod can opt out of his deal within 10 days after the last pitch of the World Series — but that would let Hicks opt out, too.

Few baseball people doubt that A-Rod could command the \$30 million or more a year that Boras indicated will be his starting position with any clubs thought to be potential bidders — San Francisco, Anaheim, Chicago and even Boston. But there's also no question that the Yankees, with Hicks' still on the hook to contribute for another three years, can

afford to be more generous than any of them. And given the Yankees' track record of paying stars — see: Clemens, Roger — it's hard to imagine them letting A-Rod leave.

"I think it would be selfish on my part to talk about my contract status when our team desperately needs wins," he said before the Yankees opened a four-game series against the Devil Rays. "My goal is to win as any games as we can, focus on my teammates and really play at a real high level in the second

half."

Loved as Rodriguez is at the moment, however, all it will take is a big drop in production or another sub-par playoff performance, and he'll be loathed again. And that tank top his wife wore to Yankee Stadium could become a hot-selling item in the Bronx, with the word, "too," tacked on the end.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

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Yesterday's Cryptquote: A GREAT MANY PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE THINKING WHEN THEY ARE ONLY REARRANGING THEIR PREJUDICES. — WILLIAM JAMES

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of GRAYES BRYAN PRESSON, deceased, were issued on April 30, 2007, in Docket No. 9397, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to SHIRLEY PRESSON, Docket.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563
COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. Call 665-3453 leave message. Jesus Barraza.

NEED Home Renovations? From Minor repair to New Home Const. CLP Home Renovations 806-236-6621, 806-206-0562

JAB Const. Backhoe Service. All types of backhoe work. Jimmy 664-9171, Ann-E 662-0340, Bill 283-5706.

JH Concrete Work. Slabs, sidewalks, driveways, additions, roofing, fences, remodeling. Free Est. 806-382-5408.

CONCRETE WORK
No job too small! Driveways, sidewalks, etc. Will travel east & North of I-40 806-664-1234

NEED all around handyman? Fencing, painting, concrete & mechanics. Move out-cleanup, yard work, & more. Just Ask! 486-1017, Pampa, free estimate. Senior discount.

14r Plowing/Yard
PATTY'S Lawn Mowing Service, Skellytown, Tx. Call for appt. 806-848-2316. Don't have bag attachment.

14s Plumbing/Heat
JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. Plumbing, repairs, new constr., & septic sys.

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

19 Situations
LOOKING for A House Cleaner? I Have Lots of references. Call 669-7765

21 Help Wanted

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for Welder Fabricators. Welding & drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

EXPERIENCED Roustabout hands & experienced maintainer operator needed. Apply in person at 725 N. Price Rd.

WANT TO WORK IN A PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE? WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

MCLEAN CARE CENTER has the following openings: Full Time Housekeeper Transport Driver Nurse Aides

Experienced Maintenance Mechanic with growing company Strong background in electrical, mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic and plumbing systems. Five years exp. preferred. Salary commensurate with exp. Excellent benefit package. Physical exam and drug screen required. EOE

MAINTENANCE Man needed. Must have own tools & transportation. Plumbing exp. a must!! Call 665-1875.

DOMINO'S PIZZA now hiring!! Delivery drivers and inside positions available. Apply at 1332 N. Hobart.

Chiropractic Office is expanding our team! You can make the difference! Direct patient care position. On the job training! Fax Resume to 665-0537

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED
D.E. Chase, Inc. is looking for Exp. Drivers for the Pampa & Wheeler area

Top pay with benefits 5 days on & 2 days off. Must pass drug screen, CDL & DOT physical required

Apply in person 1445 S. Barnes Pampa

21 Help Wanted

TEXAS Rose Steakhouses is now hiring servers & hostesses. Apply in person. No Phone Calls.

SONIC DRIVE-IN is now accepting applications for dependable, mature, enthusiastic, friendly crewmembers for all shifts, all positions. Apply in person at 1404 Hobart EOE

NOW hiring all positions. Top dollar for top performance. Great ben., 401K, ins., profit sharing, and flex. schedule. Apply in person M-F 2-4 pm. No Phone Calls Please. Pizza Hut, 855 W. Kingsmill.

GREAT Part Time job for dependable hard worker buffing local supermarket floors nightly. Call 1-888-535-9319.

TAKING applications for Glass Installer. Will train. Pampa Glass, 1432 N. Banks, Pampa.

SEMCROUTE, L.P. has openings for full-time Bobtail and Transport Drivers in the Pampa & surrounding areas. Must have Class A CDL w/ X endorsement and meet DOT qualifications. Excellent benefit pkg. incl. medical, dental, vision and life ins., along w/ 401K pkg and pd. vacation, sick and holidays. Please apply at www.semcroute.com/careers or 806-934-7505 for appli

FULL-TIME or Part-Time Evening Cook's Helper needed. Must be able to work weekends. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle. Apply in person or call for more info. and ask for Linda or Phyllis, 537-3194.

Recovery Specialists Openings for Recovery Specialists in our Pampa office. Ideal candidate has strong communication skills and basic computer knowledge. Exp. pref. but not necessary. Base pay, comm., benefits. Bilingual a plus. To apply fax resume to 806-665-0135 or apply in person at 200 N. Cuyler.

CUSTOMER Driven Co. looking for CDL Drivers, Local driving. Min. age 21 yrs. old. Prefer flatbed exp. Background, Drug / DOT req. Acme Truckline. Call Mon.-Fri. 9am-4pm. 806-665-2451.

CUSTOMER Service Rep., general office duties plus sales, some light lifting.-Auto exp. preferred. Reply to Box 47, c/o Pampa News, Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066.

FULL time employment, must be at least 18. Insurance, vacation, sick leave & retirement. Bartlett's, 500 W. Brown.

ST Matthew's Episcopal Day School is currently seeking an early child care employee. Applicants with previous child care experience, good references and a professional & positive attitude will be considered. Apply at 727 W. Browning

DELIVERY Drivers Needed. Must lift 150 lbs. Background & driving record check. Full benefits. Fax resumes to 806-352-0330.

PAMPA Country Club is now hiring for wait staff and kitchen help. Apply in person at Pampa Country Club. No phone calls please!!

FOOD Service person needed. Must be mature, clean & dependable. Great Hours! Apply in person, Heard Jones 114 N. Cuyler.

21 Help Wanted

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN NEEDED! Excellent Salary 44 hr. Work week, 4-11 hr. days. Paid vacation, paid ins., exc. retirement plan. Texas Journeyman License req. Call Howard Electric, 806-878-2060 or apply 418 S. Mackenzie, Stinnet, Texas.

LOCAL Delivery Drivers for Pampa, TX. Class A CDL req. with Hazmat & Tanker endorsement. Salary based on experience. Health & Dental ins., 401K and uniforms provided. Call 806-595-0495 Mon.-Fri., 7:30-4:30pm.

The Nursery at Trinity Fellowship Church is growing and so is our staff! We are looking for Part-Time Workers that love God and have a heart for children ages birth to 5 years.

Please pick up an application at: 1200 S. Sumner And be a part of something amazing!

KOYOTE Trucking needs Full-Time flat-bed truck driver. 2 years driving exp. req. 806-665-0984.

NEWSPAPER carriers needed. The Amarillo Globe-News is in need of carriers for the Pampa city area. There are 3 routes available. They range from 1 1/2 hrs. to 2 1/2 hrs. in length. Early morning hours is time of commitment. You must have a valid Texas driver's license, reliable transportation and proof of current liability insurance. For more information, including what each route makes, please call Chanda Price at (806) 717-1079 or Darryl Mething at (806) 217-0898.

EXPERIENCED Deisel Mechanic wanted, must have references, Hwy 207 S., Borger Tx. 866-415-4104 or 806-273-6300.

EXPERIENCED oilfield winch truck driver, truck pushers wanted, Hwy 207 S., Borger Tx. 866-415-4104 or 806-273-6300.

Need: Experienced Warehouseman to coordinate receiving, assembly and shipping functions. Employment subject to general physical exam and drug screen. EOE

Contact Titan P.O. Box 2316 11785 Hwy. 152 Pampa, Texas 79065 hr@titanspecialties.com

West Texas Landscape 120 S. Hobart. Please No Phone Calls!!!

NOW HIRING General Laborers. Must be at least 18 & submit to drug test. Apply in person at West Texas Landscape 120 S. Hobart. Please No Phone Calls!!!

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household JULY SPECIAL All Pillow-Top Mattress Sets in stock 15% off. 15 to 20 yr. War. Starting @ \$189. Layaways avail. w/ no interest! 806-677-0400

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

MEMORY Gardens of Pampa, Garden Devotion Section C, Lot #230, Spaces 6, 7, 8. Call 665-7489.

400 Sheets of 4x8x1/2 sheet rock. Please call 669-2785 or 662-401!

D R sets, sofas, love seats, recliners, end tables, oak ent. ctr, desks, dressers, chests, cribs, bassinets, swings, double stroller, etc., Nearly New, 2216 N. Hobart, 665-3860.

1994 Toyota Camry, sell for parts. 2 swamp coolers: large \$120 and small \$90. 662-3380.

FOR sale: Whirlpool washer & dryer, almost new. \$350. Call 669-1975.

JUNK CARS Need them removed?? We do it free! Pampa & surrounding areas. 665-6628

BOOKS, furniture, tools, screws & nails by the box or lb., cast iron cookware & stainless. Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes, Sat. 10-5.

WINK & Karan invite you to store your rv at Crossways Storage, 12072 E. Frederic, 662-6089

69a Garage Sales

Summer Days Are Here! Come see all the "Red Hot Deals," Antiques & More. Tues.-Sat. 11a-5p at the: Yellow Barn 543 Brown

GARAGE Sale 2617 Dogwood 8am-3pm Friday 8am-1pm Sat.

GARAGE SALE Friday & Saturday 9-7 600 N. Dwight Everything must go!!

ESTATE Sale: Numerous tools, antiques & household items. Fri. & Sat. 8am-4pm. Lelia Lake, 7 mi. east of Clarendon, turn left on Farm to Mkt. 1755, on the right. Also 2 bdr. home in exc. cond., shop & garden area.

SAT. & SUN 9am-?? 932 Love (behind Doug Boyd Mtrs.). Little Bit of Everything!

FRI 8-6pm, Sat. 8-noon. Refrigerator, gas cook-top, knick knacks, etc. 1351 N. Price Rd.

CHURCH Garage Sale will be Friday, July 13th 5pm-8pm and Saturday 8am-1pm in the gym of First Assembly of God, 500 S. Cuyler. Proceeds to send youth to National Fine Arts in Indianapolis.

BACK YARD SALE Fri. 8-4, Sat. 8-4 2143 N. Faulkner

GARAGE & Driveway Sale. Amazing misc!!! 1541 Williston. Saturday, 8-??

ORGANIZING 2 houses! Dishes, Christmas & home decor, clothes, shoes, purses, makeup, & lots of misc!! Priced to sell. Sat., July 14th 8-2. 1113 Sirroco Pl., Pampa.

MOVING. Furniture, kitchen stuff, adult, boys & girls infant to 5T clothes, toys. Sat. 8-3pm. 601 E. Browning.

FARM Yard Sale: '99 Chevy Blazer, furn., tools, & misc. Fri. 5-8 & Sat. 8-5. 11479 CR E. 3 miles west of Price Rd, on Kentucky.

519 E. Kingsmill Home Projects Left-Overs & much more! Sat. & Sun. all day.

GARAGE Sale: 915 N. Somerville. Tools, furniture, misc. Sat. 8am-??

SALE: Fri. & Sat. 8am & Sun. pm. Saddle, furniture, misc. 1504 N. Dwight.

GARAGE Sale Sat. 7:30-2pm. 2705 Comanche. 2 Dell computer monitors & great misc!

ST. Vincent's Annual Flea Market, Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-1. Lots of gently used items! No checks.

FAMILY Garage Sale Saturday & Sunday 7:30am-?? Household items, clothing, etc. 725 N. Nelson.

3 family sale Fri. & Sat. 7:35 S. Barnes 10-?? Furn., grill, doors, tires, lots of new clothes, air conditioner & much more.

GARAGE Sale: Sat. July 14th, 2139 Dogwood Ln., from 8am-2:30pm.

YARD sale: Snapper riding lawn mower, lawn furn., dinette table, twin beds & mattresses, wicker furniture, patio chairs & tables misc. 7-11 Sat., 127 Walnut Creek.

2 Family: Furni, gun cabinet, china cabinet, 2 curio cabinets, clothes. Sat. 8-7 Sat. 10:36 S. Dwight.

1529 N. Dwight, Sat. 8-7 Lots of baby girl clothes and misc. Dont Miss This One!!!

GARAGE Sale 1148 Terrace, Sat. 8-?? Clothes, furniture, sofas.

SAT. 7:30-?? Lawnmower, edger, weedater, wood bench, vacuum cleaner, lamps, dishes, clothing. 1337 Williston.

WASHER, dryer, cook-stove, king mattress set. Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes, Sat. 10-5.

FIVE family sale 2108 Christine 7am-3pm. King size bed w/ mattress, TV, ent. center, computer desk, printers, furniture, diettes, exercise stuff, ss kitchen sink, commode, children's clothes, nice pictures. Too much to list.

YARD Sale 510 N. Ward. Women's, men's, & baby clothes, ext. doors, furn. Friday 3-8 & Sat. 7-2.

ESTATE Sale-1305 Mary Ellen. 20 yrs. of accumulation. Everything priced low! Fri. thru Sun. 8am. Furniture, horse stuff, lots of great things, you can't live without.

SAT. 8-?? 1117 Terry Rd. Antiques, baby clothes & access., lots of goodies!

GARAGE SALE 1229 CHRISTINE 8-NOON SAT.

1532 N. Dwight, Sat. 8am. baby clothes, bedroom furniture & more.

MOVING Sale 712 Deane Dr. Sat. 8-7

69a Garage Sales

2 Family Yard Sale, Sat. 8-7? Furniture & More! 2121 Hamilton.

70 Musical LIKE new Pulse 5 piece drum set with cymbals & replacement drum heads, \$250. Call 665-6341.

80 Pets & Suppl. AKC Miniature Schnauzer puppies, 6 weeks old, 2 males, salt/pepper, \$250. Call 665-7843 or 663-2689.

FREE Kittens 669-3417

FREE PUPPIES- Shepherd / Blue Heeler mix. Call 207-0088.

BOXER puppies for sale, \$150 each. Dewormed and shots started. 662-5241.

MALE Dachshunds for sale. call 665-8542.

95 Furn. Apts. All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

96 Unfurn. Apts. LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. Call for availability. References & deposit req. 669-4386

NUMEROUS Houses, Apts., Duplexes & Commercial properties thru-out Pampa for rent. Call 665-4274 or 665-1875.

THE Schneider House, now leasing apts. Seniors or disabled, utilities included. Stop by 120 S. Russell or call 665-0415.

97 Furn. Houses WATERFRONT at Lake Greenbelt, 3/3/3. Lrg. elegant br. home, w/ private dock. Built by JC Daniels, close to golf course. Serious inq. only. \$9500. 806-353-8429, 874-3779.

98 Unfurn. Houses LARGE 2 bedroom house, 1217 Christine. \$750 mo., \$750 dep. Call 662-1823.

DUPLEX for rent. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fireplace, double garage. \$699 month. 662-5658.

NICE 2 bedroom house, 1312 Garland. \$450 mo., \$400 dep. Call 665-1976.

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1532 N. Dwight, Sat. 8am. baby clothes, bedroom furniture & more.

MOVING Sale 712 Deane Dr. Sat. 8-7

103 Homes For Sale

2123 Beech. Beautiful brick home! 2 bedroom, 1-3/4 baths, central air & heat, garage. Great shop w/ carport, storm cellar in fenced yard. For appl. call 806-874-3290.

2124 Lynn. \$154,900. Must see! Nice 3 bdr., 1.5 / 2, new paint, new fence, stor. bldg., sprinkler sys. Call 665-76630wner.

FOR Sale by Owner In Panhandle, 3/2/2 plus basement, 2324 sq. ft. large lot, 8 yrs. old, custom built, Very Nice. Call 537-3820

FOR sale by owner. 333 N. Christy. Ph: 669-0759.

FSBO in Groom, handi-capped ready, 2 bd, 1 bath, 5'x9" rrier free shower, new roof, paint, big yard, workshop, carport, xtras, \$69,500 as is. 248-7453, 236-8808.

FSBO in Lefors: 3/2/2, 3.74 acres, ch&a, 1700 sq. ft. 14'x16' patio, 14'x28' redwood deck, covered, city water. Horse pens started, need tl. \$65,000. 440-6923 or 835-2736.

FSBO: 217 Pine St. McLean Tx. Totally remodeled home on large corner lot. 3 br., 2 bath, c h&a, lrg. laundry room, cellar, 1640 sq.ft., \$95,500. 806-779-2606.

FSBO: 4 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, many updates. \$90,000 OBO. 1947 N. Nelson. Call 806-231-7659.

HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

HOME FOR SALE 2600 sq. ft., 12240 US Hwy. 60, Pampa. Call 806-886-7126.

LEASE with option to buy. 3/1/1. Totally updated and super nice!! 2127 Nelson. \$58,900. 665-5667.

NEWLY remodeled 1700 sq. ft. brick home. 1818 Evergreen. 3 / 1.75 / 2, new appl., new proof, new flooring thru-out. Fireplace. Huge back yard. Call 662-2029.

104 Lots PRICE Reduced on 1.47 Acre Tract adjoining country club. Call Quentin Williams, 669-2522.

113 Rk Parks RED DEER VILLA RV RANCH by day, wk. mo. 2100 Montagu W. Lrg. lots-must see. 669-1122.

HIDDEN Acres RV Park, by day, wk, mth, quiet & competitive rates. 1708 W. Kentucky, 665-6217.

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

120 Autos 2001 Chevy Venture Van, 91K, immaculate, leather, Video system, loaded, \$10,000. Call 806-883-2164.

DRIVE in Class. 1994 XL6 Jaguar for sale in Pampa. Champagne color, Fun: sun roof and lots of extras, 125K miles. \$6K or best offer. Call today 662-2383.

FOR sale 2004 Ford Explorer XLT, 4.0 liter, leather, 3rd row seat, rear air, keyless entry, remote start, receiver hitch, very nice, non smoker, 38,000 mi., pos. trade. 835-2271.

'95 Dodge Quad Cab, 1500 SLT Hemi, 20" wheels 16k miles, power everything!

'99 Cadillac STS, New Tires & Brakes, 99k miles, loaded! Call 663-0264

'99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop. OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

DOWNTOWN office space for rent, Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823.

103 Homes For Sale *In Wheeler: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with 2 car garage. Detached office or 4th bedroom. Well cared for. *3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, great room. Excellent condition. Richard Hefley, Coldwell Banker, 806-468-4892.

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

1309 Starkweather. 3 bdr., 1 3/4 ba., single gar. 1987 sq. ft. Fireplace. Swimming pool. Lrg. stor. bldg. Completely remodeled. Beautiful landscaping. Open House, Sun. 2-4pm. or call for appt. 665-4590, 440-1429.

2003 Yamaha XVS 1100 V-Star Silverado Package, 4,000 miles, \$5,700. Call 665-0310.

2000 Kawasaki Voyager. Good shape, metallic blue. \$5300. 898-5300.

103 Homes For Sale

2123 Beech. Beautiful brick home! 2 bedroom, 1-3/4 baths, central air & heat, garage. Great shop w/ carport, storm cellar in fenced yard. For appl. call 806-874-3290.

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FOR Sale by Owner In Panhandle, 3/2/2 plus basement, 2324 sq. ft. large lot, 8 yrs. old, custom built, Very Nice. Call 537-3820

FOR sale by owner. 333 N. Christy. Ph: 669-0759.

FSBO in Groom, handi-capped ready, 2 bd, 1 bath, 5'x9" rrier free shower, new roof, paint, big yard, workshop, carport, xtras, \$69,500 as is. 248-7453, 236-8808.

NEW JERSEY

Ex-Newark mayor indicted on corruption charges

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Former Newark Mayor Sharpe James was indicted Thursday on corruption charges involving land sales and allegations that he spent extravagantly on himself and several women using city-issued credit cards.

The federal grand jury's 33-count indictment charges James with fraud for allegedly facilitating and approving the cut-rate sales of city-owned land to a female companion.

It also charges James, 71, with using the city-issued credit cards on himself and eight women during trips to destinations including Rio de Janeiro, Puerto Rico and Martha's Vineyard, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie and state Attorney General Anne Milgram announced.

"The allegations in this indictment are stark examples of the greed and arrogance of unchecked power," Christie said. "When Sharpe James had a choice between enriching himself or helping the people of Newark, he chose self-enrichment."

James surrendered to the FBI shortly after the indictment was announced. He later appeared in court and answered "Yes, yes," when asked whether he understood the charges he was facing; the judge set bail at \$250,000.

The woman accused of buying the bargain-priced city land, Tamika Riley, also was charged with fraud and was to appear in court. Riley, a 38-year-old publicist and former clothing store operator in Newark, allegedly made more than \$500,000 from the land sales, authorities said.

Ethical questions

'The allegations in this indictment are stark examples of the greed and arrogance of unchecked power. When Sharpe James had a choice between enriching himself or helping the people of Newark, he chose self-enrichment.'

— Christopher J. Christie
U.S. attorney

James has said little publicly since federal investigators notified him that he was the target of a corruption probe last month. In a handwritten letter to The Associated Press, dated June 16, he said he never had the power to broker land deals or set prices by himself.

"No, no, no, the mayor is not a boss or a lord or can give away municipal land," he wrote. The indictment charges that James improperly steered properties to Riley, and that she, with James's help, quickly resold at least seven properties at much higher prices. Riley was able to buy the properties though she lacked real estate and construction experience and the financial ability to rehabilitate the properties, the indictments allege.

Riley also raised and donated campaign funds for James and traveled internationally with him, enjoying vacations and meals partly paid for by the city credit cards, the indictment alleges.

Economy: Stores post modest sales for month of June

NEW YORK (AP) — Consumers were eager to buy iPhones and flat-screen TVs in June, but their reluctance to purchase clothing and other non-essentials has retailers worried about the success of the back-to-school shopping season.

As merchants reported their generally modest sales gains Thursday, it was clear that consumers' uneasiness about higher food and gas prices and the weakening housing market was forcing many of them to think twice before spending. The disappointments included department stores like Macy's Inc. as well as apparel chains such as AnnTaylor Stores Corp. Discounters fared well, particularly Wal-Mart Stores Inc., whose renewed emphasis on low prices helped drive sales gains above analysts' expectations.

Sales were not as weak as some analysts feared, but the fact that June was nonetheless sluggish did not augur well for back-to-school shopping that begins this month. June, the second most important month of the year, is a time when retailers clear out summer goods to make room for fall merchandise.

Most obvious for most consumers is how much

The International Council of Shopping Centers-UBS sales tally of 50 stores rose 2.4 percent in June, compared to a 3.0 percent gain in the year-ago period. The tally is based on same-store sales, which reflect business at stores open at least a year and are considered a key indicator of a retailer's health.

they're paying for gasoline — prices at the pump that fell after peaking in late May are again rising, and the national average price for a gallon of unleaded regular is above \$3.

And although teens were spending again in June after a slower spring, analyst said it is still too early to tell how the season will fare. The improvement was reflected in reports from retailers including Pacific Sunwear of California Inc. and Abercrombie & Fitch. Despite the concerns about back-to-school, J.C. Penney Co. said it saw a good response to its early fall merchandise.

"The picture for the consumer hasn't changed much," said John Morris, managing director at Wachovia Securities. "The

consumer is facing a lot of headwinds."

Morris noted that the spending outlook is also becoming more uncertain because an increasing number of schools are starting classes later. Teens usually wait to do the bulk of their shopping until after school starts because they want to see what their friends are wearing.

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June's results extended the slowing trend retailers

have experienced since February.

For some stores, June results were depressed in part by a shift in the calendar that moved the Memorial Day weekend business into May. But retailers of what are known as discretionary merchandise such as apparel and home goods are also coming under increasing pressure as consumers are forced to pay more for food and gas. The still-weakening housing market is also making shoppers shy about spending.

Meanwhile, apparel merchants have problems of their own, including a continuing absence of must-have fashions and competition from the latest electronic gadgets.

Craig R. Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy in New Canaan, Conn., said hot gadgets like Apple Inc.'s iPhone are keeping sales of consumer electronics strong. "The fashion must-haves of the world are not apparel, but the iPhones of the world," said Johnson. "They are wearing technology as fashion."


The fact that the labor market is healthy is lending support to overall consumer spending levels. The Labor

Department said Thursday the number of laid-off workers filing unemployment claims dropped to 308,000 last week, the lowest level in almost two months and a decline of 12,000 from the previous week.

Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, had a 2.4 per-

cent gain in same-store sales, beating the 0.8 percent predicted by analysts polled by Thomson Financial. The company said its aggressive price reduction strategy helped boost results, and it promised more aggressive price cuts for the back-to-school season.

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Agent gets 44 months for seeking bribes

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — An Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent convicted of taking a \$20,000 bribe was sentenced Thursday to more than three years in federal prison.

Santiago Efrain Valle, 44, was convicted in April of one count each of bribery and extortion under the color of law. He has denied offering to have an immigration charge dropped and the risk classification changed for a

Mexican national jailed at the ICE detention center in El Paso in exchange for the bribe.

U.S. District Judge David Briones sentenced him to 44 months on the bribery charge and 36 months on the extortion count. The sentences will be served concurrently, and Valle will also serve three years of supervised release afterward. He could have been sentenced to up to 18 years.

Valle was arrested in 2006 after accepting the bribe from undercover federal agents. The agents learned about the bribe offer from a lawyer for the illegal immigrant who was arrested in Alamogordo, N.M., Francisco Javier Gutierrez.

Christopher Antcliff, Valle's lawyer, on Thursday asked Briones to sentence Valle to the least amount of prison time possible.

Sublett

Continued from Page 4

Little did I know, but God was working in Rich's heart concerning his sacrifice for the work in Naperville. He stood up on Sunday morning, shared the story about Alan Bryan, and then said, "So I have been asking myself, what is my shotgun? What is so dear to me and of significant worth that it gives me the right to speak hard, challenging words to you?"

He then went on to say that everyone who knew him well already knew the identity of his "shotgun." It was his Bible collection — very, very, very old Bibles. And so, one at a time, he described each Bible with affection and

placed it on the pulpit. Here is a list of the Bibles: 1846 Welsh Bible, 1841 Hexapla Bible, 1716 Biblica Hebraica, 1653 KJV (Ruled in red), 1615 Geneva Bible and a 1577 Geneva Bible.

He told everyone that they were probably only worth about \$8,000 and that that wasn't much of the \$13,000,000 that was needed, but that giving his Bibles gave him the right to challenge his Naperville church family. As he spoke, you could see families all over the sanctuary changing their pledge cards. They got the message.

Giving is much more than tithing. That is simply the basic beginning point. And that isn't just true in Naperville, but in Pampa, too. So are you a sacrificial giver when the need is there? Jesus was and He

expects us to be, too. Rich only made one mistake that Sunday morning. As he left the platform, he said, "Now we aren't asking you to sell any property or anything that big, just to sacrifice."

I reminded him afterwards that if someone has been blessed by the Lord with much, then they just might have to sell property or an extra house or a business, or an extra car or empty a savings account in order to give sacrificially. When was the last time you gave sacrificially for a work of God?

Remember, after all, it all belongs to God and He has the right to ask for any of it back any time. He wants to transfer funds for His glory. Our duty is to faithfully write the check or sign the title or the deed with joy in our hearts. God bless.

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