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Celanese announces sale of Pampa plant

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Celanese has announced the sale of its Pampa facility to international Babcock and Brown for development of a new energy center.

As part of Celanese's plan to pursue strategic alternatives for the Pampa site, both companies will coexist on the site for a period of time

as Celanese's chemical production and other operations will continue until at least early 2009.

Babcock and Brown is a global investment and advisory firm investment firm which has significant power generation and electric transmission and distribution holdings. They intend to develop the Pampa facility for commercial power generation.

"We're pleased to reach an eco-

Pampa site that maximizes future employment possibilities," Celanese Chairman and CEO Dave Weidman said in a press release. "The Pampa site has served Celanese customers well over the past several decades and will continue to be a resource over the next few years. We will work to ensure a smooth transition for our employees, customers and

nomically viable solution for our suppliers. We believe the assets at this facility can play a key role in future energy supply for the state of Texas."

In 2006, Celanese joined with Babcock and Brown and several other companies to support the proposed "Panhandle Loop" project, which would connect wind and con-

See CELANESE, Page 3

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Beating the heat -

News photo by DAVID BOWSEF

City adopts 69-cent tax rate

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

The Pampa City Commission will not meet in their regular session on Aug. 28. Instead, they will meet in commission chambers at 4 p.m., Aug. 30.

The change in scheduling, according to Pampa Mayor Lonny Robbins, is so the commission can meet the public hearing schedule required before adopting the city's budget for fiscal year 2007-2008.

Pampa City Manager John Horst told the commission that the city received their information late on the effective tax rate.

At their meeting Tuesday, the commission passed a resolution indicating their intention adopt a tax rate of 69 cents, down from 69.5 cents, per \$100 valuation.

"People who have not seen their valuations go up will see a reduction in their taxes," Horst said.

second public hearing on the city's budget. Both hearings will be in the commission chambers of City Hall.

The commission also passed a resolution supporting an extension of Texas Highway Loop 171 from Texas Highway 70 on the north side of Pampa to Price Road.

Horst said that both Pampa Independent School District and Gray County are also supporting such a move because of the expected growth in that area.

There are plans to annex the area between Texas Highway 70 and Price Road into the city, and Pampa's new junior high school is expected to be built there, Horst said.

The Texas Department of Transportation will decide the route of the loop, Robbins said. Tuesday's resolution is simply to show support for an extension of the loop to tie Texas Highway 70 and Price Road together.

"It may be several years before funds are approved," Horst said.



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As the thermometer pushed toward the century mark this week, Abigail Ramirez, 4, left, and AnaLysa Rios, 3, cool off in a pool on Coffee Street.

In Pampa's growing economy, however, the value of most property has increased.

The city commission also set 5:30 p.m., Aug. 22, for the date of the first public hearing and 6 p.m. Aug. 27, for the date of the

The commission also passed a housekeeping resolution amending a resolution previ-See CITY. Page 3

Fish Camp for incoming freshmen set Thursday

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Pampa High School will host its 2nd annual Fish Camp for incoming freshman from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at the high school. This is a day of fun, food, information about high school life and meeting new

people. Students should go through the front door on Harvester.

According to Counselor Linda Haenisch, all students will meet as a group for an assembly first thing in the morning. The band and cheerleaders will be on hand and general announcements regarding the school will be given.

"Then the students will break into smaller groups and tour the school with a teacher," Haenisch said. "They can talk about school life and what to expect their first year at high

school. This is a great opportunity for the students to meet others in their grade before the year actually starts.'

Haenisch said they will have

See FISH, Page 3





Golden Horseshoe Clue #4 can be found at a lumber

yard on Thursday.

School board to meet

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Pampa Independent School District board members will meet to consider and possibly approve the band and choir trips for 2007-2008, participating with other Gray County entities in funding an election administrator, a revision to the 2007-2008 school calendar, a resolution of support for the completion of the loop connecting Highway 70 and Price Road and the 2007 tax rate at a regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert.

The board will also consider a revision to local policy DEA, which deals with salaries and wages and possibly approving an employee access center for Pentamation, the current financial software vendor, to move toward paperless payroll for PISD.

Also on the agenda is to discuss joining the 2013 Purchasing Cooperative, which was formed when the education service centers for Regions 20 and 13 joined together to provide substantial savings by purchasing

See SCHOOL, Page 3

County tax rate remains same

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Gray County commissioners voted in their 9 a.m. meeting this morning to set the preliminary county property tax rate at the same amount as the current rate of .445623 per \$100 valuation.

Public hearings on the proposed rate will be held before a final vote to set the amount is taken.

Commissioners were scheduled to begin fiscal year 2008 budget discussions at 1:30 p.m. today, with another budget meeting at 9 a.m. Thursday. Today's and Thursday's meetings were all to be held in the secondfloor courtroom of the county courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

A two-year contract with Indigent Health Services was renewed. The cost of the contract is \$1,055 per month, but saves the county money when providing health care to indigent residents and jail inmates.

Since the contract for the service was first entered into in 2003, the county has been billed \$278,498 for health care of county jail inmates, but had to pay only \$184,809 of that total. During the same period, the county was billed \$1,367,447 for indigent health care but paid \$501,925.

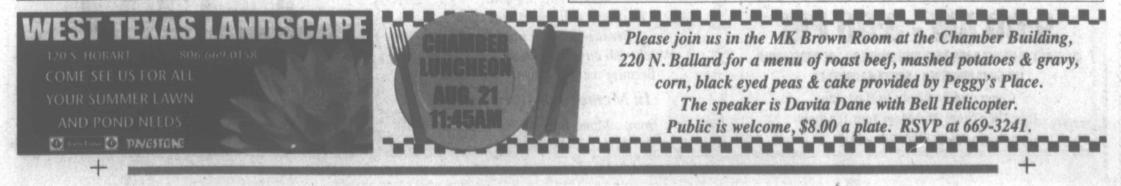
No action was taken on the possibility of seeking bids to repair pot holes and seal coat County Road 12 1/2. Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby said he had already spent \$7,000 on the road to repair and maintain it during the current fiscal year. Proposed further repairs would cost \$40,000 to \$48,000, he said, and none of the three companies he had contacted to do the work could do it this year.

No action was taken on placing a county bridge in the state's Off-System Bridge Participation-Waived Project. The item was listed on the agenda in order to provide information to other commissioners, said Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright. A bridge in his precinct which crosses a tributary to McClellan Creek was badly burned during the 2006 wildfires, Wright said. The bridge is part of Varnon Road and leads in to the headquarters of McClellan Creek Ranch.

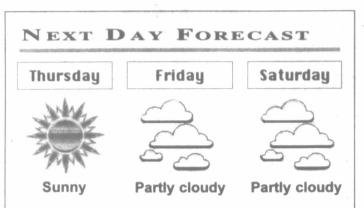
"We tried but failed to get any reimbursement for it after the wildfires," he said. "We put it in the list of original losses the county suffered."

"When the state inspected the bridge this

See COUNTY, Page 3



2 — Wednesday, August 15, 2007 — The Pampa News



Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. Southsouthwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east southeast.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 87. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.



The following grain quota	tions are pro-	Anadarko 48.13	-0.34
vided by Attebury Grain of	White Deer.	XOM 83.18	+0.05
Wheat.	6.04	Nat'l Oilwell 115.47	-0.15
Milo		Limited 23.00	-0.24
Com		Williams 31.97	-0.13
Soybeans.		MCD 48.29	+0.29
		Atmos	+0.30
The following 9:30 a.r	n. N.Y.	Pioneer Nat 42.17	+0.1
Stock Market quotations		JCP 63.58	+1.46
ished by Edward Jones	& Co. of	COP 79.02	+0.16
Pampa		SLB 88.48	-0.69
OXY	+0.22	Tenneco	+0.09
BP PLC ADR63.95	-0.67	CVX 82.37	+0.50
Cabot Corp 38.40	+0.49	Wal-Mart 43.43	-0.17
Celanese	+0.09	OKE	+0.73
Cabot Oil Gas 34.12	+0.83		
Coca Cola	+0.12	New York Gold67	79.70
LO	+0.37	Silver	12.75
HAL	+0.12	West Texas Crude	72.38

Infamous mansion to open as banquet hall

FORT WORTH (AP) — But the new Stonegate A former oil tycoon's man- Mansion won't use the crime

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

LOTER, Ronald Earl "Ronnie" - 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.

Ronald Earl 'Ronnie' Loter, 68

Ronald Earl "Ronnie" Loter, 68, of Pampa, Texas, died Aug. 13, 2007, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, August ing 16, 2007, at First Baptist Church, with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mr. Loter was born July 4,

1939, in Childress. He graduated from Plainview High School in 1957. He married Wetia Kent on Jan. 21, 1966,

in Lockney. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1969, movfrom Plainview. He retired from Cabot Corp. in May of 2003 as a production supervisor. He was a

member of the Loter First **Baptist** Church.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany.

with his friends. Survivors include his wife, Wetia Loter, of the home; one son, Kelly Loter and wife Amy of Dallas; one daughter, Stacy Loter of Frisco; one brother, Lonnie Loter and wife Ann of Pampa; two sisters,

Eloise Dowlen and Merilyn Howell and husband Jim, all of Amarillo; three grandchildren, Riley Loter, Sophia Ronnie loved playing golf Loter and Ava Loter, all of

Dallas; and 11 nieces and nephews.

MEMORIALS: American Cancer Society Web site, in memory of Mr. Loter at www.acsevents.org/mosaico fmemories <http://www.acsevents.org/ mosaicofmemories>.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007.

-Sign the on-line regisbook at ter www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Five traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were reported in

the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 600 block of Bradley.

Accidents were reported in the 100 block of West 30th, the intersection of Hobart and Somerville and in the 300 block of Pennsylvania where one arrest was made.

Animal control officers made calls concerning animals in the 1000 block of Prairie, the 1300 block of Mary Ellen, the 600 block of Lowry, the 2500 block of Christine, One Medical Plaza, the 300 block of Miami, twice from the 600 block of North Faulkner, once from the 1700 block of Chestnut, the 500 block of West and the 1100 block of Willow.

Welfare checks were made in the 1900 block of Mary Ellen and the 600 block of Naida.

Agency assistance was provided in Panhandle and the 1000 block of Sirocco.

Warrant service was attempted at four locations resulting in at least one arrest.

A silent/abusive emergency call was reported from the 1800 block of Charles.

A narcotics violation was reported in the police department lobby.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 800 block of Beryl.

A gas drive off was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart, when \$33 worth of gas was stolen.

Theft was reported at Best Western, 2831 N. Perryton Parkway, where two blankets valued at \$100 were taken; and at United, 1420 N. Hobart, where a carton of cigarettes and a newspaper valued at \$37 were stolen.

One alarm was reported.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests. Monday, Aug. 13

Marland Miller, 44, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO to serve a 60-day sentence.

Delbert Dwayne Music, 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 100 block of North Hobart by Pampa Police Department for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

Tuesday, Aug. 14

Judy Janean Hawkins, 21, of transport.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Aug. 13 11:17 a.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the 1600 block of North Hobart on a gas leak.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

Monday, Aug. 13 7:38 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Chestnut and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

4:27 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Carter and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:03 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:39 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 2200 block of North Dwight.

Tuesday, Aug. 14

12 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Doucette. No

10:52 a.m. - A mobile ICU

sion where a double murder took place three decades ago will open next week as a banquet facility.

Briefs

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

CORRECTION: PAMPA High School is having their Fish Camp. Thursday, Aug. 16th, 9am-3pm meet in the auditorium. Lunch will be provided, no parents, Freshman's come & be ready to have some fun!!!

Lawnmower. 17.5 hp., 7 spd., meetings and 42 in. twin blade, rear bag. \$1000 obo. 1701 Mary Ellen, 665-8910.

PHS FRESH

Fish Camp

story to lure clients.

"That's not where we're headed with this," said Terri Zelazko, a spokeswoman.

Cullen Davis was acquitted in the 1976 murder of his stepdaughter. His estranged wife's boyfriend also was killed, and she and a family friend were wounded in the shooting spree. At the time, Davis was worth an estimated \$400 million and was the richest man to stand trial for murder.

Davis built the house in 1971 for \$6 million and left it in 1983. Davis, who had a well-publicized religious conversion in the early 1980s and has maintained his innocence, still lives in North Texas.

The two-story, 19,000square-foot property, which has been a restaurant and a church in recent years, has been extensively remodeled. It can accommodate groups of up to 350 people for YARD MACHINE Riding events such as corporate wedding receptions, Zelazko said.

A civil matter was reported in the 2200 block of Lea.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 200 block of Naida and the 300 block of Rider.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of North Hobart, the intersection of Faulkner and 19th, the 100 block of West Foster, the intersection of Frederic and Graham, the 400 block of Short, the 400 block of Somerville, the 300 block of Perry and in the vicinity of Lea and 18th.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 900 block of East Francis where a front door window valued at \$20 was broken.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 700 block of North Zimmers and the 200 block of Naida.

Pampa was arrested by GCSO for theft by check, more than \$20 and less than \$500.

Keith Allen Finch, 23, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance and a probation violation on a Potter County charge of criminal mischief, more than \$500 and less than \$1,500.

Guadalupe Aboytez, 22, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department in the 300 block of Pennsylvania for backing without safety, no insurance, failure to stop and exchange information, and no driver's license.

Brandy Simon, 22, of Amarillo was arrested by PPD at the Gray-Carson county line on capias pro fines for theft under \$50 and failure to appear.

Sidney David Bowers, 43, of Pampa was arrested by PPD in the 500 block of Roberta for DWI, third or more offense.

responded to the 1300 block of Duncan and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:36 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Hobart and Somerville streets and transported a patient to PRMC

4:23 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded -mile north of the city on Highway 70 and transported a patient to PRMC. 8:19 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:26 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Anne and transported a patient to PRMC.

Wednesday, Aug. 15

12:18 a.m.' - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Dwight and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:41 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Huff and transported a patient to PRMC.

Existing home sales plunge in 41 states

WASHINGTON (AP) -Sales of existing homes fell in 41 states during the April-June quarter while home prices were down in onethird of the metropolitan areas surveyed, a real estate trade group reported today.

The new figures from the National Association of Realtors underscored the severity of the current housing slump, the worst downturn in 16 years.

However, Realtors offi-

D

Cole

cials said they saw some glimmers of hope in the data. They noted that existing home prices were up in 97 of the 149 metropolitan areas surveyed compared with the sales prices of a year ago.

That represented price gains for 65 percent of the areas surveyed, an improvement from the first quarter of this year when only about 55 percent of the metropolitan areas reported price gains from the same period a year

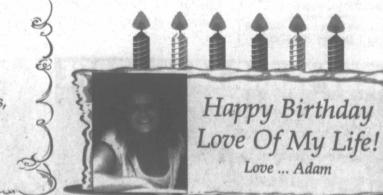
ago. In the fourth quarter of last year, less than half of the metropolitan areas reported price gains.

"Although home prices are relatively flat, more metro areas are showing price gains with general improvement since bottoming-out in the fourth quarter of 2006," said Lawrence Yun, senior economist for the Realtors.

The states suffering the biggest drop in sales in the second quarter, compared to the same period a year ago, were Florida, down 41.3 percent, and Nevada, down 37.5 percent. Other states with big declines were Arizona, down 23.4 percent; Tennessee, down 21.5 percent; Maryland, down 21.1 percent, and California, down 19.8 percent.

Bucking the downward trend, six states actually showed sales increases during the second quarter while one state had unchanged sales and there was incomplete data for two states, the Realtors reported.

S Dat You've been gone for 3 years now, Yet we still see you. It may be in pictures or thought, Yet we still see you. The tears still sometimes come, Because we still miss you. We cherish our thoughts and memories, Because we will always miss you. In Memory of Jerry Lynn from... Mom, Larry, Rick & Lantz



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THURSDAY, AUG

Come And Be Ready To Have Fun **Tour The School And Meet Your Teachers** Learn About High School Life

The Pampa News — Wednesday, August 15, 2007 — 3



Homeowners headed to hardware stores in the Rio Grande Valley for supplies to board up their houses, said Ruben Dimas, assistant store Celanese manager at a Home Depot in Harlingen. "They know the drill, they're familiar with it," Dimas said. The fifth depression of the Atlantic hurricane season formed late Tuesday and was (Electric upgraded to a tropical storm today when its maximum sustained speed was measured at 40 mph.

victims of some crimes. Deteste and BOINE'

electric generation as well

David Parquet of Babcock

and Brown said. "With

transmission access avail-

able to reach Texas' vast

ERCOT market, we intend

to develop the site to its full

potential, including 800

megawatts of coal-based

electric generation to com-

plement our planned 1,000

megawatts of wind genera-

tion in the central

Celanese began opera-

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2007 PROPERTY TAX RATES IN CITY OF PAMPA

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games and prizes for the students in the afternoon after a picnic lunch is provided. This meeting is for the students only and parents are asked not to attend.

An informational meeting for the parents of new freshman will be at 6:30 p.m. that same day, Thursday, in the high school cafeteria. This is a chance for parents to learn the rules of the school and ask any questions they might have regarding their child's freshman year at PHS.

For more information about the Fish Camp for freshman Thursday morning or the meeting for parents Thursday evening, contact the counselor's office at the high school at 669-4800.

Continued from Page 1

ventional electricity generation in the Texas Panhandle with the ERCOT Reliability Council of Texas) power grid. On July 20, 2007, the Texas Public Utility Commission voted to bring ERCOT access to the Panhandle region.

"We are excited about tions at the Pampa site in the opportunity to convert 1952. Today, it produces the world-class infrastrucprimarily acetic acid and ture at the Celanese facility acetic anhydride with into a new Pampa Energy approximately 250 employ-Center, potentially includees. Financial details of the ing integrated gasification transaction were not discombined cycle (IGCC) closed.

WHEN IT COMES **TO YOUR TO-DO LIST,** PUT YOUR FUTURE FIRST

Decisions made in the past may no longer be what's best for the future. So, to keep everything up to date, we offer a financial review. A complimentary service to all our clients, the financial review is a great opportunity to sit face to face with your financial advisor and develop strategies to help keep your finances in line with your short- and long-term goals.

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adim	806-665-3359

Duane Harp, AAMS 1921 N. Hobart 806-665-6753

This notice concerns 2007 property tax rates for City Of Pampa. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments are required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:		
Last year's operating taxes	,	\$2,230,145
Last year's debt taxes		\$849,609
Last year's total taxes		\$3,079,754
Last year's tax base		\$443,130,072
Last year's total tax rate		0.695000/\$100
This year's effective tax rate:		
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)		\$2,985,236
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)		\$477,743,160
= This year's effective tax rate		0.624862/\$100
(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)		
This year's rollback tax rate:		
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and		\$3,365,157
adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing,		
and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)		
+ This year's adjusted tax base		\$477,743,160
= This year's effective operating rate		0.704386/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate		0.760736/\$100
+,This year's debt rate		0.183455/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate		0.944191/\$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate		0.249280/\$100
= Rollback tax rate		0.694911/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If City of Pampa adopts a 2007 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.624862 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2006 taxes by \$63,046.

Schedule B: 2007 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from <u>Property Taxes</u>	Interest to be Paid from Property <u>Taxes</u>	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total <u>Payment</u>
1999 Certificate of Obligation	\$105,000	\$ 19,146	\$0	\$124,146
2001 Certificate of Obligation REF	\$280,000	\$ 61,000	\$0	\$341,000
2001 Certificate of Obligation	\$127,550	\$ 8,120	\$0	\$135,670
2005 Certificate of Obligation	\$ 14,448	\$ 19,442	\$0	\$ 33,870
2005 Certificate of Obligation REF	\$207,000	\$ 44,000	\$0	\$251,000
Total Required for 2007 Debt Service				\$885,686
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in	Schedule A			\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resource	5			\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2007				\$885,686
+ Amount added in anticipation that the un	it will collect only 100.00%	of its taxes in 2007		\$0
= Total Debt Levy				\$885,686

Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax

In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$1,203,470 in additional sales and use tax revenues

This notice contains summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 205 North Russell, Pampa, Texas 79065.

> Name of person preparing this notice: Gaye Whitehead RTA Title: Gray County Tax Assessor - Collector Date Prepared: August 7, 2007

> > ARMAN AND A STATE August 15, 2007

H-14

Continued from Pag specific

School

commodity items. Campus handbooks will

be reviewed by the board and reports will be heard on drug and alcohol survey results, staffing efficiency and co-op and interlocal purchases.

4 — Wednesday, August 15, 2007 — The Pampa News

Viewpoints

Making sense: Keeping the lid on

I got thinking about something my dad Ronald Reagan wrote about in his book "An keeping secrets from Congress.

He recalled certain things he refused to reveal to members of Congress and explained why he would not take them into his confidence.

For example, he recalled that he would not share with Congress the fact that he was about to go into Grenada to prevent a Communist takeover of that island and to rescue endangered American students there.

He would not share with Congress the fact that he was about to order a fly-by over Khadafy's Libya, and take out one or two of his homes in the process.

Congress that he was order- administration was devising ing Ed Meese to shoot down a plan to stave off the very American Life" about the Libyan planes if they locked serious possibility of a importance of sometimes on to our fighter planes with Turkish invasion and militheir missiles. He said if our tary action in northern Iraq. pilots believed they were locked-on they should not U.S. Special Forces would hesitate to shoot them down. work with

And they did. In his book, he explained that he didn't reveal these things because he feared that members of Congress would leak information to the media to try to stop him from carrying out those plans to protect our national security which they opposed.

He knew that such leaks could cause people to lose their lives and be very detrimental to the United States. So he kept his mouth shut. What got me thinking about this was a recent article in The Washington Times

He wouldn't share with that revealed that the Bush The story claimed that

> the Turkish military to locate and capture leaders of a Kurdish rebel group, t h e

Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Covert action, classified planning, and the utmost secrecy were required if the plan was to succeed in preventing an explosive situation to develop in northern Iraq, which up to now has been the most peaceful area

of that troubled country. An undermined and the chance invasion by Turkey would upset that apple cart.

It was vital that the plan be kept confidential, and members of Congress were told that fact during Congressional briefings, but

unconcerned Capitol Hill blabbermouths chucked security into the trash can when one or

more members of Congress present at briefings - conducted in secrecy by Undersecretary of Defense Eric Edelman - leaked the information to columnist Robert Novak, who published it in his column.

The result: The interests of the United State were

of success of a program vital to the United States was scuttled.

Here we go again with members of Congress. They leaked information either because they disagree with a policy or are just excited over being able to show how important they are in having access to classified information they can leak to the media.

It doesn't bother them that the leaks prevented something vital to our national security from happening. In this case, the plan no longer has any chance of success because, thanks to the leakers, everyone knows about it.

These members of Congress who can't or won't keep a secret need to be held accountable, but

they won't because the one piece of information they won't leak is who they are. These leakers could kill

us all someday. It's a good thing there were no politicians or reporters around when George Washington crossed the Delaware. If they had been, the Hessians would have been waiting for them on the other side.

My dad had the right idea: Don't ask, don't tell. Just go ahead and do the right thing and keep quiet about it until it's done.

-Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 15, the 227th day of 2007. There are 138 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 15, 1945, Emperor Hirohito announced to his subjects in a pre-recorded radio address that Japan had accepted terms of surrender for ending World War II. On this date:

In 1057, Macbeth, King of Scots, was killed in battle by Malcolm, the eldest son of King Duncan, whom Macbeth had slain.

In 1769, Napoleon Bonaparte was born on the island of

Corsica.

Life has taught me to think, but thinking has not taught me how to live."

In 1914, the Panama Canal opened to traffic. In 1935, humorist Will Rogers and aviator Wiley Post were killed when their airplane crashed near Point Barrow, Alaska.



Michael Reagan Columnist

— Alexander Herzen Russian author (1812-1870)

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces landed in southern France in Operation Dragoon. In 1947, India became

independent after some 200 years of British rule. In 1948, the Republic caglecartoons.com

Be glad you're not currently living in Iraq

of Korea was proclaimed.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair opened in upstate New York.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon announced a 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents.

In 1998, 29 people were killed by a car bomb in Omagh, Northern Ireland; a splinter group calling itself the Real IRA claimed responsibility.

Ten years ago: The government expanded its recall of ground beef sold under the Hudson brand name to 1.2 million pounds because of new evidence of possible contamination by E. coli bacteria. The Justice Department decided against prosecuting senior FBI officials in connection with an alleged cover-up that followed the deadly 1992 Ruby Ridge siege in Idaho.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, using Mount Rushmore as a dramatic backdrop, pressed Congress to give him a flexible, fast-moving homeland security department. Some 600 family members of 9-11 victims filed a trilliondollar federal lawsuit against Saudi officials, banks and charities, charging they had financed Osama bin Laden's network and the attacks on New York and Washington.



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Michael O'Hanlon and Ken Pollack, spent a week in Iraq and came back. One said he thought it was less violent. They both said in an op-ed piece that the war was winnable.

It's characters like these who make a man like Juan Cole so valuable. Cole is a scholar who, unlike the poli- to be a cy wonks, spent years in the political Middle East and is fluent in Arabic. You can benefit from his experience and knowledge by visiting his blog, Informed Comment.

Cole, for example, points out that July was, in fact, the month deadliest for Americans since the war Seventy-four began. Americans were killed during July, and Iraqi deaths rose 23 percent over June, to 2,024. So if the American death rate is up and the Iraqi death rate is up, on what

A couple of policy wonks, basis did the wonks see less violence during their July excursion to the land of Babylon?

As for the war being winnable, every one of our military big shots has said it can't be

won militarily. They Charley all say it has Reese Columnist solution. Well, the Iraqi gov-

ernment has failed to meet every one of the political benchmarks set by President Bush. No reconciliation, no oil law, no law on distributing oil revenues, no reversal of the anti-Baath policies. In fact, the largest Sunni bloc in the prime minister's Cabinet recently walked out, which makes 'reconciliation even more remote.

Add to that the following:

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Aug. 6

Austin American-Statesman on the information bill in Congress:

One of the vital roles the news media perform is to be a conduit for information about corruption and government malfeasance. For more than two centuries, Americans have depended on the news media for news that public officials don't want them to have.

President Nixon's administration tried mightily to convince the country that a break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate building was a third-rate burglary. But diligent newspaper reporters using an undisclosed source exposed the corruption behind that burglary.

More recently, confidential sources helped bring attention to the indecencies at the Abu Ghraib military prison in Iraq and the horrors at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

A functioning democracy depends on reliable information, and that often comes from people with a lot to lose if their identities are revealed.

Government officials, prosecutors and litigators have targeted reporters and media executives in recent years. In some cases, going through the reporter is the laziest way to get information. In others, news operations are threatened with prison to silence them and to send a message to other journal-

Reconstruction is obscenely behind schedule, corruption is nearly universal, and 4 million Iraqis have been displaced from their homes. it. Two million of those are refugees. I would like to

> know what evidence there is that the war has suddenly become winnable. I'm sure Secretary of

State Condi Rice and Defense Secretary Bob Gates got an earful at their recent meeting with Arab leaders. What they didn't get, despite offering a bribe of billions of dollars in weapons, was any pledge to do anything in Iraq. The Saudis said they might consider opening an embassy. What Gates and Rice probably heard was: We told you not to invade Iraq, you disregarded our advice and made a mess, so it's yours to clean up. Don't try to drag us into

Iraq is no longer a nationstate. We have shown the world that we know how to destroy a state, but when it comes to establishing one, we are incompetent dunces. It is to our everlasting shame that despite billions of dollars spent, Iraqis must still walk in open sewage and swelter in heat because electricity is only available a few hours a day. It's a clear case of greed and corruption trumping - or, God forbid, replacing - American knowhow. We should not forget that prior to our wars and sanctions, Iraq had one of the higher living standards in the Middle East.

I don't know what we can

See REESE, Page 5

ists trying to expose corruption.

That's why a bill passed by the U.S. House Judiciary Committee last week is so important. The Free Flow of Information Act would protect journalists from being forced to reveal confidential sources in most instances that don't involve a crime, national defense or protected personal and financial information.

Last week's vote was a true victory for the American people and a defeat for government corruption. The bill still faces formidable opposition from the U.S. Department of Justice, President Bush and members of Congress, including U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, the San Antonio Republican

See INFO, Page 5

The Pampa News — Wednesday, August 15, 2007 — 5

Info

Continued from Page 4

who represents part of Austin. But the act has strong bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House, where 44 Democrats and 25 Republicans signed as co-sponsors.

Smith, the ranking Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, opposes the bill because he believes it would allow reporters to keep secret the

names of sources in crimes opposing the bill aren't that have already been combased in reality, and his mitted. If the Capitol is seeking a perfect bill spoils a attacked or a child prostitugood one.

> The Justice Department's objections have been addressed through numerous rewrites of the language in the bill, but the department still opposes it. Even Smith complains that the Justice Department has been unwilling to specify its concerns to his committee. Smith has asked the department to respond by Sept. 4, when Congress reconvenes.

News operations don't use

cible.

anonymous sources willynilly. But there are instances where anonymity is absolutely necessary to prowhistle-blowers. tect Insiders have a lot to lose their jobs, careers and future livelihood if they step forward.

It was a strong statement for the House Judiciary Committee to move the bill to the full house (a similar measure is pending in the Senate). As sponsor Mike Pence, an Indiana Republican, said, it was a victory for a free and inde-

dom of the press. pendent press and an important step in repairing a tear in URL: http://www.statesthe First Amendment's freeman.com



Keese

Continued from Page 4

do in the face of morally corrupt and incompetent officials – both theirs and ours. I suppose we shall have to sit back and watch the destruction proceed from one blunder to the next. Be glad you're not an Iraqi. Be glad if you are not in the American military.

In the meantime, try to remember that it is August, and August is a lovely time

your children and your grandchildren, and when you hug them, thank God that they are not suffering like Iraqi and Palestinian children, not to mention millions of others.

tion ring is investigated,

Smith said, the bill could

allow journalists to keep

confidential the names of

sources who may have infor-

That's an outlandish

example, of course. Any

journalists with information

about crimes of that magni-

tude wouldn't hide the name

of suspects, nor is it likely

any judge would allow them

to. Smith's reasons for

in the United States. Cherish

mation about it.

I've always believed that the best incentive to re-energizing American political energy would be a true grasp of just how unbelievably fortunate we are. We need to appreciate that. We need also to understand that it is not at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, permanent, that we could lose it all. We are not invin-

Since, in our republican form of government, all official actions are done by elected officials, we have to be far more careful about the people we give our vote to. It really is true, as Forrest Gump's mama told him, that stupid is as stupid does. So let us - myself included stop stupidly voting for stupid or irresponsible public officials.

Write to Charley Reese FL 32802

Events calendar

 The Third Thursday at Amarillo Museum of Art is scheduled from 6-9 p.m. Thursday at the museum. The event will include music with Mike Fuller, the film "Matisse and Picasso," an adult and children's art activity and more. For questions about this monthly event, call the museum at (806) 371-5050

 A Christ-centered cancer support group will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the parlor room of First United Methodist Church on the corner of Ballard and Foster streets. The group will be hosted by Kevin Taylor and Gloria Willson. For more information, call 669-3544.

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

 The 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc., upcoming schedule of activities include the following events: National Airborne Day, Thursday; and 45th All Ohio Days, Oct. 19-20, Clearwater, Ohio. For more information and membership details, call (937) 898-5977. · Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary Post 1475 in Amarillo will stage a craft show from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday at the post home, 1401 W. 8th. An all-you-can-eat breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served from 12-4 p.m. Cost of either meal is \$5. To find out more or to rent a 8x10 booth space, call (806) 679-7520. · The 61st annual Top O' Texas Rodeo and Kid Pony Show is sched-

uled at the Top O' Texas Rodeo grounds in Pampa Aug. 23-25 and Aug. 19-21, respectively. In case of inclement weather, Aug. 22 will serve as a make-up day for any performances of the Kid Pony Show that did not go as scheduled. A rodeo parade is planned at 10 a.m. Aug. 25.

The Golden Spread Bridal Show will be staged between 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday at the Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. Admission will be \$6 per person. A grand prize drawing will be held for a \$500 gift certificate. The event will include a variety of vendors including photographers, videographers, caterers, houseware companies, wedding consultants and more. All proceeds will benefit The Bridge, a children's advocacy organization.

· River Valley Pioneer Museum in Canadian will host a workshop with artist Mike Mahon of Amarillo from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 23-25. All painting and drawing mediums will be welcome; however, demonstrations will be in pastel and oil. The workshop fee is \$250 plus model's tee. A \$50 deposit is due Aug. 9. A live demo, orientation and reception is planned from 6:30-9 p.m. Aug. 22. Mahon's work will be on display at the museum now through Aug. 22. For more information, call (806) 323-6548. The Don Harrington Discovery Center in Amarillo will host "Moneyville" now through Aug. 26. Moneyville is a 4foot cube of 1 million \$1 bills (only 210 real) that uses laser technology to discern the difference between real and funny money. To learn more, call the center at (806) 335-9548.

PRECIA It Was A Great Party

Thanks to the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association and the Pampa Shrine Club for all your hard work and time in organizing the benefit and for the opportunity to visit with friends. To all the guests, we're so thankful you were a part of the evening. Your support, thoughts and prayers have meant so much more than words can express.

Thanks Also To

Fred Betchan Bill Tidwell C&H Supply Hamburger Ed & Christy **Chief Plastic** Mike Short Gebo's Wayne's Western Wear Joe Winton - Derrick Club Holmes' Gift Shop Rheams' Diamond Shop **Bill Gething** Hall's Auto Sound Anthony Villarreal Jordan Unit Craft Shop **Engine** Parts Doug & Cindy Kemph Phelps' Plumbing Jim Bob Feller Utility Oil **JNT Treasures** Wal-Mart NBC Bank M.B. Hunter Abraham Equine RBR Oil & Gas **Romines** Lease Kevin & Janet Romines Mark & Shirlene Topper Don Campbell Fran Morrison Easy's Pop Shop Jerry & Connie Foote **Cottonwood Springs** Subway-Milton & Julie Cooke Cattle Exchange Swasey & Stacie Brainard

Coyt & Wilma Johnston Smithfield Genetics Clint & Sons John & Susan Tripplehorn Paul Sublett Bill Sanders - Sanders Lake Shane Dyer **Polly Batenhorst** Dr. Ron Easley Gary & Denise Parks Ed Robinson Wagon Mound Ranch Supply Bob Bachen Hall's Auto Sound Royce & Freda Henderson **Ron** Eccles Donna Baggett Davis Glen Baggett **Bill Addison** Topper Welding J.L. & Vivian Romines Freddie Romines LeJan, Inc. Greg, Gina & Gage Greenhouse W.L. Arrington Craig & Kim Jones Brent & Pat Murphy Larry Baker Plumbing Larry & Deanna Baker

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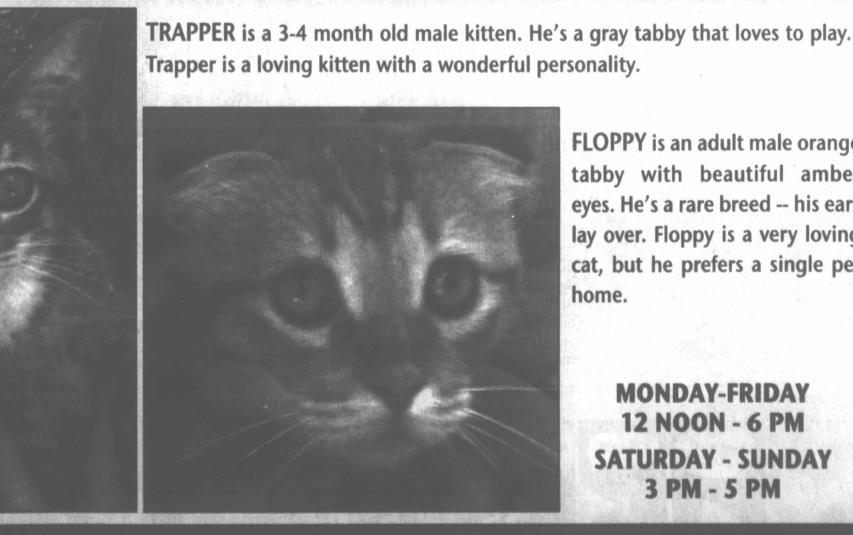
Kyle & Kayla Parnell Cheryl Underwood Mike & Brenda Guess Great Plains Traditional Bow Co. Bartlett Lumber Company Rasco Construction C.J. & Betty Johnston

Again, our most heartfelt thanks to all who participated in any way if only by sending a good thought.

Joe and Nell Bailey

Pets of the Week.. sponsored by The Pampa News

Pictures Of All The Animals Can Be Viewed In The Window Of The Shelter Office 24 Hours A Day



FLOPPY is an adult male orange tabby with beautiful amber eyes. He's a rare breed -- his ears lay over. Floppy is a very loving cat, but he prefers a single pet home.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 12 NOON - 6 PM **SATURDAY - SUNDAY** 3 PM - 5 PM

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PETS OR ANY OTHER CONTACT THE ANIMAL SHELTER AT 669-5775 OR COME BY THE SHELTER AT HOBART STREET PARK 6 --- Wednesday, August 15, 2007 --- The Pampa News



By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Tim" for almost seven years. I have a male co-worker, "Chad," who is a good friend. Tim thinks that a man is friends with a woman only if he wants something from her. He says that Chad must be gay, sexually interested in me, or using me as a means to some end. Quite frankly, I am hurt that Tim doesn't think I am interesting enough to be friends with and feels that I can be seen only in "that way." Chad has never once hit on me or given me the slightest reason to doubt his platonic feelings. He is also not gay. How can I convince my husband that my friend is not trying to seduce me or use me? I have tried inviting Tim to hang out with us so he can get to know Chad better; he always declines. I'm at my wits' end because I dislike upsetting my husband, but I refuse to give up a good friend. - PULLING MY HAIR OUT IN CAMBRIA, WIS.

DEAR PULLING: There is no way to if the convince your husband that your co-worker er isn't trying to seduce or use you because that is the way your husband's mind works. Own In other words, when Tim says that men are friends with women only for what they how can get, he is describing HIMSELF. And the reason he refuses to take the time to get to know Chad better is that by refusing, he is putting limits on the relationship and controlling you. You have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: I am a widow whose 43year-old daughter is dating a 56-year-old man. They have both been married before and have children from prior marriages. They have been discussing marriage. Is it unreasonable of me to expect my future son-in-law to ask me for my daughter's hand in marriage as a sign of respect and in the name of tradition? – TRADITIONAL MOM-IN-LAW-TO-BE

DEAR TRADITIONAL: Yes, it is. Your daughter has long since reached the age at which she is entitled to decide for herself whether to give or withhold her hand -- or anything else. And the sooner you dismount from your high horse, the happier your relationship with your future son-inlaw will be.

DEAR ABBY: I work at one of the nicer, upscale restaurants in our small community. We have been having an issue with groups or committees of anywhere from four to 15 people coming into the establishment to hold their meetings. These groups frequently arrive at normal evening dinner times and therefore take up a table, but the attendees don't order anything. How can you politely tell these people that if they want to use our dining establishment, they should purchase something? Their behavior is just plain rude! The owner and many of the staff would like to be able to say something, but don't know how to phrase it without making these people angry. -- BAFFLED IN MINNESO-

DEAR BAFFLED: Your problem should be handled by the manager of the restaurant. In many restaurants the minimum order per person is printed on the menu, and that is a policy you should institute. The next time the freeloaders come trooping in, the new policy should be pointed out to them.





EXERCISE

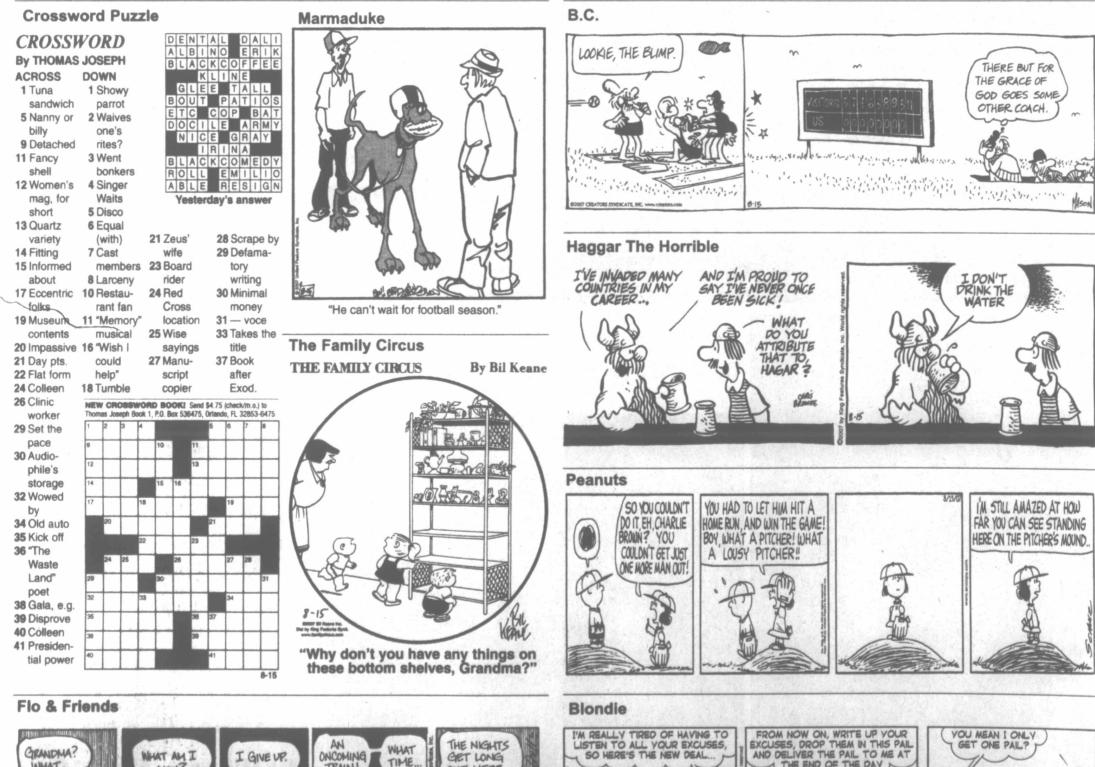
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TOYS IN MY

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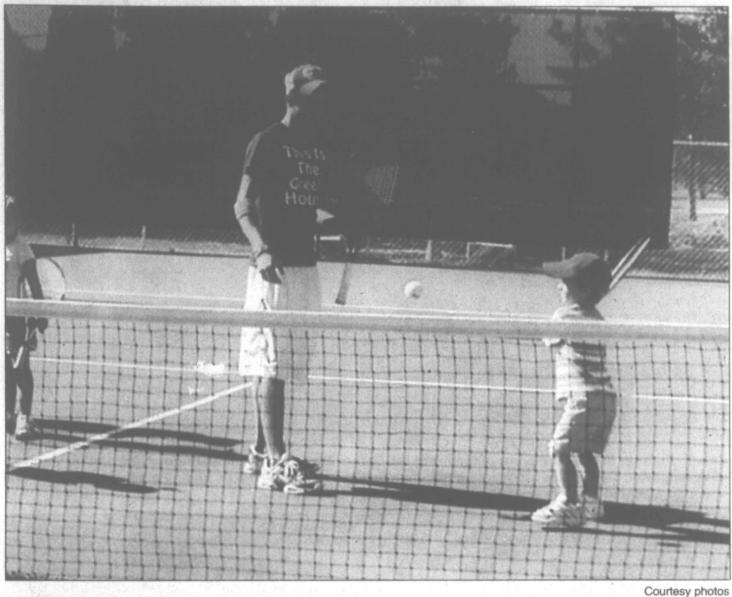




Sports Day

Mini Campers

Saturday.



PHS tennis player Jack Ware feeds a ball to a mini camper at the 3rd Annual PHS Mini Tennis Camp

Pampa ISD Athletic Department Reminders

Pampa ISD Retirees who want to attend Pampa ISD athletic events for free (general admission) need to con-Pampa tact ISD Administration at 669-4700 to schedule an appointment for your ID badge.

Senior citizens and students may purchase varsity football general admission tickets for \$2 in the Pampa ISD Athletic Building; if purchased before 2 p.m. on game day. All varsity football tickets purchased at the gate are \$6.

Reserved season tickets will be open to the public at 10 a.m. Monday.

Current season ticket holders may purchase their 2007 tickets through noon on Friday.

Hunting, fishing licenses to go on sale today

AUSTIN, Texas -- New hunting and fishing licenses for 2007-08 will be available beginning today and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is encouraging hunters to buy early and avoid the rush heading into the Sept. 1 dove season opener.

TPWD officials are reminding sportsmen that all current annual hunting and fishing licenses expire Aug. 31.

Texas issues 3.2 million hunting and fishing licenses annually through 28 TPWD field offices, more than 100 state parks and at more than 1,400 retailers across Texas.

License vendors are bracing for an anticipated lastminute license buying surge that typically occurs during the Labor Day holiday weekend, particularly along the I-35 corridor where many dove hunters descend.

Friday before the dove season opener, you're probably

going to be standing in line to buy a license," said Tom Newton with TPWD's licensing section. "Last year, we sold nearly 350,000 licenses during the four-day period around the opening weekend of dove season. It takes an average of five minutes to process a license sale transaction, so it's likely there will be delays if you wait until the last minute."

Newton said a little planning could save hunters a lot of time in the checkout line.

"It's like planning your morning commute; you can sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic or you can leave early and breeze through. We average less than 20,000 license transactions a day during the two weeks prior to the dove season opener and five or six times that number on the days around opening weekend.

"Hunters who need to pur-"If you wait until the schase allicense at the last minute or those who don't

See LICENSES, Page 8





Savannah Smith demonstrates a serve to a group of mini campers at Saturday's Mini Tennis Camp.

Hunters' open house scheduled to take place at Lake Merideth national recreation area

FRITCH — The National the spring season, and by Park Service will hold an open house for hunters at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Sanford-Fritch Junior High School cafeteria, 536 Eagle Blvd. in Fritch.

Park rangers from Lake National Meredith Recreation Area and game wardens and biologists from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be present to answer questions.

Hunting maps and other literature will be available. Those interested in hunting, wildlife habitat, and conservation are encouraged to attend.

The only significant change this year to the hunting season at Lake Meredith is the recognition of the Special Youth-Only Season, Jan. 19-20, 2008.

Other hunting changes made in recent years are still in effect, including that the method of take for turkey (gobblers only) will be by shotgun or archery during

archery only during the fall season; the waterfowl hunting period will close at noon each day; and quail season will be the same dates posted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

These decisions have been made to increase populations and enhance habitat, and are based upon research provided by Texas Parks & Wildlife biologists, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and park staff.

The gate at Mullinaw Crossing will remain closed the first week of general deer season, Nov. 17-24, and will be opened Nov. 25 through the end of deer season. The gate may be closed at any time during this period due to circumstances such as severe weather, high water, and threats to public safety.

Hunting and fishing at Lake Meredith are permitted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

The National Park Service

regulates the proper use of - Oct. 30 the park, while Texas Parks and Wildlife manages the harvest of fish and wildlife within the park. No hunting or firearms are allowed within Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument.

As an increased safety measure, all hunters within the boundaries of Lake Meredith are required to wear blaze orange during general gun season for deer and the special youth season.

In addition, during the special youth hunt all accompanying individuals must also wear blaze orange. This will consist of both a hat and a vest with a combined total area equaling 500 square inches and worn conspicuously above the waist. Exempt from this requirement will be migratory bird hunters on the waters of Lake Meredith.

Listing of the 2007-2008 hunting season at Lake Meredith:

Mourning Dove: Sept. 1

Quail: Oct. 27 - Feb. 24 White-tailed Deer: Archery Season - Sept. 29 - Nov. 2; General Season — Nov. 17 — Dec. 2; Special Youth Season - Oct. 27-28, Jan. 19-20

Mule Deer: Archery Season - Sept. 29 - Nov. 2; General Season - Nov. 17 - Dec. 2

Duck Season: Teal - Sept. 15-30

Turkey: Archery Season -Sept. 29 - Nov. 2; Spring Turkey - March 29 - May 11

Pheasant: Dec. 1-30 For more information on the 2007-2008 Texas hunting season, visit http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/ huntwild/hunt/season/

For more information on hunting at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, please contact park headquarters at 806-857-3151.

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Licenses

Continued from Page 7

want to stand in line have a couple of options."

Licenses can be purchased online through the web TPWD site (http://www.tpwd.state.tx. us/) or by calling (800) 895-4248. There is a \$5 convenience fee for either option and a major credit

card is required. License sales call center hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday -- Friday. The online transaction system is available 24/7.

"We sold about 13,000 licenses online and by phone during the peak sales weekend last year," Newton said. "We'd like to steer more of the traffic to the call center and Internet during the peak volume periods."

Jewett hits hole in one

Pampa's Chris Jewett made his first hole in one Thursday on Hole # 8 at Hidden Hills Public Golf Course. Jewett used an 8 iron from 170 yards away. The shot was witnessed by Joel Morgan, also of Pampa.

Astros' 6-run sixth carries Albers to win over Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP) -The Houston Astros pulled off an unorthodox double play at the end of the game at the expense of Mark Sweeney, one of the Los Angeles Dodgers' most acquisitions. recent Baseball's second-best pinch-hitter of all time may not be pinch-running any time soon.

Sweeney, who singled home a run while pinch-hitting for reliever Eric Hull, was leading off the bag with one out in the ninth when Juan Pierre hit a towering popup to catcher Brad Ausmus in foul territory. Suddenly, the Astros were doing everything short of cartwheels to get their Ausmus' attention Sweeney because was almost at second base.

Ausmus completed the rare game-ending 2-3 double play with his throw to Lance Berkman, and the Astros escaped Dodger Stadium with a 7-4 victory on Tuesday night.

"I have no clue what hap-

Brad Lidge, who got three outs for his ninth save in 14 chances, was glad he didn't have to face on-deck hitter Matt Kemp — who homered in the first inning against Matt Albers.

"Obviously, I'll take it," Lidge said. "I don't get a whole lot of double-play balls.'

Perhaps the most frustrated person in a Dodger uniform, other than first base coach Mariano Duncan, was Kemp.

"Things happen, man. People make mistakes. We're all human," said Kemp, who misplayed Mark Loretta's first-inning single to right field into three bases with his third error of the season.

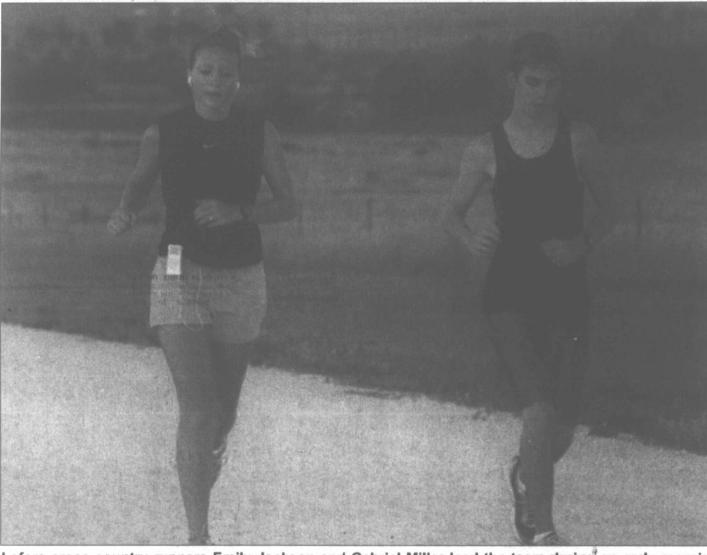
Sweeney didn't speak to reporters after the game.

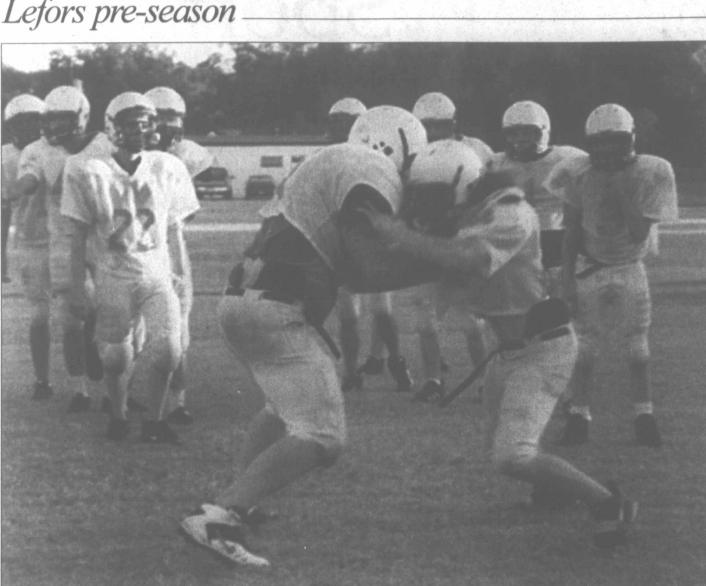
Chris Burke capped a sixrun sixth inning with a tworun single and Mike Lamb also drove in a pair of runs for the Astros, who have taken the first two games of this four-game set.

The Dodgers, who led the

Courtesy photos by LENDI JACKSON

Dustin Forsyth (left) and Payton Johnson of the Lefors Pirates football team go at each other during a blocking drill. The Pirates are working out each day from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to noon. They will travel to Miami for their first scrimmage of the season on Saturday.







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pened," Ausmus said. "After I caught it, there was noise coming from out dugout area, and I saw Lance jumping up and down waving his arms. I then realized that Sweeney wasn't near the bag, so I just threw it over there. It was just a freak play that ended the game. It probably has never happened abled list because of a before and may not ever happen again."

NL West by 1 1/2 games on July 26, have lost 13 of 16 since then and trail firstplace Arizona by 6 1/2 games. Now in fourth place, their postseason chances took another hit before the game when third baseman Nomar Garciaparra was placed on the 15-day disstrained left calf.

Lefors cross country runners Emily Jackson and Gabriel Miller lead the team during an early morning workout this week. The team is gearing up for this year's season, which will begin on Sept. 8 in Perryton.

Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy

pleads guilty to two felony charges

St. Louis creeps back into NL Central race with 12-4 rout of Milwaukee

By The Associated Press

Put the St. Louis Cardinals in throwback uniforms, and suddenly they play a lot like the 1982 World Series champs

Or, for that matter, the champions from last year.

The Cardinals pounded out a season-high 19 hits in a 12-4 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday night, drawing the Cardinals closer to contention in the NL Central and spoiling the host Brewers' 1982 World Series team reunion.

Both teams wore throwback uniforms to commemorate the 1982 series, in which the Cardinals defeated the Brewers in seven games — making Tuesday's result look vaguely familiar.

Now the reigning World Series champions have clawed their way back into the division race. With Tuesday night's victory, St. Louis trails Milwaukee by 4 1/2 games, and second-place Chicago by three.

La Russa said he is proud of the way his players have handled adversity, but isn't going to get too excited about their recent progress until they having a winning record. With the victory, St. Louis is 56-60.

"When that happens, then you look around and say, 'Hey, where are we?," manager Tony La Russa said.

In other NL games, it was Florida 14, Arizona 5; New York 5, Pittsburgh 4; Philadelphia

Washington 2; Atlanta 5, San Francisco 4: Cincinnati 6, Chicago 5; San Diego 8, Colorado 0; and Houston 7, Los Angeles 4.

Brewers starter Chris Capuano (5-10) hasn't won since May 7, a streak of 15 starts without a victory that includes 10 losses and five no-decisions. Brewers manager Ned Yost said he and general manager Doug Melvin might consider taking Capuano out of the starting rotation.

Former referee Donaghy pleaded guilty to felony charges two Wednesday in connection with the NBA betting scandal.

Donaghy faces a maximum of 25 years in prison ferent officials and players, when he is sentenced for conspiracy to engage in wire fraud and transmitting waging information through interstate commerce.

Donaghy provided recommendations, called "picks," to co-conspirators about what team they should bet \$30,000 in restitution. on, said U.S. District Court

NEW YORK (AP) — If he was correct, they paid Tim him.

> The information was not public, the judge said. Donaghy had "unique including what access," crews would officiate at games, the interaction of difand the physical condition of certain players. He concealed the scheme

from the NBA and other referees to avoid detection, the judge said.

Donaghy also must pay a \$500,000 fine and at least

Prosecutors said in open Judge Carol Bagley Amon. court that Donaghy bet on

games himself; but that was not part of his plea.

The FBI first contacted the NBA on June 20 to talk about a referee alleged to be gambling on games, and the two sides met on June 21, NBA commissioner David Stern said last month. Donaghy resigned July 9 after 13 years as a referee; Stern said he would have fired him sooner but was told it might affect investigations.

Stern blamed a "rogue, isolated criminal" for the betting scandal that threatened the credibility of every referee.

top tier of officials, Stern said, and there was nothing suspicious about the frequency of his foul calls. He was assigned to work in the second round of the playoffs, with his last NBA game coming during the Phoenix-Antonio Western San Conference semifinal series.

No other NBA officials or players were expected to be involved in the scandal, which Stern called the "most serious situation and worst situation that I have ever experienced either as a fan of the NBA, a lawyer for the feree. NBA or a commissioner of the NBA."

Pachuca beats Dynamo 4-3 in shootout

Lugo made the winning penalty kick as Pachuca defeated the Houston Dynamo 4-3 in a shootout after a 2-2 tie in a semifinal of the SuperLiga tournament Tuesday night.

Pachuca will meet the winner of Wednesday's Los Angeles Galaxy-D.C. United semifinal for the SuperLiga title and a \$1 million purse on Aug. 29.

After a rugged 90 minutes of regulation and 30 minutes of overtime play, the teams went to the shootout. Wade

HOUSTON (AP) - Rafael Marquez Barrett, Chris Wondolowski and Richard Mulrooney connected for Houston, while Fernando Salazar, Gabriel Caballero and Luis Gabriel Ray hit the first three for Pachuca.

Then Dynamo forward Brian Ching's shot bounced off the left goal post and Pachuca midfielder Damian Alvarez's shot was blocked by goalie Pat Onstad.

But Pachuca goalie Miguel Calero stopped Joseph Ngwenya's shot to set up Lugo's winning kick.

The teams met in a two-game set in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Champions' Cup in March and Pachuca won 5-4 on aggregate score. Tuesday's game was played before 21,712, the Dynamo's largest home crowd of the season.

Three players were ejected. Dynamo defender Patrick Ianni got a red card in the 14th minute after he pulled down Christian Gimenez from behind, keeping him from an easy score.

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The Pampa News — Wednesday, August 15, 2007 — 9



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beyond the obvious and current thinking. Brainstorm and grow. Travel and education force you to a new level of understanding. If you are single, the opposite sex demonstrates their interest frequently. If you have not met your special person, he or she could be coming down the path. If you are attached, be willing to explore a special trip you both have often discussed. Sometimes a more possessive side emerges when you feel insecure. LIBRA encourages you to let your mind wander.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; Have: 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

**** Your attitude attracts many, but today a magnet seems to be pulling you in. You cannot stop the inevitable; move forward. Investigate a matter that might expand your mind, which could involve school for some and travel for others. Tonight: Hang out. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Analyze your limits and decide what is doable. A well-planned schedule is backed with much energy. When do you say "enough"? Right now is an excellent period to do what you must, freeing up spare time. Tonight: Share with a key person in your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Others clearly play an enormous role in your life. Your imagination adds even more flourish to what goes on.

★★★ Settle and enjoy what is happening around you. If you can do what you need to do from your home, please do. Many people will be looking for you. Do what you must right away so you can visit with others. Tonight: Don't venture too far.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

 \star \star \star \star Act like you know what you are doing. A positive attitude draws the results you want. Let your fire within crackle. Friends come back with many ideas. Start the ball rolling. Tonight: Though you might anticipate hanging with one person, you might wind up with many

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

 $\star \star \star$ You have the potential to take risks (yes, you), as you see the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Remember, it is a pot and it could fall over, letting the gold tumble out. Not everything is a guarantee. Take off your rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Your treat. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Zoom in with confidence, whether discussing plans or how to squeeze in so much in such a little time. Respond to someone at a distance or a need to push past your mental filters. You might be clocking an important piece of information. Tonight: Take the lead; others will follow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Examine what is doable without

accepting more responsibility. The less you appear, the more powerful the results will be. A partner tries to understand

What is to stop them? Though you certainly can handle a lot on your plate, why try? Others appear more than capable of assuming a bigger role. Let go and see what occurs. Tonight: In the social whirl. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ You might want to assume a dif-

ferent approach and follow through with a boss. Dig into your resourceful mind when dealing with a work or daily issue. The solutions could be endless if you just let it happen. Tonight: Say "yes." AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

 \star \star \star Your natural tendency to take the untrodden path or follow your inner beat now emerges once more. Wherever you are, you add that distinctive flair and ability your sign is identified with. Tonight: A child could be rebellious. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Pressure 'builds.' Right now, though tense, your precision emerges, allowing you to take the lead. Listen more and follow through on what you need. Your sense of direction carries you. Consider a domestic matter before saying anything right now. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

BORN TODAY

Singer Madonna (1958), sportscaster Frank Gifford (1930), actor Timothy Hutton (1960)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2007 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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. 8-15 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

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FOR Sale: 2002 Black LS Chevy Trailblazer, 4x4, loaded! \$10,000. Call 665-0379 for more infor-

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1996 GMC w/ cover. Only 12,000 mi. Must see. 10 — Wednesday, August 15, 2007 — The Pampa News

Dollar coins honoring presidents provide history lesson

WASHINGTON (AP) the nation's first president. After that, things get tricky.

the set of the set of the set of

The U.S. Mint is hoping its new dollar coin series will help refresh some hazy memories of Adams, Jefferson and all the rest.

Most folks can correctly however, given the results of name George Washington as a poll the Mint commissioned to find out just how much knowledge Americans have about their presidents.

According to the telephone poll, conducted by the Gallup Organization last month, nearly all those ques-

was the first president. However, only 30 percent could name Thomas Jefferson as the nation's third president, and memories of the other presidents and where they fit in was even more limited.

Mint Director Edmund

That could be a tall order, tioned knew that Washington Moy believes the new dollar honoring the states in the Associated Press. coin series will be an antidote for that. And he can cite a good precedent.

The Mint's 50-state quarter program, the most popular coin series in history, has million 150 gotten Americans involved in collecting the quarters that are

order they were admitted to the Union.

"My nieces and nephews know a lot more about geography than I did at their age and the state quarters are playing an instrumental role in that," Moy said in an with The interview

Moy was scheduled to be at the Jefferson Memorial on Wednesday to help quiz tourists on their knowledge of the presidents as well as to conduct a coin exchange where people can buy the new \$1 Jefferson coin.



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH Prestige Autobody, 101 S. Hobart, held an open house recently. Employee Stephen McCarley, left, shows customer Mason Watkins a few options for his vehicle.

SCIENCE

Teacher speaks to students from space

Astronauts and

teachers

actually

do the same

thing. We

explore, we

discover and we

Barbara Morgan

share.

HOUSTON (AP) - After days of anxiety about a gouge in the belly of the shuttle Endeavour, NASA finally got some good news: tests suggested repairs may not be needed, and the agency fulfilled a longstanding dream of a teacher talking to

took questions and spoke to hundreds of youngsters packed into the Discovery Center of Idaho in Boise, less than 100 miles from the elementary school where Morgan taught before joining the astronaut corps.

One child wanted to know about exercising in space. In response, Morgan lifted the two large men floating alongside her, one in each hand, and pretended to be straining. Another youngster wanted to see a demonstration of drinking in space. Morgan and her colleagues obliged by squeezing bubbles from a straw in a drink pouch and swallowing the red blobs, which floated everywhere. Teacher-astronaut Morgan was also asked how being a teacher compared to being an astro-

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Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

students from space.

Space agency managers said they were cautiously optimistic that they wouldn't have to send two spacewalking astronauts to repair the gash, which is about the length and width of a business card. A sliver of the wound penetrates through a pair of inchdeep thermal tiles, exposing a thin felt fabric that is the final barrier before the shuttle's aluminum frame.

But thermal analyses have so far shown Endeavour could safely return to Earth as it is, said

John Shannon, chairman of the mission naut. management team. All the testing and

analyses should be completed by today. In another positive development, two decades after Christa McAuliffe's

doomed Challenger mission, her backup in the teacher-in-space program carried out the dream of an educator turning the space shuttle into a classroom.

Teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan

"Astronauts and teachers actually do the same thing," she answered. "We explore, we discover and we share. And the great thing about being a teacher is you get to do that with students, and the great thing about being an astronaut is you get to do it in space, and those are absolutely wonderful jobs."

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H-16

The City of Pampa will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 10.42 percent (percentage by which proposed tax rate exceeds lower of rollback tax rate or effective tax calculated under Chapter 26, Tax Code). Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on August 22, 2007 at 5:30 PM and August 27, 2007 at 6:00 PM at Pampa City Hall, 200 West Foster, City Commission Chambers, Pampa, Texas.

The members of the governing body voted on the proposal to consider the tax increase as follows: FOR: Brad Pingle, Robert Dixon, Neil Fulton, Lonny Robbins AGAINST:

PRESENT and not voting: ABSENT: Bill Allison

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure catagories:

Maintenance & Op	erations	5.78% increase
Debt Service		7.40% increase
Total Expenditures		5.90% increase
Total Appraised	Value and Total Taxable Value	
as calculated u	nder section 26.04, Tax Code	
	Preceeding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$536,331,527	\$5,691,271,376
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$8,458,255	\$5,036,780
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$444,671,468	\$477,450,980
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$8,458,255	\$5,036,780

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness \$10,033,931.

TAX RATES

Adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$0.69500	per \$100 in value
Proposed tax rate for the current tax year	\$0.690000	per \$100 in value
Difference in the proposed tax rate and the		
adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	\$(0.005000)	per \$100 in value
Percentage increase or decrease in the proposed tax rate		5-11 S. C. M.
and the adopted tax rate for the preceding tax year	(0.72)%	(Decrease)

These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property. **Comparison of Residence Homestead Values**

Average appraised and taxable values on residence homesteads are compared from the preceding tax year and the current tax year.

Average residence homestead appraised value	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Homestead exemption amount for the taxing unit	\$36,182	\$38,090
(excluding special exemptions for persons 65	\$0	\$0
years of age or older or disabled) Average taxable value of a residence homestead (excluding special exemptions for persons 65	\$36,182	\$38,090

Comparison of Residence Homestead Taxes

The taxes that would have been imposed in the preceding tax year on the residence homestead at the average appraised value (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled) are estimated to be \$251.46. The taxes that would be imposed in the current tax year on a residence homestead appraised at the average appraised value in the current tax year (excluding special exemptions for persons 65 years of age or older or disabled), if the proposed tax rate is adopted, are estimated to be \$262.82. The difference between the amount of taxes on the average residence homestead in the current tax year, if the proposed tax rate is adopted, and the preceding tax year would be an increase of \$11.36 in taxes.

"Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

August 15, 2007

- "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.
- *** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.