



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 88
LOW 70

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Volume 103 No. 29

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Pampa's Katherine Martin comes around the last pole in Tuesday night's pole bending event at the Top O' Texas Rodeo's Kid Pony Show. Martin took first place in Girls Group VI pole bending.

Kid Pony Show wraps up

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

Riding in on their stick ponies and real ponies alike, young people from all around the Texas Panhandle came to Pampa this week to compete in the Top O' Texas Kid Pony Show at the rodeo arena at Recreation Park.

The three-day event wrapped up Tuesday night with the oldest groups of participants, ages 12-15, competing in events such as barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying and much more.

As well as competing to place in certain events, the kids also competed to be recognized as the all-around cowboy or cowgirl in their age group.

The results for the last evening of the Top O' Texas Kid Pony Show are listed below in the order of first, second and third place. Group V was for kids age 12 and 13 and group VI was for teens age 14 and 15.

Pole Bending: Girls group V - Lesley Chester, Pampa; Chelsea Urbanczyk, White

See PONY Page 3

Structurally deficient bridges listed in area; nine in Gray County

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Transportation has identified the state's bridges that are identified as structurally deficient. Their records indicate that 2,024, or 4 percent, of bridges in Texas are structurally deficient.

Nine of those listed are in Gray County. Sixteen others are listed in counties surrounding Gray.

In 2006, the bureau of transportation statistics reports that 12 percent of the nation's bridges were classified the same.

TxDOT has an aggressive program to inspect all 50,000 of the state's bridges and rehabilitate and replace those that require improvement. This program is producing results, since Texas had 2,928 structurally deficient bridges in 2002. This is a 31 percent reduction in deficient bridges over the last few years.

The term "structurally deficient" is used by the Federal Highway Administration to designate bridges eligible for federal funding.

Bridges are considered structurally deficient if significant elements of the bridge are deteriorating or damaged, extreme restric-

tion on load carrying capacity or the adequacy of the waterway opening under the bridge is extremely inadequate.

TxDOT says a structurally deficient bridge should not be confused with an unsafe bridge. Through regular inspection, they identify unsafe conditions and close any unsafe bridges. A structurally deficient bridge, when open to traffic, typically requires significant maintenance and repair to remain in service and is often posted with weight limits to restrict the gross weight of vehicles to less than the maximum weight allowed by Texas law, which is 80,000.

On the report, bridges are given a sufficiency rating. This number is out of 100 with 0 being low and 100 being high. This number is derived from numerous variables that evaluate structural adequacy and safety and serviceability. To qualify for federal highway bridge program funds, the sufficiency rating must be 80 or less and the bridge must be classified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. A low rating does not necessarily mean that a bridge is in need of immediate repair.

See BRIDGES, Page 3

Foreign exchange students from Chile, Germany, Austria

By DARLENE BIRKES
Special to The News

Three AFS exchange students will attend Pampa High School this fall semester, which brings the total of 84 AFS students who have attended PHS since 1952.

The students are Lina-Marie von Hacht of Germany, Hanna Baumgartner of Austria and Rene Cazenave, who is the first AFS student from Chile to attend PHS.

Jacklyn Cargill of Pampa is a returnee from a year in Holland. She will attend West Texas A&M University this fall and plans to major in anthropology and archeology. She is the daughter of Kenneth and Dana Cargill of Pampa.

Cazenave lives south of central Chile, an area not affected by the recent earthquake in nearby Peru, which is farther north. He comes from the city of Chillan,

which has a population of 115,000. He is a rugby player and his team went to the national championships last year. He is playing football on the junior varsity football team.

"I really like it, but it is different from rugby," Cazenave said. "We have malls, Taco Bell, McDonalds, Kentucky Fried Chicken and a lot of the same things in Chillan."

However, he said they often eat a light breakfast of yogurt and go home for lunch with an hour and 45 minute lunch break. He noted another difference is that students don't get their driver's license until they are 18. He is hosted by the Louise Reagan family.

Von Hacht is from Reinfeld, a small town of 8,000, between Lubec and Hamburg in the northern part of Germany. She enjoys horseback riding and has



Courtesy photo

Four AFS exchange students were given a swim party recently. From left, Lina-Marie von Hacht of Germany, Rene Cazenave of Chile and Hanna Baumgartner of Austria will attend Pampa High School this year. Jacklyn Cargill of Pampa, right, spent this past school year as an AFS student in Holland. She will attend WTA&MU this fall.

already been riding here. She likes other sports, such as tennis and badminton and with her height of more than six feet can play basketball easily.

She is a mediator at her school helping younger students work out their conflicts. She noted one big difference is that there are so many short order restaurants

here. "We eat more at home," Von Hacht said. She had a cousin who was an AFS student to South Africa, so she was familiar with the exchange student program. She is hosted by the John Baggerman family.

Baumgartner lives in Bruck, a small town of 20,000, in the middle of

Austria. She lives in a mountain area where they take cattle to the mountains in the summer and during the snowy winter months feed them on the farms.

She says the Texas food and the music are different, as she was not accustomed to country music. "I like

See STUDENTS, Page 3

COMPETING ONLINE: A GURU'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS
THE PAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CENTRAMEDIA IS OFFERING A
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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. Windy, with a south-southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
 Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Windy, with a south-southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 82. Southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
 Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. South-southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.
 Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer:	
Wheat	5.87
Milo	5.01
Corn	5.79
Soybeans	6.73
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:	
OXY	55.50 +0.94
BP PLC ADR	64.87 +0.82
Cabot Corp	39.35 +1.06
Celanese	33.87 +0.51
Cabot Oil Gas	32.81 +0.32
Coca Cola	54.01 +0.02
VLO	64.58 +1.47
HALL	32.96 +0.54
XCEL	20.80 +0.14
Anadarko	48.91 +0.72
XOM	83.72 +0.57
Nat'l Oilwell	113.18 +1.84
Limited	22.35 +0.26
Williams	31.64 +0.78
MCD	48.89 +0.42
Amos	27.62 +0.14
Pioneer Nat	41.62 +0.33
JCP	66.55 +0.35
COP	79.00 +0.76
SLB	90.79 +1.54
Tenneco	31.79 NC
CVX	84.74 +0.44
Wal-Mart	43.50 -0.20
OKE	46.18 +0.89
New York Gold	666.20
Silver	11.67
West Texas Crude	69.47

Inquest planned in teacher's death previously ruled suicide

WACO (AP) — An inquest into a teacher's death that was ruled a suicide is set for next week at the request of her parents, who have filed a wrongful death lawsuit against her minister husband. Justice of the Peace Billy Martin said he has subpoenaed 11 people to testify at the inquest, designed to gather evidence to try to determine how 31-year-old Kari Lynn Baker died last year. Martin ruled after consulting with police that Baker died from an overdose of sleeping pills in her home in Hewitt, a Waco suburb. He later ordered that her body be exhumed for an autopsy. Her parents, James and Linda Dulin, filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Matt Baker, alleging that the former pastor was having an affair, killed his wife and made her death appear to be a suicide. No trial date has been set for the lawsuit. Matt Baker's attorney, Gerald Villarrial, said his client has been subpoenaed for the inquest but will not testify. Villarrial said Baker was not involved in his wife's death. The Dulin's also have sparred with Baker in family court to earn limited visitation rights with their two granddaughters. Linda Dulin said the family sought the inquest because of new evidence discovered in the past year. Pathologists found traces of a diet pill, an antihistamine and a sleep aid in Baker's system. But because of embalming, accurate blood concentration levels of the drugs could not be determined, according to the autopsy reports. Investigators found a type-written "suicide-type note" and a bottle of sleeping pills at the scene, the report states. Hewitt police reopened the investigation three months after the elementary school teacher died, citing unspecified "suspicious circumstances before and after" Baker's death, according to an affidavit to support the exhumation. Linda Dulin testified at a March hearing that she discovered Matt Baker had given Kari's cell phone to another woman within a week of her death.

CITY BRIEFS

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SUBWAY WILL be closed for Remodeling, Wed. Aug. 22 and Re-Open Mon. Sept. 3. Please visit our other store, 2801 Charles (inside Wal-Mart.)

Obituaries

Clifford Leon Adkins, 53

Clifford Leon Adkins, 53, of Pampa, Texas, died Aug. 19, 2007, at Pampa. Memorial services will be scheduled at a later time. Clifford was a long-time resident and graduate of Pampa. He worked for

National Oilwell Supply, Tom Black Painting and Sand Blasting, and Eddie Reames company. Survivors include one daughter, Amber Lea Adkins of Pampa; one granddaughter, Sydney Lea of Pampa;

two brothers, Steve "Speedy" Adkins of Houston and Tommy Adkins of California; one stepsister, Georgia (Johnny) Aufleger of Pampa; a stepfather, Emmit Jenkins (Mary) of Pampa; a numerous amount

of friends in the Pampa area; and best friends, Eddie and Betty Reames of Pampa. Clifford was preceded in death by Dub and Geneva Adkins; and Pat Jenkins.

Faye Thomas, 82

ROSEVILLE, Calif. — Thomas Sept. 13, 1940, at Guthrie, Okla.; he died April 1, 2000. Mrs. Thomas moved to Roseville two years ago from Pampa. She was a homemaker and a Baptist. Survivors include a son, Larry Thomas of Roseville;

a twin sister, Fern Boster of Ft. Smith, Ark.; two brothers, Jack Walker of Fort Smith, Ark., and Jim Walker of Ozark, Ark.; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. MEMORIALS: American Heart Association, 6605 I-40

West, Suite A-6, Amarillo, TX 79106; or the American Lung Association, P.O. Box 26566, Austin, TX 78755. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Twelve traffic stops were made, resulting in three arrests. One traffic stop in the 1900 block of North Hobart involved driving while license is invalid, open container, possession of drug paraphernalia, no insurance, running a stop sign and unlawful carrying of a weapon, and resulted in an arrest. One traffic stop in the 1300 block of North Christine resulted in an arrest for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana. Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of Crawford and Nelson streets, the intersection of Finley and Frederic streets, an unreported location, the intersection of Kingsmill and Hobart streets, and the 1800 block of North Hobart. Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1000 block of Barnes, the 1800 block of North Banks, the 1700 block of Holly, the 1200 block of North Wells, the 1600 block of Lincoln, the 800 block of Denver, the 900 block of East Kingsmill, the 500 block of East Kingsmill, at an unreported location, the 900 block of Barnard, the 2100 block of Dogwood, the 500 block of Lowry, the 800 block of North Nelson, the 1000 block of East Francis, the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 2100 block of North Faulkner and the 900 block of Barnes. One suicide attempt was reported. A welfare check was made in the 300 block of Miami. Agency assistance was rendered in the 200 block of North Russell. A runaway was reported in the 2700 block of Cherokee. Civil matters were reported in the 1700 block of Coffee and the 300 block of Anne. A suspicious person call was received from the 700 block of Mora. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of East Browning, the

1400 block of West Somerville, twice in the 400 block of North Zimmers, once in the 2300 block of Comanche and the 1300 block of West Kentucky. Arrests were made in the 2300 block of Comanche and the 1300 block of West Kentucky in connection with the incidents. Criminal trespass was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster. Telephone harassment was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner. Assault was reported at One Medical Plaza. The incident occurred at the intersection of Hazel and Kentucky streets. Minor injuries which required medical attention were reported in connection with the incident. Aggravated assault was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1200 block of East Browning. Minor injuries which did not require medical attention were reported in connection with the incident. Credit card/debit card abuse was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. Estimated value of loss is unknown. Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in Atlanta, Ga. Theft was reported in the 500 block of North Cuyler. City water valued at \$50 was taken. Theft was reported in the 1500 block of Hamilton. A sander, three drills, a grinder and a screwdriver were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$567. Burglary was reported in the 800 block of East Locust, the 1200 block of North Wells and the 1800 block of Holly.

\$500 and a bond surrender for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Tuesday, Aug. 21

Shea Garton, 22, of Booker was arrested in the 100 block of East Harvester by PPD for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana. Kyle Lee Boaz, 17, of Pampa was arrested in the 2300 block of Comanche on Lefors municipal charges of running a stop sign, no driver's license and failure to appear. Joseph Michael Moore, 23, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for disorderly conduct/language. Phillip Daniel Littrell, 37, of Amarillo was arrested in the 1900 block of North Hobart by PPD for driving while license is invalid and capias pro fines for no financial responsibility, possession of drug paraphernalia and running a stop sign.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. **Tuesday, Aug. 21** 5:45 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2800 block of Charles on a good intent call. **Wednesday, Aug. 22** 3:10 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 500 block of Doyle on a call for lifting assistance.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. **Tuesday, Aug. 21** 2:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of North Dwight and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center. 3:47 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Childress and transported a patient to a local nursing facility. **Wednesday, Aug. 22** 6 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Neel Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today. **Monday, Aug. 20** Roger Juan Pineda, 25, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of Hill by Pampa Police Department for theft by check over \$20 and under

STATE

Group: TXU, buyers spent millions wooing Legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — TXU Corp. and the private equity firms trying to buy the company spent about \$17 million on lobbyists and advertising during the most recent session of the state Legislature, according to a report by a group that tracks political spending. The Legislature considered but rejected bills that could have spoiled the pending \$32 billion buyout of TXU. Texans for Public Justice said TXU and the investors trying to buy the company spent nearly \$11 million on advertising, \$5.8 million on lobbyists, and about \$180,000 to entertain lawmakers and their staffs, as reported by TXU lobbyists. The advocacy group said TXU hired 65 lobbyists during the legislative session, and the investors trying to buy the company hired another 21 lobbyists. The highest-paid lobbyist, at \$351,000, was former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, the group said. TXU spokeswoman Lisa Singleton said the company reported employees as lobbyists even if lobbying "may only be a small part of their overall job."

Almost all of the advertising spending, \$10.9 million, was reported by Clifford Angelo of Public Strategies, a lobbying and public relations firm.

Among the gifts cited in the advocacy group's report was up to \$1,000 for San Antonio Spurs playoff tickets, which TPG partner Michael MacDougall bought for Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville, and his chief of staff, J.J. Garza. Oliveira and Garza declined to comment.

which ran ads promoting the buyout. Private investors led by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. and TPG Capital, formerly known as Texas Pacific Group, are nearing completion of the deal. TXU shareholders are scheduled to vote Sept. 7 on the \$69.25-per-share offer. Among the gifts cited in the advocacy group's report was up to \$1,000 for San Antonio Spurs playoff tickets, which TPG partner Michael MacDougall bought for Rep. Rene Oliveira, D-Brownsville, and his chief of staff, J.J. Garza. Oliveira and Garza declined to comment. The state Senate passed legislation — opposed by TXU and the buyout firms — that would have imposed new state regulation of utility takeovers and forced TXU to sell power plants. The bills failed to win final passage. Dallas-based TXU generates power, runs a regulated electric distribution business, and sells electricity to residents and businesses.

Angelo's only client was the investor group trying to buy TXU.

Information from: Fort Worth Star-Telegram, <http://www.star-telegram.com>

Bridges

Continued from Page 1

Also included on the report is a listing of how the bridge is classified, either on or off system. An on-system bridge is part of the designated state highway system, which is administered by TxDOT and is typically funded with a combination of federal and state or state-only funds.

An off-system bridge is

not part of the state highway system and is under the direct jurisdiction of a local government entity such as a county, city or special district. These bridges are funded by state administered federal highway bridge program funds, which are 80 percent federal, 10 percent state and 10 percent local.

TxDOT said that safety is the most important goal and is a sacred obligation to the state's driving public. They will continue to monitor the state's bridges through its aggressive

inspection program. Their goal is to enhance safety, reduce congestion, expand economic opportunity, improve air quality and increase the value of the state's transportation assets.

For a complete list of the state's structurally deficient bridges, go to the Web site www.txdot.gov.

Below is the list of structurally deficient bridges in the local area, where they are located, whether they are on or off system bridges and the sufficiency rating.

Gray County:

Vernon Rd. / .3 miles east of Ranch Rd. / Off / 31.0
 CR 16 / 3.2 miles north of I-40 / Off / 35.6
 Boydston Rd. / .9 miles north of I-40 / Off / 39.9
 Seminole Rd. / 2.7 miles east of FM 749 / Off / 40.9
 Carroll Rd. / 4 miles south of FM 749 / Off / 42.2
 Vernon Rd. / 2.5 miles east of SH70 / Off / 46.5
 FM 291 / 1.8 miles north of I-40 / On / 48.0
 SH 273 / .3 miles north of junction FM 291 / On / 52.7
 SH 273 / 3 miles south of junction FM 291 / On / 58.3

Hemphill County:

Red Deer St. / .1 miles southwest of Elliott St. / Off / 20.6
 CR 13 / 2.6 miles north of FM 277 / Off / 26.5
 CR EE / 3.2 miles east of US 83 / Off / 35.8
 CR 20 / .7 miles south of FM 277 / Off / 36.7
 CR EE / .9 miles west of US 83 / Off / 36.7
 US 83 / .9 miles south of junction FM 3004 / On / 90.4

Hutchinson County:

Plemons Rd. / 1.9 miles southeast of FM 2277 / Off / 24.3
 Plains St. / .2 miles southeast of SH 138 / Off / 24.7
 CR X / 4 miles east of CR 25 / Off / 27.8
 SH 136 / 4 miles north of Borger / On / 46.4
 SH 207 south bend / overpass and railroad .3 miles north of FM 1551 / On / 48.1
 SH 152 east bend / .2 miles west of junction with FM 2171 / On / 49.7

Roberts County:

E. Lenora St. / .1 miles east of south Kiowa St. / Off / 33.5

Wheeler County:

CR 14 / 1.5 miles north of I-40 / Off / 42.6
 County Line Rd. / 1.5 miles south of I-40 / Off / 49.8
 US 83 / 1.15 miles north of FM 592 / On / 67.2

Students

Continued from Page 3

everything," Baumgartner said. She attended a wedding her first night in Pampa and will attend the rodeo with the other exchange students this week. She is a volleyball player and enjoys tennis and swimming. She is hosted by

the Martha Campbell family.

During her school year in Holland, Cargill said she learned patience, tolerance, to be more aware and more independent.

"My perception of others changed," Cargill said. She had so many memories that it was hard to choose one. "I really miss the trains," she recalled.

One of her memorable experiences was a trip to

southern Germany when she had to take a bus part way because of construction on the train tracks. The bus schedules were wrong and then she ended up on a train with door that wouldn't open. That took her to Munich, where she had to backpack to her destination.

"It took me seven hours," she said. That certainly differed from the short 30-minute trips she usually took on the train.

Pony

Continued from Page 1

Deer; Promise Mundell, Pampa. Boys group V - Spencer Berry, Amarillo (only qualifying run). Girls group VI - Katherine Martin, Pampa; Katey Kasch, Skellytown; Alexis McKee, Borger.

Breakaway Roping: Girls group V - Sadie Watkins, Miami (only qualifying run). Boys group V - Spencer Nicholson, Lefors; Aaron McKee, Borger. Girls group VI - Alexis McKee, Borger; Katey Kasch, Skellytown.

Barrel Race: Girls group V - Lesley Chester, Pampa; Chelsea Urbanczyk, White Deer; Bailey Wichert. Boys group V - Aaron McKee, Borger; Spencer Berry, Amarillo. Girls group VI - Katherine Martin, Pampa; Katey Kasch, Skellytown; Alexis McKee, Borger.

Tie Down Roping: Boys Group VI -

Gatlin Duncan, Mobeetie (only qualifying run).

Goat Tying: Girls Group V - Lesley Chester, Pampa; Sadie Watkins, Miami; Lacie Oxley, Pampa.

Ribbon Roping: Boys group VI - Gatlin Duncan, Mobeetie (only qualifying run).

Team Roping: Boys group VI - no qualifying time.

Goat Tying: Girls group VI - Shelby Robinson, Amarillo; Alexis McKee, Borger.

Flag Race - Boys group VI - Dillon O'Gorman, Shamrock; Ryan Vandever, Mobeetie.

All-Around Cowgirl: Group V - Lesley Chester, Pampa. Group VI - Alexis McKee, Borger.

All-Around Cowboy: Group V - Aaron McKee, Borger. Group VI - Gatlin Duncan, Mobeetie.

All-Around cowgirl and cowboy in group V and VI received championship buckles donated by Gebo's.

Police probe 2 separate assaults on city streets

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Pampa Police Department is investigating two assaults which occurred within a 12-hour period in the central part of the city.

The first of the two unrelated assaults was reported at 6:43 p.m. Tuesday from the emergency room at Pampa Regional Medical Center. The male victim had suffered minor facial injuries in connection with the assault, and required medical attention, according to police reports.

The victim told police that a person unknown to him and whom he did not see jumped him from behind. The suspect used fists to commit the alleged assault.

An aggravated assault was reported in the police department lobby at 1:39 a.m. today. The male victim suffered minor injuries to his arms which did not require medical attention, and damage to his clothing.

The assault occurred in the 1200 block of East Browning. The suspect swung a tire iron at the victim but did not make contact with the victim, according to police reports. The suspect also used fists in the commission of the assault.

The victim reported that he did not know why the assault occurred, but he is acquainted with the suspect.

Both cases remain open and are under investigation.

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FRIDAY NIGHT



Notice of Vote on Tax Rate

The City of Pampa

conducted public hearings on a proposal to

increase the total tax revenues of the

City of Pampa

from properties on the tax roll in the preceding

year by 10.42 percent

on August 22, 2007 at 5:30 PM and August 27, 2007 at

6:00 PM.

The City of Pampa

is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that

will result in that tax increase at a public

meeting to be held

on August 30, 2007, at 4:00 PM

at Pampa City Hall, 200 W Foster, City Commission

Chambers, Pampa, Texas..

Tired of Overcrowded Schools?

Grandview-Hopkins ISD is now enrolling Kindergarten through 6th Grade for the 2007-2008 school year. If you want the benefits of an excellent small school with an exciting learning environment with teachers who are dedicated to their students ENROLL TODAY!

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Viewpoints

Thoughts on sailboats and Women's Equality Day ...

I had a bad feeling as soon as I got onto the boat.

It was a small rented sailboat that was piloted by two women. The women had taken a few sailing lessons and wanted to try out their nautical prowess on the Potomac River. I and two other fellows went along for the ride.

And what a ride it was. Shortly after we boarded, one of the women, a lawyer, began lecturing us on sailing techniques. She told us about the jib, the small sail up front, and how to move it from one side to another by releasing one jib rope and pulling the other.

She explained what it meant to "tack," or shift the sails from one side to another to catch the wind and change direction. She lec-

tured us with a seriousness you'd encounter at a sexual-harassment seminar.

No sooner did her lecture conclude than the winds whipped up and grabbed the sails. We were yanked out to the great unknown at the neck-snapping speed of two miles per hour.

"Let go of the jib!" she shouted to one of the men, who, being a man, felt the need to do something, so he grabbed the jib rope. I later learned he was her ex-husband and they still lived together.

"But if I pull the jib tighter, it will catch more wind," he speculated. Men speculate. A lack of actual knowledge never interferes with our perpetual quest to resolve problems.

"Release the jib now!"

"But if I..."

"I said let go of the damn jib!"

He let go of the damn jib. His surrender, and the embarrassment we felt for him, set the tone for the rest of the torturous outing.

Tom Purcell
Columnist

No matter where you sit on a sailboat piloted by women, you are in the way. Your head is perpetually getting struck by ropes, pulleys and sail rods. If you attempt to do nothing, the women yell at you to pull the damn jib. If you pull the damn jib, they demand you release it. If you release it, they demand you pull it tighter. I got to thinking about this episode after reading about Women's Equality Day, to be celebrated Aug. 26. Congress established it in 1971 to spotlight women's efforts at achieving equality. It is celebrated every Aug. 26 because that's the day women won the right to vote back in 1920.

Things sure have changed since 1920. It used to be that women were held back in this country. They had few options but to marry and become mothers, and they were then expected to stay home while the men went off to run the country.

Today, the potential of women has been unleashed

and we're all better off. Women are excelling in every profession. More women than men are enrolling in college and more are earning advanced degrees. Nearly 40 percent of all businesses in America are owned by women.

It's true that women have not yet achieved parity at the top levels of corporate America. It's also true that women earn 75 percent of what men do, though doesn't this have more to do with the choices women can now make than discrimination?

Women can stay single and climb the corporate ladder. Women can marry, have a family and hire a nanny to watch the kids. They can suspend their careers to stay home with the kids, which will reduce their earning

potential when they return to work. There are a million choices available and women are choosing every variation under the sun.

And they're piloting sailboats.

It used to be that when five people got onto a sailboat, the men sat in the back barking orders. They'd soon get to bickering and turn an otherwise delightful outing into a miserable affair.

Now women are doing that. While they focus intensely on their piloting duties, it's the men who are adrift at sea.

We're not sure whether we should pull or release the damn jib.

—Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 22, the 234th day of 2007. There are 131 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 22, 1787, inventor John Fitch demonstrated his steamboat on the Delaware River to delegates of the Continental Congress.

On this date:

In 1485, England's King Richard III was killed in the Battle of Bosworth Field, ending the War of the Roses.

In 1846, Gen. Stephen W. Kearny proclaimed all of New Mexico a territory of the United States.

In 1851, the schooner America outraced more than a dozen British vessels off the English coast to win a trophy that came to be known as the America's Cup.

In 1904, Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping was born in Sichuan province.

In 1910, Japan annexed Korea, which remained under Japanese colonial rule until 1945.

In 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard M. Nixon were

'The individual says, 'My crowd doesn't run that way.' I say, don't run with crowds.'

— Robert Henri
American artist
(1865-1929)

nominated for second terms in office by the Republican national convention in San Francisco.

In 1968, Pope Paul VI arrived in Bogota, Colombia, for the start of the first papal visit to Latin America.

In 1978, President Jomo Kenyatta, a leading figure in Kenya's struggle for independence, died; Vice President Daniel Arap Moi was sworn in as acting president.

In 1985, 55 people died when fire broke out aboard a British Airtours charter jet on a runway at Manchester Airport in England.

In 1989, Black Panther co-founder Huey P. Newton was shot to death in Oakland, Calif. (Gunman Tyrone Robinson was later sentenced to 32 years to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: A federal official threw out the contentious Teamsters election because of alleged campaign fund-raising abuses, forcing union President Ron Carey into another race against James P. Hoffa.

Five years ago: President Bush proposed to end the government's "hands-off" policy in national forests and ease logging restrictions in fire-prone areas. A small plane carrying 18 people, including tourists from Germany, the United States and Britain, crashed in Nepal, killing all aboard.

One year ago: A Russian Pulkovo Airlines jet carrying 170 people crashed in eastern Ukraine, killing all aboard. Paramount Pictures severed ties to Tom Cruise after 14 years, citing unacceptable conduct.



The world starts over with each new birth

December 7, 1941, and Aug. 6, 1945 — and what happened on those dates — are fading from the world's memory as the generations who experienced those events die off.

Those two dates mark the beginning and the beginning of the end of World War II in the Pacific. They were the dates when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and when the United States dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. The Japanese attack, aimed at America's military assets, killed less than 3,000. Nobody knows for sure how many died in Hiroshima. Many of the victims were vaporized, but the more-or-less official estimate is 140,000 in the initial blast.

It is always pointless to argue about an event that has already happened. To his credit, documentary film-

maker Steven Okazaki, an American, does not do that in his excellent production "White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," which just debuted on HBO.

Instead, he simply tells the story of what happened through interviews with survivors, most of whom were children or teenagers at the time. The survivors — at least as far as we can tell from the portions of their interviews shown — demonstrate little or no bitterness toward Americans. Some did express anger toward the Japanese government, which not only got them into a war they couldn't win but initially, at least, did nothing to

help the survivors.

One thing that comes across, especially in the interviews with Japanese teens at the beginning of the documentary, is how similar people are. The contemporary Japanese — dressed pretty much as American teens dress, and just as giggly and blank-minded as far as history is concerned — didn't have a clue as to the significance of Aug. 6, 1945.

They reminded me of a baby sitter I once employed who had brought her history book with her. I asked her if she liked history.

"It's OK," she said in a bored voice, "except for that real old stuff like World War II."

She said that in 1970, only 25 years after the end of the war. Truly, the world starts over with each birth. It's probably a good thing that we have no genetic memories of the past before our birth, since so many would be nightmarish.

The documentary certainly is worth seeing, if only to remind ourselves that nuclear weapons are too destructive ever to be used again by sane people. The bombs dropped in 1945 are mere hand grenades compared with the power of nuclear warheads sitting on top of missiles around the world today. Looking at films of the nuclear fireball gives me, at least, the impression of looking at pure evil. It's like the universe is sneering at us that we are nothing and can van-

See REESE, Page 5



Charley Reese
Columnist

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Aug. 13
Houston Chronicle on virtual security at the border:

A Web site for Texans to spot illegal immigrants crossing the border by monitoring strategically placed cameras is in limbo. That's a great place to leave it.

A monthlong rollout of the Texas Border Watch test site ended last year with distinctly underwhelming results: citizens' calls brought 10 arrests, a drug bust and a disrupted smuggling attempt. The cost of the test to Texas taxpayers: \$200,000.

That works out to roughly \$20,000

for every undocumented immigrant nabbed. Considering that law enforcement apprehends more than 10,000 monthly, the Web site seems more plausible as an election-year gimmick for Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Perry has labeled the federal government's security fence under construction along the border as "preposterous," but he supports spending \$5 million for a camera system and Web site. Texas legislators in the recent session appropriated more than \$100 million for border security but did not earmark money for the cameras.

The governor apparently is leery of spending funds for cameras without legislative approval. His staff is looking at other options, including tapping into federal dollars to get the system up

and running with 70 cameras instead of the dozen or so utilized in the test. A spokeswoman for the governor said that although the Web site is down now, the project isn't out.

Given that the initial results were so meager, how does the governor justify spending \$5 million? "We had a high volume of hits on the Internet as well as lots of support from folks not only down on the border but from the public," Perry's spokeswoman said. "It was a huge success."

Those criteria sound more like measurements for the success of an entertainment or political Web site than a law enforcement operation. Surveillance cameras used by border

See BORDE, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

email: editor@thepampanews.com

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Editor: Dennis Spies

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Fines recommended against Midler for felling trees

LIHUE, Hawaii (AP) — Bette Midler cut down more than 230 trees around one of her properties on the island of Kauai without a permit, and the state has recommended she be fined.

The staff of the Board of Land and Natural Resources recommended \$6,500 in fines for having the trees felled and for building a graded road without permits required for the land zoned for conservation use.

The singer and actress will pay the

fines and will follow a replanting program, her attorney Max W. J. Graham said.

The actress and movie star, who was born in Honolulu, didn't realize permits were needed to remove the trees on a vacant 58,000-square-foot parcel of land on Kauai's North Shore, Graham said.

"The whole idea with cutting the trees down was with the idea of improving the lot with native species" instead of the nonnative,

invasive species that had grown there, Graham said. "It's unfortunate that a mistake was made."

The National Tropical Botanical Garden, which maintains three gardens on Kauai, will design a replanting plan that consists of appropriate native plants, Graham said.

A botanist hired by Midler after the fact said 120 Java plum trees, 100 octopus trees and 10 to 20 Madagascar olive trees that were cut down were all nonnative species.

Some native trees also were removed from the property, the botanist said.

Midler, known for her longtime commitment to the environment, was once known as the Compost Queen and appeared on billboards in Los Angeles advocating green recycling containers for yard trimmings.

Midler is set to replace Celine Dion as a headline performer at Las Vegas's renovated Caesars Palace next year.

Border

Cont. from Page 4

law enforcement officers in their effort to apprehend lawbreakers make sense. A Web site to let the public play "spot the illegal immigrant" doesn't.

U R L : <http://www.chron.com>

Events calendar

- **River Valley Pioneer Museum in Canadian** will host a workshop with artist Mike Mahon of Amarillo from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. All painting and drawing mediums will be welcome; however, demonstrations will be in pastel and oil. Mahon specializes in portraiture. The workshop fee is \$250 plus model's fee. A \$50 deposit is due Aug. 9. A live demo, orientation and reception is planned from 6:30-9 p.m. today. 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 Sunday. Moneyville is a 4-foot 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.

- **The Institute for Natural Resources** will offer a seminar for the medical and health care industry entitled "The Addicted Brain" Sept. 5 in Lubbock and Sept. 6 in Amarillo. The seminar will be worth six credit hours and is open to nurses, pharmacists, dietitians/DTRs, psychologists, social workers, nursing home administrators, case managers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, massage therapists, counselors and other health professionals. To find out more or to register, call 1-877-246-6336 or (925) 609-2820.

- **The deadline to apply for the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage program** is Sept. 15. The program seeks to honor Texas farms and ranches celebrating 100 years or more of

existence. For more information call (512) 463-2631 or log on to www.agr.state.tx.us.

- **The Red Hat Dollies Society of Pampa** will meet at 11 a.m. Sept. 20 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. For more information, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.

- **USS Columbus CA-74/CG-12/SSN-762 Reunion** will be held Sept. 26-29 in Ontario, Calif. contact Allen R. Hope, president, at (260) 486-2221, (260) 492-9771 (fax), or hope4391@comcast.net (e-mail). Navy and Marine Corps shipmates who served on the USS Columbus CA-74/CG-12 from 1944-1976 and the USS Columbus (SSN-762) past and present who are interested in sharing their memories and experiences are encouraged to contact Hope as well.

- **Applications are being sought for the 2008 Mrs. Gray County pageant** until Sept. 30. The winner will represent the county at the 2008 Mrs. Texas pageant April 11-13 in San Antonio. For more information, log on to www.mrstexas.us or the World Wide Web or call (210) 403-0589.

- **The 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.**, upcoming schedule of activities include the following events: 45th All Ohio Days, Oct. 19-20, Clearwater, Ohio. For more information and membership details, call (937) 898-5977.

- **The Working Ranch Cowboys Association's 12th World Championship Ranch Rodeo** will be Nov. 8-11 in Amarillo. Cowboys from working ranches across the Northern Hemisphere will compete for the title of "Best in the World." For more information, call (806) 374-9722.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

ish in seconds.

One of the Americans interviewed who had participated in the raid on Hiroshima said that people who say we ought to nuke this or that country "are stupid jerks who've never seen a nuclear bomb. If they had, they wouldn't say that."

Only brief segments of the film are gruesome, but I wouldn't let children see it. Images stay in the human brain much longer than words. It's wrong to pollute a child's mind with images of horror and

death. That goes for make-believe images, too.

The saddest part is that the documentary shows that wars are started by governments without the people's permission, and the people follow their respective governments blindly, no matter what the consequences. That's always been true and always will be. Anti-war movements are always futile, and the phrase "never again" is just as futile. As a general who once commanded our nuclear forces told me over lunch some years ago, "I wouldn't give you two cents for the future."

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Lefors ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:00 PM, August 28, 2007 in the Lefors High School Library, 209 E. 5th Street, Lefors, Texas 79054. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$1.040000/\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax	\$0.300000/\$100 (Proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
Approved by Local Voters	

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 categories:

Maintenance & operations	12.99% increase
Debt service	100.00% increase
Total expenditures	40.54% increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$133,171,474	\$132,489,322
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$175,027	\$95,270
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$124,536,374	\$123,472,049
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$175,027	\$95,270

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

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$2,000,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.370000	\$0.000000	\$1.370000	\$11,343	\$2,450
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.066400	\$0.300000	\$1.366400	\$8,355	\$7,367

Proposed Rate

\$1.040000 \$0.300000 * \$1.340000 \$8,204 \$7,350

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$15,185	\$17,432
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$5,185	\$7,432
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.370000	\$1.340000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$71.03	\$99.59
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$28.56

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.340000. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.340000.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$944,448
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$0

H-24

August 22, 2007

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



PRETZEL

This loveable guy is a brown and white Wire Hair Terrier that is approximately 3 years old. Pretzel will make a wonderful companion and gives unconditional love. Visit us today and give him a forever 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

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: The thing that comes to mind when I look at my friends is, "How much did you cut today?" It hurts my heart to know they do it. A couple of them do it on their legs. They wear pants in the summer so no one can see the nasty gashes and scars. My other friends do it on their arms and wear long-sleeved shirts or sweatshirts in 80-degree weather. It's scary knowing some of your closest friends do this. I am only 14, and I am crying out for help. What can I say or do to make them stop? I feel like if I tell them, they'll feel bad and cut more, and I really don't know what to do. I don't think they realize how much this hurts not just them, but me. Please print this soon. — **FRIGHTENED AND WORRIED IN MINNESOTA**

DEAR FRIGHTENED: You are right to be worried about your friends. They are in serious trouble. Strange as it may seem, people who cut themselves do it to distract themselves from their emotional pain. Cutting is usually a symptom of a serious emotional problem, and often cutters need professional intervention to stop their compulsion. One would think that a child's parents would recognize that something was wrong when the young person habitually wears clothing that is inappropriate for the season — but apparently your friends' parents are too focused on something else to notice. Your friends are sick, and they're not likely to listen to you at this point. That's why you must tell your parents what is going on, so they can tell the other adults that their children are in need of treatment — and the sooner the better.

DEAR ABBY: I went to college for two years after high school and did not find one bit of enjoyment in anything I was studying. Now, at 23, I work in a business owned by a friend and do a bit of acting on the side, which I love. My problem is that I am judged by people I hardly know for my career choices. I get questions like, "Have you gone back to school yet?" and "When are you planning to go back to school?" I was recently outraged when a family friend asked me what my fiancé does for a living (construction), and if he had finished college (he did not). Abby, this woman actually asked me why I was going to marry him! What most people don't know is, I do plan to return to school and study architecture. However, I do not feel I should have to explain my every move to these people, especially when they obviously don't care about my feelings. Most of the time I give them a disgusted look and walk away, but I'm tired of feeling like I'm running away from them. What is a polite way of telling them that my decisions are none of their business? — **UNEDUCATED IN ONTARIO**

DEAR "UNEDUCATED": Having a college degree is an asset, but no guarantee of success — and people in the trades also can earn a very good living. (Just ask anyone who has tried to hire a plumber, electrician or someone to remodel a home.) You are under no obligation to confide your career plans to anyone who asks. Just smile and say, "I'm planning on winning the lottery."

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

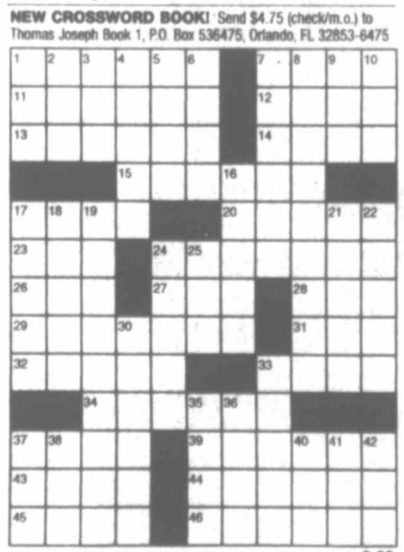
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Spotted cat
 - 7 Jane Austen novel
 - 11 Lifelong resident
 - 12 Added amount
 - 13 Sender's inquiry
 - 14 Overcast
 - 15 Diamond period
 - 17 Endure
 - 20 Pride sounds
 - 23 Census question
 - 24 Letters for settler, e.g.
 - 26 Stock holder
 - 27 Match part
 - 28 Dabquiri need
 - 29 Without pausing to think
 - 31 Hot drink
 - 32 "Platoon" director
 - 33 Catherine — (wife of Henry VIII)
 - 34 Turn
 - 37 Litmus reddener
 - 39 Bully
 - 43 Remote button
 - 44 Galahad's mother
- DOWN**
- 1 Neighbor of Mich.
 - 2 Highway
 - 3 Airport
 - 4 Allowed
 - 5 Kitchen fixture
 - 6 Seabird
 - 7 Seasonal drink
 - 8 Tequila
 - 9 Farrow of films
 - 10 Which-ever one
 - 16 Fuming ends
 - 17 Azure mineral
 - 18 007, for one
 - 19 Lisbon miss
 - 21 Daytona entrant
 - 22 Malign
 - 24 Useful ability
 - 25 Court divider
 - 30 Battery ends
 - 33 Texan tree
 - 35 Made fun of
 - 36 Floor piece
 - 37 Band blaster
 - 38 Prompt
 - 40 Collection
 - 41 After-noon hour
 - 42 Newsmen



Yesterday's answer



Marmaduke

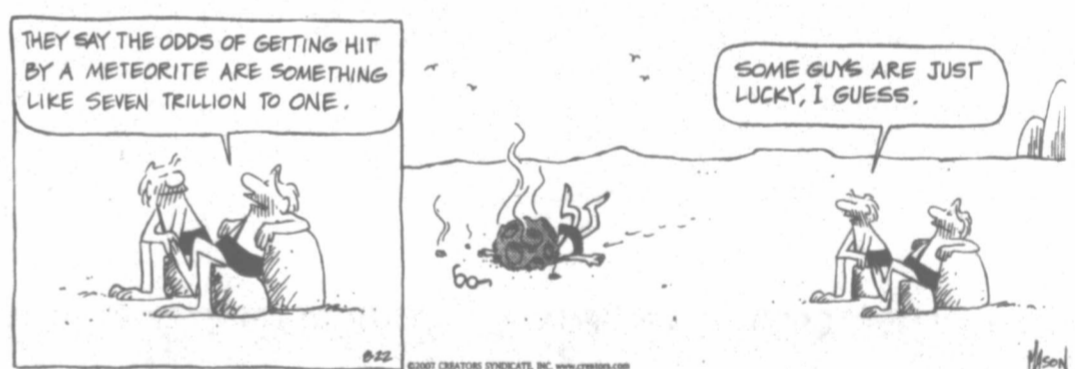


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Kid Pony Show



Pampa News photos by JORDAN REAGAN
Brandon Lee makes a turn around the first barrel in the barrel racing competition Tuesday night at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Kid Pony Show. The professional rodeo will continue at 7:30 Thursday night at the rodeo arena at Recreation Park.



Jacob Black rounds barrel #2 during Tuesday night's barrel racing competition at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Kid Pony Show.

Youth soccer sign ups to continue through Sept. 1

Registration for the Pampa Soccer Association began Aug. 1 and will close on Sept. 1 at T-Shirts & More in Pampa and Smithfield Premium Genetics office on Highway 60. The fee is \$65 and includes a uniform. This fee will be for both the Fall and Spring seasons. Ask about discounts for coaches.

All games will be played on Saturdays at the Soccer Complex in Pampa. Practice will begin Sept. 5 and the first game is scheduled for Sept. 22.

If you need more information, please contact Heather Sanders at 665-2053, Leslie Ramming at 665-2652 or Jason Pooley at 665-3809 or 663-7673.

Football boosters ready to kick off new season

Football boosters are well on their way as we get ready for the 2007 season. Football program ads are all in and the response was great.

At the last two meetings, Coach Andy Cavalier introduced the football coaching staff, summarized team captains requirements and spoke about the upcoming scrimmage in Lubbock Friday against Big Spring.

Boosters will host a night at recreation park for the football players, trainers, coaches and their families at 7 p.m. Thursday.

There will be hot dogs, watermelon and water polo. Bring your lawn chairs, cost is \$5 per person - children 8 and under are free.

Former Minnesota Timberwolves forward dies in SUV-train crash

HOUSTON (AP) — Basketball always came easily to Eddie Griffin. It was life off the court that he had trouble handling.

The former Minnesota Timberwolves forward died last week when his sport utility vehicle collided with a freight train in a fiery crash, the Harris County medical examiner's office said Tuesday.

Investigators used dental records to identify Griffin, 25, who began his pro career with the Houston Rockets in 2001. He was waived by the Timberwolves in March.

The 6-foot-10 Griffin averaged 7.2 points, 5.8 rebounds and 1.71 blocks in five NBA seasons. Born in Philadelphia, Griffin was one of the nation's top freshmen at Seton Hall in 2000-2001 and was named to the NBA All-Rookie second team in 2002.

Not long after he left college, Griffin became more known for his troublesome, off-the-court behavior.

Mark Madsen, one of Griffin's teammates in Minnesota, said Griffin was well-liked, despite his problems.

"Eddie Griffin is someone who was never a super loud or boisterous guy in the locker room," Madsen said, "but he was someone who everyone loved in the locker room. When he was doing well on the court we were all so happy for him. And when he was struggling we were all struggling right there with him."

Griffin was originally selected by the Nets with the seventh pick in the 2001 draft, then was traded to Houston for the draft rights. He averaged 8.7 points, 5.8 rebounds and 1.63 blocks over his first two seasons with the Rockets.

In November 2003, Griffin was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, after a woman claiming to be his girlfriend accused him of punching her in the face and shooting a pistol at her car as she drove away.

Griffin missed practices and a team flight, and the Rockets suspended him, then waived him in December 2003.

"Basketball was never an issue with him. He needed more life lessons, and unfortunately he was never able to reach his potential," former Timberwolves coach Dwane Casey said.

History not kind to athletes who invite disgrace on themselves

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

About the only sure thing in Michael Vick's life right now is that he's going to prison.

Lucky for him, it will be a federal prison. Not exactly a country club, but most likely the kind of place where he can get three squares a day, and perhaps a job in the prison laundry.

If he's really lucky, there will be a field where he and his fellow inmates can toss the pigskin around.

There are worse lives to lead. The dogs in the Bad Newz Kennels certainly lived them.

And there will come a time in the not so distant future when Vick will walk out of the prison gates a free man, ready to resume at least part of the life that he left behind.

The question then

becomes, what will await him?

In terms of marketability he's done. Finished. Through. No company would risk being associated with a dog killer, and that's just what Vick will be the minute he formally pleads guilty in his dogfighting case.

As far as a future in football, the best you can say is that he's still young. Assuming he gets the sentence of a year or two that most expect, he'll be out before he's 30, an age where quarterbacks are usually coming into their own.

But commissioner Roger Goodell has already accused Vick of lying to him, and he holds the key to the league. Goodell may never let Vick back in, but if he relents there may be a general manager somewhere so desperate to keep his job that he would

take a chance.

The odds, though, don't favor a comeback. History hasn't proven kind to athletes who invite disgrace upon themselves, with rare exceptions such as Kobe Bryant and Ray Lewis.

Here are just a few who sinned and never recovered, without a mention of O.J. Simpson (who was an actor by the time he got in trouble) in the group:

— Mike Tyson: Tyson actually had a comeback, and a lucrative one at that, after serving three years in prison for sexual assault. But he had millions of fans who didn't believe he was guilty, a support group that won't be there for Vick. Now he's the poster child for athletes gone bad, with just one used BMW to show for his \$300 million in purses and facing up to seven more years in prison on drug charges.

— Maurice Claret: Claret capped his freshman season at Ohio State by rushing for the winning touchdown in the national championship game. He never played again and now occupies a cell in the Toledo Correctional Institution, where he is serving seven years on robbery and gun charges.

— Art Schlichter: Another OSU standout, he was the fourth pick in the 1982 NFL draft and figured to soon be the starter for the Baltimore Colts. But a bad gambling habit got him in trouble, and he would eventually serve 10 years in more than 40 prisons and jails for conning people out of money. Free now, he lives with his mother and speaks to groups about the evils of gambling.

— Ben Johnson: No one was faster than Johnson, who lowered his own world

record with a 9.79 in the 100 meters in the 1988 Olympics. And no one fell faster. Johnson was stripped of his gold medal two days later after testing positive for steroids, setting off a national crisis in Canada. He was later banned from track for life after another failed test, and a Canadian sports minister called him a national disgrace.

— Denny McClain: McClain won 31 games for the Detroit Tigers in 1968, but two years later was suspended from baseball for bookmaking activities. He later served two different prison terms for drug trafficking and embezzlement charges and was last seen hawking his autobiography, "I Told You I Wasn't Perfect."

The list goes on, but you get the idea.

Bryant and Lewis man-

aged to right their careers, but they are the exceptions. Pete Rose signs autographs in a casino mall to make a living, the government still isn't done with collecting back taxes from Darryl Strawberry, and Marion Jones is not only out of work after being linked to steroids, but reportedly is broke and heavily in debt.

And what's the last good thing you heard about Tonya Harding?

"Unfortunately for Vick, the American public doesn't have much patience with tarnished heroes. Even more unfortunate for Vick is that, judging by the 75 million dogs in the United States, a lot of people love dogs as much as they do football.

It's hard, in fact, to come up with a scenario that ends well. Vick has already lost all his lucrative endorse-

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Dahlberg

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ments, and the Falcons will no doubt go after some of the \$44 million in guaranteed money in his latest contract. He'll be an ex-con when he gets out, and any attempt he makes at making amends will be met vociferously by animal rights activists who will remind everyone just how he and his friends used to kill puppies.

About the only thing

Vick can do is to come up with a real apology for his actions. He will need to speak from the heart about how wrong what he did really was.

Perhaps the time he'll spend in a lonely jail cell will help him do just that. His few remaining supporters can only hope.

Because without some genuine remorse, he has no chance at all.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg-gap.org

Vick could still face charges in Virginia state court

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Michael Vick now must wait and worry.

Already looking at a possible five years in prison on federal dogfighting charges, the Atlanta Falcons quarterback also could be facing prosecution in Virginia.

Then there is the NFL where commissioner Roger Goodell has yet to determine what punishment Vick will face from the league.

Local prosecutor Gerald Poindexter has said he likely will pursue charges against Vick, who has plummeted from favorite son to a sym-

bol of animal abuse in the four months since authorities raided his Surry County property.

Poindexter did not return messages left by The Associated Press at his office, his cell phone and at his home Tuesday.

Among the state laws Vick could be charged with violating are those against dogfighting and animal cruelty. Both are felonies punishable by up to five years in prison.

"The real question is how much overlap there would be between anything the local prosecutor would charge and

what the federal prosecutors charged," said Linda Malone, a criminal procedure expert and Marshall-Wythe Foundation professor of law at the College of William and Mary. "There are some limitations on duplication."

Vick said through a lawyer Monday that he will plead guilty to a federal charge of conspiracy to travel in interstate commerce in aid of unlawful activities and conspiracy to sponsor a dog in an animal fighting venture. Malone said the state dogfighting charges prob-

bly would not be considered duplicative.

"The essence of the conspiracy charge is the agreement" between Vick and his coconspirators, Malone said.

Three Vick associates have pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charge and said Vick provided virtually all the gambling and operating funds for the "Bad Newz Kennels" dogfighting enterprise. Two of them also said Vick participated in executing at least eight underperforming dogs, raising the possibility of the animal cruelty charges.

Zimmerman homers and drives in 4 as Nationals beat Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — The Washington Nationals have found a comfortable place to hit, far away from RFK Stadium.

Ryan Zimmerman hit a two-run homer and drove in four runs and Nook Logan added a career-high five hits in the Nationals' 11-6 win over the Houston Astros on Tuesday night.

Zimmerman knocked in runs on a triple and a single and Logan had three RBI singles, part of Washington's 14-hit outburst. The Nationals also had 14 hits at hitter-friendly Minute Maid Park in a 7-0 win over the Astros on Monday night.

"We just didn't try to do too much, which usually happens in this stadium," said Washington manager Manny Acta. "We got base hits up the middle and it really helped us."

Zimmerman's homer in

the fifth barely cleared the left-field wall and might not have been a homer at the Nationals' home park. Then again, his triple to dead-center would've easily cleared the wall at RFK.

"It's nice to have a fly ball go out once in a while," he said. "It's kind of funny. I don't really consider myself a triples guy. That was, like, the second or third ball where I wish I would've been at home when I hit it."

The Nationals took advantage of a rare off night at Minute Maid for Astros starter Wandy Rodriguez, who hadn't lost there in six starts. The left-hander came in with a 1.65 ERA in 12 home starts, but allowed seven runs and six hits with four walks in 5 1-3 innings.

"I think I didn't use my changeup, that's what happened to me," Rodriguez said. "I felt good and my

fastball was good. I guess they figured me out."

The Nationals beat Houston for the seventh time in the last eight meetings and has won consecutive road games for the first time since July 26-27. They also sneaked past Florida and out of last place in the NL East standings — a modest, but significant achievement for the young franchise.

"A lot of people didn't think we were going to win this many games the whole year," Zimmerman said. "If we can go on a little run, anything can happen. Finishing .500 — that would be a huge accomplishment for us."

Craig Biggio homered and drove in four runs for the Astros, who've lost three in a row and five of their last seven.

Rookie Joel Hanrahan (3-1) allowed three runs and

seven hits with three walks in five innings to earn the win for the Nationals in his fifth career start.

Biggio drove Hanrahan's first pitch into the left-field porch for his 10th homer of the season. It was Biggio's 53rd career leadoff homer, an NL record.

"We didn't put the ball in play a couple times tonight with men in base," manager Phil Garner said, "and it comes back to bite you."

Rodriguez breezed through the first three innings, striking out four and giving up only Dmitri Young's single leading off the second inning.

Logan, hitting a team-best .320 since the All-Star break, led off the fourth with a double past third baseman Mike Lamb. Zimmerman followed with a triple over Hunter Pence's head in deep center. Pence was making his first

start since July 22, when he broke his right wrist making a slide.

Austin Kearns drew a one-out walk and Wily Mo Pena beat out a grounder that would've resulted in an inning-ending double play. Instead, Zimmerman scored to put the Nationals up 2-1.

Rodriguez (7-12) hadn't allowed more than one earned run at home since May 30.

Mark Loretta walked to lead off the Astros' fourth and advanced on Brad Ausmus' ground out. One out later, Biggio blooped an RBI single to center and went to second on Logan's late throw to the plate. Pence, second among NL rookies with a .330 average, then singled to right to give the Astros a 3-2 lead.

Brian Schneider led off the fifth with a double to left center and scored on Logan's

single to tie the game again. Zimmerman then hit a towering homer into the left-field seats, his 19th, to put Washington up 5-3.

Rodriguez walked Ronnie Belliard and Schneider in the sixth and was relieved by left-hander Trevor Miller. Tony Batista, pinch-hitting for Hanrahan, and Logan then lined RBI singles to center to make it 7-3.

Dave Borkowski relieved Miller and Zimmerman singled to center, scoring Lopez.

Lance Berkman hit an RBI single in the Astros sixth off Jesus Colome, but Carlos Lee struck out with two men on to end the inning and send hundreds of fans filing toward the exits.

Belliard had an RBI double and Logan had another run-scoring single during Washington's three-run seventh.

Bedard wins ninth straight, leading Orioles over Rangers

BALTIMORE (AP) — There was no fist-pump, no leap for joy. When Erik Bedard fired a third strike past Jarrod Saltalamacchia to end the seventh inning and tie the Baltimore Orioles' single-season record for strikeouts, the only emotion he felt was relief.

"Just to get the last out of that inning was the key, pretty much," the left-hander said.

Bedard struck out 11 in seven innings to win his ninth straight decision, and the Baltimore Orioles got home runs from Miguel Tejada and Aubrey Huff in a 6-2 victory over the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

Bedard (13-4) increased his AL-leading strikeout total to 218, matching Mike Mussina's club record in 1997. The only runs he allowed came in the seventh, immediately closing out his performance by striking out Saltalamacchia.

"It feels good, just to be in the same category as Mike Mussina," the soft-spoken Bedard said.

Bedard didn't know he was in such lofty company

until catcher Ramon Hernandez handed him the ball.

"It looked like he was trying to hurry up and get it over with," Orioles manager Dave Trembley said. "Knowing him as I know him, it's probably not a big deal to him. It should be, but it's probably not."

Bedard gave up five hits, walked none and struck out at least one batter every inning. He has 26 strikeouts in two games against Texas this season.

After striking out 19 times against Minnesota on Sunday, including 17 against Johan Santana, the Rangers followed Monday's rainout in Baltimore by flailing at Bedard's offerings.

"I've seen enough of Santana and Bedard. They're two of the best in the game," Texas' Marlon Byrd said.

Playing at Camden Yards for the first time since his horrid 2005 season with the Orioles, Rangers DH Sammy Sosa went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts. Gerald Laird and Saltalamacchia each struck out twice.

"It's the type of guys I'm sending up there right now," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "They're big swingers and they swing and miss a lot. We're going to have to deal with it."

Bedard is 9-0 in 12 starts since June 15. His unbeaten run is the longest for an Oriole since Arthur Rhodes won nine in a row in 1996. "It's a combination of luck and throwing good here and there and getting through the game," Bedard said.

Jim Hoey worked a perfect eighth and Dany Baez got the final three outs. Neither recorded a strikeout. The Orioles got all the runs they needed in a three-run first inning against Vicente Padilla (3-9). After Brian Roberts led off with a double and scored on an infield hit by Nick Markakis, Tejada started a three-hit night with his 12th home run.

Texas has been outscored 93-47 in the first inning this season. In the 77 games in which the opposition has scored first, the Rangers have won only 22.

In the sixth, Huff fol-

lowed an RBI double by Kevin Millar with a two-run homer to make it 6-0. Millar has reached via a hit, walk or hit by pitch in 47 straight games, two shy of the club record set by Ken Singleton in 1977.

Padilla yielded six runs, seven hits and four walks in five innings. It was his second start after a 51-day stint on the disabled list.

Texas ended a 19-inning scoreless drought in the seventh when Byrd got an infield hit and came home on a double by Jason Botts. Nelson Cruz followed with an RBI double before Bedard struck out Saltalamacchia.

Bedard retired his first six batters before Cruz got an infield hit. Bedard then struck out Saltalamacchia and Adam Melhuse to pass Mussina's 2000 total and move into second place on the Orioles' single-season list.

"He's a tough character," Washington said. "The guy definitely knows how to pitch. There must be something special about him because he strikes out people."

Bonds' 756th home run ball is going to auction

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — No. 756 is going to auction.

Barry Bonds' record-breaking home run ball will be sold online, and fortunate fan Matt Murphy figures to be a half-million dollars richer.

The 21-year-old New York man said Tuesday he had no choice but to sell the ball — several people told him he would be taxed on the valuable souvenir if he holds onto it.

"It wasn't hard. It was simple math. I'm upset by the decision I had to make," Murphy said. "I wanted to keep it. I'm young. I don't have the bank account. ... It would have cost me a lot more to keep it."

Bonds broke Hank Aaron's record of 755 with a shot into the right-field seats on Aug. 7 against the Washington Nationals.

Sotheby's/SCP Auctions will handle the sale at www.sepauctions.com beginning Aug. 28 and going through Sept. 15. The starting bid has not been deter-

mined, and auction officials estimated the ball would bring at least \$500,000.

"This is the most historic baseball ever to be sold," said David Kohler, president of SCP Auctions.

The ball from Bonds' 755th home run hit Aug. 4 in San Diego also will be for sale on the site. The same company sold the balls from Bonds' 700th homer and No. 715 that passed Babe Ruth for second place last season.

Everyone involved hopes the buyer of the historic balls is willing to at least share them for a period of time — if not donate them altogether — with the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

"I really hope the person who does buy it is in position to loan it," Murphy said, a security guard close by him during a news conference at a restaurant near the ballpark. "Two weeks ago, history was made. I was lucky enough to be in the house."

Murphy plans to share at least some of the proceeds with a friend who attended the Giants game with him.

Oregon advances at wet, chilly LLWS; Japan, Venezuela win

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — Even with a case of the sniffles, Levi Rudolph didn't mind pitching through on-and-off rain, a stiff breeze and cool temperatures that made it seem more like early March than mid-August.

Rudolph pitched four-plus effective innings and drove home a run on a bunt single as Lake Oswego, Ore., defeated Hamilton, Ohio, 6-1 Tuesday to advance to the Little League World Series semifinals.

"The last couple days, I had a little cold, but I've played in these conditions all year," said the 13-year-old Rudolph, who hails from the rainy Pacific Northwest. "I really don't think about these pressure situations."

In other games Tuesday, Tokyo, Japan defeated White Rock, British Columbia, 7-1; and Maracaibo, Venezuela, routed Apeldoorn, Netherlands, 21-2.

The tournament resumed Tuesday after the full slate of five

games Monday was postponed because of a steady rain.

Tuesday wasn't much better. The sun never came out over South Williamsport, with a drizzle falling much of the day. Temperatures were in the 60s, though the breeze made it feel even cooler.

Heavier downpours later Tuesday forced the game between Walpole, Mass., and Warner Robins, Ga. to be suspended in the second inning. That game will be resumed Wednesday at 11 a.m.

The late game between Taiwan and Mexico never even started, and was also postponed to Wednesday at noon.

Mexico must now play two games Wednesday, hitting the field again at 7 p.m. Little League president Stephen Keener said he thought it was the first time a team would play a doubleheader in the series.

There was another first, too, with the cancellation of games. Texas

vs. Maryland and Japan vs. Saudi Arabia were called off for Wednesday because neither game would affect the standings.

Texas and Japan are undefeated and have clinched semifinal berths, while Maryland and Saudi Arabia are winless and have been eliminated.

Friday is a scheduled day off for the series, though Keener said they are saving that day in case of postponements either of the next two days.

"Obviously, the rain has wreaked havoc on our schedule," Keener said. "We've had to decisions we'd rather not make."

But this was perfect weather for Lake Oswego, said Clyde Weiss, father of Oregon center fielder Michael Weiss.

"This is how we play from April 1 to May 15," he said, hands in his pockets as he watched from the stands.

Austin Andrews led off the bot-

tom of the first with an opposite-field homer to right, part of a two-run inning for Lake Oswego (2-1), which never trailed.

"I just saw a pitch I liked and I drove it out of the park," the 12-year-old Andrews said. "It was awesome."

Hamilton (1-2) closed to 2-1 in the second after John Cornett's RBI single to left scored Brandon Green.

But it was one of just two hits allowed by Rudolph, who said he relied on his fastball after losing confidence in his curve.

In the fifth, Rudolph drove in a runner from third after dropping a bunt toward first with the third baseman creeping in toward the plate.

The game was well in hand by then, though, and the team was serenaded by chants of "Here we go Lakers, here we go!"

All the way to the semifinals Thursday.

With an off day Wednesday, manager Craig Ramey will give his team a little break.

"We'll take it easy, watch some games," Ramey said. "These kids like to play ping pong. If it gets warmer, we'll get into the pool."

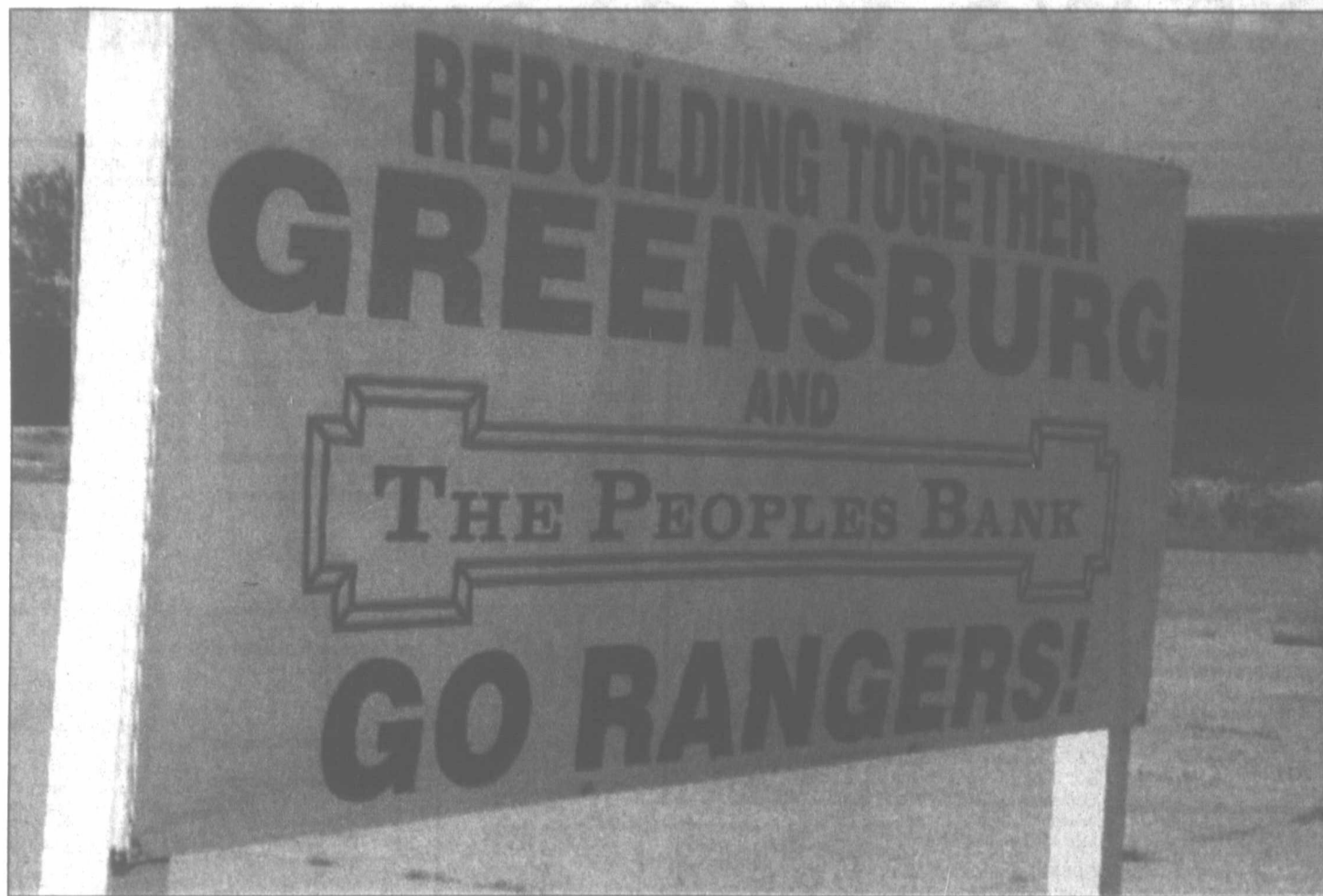
Hamilton was eliminated, and manager Tim Nichtiging said his squad will stick around for a day, but probably leave by the weekend.

"It would have been a lot funner if we won," he said. "But boy, me and 12 kids — it's time to go home."

Ryo Ogawa allowed two hits and struck out nine in five-plus innings and knocked in two runs to lead unbeaten Japan (2-0). Ogawa carried a no-hitter into the fourth before Evan Douglas singled with one out for Canada (1-1)

Jordan Emerman drove in a run on a fielder's choice with the bases loaded to account for Canada's lone run.

The power of Mother Nature



Keith and Susan Roberson of Lefors recently traveled to Kansas where Keith was working. Susan took these photos of Greensburg, Kan., where a tornado struck and devastated the town.



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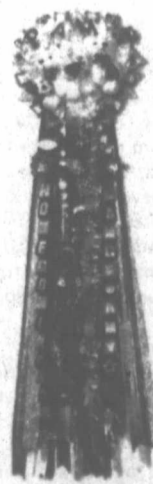
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WAL-MART

Tests show traces of melamine in dog treats

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Tests of two Chinese brands of dog treats sold at Wal-Mart stores found traces of melamine, a chemical agent that led to another massive pet food recall in March, a spokeswoman said Tuesday. Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

quietly stopped selling Chicken Jerky Strips from Import-Pingyang Pet Product Co. and Chicken Jerky from Shanghai Bestro Trading in July, after customers said the products sickened their pets. No recall was announced at that time, but

Wal-Mart said in a statement Tuesday that customers who bought one of the products should return it to the nearest store for a refund. Company spokeswoman Deisha Galberth said 17 sets of tests done on the products found melamine, a contaminant that's a

byproduct of several pesticides. "There were very small amounts of melamine found," Galberth told The Associated Press. "The amounts were so small the laboratory recommended more testing."