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4th of July celebrations abound in area

By Marilyn Powers The Pampa News

available in the cities of Pampa, Canadian and July holiday weekend.

The City of Pampa is once again sponsoring its annual A variety of activities are fireworks display, which will begin at dusk Friday in Recreation Park. Viewers

from setting off their own fireworks in the park or anywhere else that is within city limits

If the city fireworks display is canceled due to rain, Wheeler for the Fourth of may observe the display from the show will be held on the the park, but are prohibited first appropriate opportunity.

CANADIAN

Canadian's 120th annual July 4th Celebration begins at 8 a.m. today with a TCRA rodeo at the Canadian Rodeo Arena Admission will be \$5, and children age 5 and under may attend free of charge.

Rodeo events will include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, bull riding, a kids' calf, scramble, mutton bustin' and open steer saddling.

Also tonight is music by Smiley Johnson the Municipal Band, which will begin playing at the Presbyterian Park Gazebo at 7:30 p.m.

Visitors to Canadian may get a welcome and information from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at the Canadian Visitor's Center. A parade with the theme "Cowboy Up Canadian" will begin at 10 a.m. downtown. The Smiley Johnson Municipal Band will play on the courthouse lawn during the parade.

An arts and crafts fair will be held on the courthouse lawn from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A turtle race will be held on the courthouse parking lot, with registration from 8 to 9 a.m. The race, sponsored by Julia Schafer and the Hemphill County Sheriff's Department, will be held immediately after the parade. No snapping turtles will be

allowed to race. A hot dog lunch will be served at the Lowe's Pay 'N' Serve parking lot immediately after the parade. .

An old-timers' reunion and



barbecue will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Hall. The event is open to everyone. Tickets are \$7, and "oldtimers" eat free.

safe 4th of July!

Canadian Volunteer Fire Department is sponsoring the 15th annual water polo event at the courthouse. Signup begins at noon.

The eighth annual poker run will begin at Jones Pavilion with the first bike out at noon and the last bike out at 4 p.m. Entry fee is \$15. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds from the poker run events will ben-Hemphill County Hospice.

An open ranch rodeo performance will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Canadian Rodeo Arena. The performance is limited to 12 teams. Events include wild cow milking, branding, ranch brone riding and sorting and doctoring.

See 4TH CELEBRATIONS, Page 3

Pampa News photo by David Bowser

Manny Franco, left, presented Sichan Siv

and Siv's wife Martha a painting Franco had

done of the former U.S. Ambassador. Siv and

his wife, a Pampa native, were in Amarillo

Wednesday and will be in Pampa today and

Canadian Friday on a book signing tour.



Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers

Jazmin Badillo and her classmates in the English Language Learners class at Wilson Elementary School made patriotic windsocks this morning, just in time for the Independence Day holiday. The blue windsocks with white stars were finished off with red and white streamers.

Oatman to sign books Saturday in Pampa

Hasting's Books-and Records and some of the people in Pampa beginning at 12 there," Lashell said. "Then p.m. on Saturday, July 5 for we went to a reunion later, the release of his second and he wound up writing book, "River Rose."

Oatman, who currently works for Pantex, first tasted success with his debut novel "True Wishes." However, it was River Rose that first launched him into writing.

"We went to Red River four years ago for vacation, and he just kept looking like he was lost," Oatman's in surgery. wife Lashell said.

Lashell asked if he had haul," Lashell said. enjoyed himself and Oatman for a surprising and chilling book is on it's way.

"He had decided then that the works," Lashell said.

Hurry In For The BEST Selection!

Local author T.R. Oatman he was going to write a ficwill hold a book signing at tional story about Red River

'True Wishes." Originally from Hedley, Oatman and his wife have been married for 26 years. After living in Amarillo for a while, they had packed their things with the intent to move but stopped in Pampa to visit a friend in the hospital. While there, Oatman was around. It kind of seemed hired to do x-rays and assist

ife Lashell said. "We basically just stayed As they were leaving, here and unloaded our U-

Oatman and his wife have responded with, "I have an lived in Pampa for 11 years idea." Oatman spent the rest now. Lashell handles public of that winter writing "River relations for his writing and Rose," a tale of lessons even designed and painted learned by heroine Katrina the cover for "River Rose." Ambrose when a love from As for future endeavors, her recent past pays a visit 'Lashell confirms that another

"He's got a couple more in

'A beautiful country'

By David Bowser The Pampa News

The book starts and ends in 2006, but covers 2,000 years of history. It took Sichan Siv 30 years to write the book. The former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations put pen to paper after his retirement from public service in 2006 at his

home in San Antonio. The book, Golden Bones, covers is birth in 1948 in Cambodia, the history of that ancient nation, the trials it suffered in the last half of the 20th Century, Siv's escape from the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge, his arrival in the U.S., his work at a taxi driver in New York, his voluneer work that led to a job in the White House under George Herbert

Valker Bush, his appointment by resident George W. Bush as one of the U.S. Ambassadors to the United Nations. On a more personal note, it covers his marriage to Martha Pattillo in the First

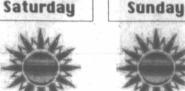
resbyterian Church in Pampa, placing flowers on her parents' graves across from Pampa High School, his riding experiences on the Brainard Ranch near Canadian and eating at the Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo.

The book ends on the Fourth of July, 2006, as Siv and his wife watch the fireworks at the Canadian Rodeo after riding in the parade earlier that day. The closing line of the book as they watch the fireworks is "I say to Martha: This is a

eautiful country.' Siv and his wife will return to Canadian for the parade and rodeo this weekend and to gn copies of his new book after being at Hastings in Pampa today.



Saturday



Cloudy



Sunny



Sunny

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunder-

storms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 91. South-southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and

thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Southsouthwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90, Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69.

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2 — Thursday, July 3, 2008 — The Pampa News



Cemetery & Mausoleum of Bampa 23rd St and Price Rd www.memory-gardens.tripod.com 665-8921

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

Services SATURDAY BROWN, Paul Audre — 2 p.m., Macedonia Baptist Church,

HUDSON, A.E. "Andy" - Memorial services, 11 a.m., First

Baptist Church Parlor, Pampa.

Paul Audre Brown

Paul Audre Brown died Friday, June 27, 2008. Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Saturday Macedonia Baptist Church in Pampa.

Arrangements were handled by Golden Gate Mortuary in Amarillo.



Brown

A.E. 'Andy' Hudson, 79

A.E. "Andy" Hudson, 79, died July 2, 2008, at Pampa. Memorial services are scheduled at 11 a.m. Saturday in the parlor of

First Baptist Church with Joe Mabry officiating. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley

Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mr. Hudson was born May 17, 1929, at Chickasha, Okla., and moved from Bartlesville, Okla., to Pampa in 1980. He married Edith

·Miami, Okla. Hudson Mr. retired from Phillips Petroleum 1986 in and belonged to First Baptist Church, Pampa Trap and Skeet Club and Pampa Masonic #966 Lodge AF&AM.

He was past worthy patron of Pampa Hudson, of the home; two Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star andy volun-Mapes on Aug. 8, 1980, at teered at the Pampa Senior of Hanover Park, Ill.; a sis-

Mr. Hudson was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He was preceded in death by his parents, Erby and Andrew Elgin Hudson; and a stepson, James

Hudson

Rhodes, Jr. Survivors include his wife, Edith "Edie" stepsons, Ronald Rhodes of Pampa and Charles Rhodes

Citizens Center.

ter, Jo Lindstrom of Bartlesville; and two stepgrandchildren.

MEMORIALS: Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065; First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621; or Texas Oncology Center, 1000 S. Coulter, Amarillo, TX 79106.

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

Emergency Services

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today. Tuesday, July 1

Jerry Lee White Jr., 43, of McLean was arrested by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Jill Renee Hall, 23, of McLean was arrested by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance in a drug-free

April Ruth Goldthrite, 19, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance.

Claudia Renate Frame, 42, of Pampa

license, expired tags and no insurance. Joe Dale Hays Jr., 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 100 block of South Starkweather by Pampa Police Department for evading arrest and capias pro fines for open container and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Wednesday, July 2 Bruce John Raines, 59, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of North Sumner by Pampa PD for theft of property by check.

Jimmie Wayne Mayberry, 36, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of North Dwight by Pampa PD for failure to signal and failure to appear.

William Roger Klink, 48, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Yeager was arrested by GCSO for no driver's by Pampa PD for driving while intoxi-

cated, third or more offense, and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

Clifford Howard Eubanks, 34, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on probation violations for driving while intoxicated with child passenger and possession of a controlled substance.

Jefferson Wayne Sober, 29, of Panhandle was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while license is invalid with previous conviction.

Thursday, July 3

Robert Matthew Fowler, 45, of Pampa was arrested in the 1300 block of Coffee by Pampa PD for public intoxication.

CITY BRIEFS

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

EARLY DEADLINES for All Advertising!! For Sun. July 6-deadline is Wed. July 2 at noon. For Mon. July 7-deadline Wed. July 2 at 2pm. For Tues. July 8-deadline is Thurs. July 3 at noon. have a safe & happy July 4th holiday! The Pampa News.

GARAGE SALE to wait for is coming to Comanche St., the 11th & 12th. It's a Biggie!!

HOUSE FOR Sale, 2406 Evergreen, 3/2/2. 665-4698.

JAM SESSION every Friday night, 6:30pm., Woody Guthrie Center, 320 S. Cuyler

JULIE'S HALLMARK needs someone to work part time or full time. Hours are flexible. Apply in person -Pampa.

MEALS ON Wheels. closed Friday, July 4th.

GRANNY'S HOME Cookin' Old Fashioned Cook-Out. Sat., July 5th, serving 11am-? We're back to reg. hrs. 5:30am-9pm., 328 E. Frederic.

NO PAPER will be published for Friday July 4th, so that all employees may have the day off. Thanks, The Pampa News.

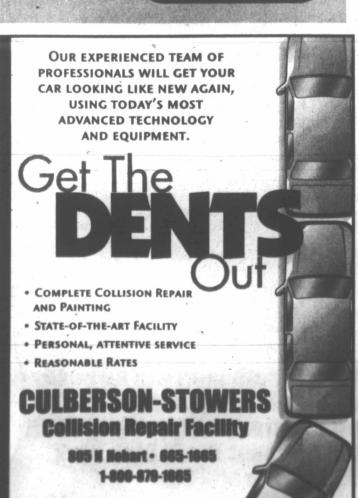
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4th Celebrations

Continued from Front Page formance will get underway at 7

For more information, contact Heath Mitchell at 806-255-

An exhibit featuring the photography of Dick Wilberforce will be on display from 1 to 5 p.m. at the River Valley Pioneer Museum: An artist reception will be from 2 to 4 p.m.

The 31st Annual Sagebrush Painters Art Exhibit will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the WCTU Building. Guest artist will be Sarah Atlee of Norman, Okla.

The 15th Annual Great Canadian Duck Race will be at 6 p.m. at the Hemphill County Duck Ponds. There will be three races and three prizes awarded. Cost is \$5 per ticket. The duck race is sponsored by Canadian Rotary Club.

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A watermelon feast will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Hemphill County Duck Ponds. Free watermelon will be served to all who wish to partake. The watermelon will be provided by Lowe's Pay 'N' Save.

p.m. at the Canadian Rodeo Arena. Immediately following the rodeo events will be a specialty act by The Bomb Squad, who' will perform ATV/four-

wheeler freestyle riding. A fireworks display will begin at dusk at Hemphill County Recreation Complex.

A rodeo dance will be from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Jones Pavilion. Tickets are \$15 per person. The opening performance will be by the J.W. Lane Band of Allison, and headliner is Pure Luck of Austin.

Holiday weekend events continue Saturday in Canadian with the 31st Annual Sagebrush Painters Art Exhibit, once again open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the WCTU Building. The photography exhibit of work by Dick Wilberforce will also again be on display from 10 a.m. t0 4 p.m. at the River Valley Pioneer Museum.

A final TRCA rodeo performance will begin at 7 p.m. at Canadian Rodeo Arena. The Bomb Squad will again perform Another TCRA rodeo per- after the rodeo events are com-

Another rodeo dance will be from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. at Jones Pavilion. Tickets will be \$15 per person. The opening performance will be Pure Luck of Austin, and headliner will be Doug Moreland of Austin.

WHEELER

Independence Day festivities begin at 7 a.m. Friday on the courthouse square in Wheeler with a third annual benefit fun run and walk.

A parade will begin at 9 a.m. The city park will be the focus of events throughout the day. Booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to offer food and activities. Water polo, a dunking booth and a bouncing room for children will be

· A touring group will perform Western skits in the park after

A dance will be held Friday evening, and a fireworks display will be held.

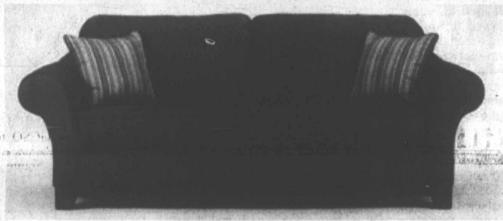
The city swimming pool will be open Friday.

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Class aims toward healthcare workers who deal with pregnant women By Julie Ann Thompson also invited the public so we issues in counseling teens,

The Pampa News

A class aimed at helping health care professionals provide information to pregnant women in a non-judgemental, non-directive or noncoercive manner will be held at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce Building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, July 18. The cost is free with lunch included and registration for the class begins at 8:30 a.m.

get up to date on this topic," students right there from the cultural issues in pregnancy,

Pampa Regional the children's agencies that 'referral sources. deal with adoption."

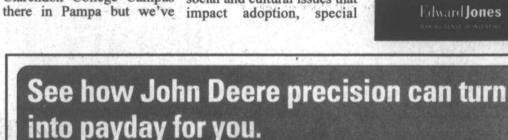
class are health care professionals such as social workers, nurses, case managers and educators or anyone interacting with or providing health care along with social/education services to pregnant women.

Topics that will be covered "It's a great opportunity to in the class include: an understanding of the adop-Karen Russell of Panhandle tion process, adoption law AHEC said. "We already and practice in Texas and the have about 31 signed up right U.S., birthfathers' rights and now and many of them are responsibilities, social and Clarendon College Campus social and cultural issues that

have some people coming frequently asked questions about adoption as an option Medical Center and some of and adoption resorces and

The registration deadline The target audience for the for the class is Wednesday, July 16. To pre-register or for -more information contact Karen Russell (Panhandle AHEC) at 806-651-3482 or krussel@mail.wtamu.edu.





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Viewpoints

Cats & dogs: The BEST way to travel

Skyla

Bryant

City Editor

You can never replace a good dog - and, tails must be clipped. in my humble view, no dog is a BAD dog. Well, um, except for maybe my black Labrador, Jetta, but that's not relevant to this column. Okay, please wait while I recapture my train of thought. ... Oh, yes. Do you ever consider what you would like breed-wise in your next doggy companion?

Do you prefer one breed over another? What is your criteria for a "good" breed? Mine is very basic and simple. I am a nofrills, no hassle kind of gal. That, er, basically rules out for me poodles, Schnauzers, Great Danes, Boxers or any other breeds that must be regularly clipped or require cosmet-

ic surgeries on their ears and/or tail. I love Great Danes, but, alas, I do not want to go through the expense or effort of getting the ears cut and taped. Poodles and schnauzers, of course, have fur that must be frequently trimmed to maintain, and Boxers'

Sigh. If you go on a long trip, you would need all of this "stuff" taken care of before you could properly pack up the dog and the family. Have you considered what breed travels well?

In my opinion, cats are far easier to keep than dogs except for that dratted litter box. Come to think of it, I've never owned or kept a cat that was any certain breed. To my family, cats are just cats, I guess. I've never paid money to

member of my family. The folks at Response Insurance are recommending several methods to keep you and your pet safe while traveling this holiday

acquire a feline nor, as far as I know, has any

The following tips were lifted verbatim from a recent facsimile received here at The News from Response:

- If the pet is not used to car trips, try a few test runs to help acclimate them for the ride. Spending time in the car while parked

and short drives to nearby destinations are an east start.

- Cats should be kept in a carrier and dogs should be held in a restraining harness. This will stabilize your pet if there is a sudden movement or crash.

- Feed your pet a little less than you would normally. Since too much water can upset their stomachs on the road, limit water by providing ice to chew on. Don't forget to pack some toys and any other favorite items or bedding.

- When traveling to places your pet is not

familiar with, it is particularly important to have a collar with an ID tag that includes both your permanent and vacation addresses and phone numbers. Bring a photo of your pet in the event you need to put up "Lost Pet" posters. Many veterinarians and animal welfare organizations also offer micro-chip identification implants.

Dogs like to stick their heads out of the car window, but this is very unsafe. Small stones and debris become dangerous projectiles at highway speeds.

- Never leave your pet in a car in warm or hot weather. Even with windows open, or parked in the shade, interior temperatures can quickly rise to lethal levels.

- Pack a first aid kit with tweezers and alcohol for tick removal, cloth bandages and topical antiseptic:

July 4th: Let's declare a new 'independence'

In the course of human events it is necessary, now and again, to dissolve our political bands with the ninnies who keep abandoning our founding principles.

It used to be self-evident that our government's role was primarily to protect certain unalienable rights, such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It used to be that our government did the bidding of the people – that any power it derived was solely through the consent of the governed.

It used to be our country believed in limited government - that government at its best was a necessary evil and should be aggressively restrained.

But too many of the birds running things these days don't see it that way.

In 2008, the federal budget is more than \$3 trillion up from \$1.7 trillion only a workers and contractors, decade ago. Republicans, nanny-state radicals and lots who once preached fiscal of other folks who benefit as restraint - they even tried it for a few years - ended up growing government more Democrats than dreamed.

in a hurry.

Take on a gimmicky mortbill to bail you out with taxpayer dough.

Struggling at the pump now that energy prices are at record highs? Not to worry. Some of our politicians promise to tax energy companies lots more so they can pay your energy bills for

Tom Purcell Columnist

happiness?

Lives."

expand.



politicians want to tax them

plenty more so they can

transfer more goodies to

government founded on life,

liberty and the pursuit of

Coalition," a term coined by

Grover Norquist, author of "Leave Us Alone: Getting

the Government's Hands Off

Our Money, Our Guns, Our

The Takings Coalition is

composed of trial lawyers,

labor unions, big-city political machines, government

government size and power

proper role of government as

taking things from one group

and giving them to someone

contrast to the Takings crowd: the "Leave Us Alone

Coalition," the center-right,

commonsense folks who

simply want the government

ple's dough and we don't

want other people taking

ours. We want to start our

own businesses without

being overregulated and

overtaxed. We want to edu-

cate our kids where and how

Whereas the Takers are

trying to turn America into

France - where most every-

body is dependent on gov-

We don't want other peo-

Fortunately,

to leave us alone.

we see fit.

The Takers "view the

They're not. They're the ideas of the "Takings

Sound like the ideas of a

another - we Leave-Us-Aloners believe what our Founders believed. We believe that govern-

ernment in one way or

ment should handle the basics, then butt out so that the creativity, ingenuity and productivity of the average Joe can be unleashed - that by allowing individuals to freely pursue their own happiness, great economic miracles will occur.

Great miracles have occurred. Despite the introduction of some Taker ideas now and then, America has mostly been a leave-us-alone country. That is why, in a short period of human history, we exploded into the most prosperous, productive country in the history of mankind.

We're on the precipice Takings though. The Coalition is having a great run of late. The Takers are led by Barack Obama, a charismatic figure who favors old ideas that, in a nutshell, will impede individual liberty and restrict our pursuit of happiness.

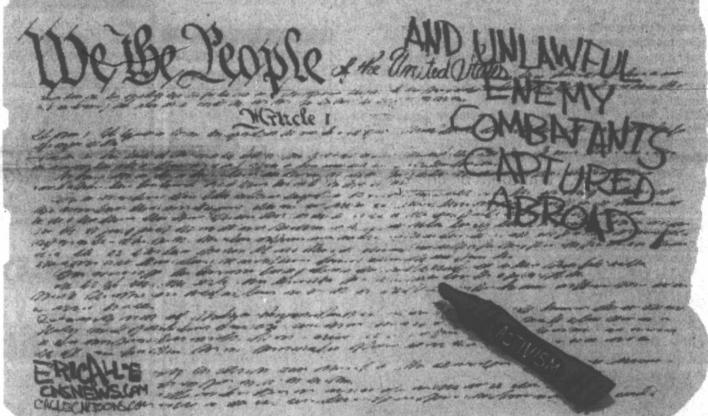
As much of the world is emulating America's leaveus-alone success - many countries have slashed taxes and reduced government meddling to unleash the ingenuity and productivity

of their citizens - we're fast headed the opposite way.

Hey, it's the Fourth of July. Let's re-declare our independence from cockamamie government-meddling concepts.

For goodness' sakes, just leave us alone.

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



Things are getting worse

gage bigger than you could afford? Not to worry. Our esteemed Congress is pushing through a \$300 billion

you.

Think it's unfair that some Americans, through education, hard work and risk, are making good incomes? Not to worry. Though the "rich" already pay the lion's share of taxes in America, some

explains Norquist, there is another coalition that stands in stark

Texas Thoughts.

A sample of editorial opinion around

By The Associated Press

Texas: June 22

Houston Chronicle on getting classrooms better acquainted with Africa:

The history of the triangular slave trade, the horrors of the middle passage and a smattering of colonial rule are just about the sum total of what many American children learn about the continent of Africa during their school years. Most of what American adults know about Africa revolves around a sense of misery based on news stories of war, disease and poverty. This is an educational shortchanging that is detrimental both to Africa and the United States.

There are 47 to 54 countries in Africa, depending on how disputed lands and nearby island nations are counted. Too often, these diverse countries, with their individual histories, many languages and diverse cultures, are simply lumped together in any discussion of Africa. If conflict is brewing in Eritrea or genocide raging in the Darfur region of Sudan, the perception is that all of Africa is at war. If children are starving in Niger and in Ethiopia, all African children must be suffering from hunger.

In truth, Africans endure many troubles. Women suffer high rates of death in child birth, and child mortality is high. Many Africans live in poverty and suffer under the rule of oppressive dictatorships. But it's important to understand that Africans are not backward people helpless to improve their lives.

Many Americans will be startled to

analysis of Census data and information gleaned from 13 annual Houstonarea surveys conducted by Rice University, Nigerian immigrants in Houston and the United States have higher levels of educational attainment than any other ethnic group, including whites and Asians. That is no surprise, however, to many of the well-educated Africans who leave their home countries to live in Europe and the United

According to a BBC World Service documentary and broadcast on Public Radio International's The Changing World program, many African nations are pretty good at producing welltrained college graduates, including the scientists and medical professionals who are needed to improve agricultural output and solve the ravages of epidemic diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

What these countries can't seem to do is hold onto this desperately needed educated class.

Why? For the most basic reasons. Scientists become frustrated by unreliable infrastructure electricity that shuts off unpredictably, thawing experimental cultures, or by a lack of funding for lab staff, supplies and equipment. That's why so many highly skilled African doctors and scientists now work at MIT; King's College, Cambridge; and other of the United States' and Europe's most prestigious institutions. They get an offer, and they jump at the opportunity to do the work for which they trained so long and hard.

Africa's infrastructure hobbles it in other ways as well. According to a

learn, for example, that according to an United Nations advocate for Africa's poorest countries, inadequate communications networks and typically unpaved roads make it hard for Africans to compete in the global economy. During the continent's colonial period, more roads were built leading to the sea than connecting cities. It is easy to envision not just the best and brightest of Africa's human capital draining from the continent, but also its vast wealth in natural resources.

> By learning more about these neglected countries, Americans can influence changes in U.S. policies that contribute to conditions that invite suffering while wasting U.S. tax dollars in the process. For example, the United States sends surplus American food to Africa. This is supposed to relieve hunger but often serves to entrench poverty by undercutting local farmers.

> That's why the Teach Africa Plan that Texas state Sen. Rodney Ellis is working to launch in Houston-area schools is such a good idea. The program, with support from the World Affairs Council, the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Discovery Channel Global Education Partnership, aims to incorporate topics into school curricula to beef up their anemic offerings on African culture, economics and history. Teaching Houston students more about this enormous and important continent of more than 1 billion people will combat the negative perceptions of Africa and African people that are perpetuated by simple lack of knowledge. http://www.chron.com



806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348 Fax: 806-669-2520 email: editor1@thepampanews.com

Randall Pribble **Editor and Publisher**

ReDonn Woods Advertising Director

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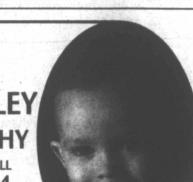
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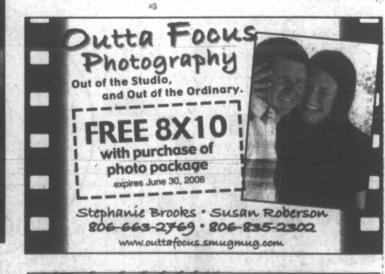


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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Sad Dad in Arizona" (May 2) wrote that he was concerned because his teenage son didn't want to attend his mother's funeral and preferred to remember her "the way she was." Please tell Dad to contact his local hospice. Many hospices provide support counseling during this difficult time. We assign a social worker as well as a nurse and chaplain to each family who comes to us. Hospice is here to help with everything that has an impact on the patient at this time. Please urge that family to get support now and not wait until the end. - PAM, R.N., HOSPICE OF THE **FLORIDA SUNCOAST**

DEAR PAM: Your suggestion to seek the assistance of a local hospice is excellent. Readers, to locate your nearest hospice, please visit one of the following Web sites: www.hospicenet.org or www.hospicefoundation.org. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I was deployed overseas when my grandfather was diagnosed as terminal and passed away. Due to military regulations, I was not allowed to return stateside and attend his funeral. The last time I saw my grandfather I hugged him goodbye and told him how much I loved him. (He had been like a father to me.) I was spared the grief involved in watching my grandfather buried, so I understand exactly where this young man is coming from in his desire to remember his mother alive, because that is how I remember my grandfather. Please let "Sad Dad's" son know that while a living memory is a wonderful final memory to have, he will wish forever that he had been there to honor his mother. I'm in exactly the situation that he wishes to be in, and I would trade everything I have to go back and honor my family at the funeral. -- MATTHEW IN PORT GIBSON, MISS.

DEAR ABBY: I wholeheartedly agree with your reply to "Sad Dad." I was 19 when my mother died suddenly. Unfortunately, our father was not sensitive to my feelings and needs or those of my siblings. We were forced to not only attend our mother's memorial, but also to be greeters at the door of the church. Participating in the service did not provide us "closure" but additional trauma. I fully support "Sad Dad" in allowing his son to decide whether or not he is comfortable attending, and I commend him for putting his child's needs before his own. - STILL **HEALING IN LIVINGSTON, MONT.**

DEAR ABBY: Most funeral homes today will videotape the funeral. If the son wants to view it at a later date, it will be available to him. Also, encourage him to keep a journal of his thoughts or to write letters to his mother after she dies. It will help him to express his feelings. A local hospice may have a grief support group for youths that he may or may not wish to seek out. Encourage him, but don't push. Be sure to have lots of love ready for him when he needs it, and let him do it his way, just as you will have to grieve in your own way. -- ONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE IN **IOWA**

DEAR ABBY: The statement that "funerals are good for people because they give a sense of closure" has some merit. However, many people do not think an open casket is either necessary or desirable. Tradition, encouraged by an active "funeral industry," perpetuates the practice. Frankly, I prefer the living memories, and have found memorial services without a casket to be far warmer and uplifting. Do not be overly constrained by tradition; explore what others are doing. - OLD DOC IN LOS ALTOS, CALIF.

For Better Or Worse





Zits



Garfield

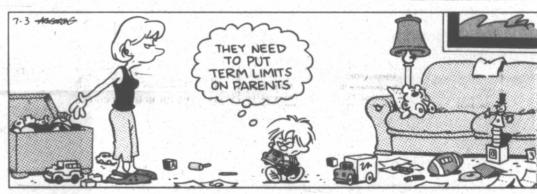


Beetle Bailey





Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 44 Nasser's 1 Moving 6 Parlor **DOWN** seats 11 Carried 1. Crunch

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17 Banded affirma-40 Deterrock tive mined NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to



"... and Marmaduke, you're our designated umpire heckler."

'Mommy, how long before you give

By Bil Keane

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

B.C.





Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



me back my skateboard?"



7-3

Blondie



Praise Worship

RELIGION PAGE





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Community Camera photo

Lacie Oxley, Jennifer Huffhines and Shaley Morris were recently recognized for memorizing the most Bible verses during Texas Rodeo Bible Camp staged at Top O' Texas Rodeo Area adjacent to Recreation Park.

But if you are going to

allow that issue to effect who

you vote for in the upcoming Presidential election, then let

me give you some info that

might help put everything in

1,370,000 legal abortions in

the USA. That translates to

about 3,700 innocent babies

is horrible (and it surely is),

then just how horrible would

8,775,000 deaths of defense-

less babies during that same

time period be? For every

"one" U.S. soldier who had

been killed since October

2001, guess how many babies have been butchered? Can you

count 1,913? That's right

I have a son in the U.S.

Army who has done one tour

over in Iraq and probably will

be going back for a second

tour some time in the next

year. So my heart and soul completely understand the fear

of having a loved one at risk.

However, there is no compari-

your "dander" up or your

"Irish" up or whatever, then at

son between one and 1,913.

Now if 4,587 deaths in war

slaughtered every day.

perspective.

1,913 to 1!

Enduring

Minister's Musings

What is bigger than current war casualties?

WAYNE'S have been 4,587 casualties in **WESTERN WEAR** Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation 1504 N. Hobart 665-2925 Freedom (Afghanistan). That

averages out to about 680 deaths per year; about two per day. Is that horrible? Absolutely!

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Sheila Webb State Farm Insurance N Side of Coronado Center

"Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there."

Since October 2001, there least be consistent. Because if you shout from the rooftop about the 4,587 deaths and

> Mike Sublett

Hi-Land Christian

stand by silently about the 8,775,000, then YOU ARE A HYPOCRITE!

If you are going to let the In 2007, there were 4,587 casualties determine your voting in our upcoming national election, while you just ignore the 8,775,000 and allow those deaths to have no impact in the voting booth,

then YOU ARE A FOOL! And if you allow \$4 per gallon gasoline to determine who you vote for, while you pay no attention to the 8,775,000 murders and where candidates stand on the abortion issue, then YOU ARE SELFISHLY **IMMORAL!**

And even worse, if you do all of this and claim in the same breath to be a Christian, then YOU ARE A HOAX!

My daughter, Christina, is three months pregnant. She is not carrying "a fetus!" She is not carrying "a piece of tissue!" She is carrying a precious human life! In Biblical language, she is "with child."

As an American, you can So if you're going to get have all of the opinions you want to on all of the issues that are being presented as "significant" in this uncoming election. But you better not forget that there is a God, and you

better know which issue overshadows every other issue. No political issue compares to the 3,700 innocent babies who are murdered every day.

So where does Sen. Obama stand on the issue of abortion? Sen. Obama has been endorsed by the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL).

Where does Sen. McCain stand on the issue of abortion? Sen. McCain has been endorsed by National Right To Life (NRL).

Would you like to see a side-by-side comparison of the performance and voting record of Sen. McCain and Sen. Obama on all of the "life" issues? If so, check out: http://www.nrlc.org/Election2 008/comparisonpiece.pdf.

So now the choice is yours. Remember:

1) Americans will surely one day answer for being "informed" voters.

2) God has some very strong feelings on the issue of life. (Psalms 139:13-14; Luke 1:41 and 2:12, 16; Exodus 21:22-25)

3) Aren't you glad that your mom didn't get an abortion?

4) Don't you imagine that everyone running for president is glad that their mom didn't get an abortion?

God bless.

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CHURCH BRIEFS

First Assembly of God Church in Pampa is currently sponsoring a fireworks stand to benefit the church's

The stand is located at 220 Price Road and opens at 10 a.m. each day. As part of the firework fund-raiser, the

church is giving away a large box of TNT American Pride Fireworks in a special

To find out more, contact the church at 665-5941.

Briarwood Church, 1800 W. Harvester, will kick-off its vacation Bible school, a "Mega Sports Camp," Monday, July 7. The VBS will be conducted from 6-9 p.m. July 7-11 at the church. This year's theme is "Game Plan." The VBS is open to kids in grades 1-5.

pre-registration ice cream party at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 6 for participants and their

A preschool and kindergarten class will be offered from 6-7:30 p.m. nightly.

Children enrolled in the VBS can choice from a variety of activities including sports, music, drama and cooking. Baseball as well as soccer and basketball will be offered. The focus of each class will be daily themes relating to the Bible. Themes include "Strengths and Weaknesses," "Prepare for Opponent," "Do the Plan" and more.

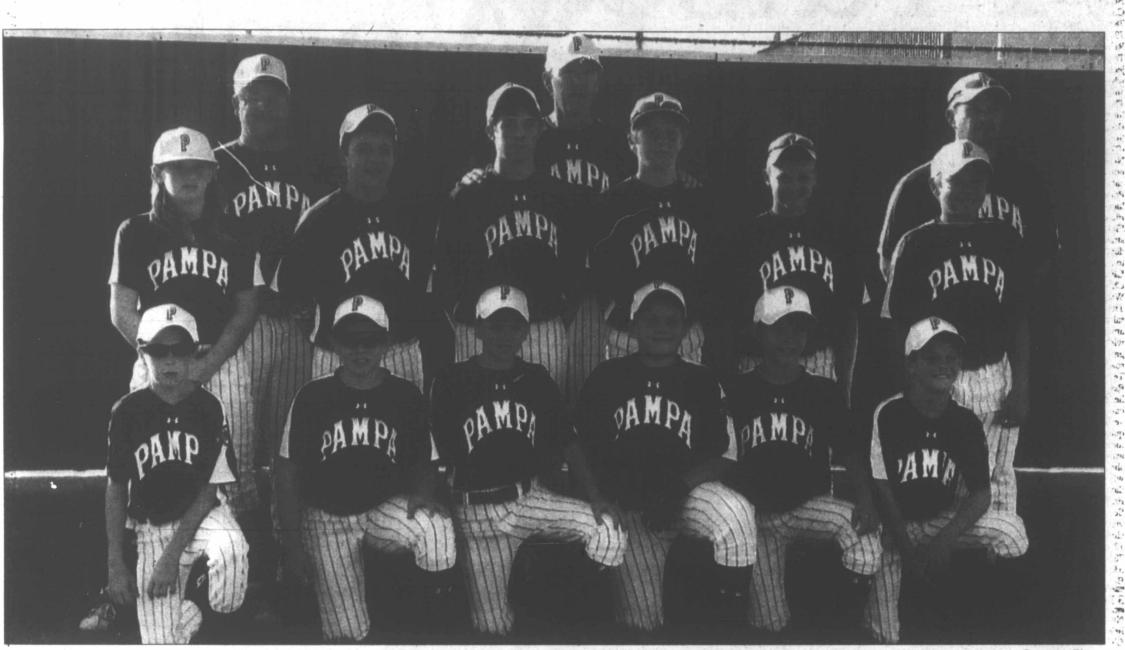
Drills and practice games will focus on

the fundamentals of each sport. "Of course, kids learn everything a lot better if they are having fun, so there will be lots of that!" said Karen Putman, children's pastor at Briarwood.

The Game Plan will get started with a For more information, call 665-7201.



This weekly series brought to you by these area businesses.



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Pictured above are the 2008 Cal Ripken Major Pampa All-Stars. Front row (L to R): Brandon Stokes, Casey Martindale, Thomas Haley, Dylan Zawicki, Braxton Maul and Aaron Allen. Middle row: Krysten Miller, Sheldon Reeve, Jordan Lemons, Ben Arbuckle, Cyler Clifton and Tanner Doucette. Back row: Coach Jackie Martindale, Manager Shane Stokes and Coach Shawn Clifton.

9-10 All-Stars team battles back through loser's bracket

had to battle back through the one single, two doubles and plate five times. losers bracket after dropping three triples. He struck out the first game of the District I only one time with three home four times on four sin- a triple. Bryson Burrell came fournament to the Canyon RBI's and four runs scored. gles while Ryan Lee and up big in centerfield on sev-All-Stars with a score of 10- Zuniga was eight for 14 with Colton Thompson each eral occasions with some big 7. Pampa was able to come eight singles, two walks, six touched home three times on catches and Kyndan Lott at back and win their next two runs scored, one RBI and he three hits. games over the High Plains did not strike out. Engle went three for six with two drive out of the air for an East and High Plains West went seven for 14 in the three singles and an in the park incredible catch. Ashton All-Star teams with scores of hole and came up big with home run. He scored two Robison, Brendon Woelfle, ping a heartbreaker to North Cade plated six RBI's and Randall County on a score of eight runs scored on five sin-6-5 after leading the game for gles, one double and one the first five innings, triple while striking out only Pampa's third place finish in once. Burrell cleaned things District I competition guar- up for Pampa going six for anteed them the number one 14 with four singles and two seed in the state tournament triples. He crossed the plate and a first round game seven times, tallied four turned in by second baseman by sending six Randall hitters against the District II number RBI's and struck out only three seed.

Pampa was led offensively Zach Wilson. Robison went every opportunity. He had a bullet to third baseman Way Organization.

The Pampa 9-10 All-Stars six for seven at the plate with seven singles and crossed the Adam Zuniga to catch one of 13-0 and 18-3 before drop- runners in scoring positions. twice.

in the tournament by Ashton Zach Wilson made 15 in the gap and hustle a relay Robison, Adam Zuniga, Cade appearances at the plate and throw in to shortstop Cade resent the Pampa Optimist Engle, Bryson Burrell and put the ball in play with Engle who turned and pinned Youth Club which is a United

times and had one RBI. Ryan home one time.

Defensive highlights came from nearly every position Garrett Mullican came on in best were two double plays Randy Johnson impression Zach Wilson. Left fielder to the bench in the first two Pampa's lead-off hitter horse to track down a ball hit no runs scored.

the North Randall runners Kyndan Lott touched trying to stretch a double into Solon Wilson third base snatched a line Nathan Furgason wrapped up Thompson each made defen-Pampa's scoring by going sive gems in the field to prefive for 11 and touching vent extra bases by opposing

New starting pitcher for Pampa and some of the the last game and did his best Nathan Furgason got on his innings with three strikes and

The Pampa All-Stars rep-

Optimist club to host All-Star State Tournament

Foot Cal Ripken All Star Louisiana, "Canyon will play Hi-

lowed by Pampa's playing host to Seminole at 2:30," County at 7:30 p.m."

ment for the right to com- Stokes and Dylan Zawicki. pete in the regional tournament which will be held in Youth Club is a Pampa Amarillo later this month. United Way agency. "North Randall County will

The Pampa Optimist host the regional tourna-Youth Club will sponsor a ment which will include 12 Year Old West Texas 70 state champions from State Tournament which, Oklahoma and the top two will begin Saturday and end other teams from our tourall commissioner. Total and

Shane Stokes is the man-Plains Saturday at noon fol- ager of the Pampa all stars. He is assisted by Clifton and Kidwell said. "The winner Martindale. Players on the of the first game will play team are Aaron Allen, Ben Plainview at 5 p.m. The Arbuckle, Cyler Clifton, winner of the second game Tanner Doucette, Thomas takes on North Randall Haley, Jordan Lemons, Casey Martindale, Braxton The six teams will play a Maul, Krysten Miller, double elimination tourna-Sheldon Reeve, Brandon

The Pampa Optimist

Kiwanis Club to hold annual golf scramble

The Downtown Pampa support some of these person the morning of the Kiwanis Club's 8th Annual things.' Golf Scramble will be held

Shotgun starts at 8 a.m. raise money for various proj- out of high school. ects ... youth projects, college

Hills Golf Course, North of teams with only one person in each flight based on a full Pampa on Highway 70. with an eight handicap or field. Special prizes will be "We use this as a fund rais- be flighted according to straightest drive, and closest er to promote a lot of the dif- handicap prior to play by to the hole. There will also be ferent things that we do in the Hidden Hills Golf Pro David drawings for multiple door community," Kiwanis mem- Teichman. All players must prizes. ber Ron Wood said. "We be at least 18 years of age or

Entry is \$40 per player or 669-5866. scholarships, scouting activi- \$160 per team which ties, we work with Christmas includes green fees, carts and shopping ... this is where we lunch. Players will be able to use all of our funds to help purchase one mulligan per

tournament for \$5. The scramble will be Prizes will be awardd to Saturday, July 12 at Hidden structured in four-player first, second and third places below per team. Teams will awarded for longest drive,

To register contact Hidden Hills Golf Course at 806-



Courtesy Photo The Tiki Hut Crushers went undefeated in the 14u Amarillo Fast Pitch league with an overall record of 11-0. Front row (L to R): Candia Jimenez and Jordan Mayhew. Second row: Monica Zubia, Courtney Ward, Kathy Stover and Kaylene Wyant. Back row: Coach Caprice Mayhew, Jessie Dixon, Bailey Dixon, Sanya Couts, Kaci Reyes, Serena Reyes and Assistant Coach Raymond Wyant. Not pictured: Delaney Clendening and Krysten Miller.

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

7-3

CRYPTOQUOTE

LYQ CZZ QGY TXXZPLXR AXES

PMUY AXE HCR

QX CRAQGMRL. YZYHQYU

TSCRW UCRY Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL, I WAS SO-SMART MY TEACHER WAS IN MY CLASS FOR FIVE YEARS. — GEORGE BURNS

DADDY BABY BROTHER

Venus reaches seventh Wimbledon final

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Defending champion Venus Williams has reached the Wimbledon final for the seventh time by beating Elena Dementieva 6-1, 7-6 (3).

Williams, who won her fourth title at the All England Club last year, dominated the fifth-seeded Dementieva on Centre Court on Thursday, winning the first four games before the Russian finally held serve.

Williams will face either younger sister Serena or Zheng Jie in Saturday's final. Serena beat Venus in the 2002 and '03 finals.

Company, P.O. Box Amarillo, TX 79114 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to fluid into the inject Brown Dolomite Formation, SWP Dolomite Unit (07175) Lease, Well Number #1415. The proposed injection well is located 1 mile South of Pampa, TX., in the Pan-Gray County Field, in Gray County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 3090 to 3300 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and gas Division of the Rail-Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas (Telephone 78711 512/463-6792). July 3, 2008

3 Personal

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NO PAPER will be pub lished for FRIDAY, JU-LY 4TH so that all employees may have the day off. Thanks, The Pampa News.

5 Special Notices **ADVERTISING Materi**al to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only. 10 Lost/Found

FOUND at Bank of America set of keys, call to describe, 669-6223.

REWARD for information leading to the safe return of the dog that was taken from Garage Sale at 2531 Mary Ellen, Sat., June 28th, 2008. Call 806-688-0024

13 Bus. Opp.

GREAT investment opp. Pampa motel, Retired couple or individual, 665-1875, 806-383-1985. 14d Carpentry

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, July 4,

Your high energy and enthusiasm could

easily be directed improperly this year.

Sometimes spontaneity is a problem. Try

to make a habit of slowing down more

often and thinking. You will be happier

too. The unexpected often occurs when

you detach and lie back. If you are single,

someone who you easily could become

possessive of could saunter into your life.

Careful: If you are attached, money

could be an issue between the two of you. It easily could be a power control

problem. Step past it. LEO can help you

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll

Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive;

*** You let everyone know what

you believe and the values you stand for.

Politics can be a hot issue for the Ram.

Listen to what is happening between you

and another person. Be sensitive to this

person's energy. Tonight: You are all

** Home is where you can be found

and are likely to be the happiest. You

allow others to know just how patriotic

you are by partying and playing away.

Listen to your instincts about a close friend or family member. Tonight: Let

*** You might be doing more visiting than partying this holiday. You will

enjoy yourself to the max wherever you

are. You hear news that might shock you

go to extremes, like it or not!

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

about fireworks, in all senses!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

the fireworks continue!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

14h Gen. Serv.

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

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

Stamps, driveways, addition, fences, patios. Free Est. 806-382-5408. CONCRETE Sidewalks, slabs, driveways, foundations, etc. Free Esti. Ref. if needed. Insured, 806-886-1305 QUALITY work affordable price, handy man services, paint, tile, tex-

ture, trim, etc. Aaron,

664-7792 Jason 664-1252

14n Painting

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Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

21 Help Wanted

Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

Petroleum Bulk Drivers

Eastex Crude Co

is taking applications in Applicants must Hazmat & Tanker

•Full Benefit Package 903)856-2401 x-137 (800)443-8580

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COODER'S Dixie Cafe now hiring for Wait Staff, full-time, 18 yrs. or older. Apply in person, 2537 Perryton Parkway. No phone calls.

NOW hiring Assistan Management Traine for the Pampa Office Come join our dynamic team! National Consum er Finance Co. with over 850 locations. Full bene fits package. Vacation paid holidays-medical & life ins. 401K retirement-excellent training program. No finance required. We're looking for qualified andidates with: a desire to succeed & advance Professional appearance

Automobile. For more info. or to schedule an interview call 806-665-6442. World Acceptance Corp. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Plains Marketing L.P has recently improved their Driver Pay Pro gram and is interview ing for top quality em ployees who will be able to earn \$75,000 to \$100,000 annually Our program includes \$23.00 p/h in addition to a great Commission based salary. We offer the following for qualified applicants: \$500 Sign On Bonus \$1500 New Hire Wag Advancement-\$12,000

Annual Bonus-Night Differential pay of 30% and numerou other Incentives. We also offer great bene fits that include Medical, Dental, Vision, etc Drivers earn 10 days vacation for 1st year as well as 8 Paid Holidays. We provide free Life, AD&D & Disability Insurance. You are required to have a CDL with Hazmat Endorsement and ability to pass a DOT Physical and Drug Screen.

For an opportunity to apply and further inplease contact: Ron Gragg at 806-679-9481 or Steve Lane at 580-225-1385.

CDL Drivers Needed!! Night & Day shifts vailable in Miami, Tx Must pass drug test. Competitive wa paid weekly, 401K & insurance, 2 weeks vacation after 1 year. Please call **Turner Energy at** (806) 898-0414

CALDWELL Production needs Oilfield Pumper. Experience required. 6 paid holidays. 1 week paid vacation per yr. Call 595-0724.

CDL_driver-local oil field hauling, start pay based on verifiable exp., must pass drug screen and physical, 1 yr. tandem exp. req. 665-2451 M-F 9am-4pm.

NOW HIRING Entry Level Auto Must be Tech. over 18 and pass drug test. Competitive pay and benefits. Apply at 217 E. Atchison or call 665-4851

YARD/SALES Person. Highly self-motivated. Full time. White House Lumber, 101 S. Ballard.

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to no end. Let the happening begin.

Tonight: Take time for an important chat.

*** On this patriotic day, you could

be all indulgence and lots of extremes.

Making this your personal celebration

could make all the difference. Think pos-

itively about what is going on. Listen to

opportunities that head your way.

*** ★ You sparkle like fireworks and

feel happy no matter which direction you

go. Yes, you are the leader of the parade,

the major focal point at the party, the

belle or beau of the ball. Knowing this,

display your prized Leo qualities.

** If you are feeling a bit quiet, don't

judge that you are unpatriotic. Rather,

you might need to slow down and make

other choices. You just might want to nap

and play it low-key. Make that OK. Take

care of yourself first. Tonight: Feeling

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Tonight: Say yes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

21 Help Wanted

TEXAS Rose Steakhouse is now hiring wait staff, hostess, and dishwasher. Apply in person! No Phone Calls. PUMPER Needed. Expe-

rience preferred but not necessary if you have oilfield exp. Send resume to Box 43, Pampa, Tx.

WEEKEND RN. Fri. & Sat. nights. Willing to job share with another RN.

FT TELLER / PT TELLER marillo Communi FCU is seeking candi dates with cash han dling or banking exp M-F and alternate Sat urdays Apply in person,

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DOMINO'S PIZZA Earn good money!! **Part Time! Need Drivers** Apply at 1332 Hobart, Pampa

Construction Worker. Must be able to travel. Must be 21 with good driving rec. Apply @ V.W. Sports, 94 Main Panhandle, TX, 537-3526 HAZ-MAT Driver needed in Skellytown Area. Class B CDL with Tanker/Hazmat Endorsement required. Must have clean driving record and pass DOT physical and drug test. Good pay and quick raises for long term employee. Medical, Dental,

Life Insurance, Paid Vacation, Cafeteria Plan, Matching Uniforms, 401K. Average 50 hour work week with weekends off. Grow With Us. We are Changing the Industry. Send resume to Endura Products Corp. P.O. Box 3394, Midland. Texas 79702, 432-684-

PART-TIME Provider needed for Panhandle patients. Above average pay & trip fee. Nurses By Pre scription, 806-355-1899.

We Are Growing-Come Grow With Us! We need a Truck Driver who has a current CDL, good driv-

ng record & can pass drug test. We also need a Yard Hand. This person must be dependable, hard working and able you have these qualifications come apply! We offer competitive wages, 401K, 2 weeks paid vacation after 1 year. **Bourland & Leverich** Supply Co.

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21 Help Wanted

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Frequent Home Time! Competitive Wages 100% Employee Paid 401K, Paid Holidays

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CRALL

CODE WELDER

Must pass plate & ead tests, flux core andwire, stainless blue print & fabrication skills required. 50+ hr. Week

100% Employee Paid Insurance, 401k **Paid Holidays**

Apply in person 2930 TRUCK Driver wanted Hwy. 152 West Pampa, TX 806-665-8446

CRALL

SHOP WELDER

Must pass sheet metal test, flux core & Competitive Wages

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Apply in person 2930 Hwy. 152 West Pampa, TX

806-665-8446

21 Help Wanted

NOW hiring Exp. Pipeline Operator. Call Personnel, 665-4336. After hours call 817-223-2686. PART-TIME

Sales / Cashier Must Be Honest & Dependable. Apply in person atHeard-Jones, Pampa JULIE'S Hallmark needs someone to work part

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days during school year. Apply in person - Pampa. OUTREACH Health Services needs Providers in Pampa. Please call 1-806-354-6815., or 1-800-800-0697, EOE. WESTAIR Gas Equipment, L.P. is look-

ing for a Warehouse Man / Driver. The qualified applicant must have a minimum Class B CDL with haz-mat endorsement, pass a drug test, DOT physical and be able to lift up to 50 lbs. Westair is a joint venture with Praxair, Inc. which assures an outstanding benefit package, which includes medical, dental and life insurance. a great 401K plan, along

with competitive pay. We have the benefits of a large company and the attitude of a small company. Come join our team! We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are available at our location in Pampa, TX. @ 740 W. Brown Street (HWY 60) or call 806-665-2351 for more information.

BABYSITTER needed (in your home) for 3 yr. old boy. References required. Call 806-662-8591. NURSES Unlimited, Inc.

is seeking enthusiastic and outgoing attendants to assist clients in the home with personal care, meal prep & light housekeening. P-T. EOE. Call 1-888-859-0631. **Experienced Painter**

Needed full-time for Pampa's largest apartment complex. Salary DOE. Apply in person @ 1601 W. Somerville

TOP O' Texas Oilfield Service needs Class A CDL Drivers. Benefits. Apply 408 S. Price Rd. HOUSEKEEPERS Laundry Staff. Apply in person Pampa Nursing Ctr., 1321 W. Kentucky.

Flatbed experience neceshome most weekends, lots of Texas miles. 848-2837 NEED an Operator Pumper for a small H2S removal plant with 2 wells and small gathering system attached Good

pay & benefits. Send resume gerryhoover@fairfaxops.com PML Exploration Services LLC is seeking experienced Mudloggers or individuals with oil field experience to train and work in the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandle area. Must be willing to travel to oil field locations with extended overnight stays. Must be able to lift50 lbs.,

and work in hot/cold environments. Must successfully pass pre-employment screening. Will train qualified applicants with good computer skills. EOE. Call Jeff Shannon at 405-702-5402 or email rejeff@pmlogging.com

21 Help Wanted

ASME Code Welder. Benefits avail., weld test Apply in person, 1333 N. Price Rd., Pampa FIRST Baptist Church needs a Director for Child Development/ Daycare. Send letter of interest & resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, Attn: Gail Cole

50 Building Suppl. White House Lumber

101 S. Ballard

59 Guns

KIMBER .45 Automatic stainless Pro Carry II. Retail \$1,190 - Take \$970. 'New in case". Smith & Wesson .38 Chief. Pin Barrel 2" \$425. 806-440-4488, Pampa.

60 Household

MATTRESS- All New KING set Pillow-top. In plastic w/ warranty. \$250. 806-341-6233. BRAND New full size mattress set in plastic with

warranty. Sell \$125. 806-341-6233 MATTRESS \$100 TWIN SIZE set. In perfect condition. Never used. 806-341-6233.

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\$140 Brand new queen

size mattress set. Still in

factory plastic, has warranty. 806-341-6233. NEW Visco Memory Foam Mattress & Box. Sealed in plastic w/ manufacturer warr. Must move \$375, 806-341-6233

69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only. BOOKCASES, chests,

books, VHS movies,

much more. Red Barn.

1420 S. Barnes, Sat. 10-5. 665-2767. GET an Early Start on that Shopping for "Back to School" and support local business. Quality comforters and sheets. Check out the web site:

www.comforterhaven.com 898-5482 used 4 wheelers. 2004 Honda 250EX & 2005 Kymco 90. 440-4072. RETRO glass round table

w/ 4 chairs. Really cool \$150.00 486-1017. FOR Sale German Lugar

Very good condition

\$1.500 806-662-7398 & B Wood Works. Hand made spice racks, rolling pantry & other things. Can be made to order.642 W. Brown St Shop806-665-2195, Cell

69a Garage Sales

806-663-2861.

NO PAPER will be published for FRIDAY, JU-LY 4th so that all emplovees may have the day off. Look for Garage Sale ads in Thurs. July 3rd

paper. Thanks, The Pampa News. GARAGE SALE to wait for is coming to Comanche St., the 11th, 12th. It's a Biggie!!

GARAGE Sale. Fri., Sat., & Sun. Lots of goodies. 600 Popham in White Deer. 8-?

1 1

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69a Garage Sales

GARAGE Sale, 1033 S. Sumner. Sat. 8am-? GARAGE Sale, Texas, White Deer, Sat. 8am-1pm, Guns, tools, reloading, air comp., misc. 2 Family Sales. Lots of misc. Sat. 8am.-? 1137

80 Pets & Suppl.

and 1138 S. Dwight.

POMS For Sale Off White 2 male, 1 female \$250

669-9365 after 6pm FREE Puppies to good home. 665-2732. FREE to good home, 6 mo. old fe. Blue Heeler Very sweet & play ful. 669-2612, 669-8905. FOUND Jack Russell

95 Furn. Apts.

Terrier pup. 1900 bl. N. Faulkner. 669-9887.

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96 Unfurn. Apts.

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n an equal opportunity

CAPROCK APTS. Enjoy balconies/patios, on site laundry, beautiful grounds. One bdrm starting at \$390. Call for availability. 665-7149. LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2

bdr. unfurn. apt. Call for

availability. References & deposit req. 669-4386 NUMEROUS Houses, Apts., Dupl. & Comm properties thru-out Pampa. 665-1875, 665-4274. THE Schneider House, now leasing apts., 1 & 2

Russell or call 665-0415. 98 Unfurn. Houses

bdr., utilities incl. 120 S.

3 bdr., 1 ba., central heat & air, fenced yard, washer/dryer hookups. \$695 mo., \$695 dep. Close to Wal-Mart. 806-374-4360 **FARM HOUSE**

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SMALL 3 room efficiency. Perfect for single person. \$250 mo., \$300 dep. 665-8550, 662-4675.

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1204 Charles. Great charm! 3 bedroom, 1.75 baths. Wood floors, new paint, 2 living areas, dining room, new plumbing, new heat & air. 1611 sq. ft. Call for appt. 886-0522 103 Homes For Sale

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

1313 Mary Ellen. 3/1-carport. Newly remodeled master. New paint, flooring & carpet. Austin Sch. District. Seller will pay portion of closing costs

669-1123 or 440-4564 2406 Mary Ellen, 3/1 3/4/2, open kitchen, new appl., newly remodeled bathroom, large backyard, storage building, and new 1500 \$110,000, 669-3164

4 br or 3 & office, 2 ba., 1 whirlpool, updated kitchen w/ tile floors & countertops. Den w/ fp and bay window, 2 atrium doors. Stor. & workshop, Updated wiring & insula tion. Split level deck w/ breathtaking view. \$120k Shown by appt. 662-2977.

BY Owner 3 bdr., 1 ba., carport. painted Austin outside. Sch. 2717 Navajo \$68,500. By appt. 662-2366

CORNER Lot. 2 bdr.,..! ba., cent. h / a, detached gar., stor. bldg., fenced back yard. Close to Lamar Sch. \$40,000. 665-2777 HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

MUST sell soon! 1120 N. Starkweather. 2400 sq. ft. 2 bdrm, 2 ba, poss 3 bdrm, 1 car gar, 1 carport. \$86,000 obo. 663-2180. NICE 3 Bdr. 1 Bath, 1

Car Garage. Lg. fenced yard. Siding. 302 Swift in White Deer. 883-5941. Leave message. OWNER FINANCE 1005 S. Wells 2 bdr., 1 ba.

Carpet / Plumb 621 Lowry 3 bdr., 1 ba. Also has 1 bdr. apt. **EZ Qualify** 806-665-4595 Call Gary @ Trustar Realty PRICE REDUCEDI

2728 Cherokee. 3/2/2.

New Hardwood floors,

new Ceramic tile, Com-

pletely remodeled inside

sq. ft. \$139,500. Will be available June 1st. 595-0234. 114 Recre. Veh.

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Montana 5th Wheel

\$48,000 812-764-5770 FOR Sale: 1994 34 ft. Southy Motorhome Low Mileage

Call 806-669-7952 FOR Sale: 5th Wheel Camper Starcraft 28'6" Slide. 1995 5th Wheel, hitch goes with camper. 9,000. Good shape. Call 665-7115 or 669-3288, Leave mes-

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres

Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450. 120 Autos

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2000 Honda Civic EX Up Grade, Low Mileage **Good Condition**

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ter. 84,000 mi. \$7900-662-8109. 91 Ford Tempo. Runs good! 125,000 mi.\$800-662-2418

121 Trucks

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★ Must be proficient in Word and Excel. Able to work well in a team environm Ability to close a lesse or contract. Willing to travel.

Experience:

** Must have 5 years experience in Land
Lessing/Sales/Real Estate/insurance.

*** Must have Brokers License or Real Estate

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**** Your mind soars into the symbolism and meaning of the holiday. Share your smiles and ideas with someone who appreciates that type of thinking. 21 or older, Class A CDL with Hazmat Evaluate rather than be direct. Tonight: Look at the big picture and share that

perspective. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** A partner sets the pace. Whether you are clumsy and step on his or her foot or graceful is your call. Ultimately, you will be happiest working with this person. Take a walk together without "everyone." Tonight: Do your own rendition of "The Star-Spangled

Banner." AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ** Somehow you could wind up flipping the burgers or nurturing someone you care about. Be willing to give more than you had planned. Others do appreciate the fact that they can count on you. Tonight: Easy does it.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.

President Calvin Coolidge (1872), author

schedule and probably assume more responsibility than need be. Everyone feels blessed to have you making sure everything is running as it sho Tonight: In the whirlwind of life. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** You could be more tired than Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804), advice columnist Ann Landers (1918) you realize. Still, you maintain a full

better? Then make new choices. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Know that your job is simply to celebrate and enjoy those in your immediate environment. Listen to news; prepare to celebrate. Work on seeing a situation from the most positive perspec tive possible. Tonight: Where the gang is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Your sense of fun might be a lot different from many of your friends. Stay light and easy with others, go along with their idea of what constitutes a good time. Make it OK to visit with different people and perhaps hop from party to party. Tonight: As you like it.

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all nations elebrate ericans on rth of July.

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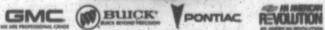
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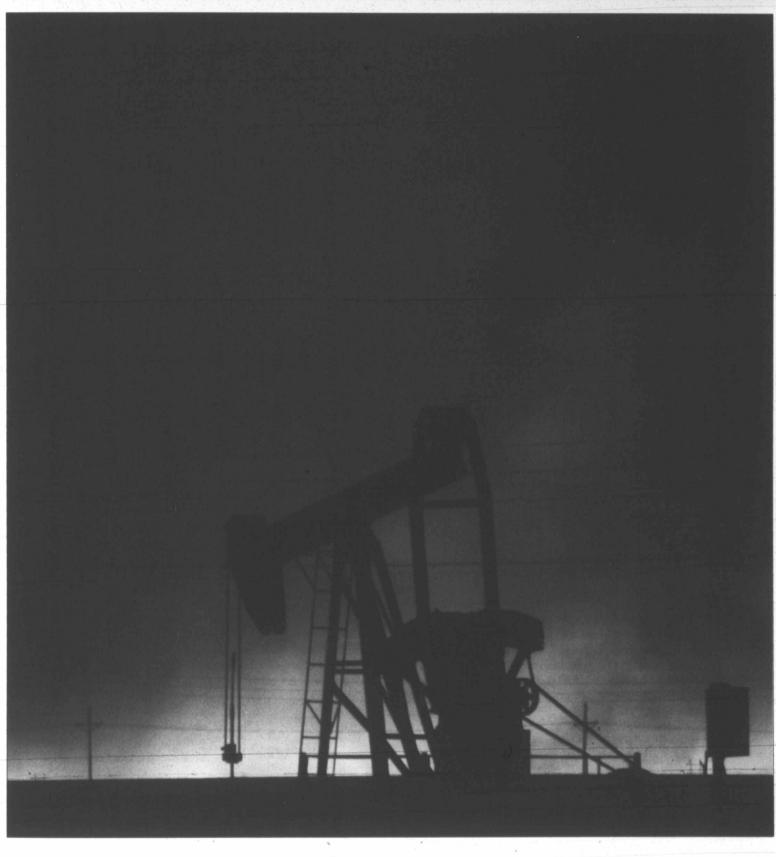
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Wildfires

March 2006

A PUBLICATION OF THE PAMPA NEWS

March 12 dawned as a typical day in the Texas Panhandle hot, dry and windy. It was a perfect scenario for a prairie wild-

It did not take long for those wildfires to break out. In fact, they were described as the largest grass fire threat in Texas history.

The first fire was detected near Borger, and volunteer firefighters began what would become a week of exhausting work. A second fire broke out near Pampa, and a third near McLean. A good portion of the area was in flames.

Twelve people died as a direct result of the fires.

Smoke from the fires obscured Interstate 40 near Groom, blinding drivers. A seven-car pileup caused four deaths.

Four oil field workers on their way to work were trapped and died just feet away from their stalled vehicle.

Three people died in and near = ties at Pampa's First Baptist Borger when flames and smoke overtook them.

A volunteer firefighter died April 9 from injuries sustained when his firetruck rolled over near Alanreed.

Numerous homes and outbuildings were destroyed, thousands of acres of grassland burned and about 1,700 pumpjacks were put out of commission.

Thousands of cows, horses and wildlife became victims of the deadly blazes.

Hundreds of miles of fences were lost.

Before long, communities were evacuated, including Lefors, McLean, Skellytown and the Walnut Hills area just north of Pampa.

The Lake McClellan recreation area was shut down.

Volunteer firefighters from White Deer, McLean, Panhandle, Lefors, Hoover, Wheeler, Mobeetie, Miami, Skellytown, Sudan, and Borger, among others, battled the relentless flames. At one point there were more than 22 volunteer fire departments involved, according to one firefighter on the scene.

County road workers were called out to operate heavy equipment to fight the fires.

The Texas Forest Service sent personnel to help fight the fires on the ground and air tankers that dropped retardant on the fires

The Red Cross set up facili-Church for evacuees and gathered sandwiches and soft drinks for weary volunteers.

And aid began pouring in.

As with any emergency in the Texas Panhandle, people help people in need.

Communities not affected by the wildfires sent in feed for livestock that survived and had no grazing land; the Farm Service Agency increased the amount of funding in the **Emergency Conservation**

Program; federal aid was promised; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency opened an office in Pampa.

Organizations downstate offered help for injured live-

Having and grazing fees were waived by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Farm Service

Federal relief promised help to rebuild fences.

A little rain on March 18 helped some, but not enough.

And more fires broke out on April 6, threatening Lefors and Bowers City, and areas near 23rd and Price Road and the city water treatment plant in Pampa.

As in the case of the March fires, volunteer firefighters, along with the Pampa Fire Department, jumped into action, doing whatever they could to protect residents whose homes were endangered, trying to save homes, and valiantly fighting the relentless flames.

This publication, produced by The Pampa News, is dedicated to all the volunteers, firefighters and others, who labored long, hard and selflessly to battle these prairie wildfires.

A portion of the proceeds from this publication will be donated to those volunteer fire departments.

Dennis Spies Editor The Pampa News

On the cover

Photo by DAVID BOWSER An oil well pumpjack is silhouetted against a raging grass fire that eventually burned across several thousand acres in the Texas Panhandle on March 12.

On the back cover

Photo by DAVID BOWSER Thick black smoke rising from around Skellytown blocks out the sun as a grass fire spread across Hutchinson, Carson, Gray and Roberts counties.

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It was the week that saw dozens of wildfires burn a large part of the Panhandle. Volunteers, firefighters and otherwise, deserve credit for saving people's homes and lives.

By DAVID BOWSER

Clifford McDonald has not only seen the beast, he has been in the belly of the beast. He and his loved ones have felt the fiery tongue of the beast licking at the edge of their lives and its hot breath breathing down their necks.

McDonald is fire chief of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, and while newspaper accounts list statistics of the worst grass fire in the state's history, McDonald thinks of the March fires in terms of his life and the lives of his loved ones and his neighbors as did many firefighters in the communities around Pampa during the month.

"The worst situation I got in was the Nine Mile Station," McDonald said.

There, on Texas Highway 273 nine miles north of McLean, McDonald and his crew saved a house, but the barns around it burned.

"We were there with two of our trucks, a deputy sheriff, a Shamrock unit and six civilians," McDonald said. "We were trapped there when the fire



Photo by DAVID BOWSER
A unit of the White Deer Volunteer Fire Department
rolls across Conservation Reserve Program land on
March 16 against a backdrop of thick smoke as
grass fires roared across the Texas Panhandle.

literally blew over. We were sitting in a fire tunnel."

It was a scary time for the veteran firefighter.

"It was one of the only times in my career I really feared for my own safety," McDonald said.

At the same time the fire blew across Texas Highway 273 at Niñe Mile Station, flames blazed around a house another McLean crew was protecting. McDonald's wife was in that crew. His daughter-in-law was with a different McLean crew that was trying to protect another home.

"It got pretty tough on this old man, I'll tell you,"
McDonald said.

He said he's glad it never got into McLean.

"If it'd gotten into McLean like it went through Nine Mile Station, there wouldn't have been a thing in the world we could've done," McDonald said.

Archie Summers, chief of the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department, was trying to reach Nine Mile Station to come to the aid of McDonald and his crew, but couldn't get through.

Summers made it as far as the Jerry Swires place five mile east of Lefors when flames began jumping Texas Highway 273.

Swires, Summers said, had been out trying to move his cattle when he became trapped by the fire. Swires managed to make it back to the house where he and the Lefors crew made a successful stand to save Swires' home.

Joe Millican's week started long before Sunday, March 12.

"We went out about 3 p.m. on a big fire out east of town," Millican, the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department's chief, said.

That was Wednesday, March 8.

"We lost around 500 acres Wednesday afternoon east of town," he said. "At that time, 500 acres was a pretty good sized fire. Now, that was a small fire compared to what we've been doing."

Still, they fought that fire for 12 hours Wednesday along with fire units from Lefors, Wheeler, Mobeetie, Miami and road

bb bb bb bb bb bb

units from Gray County Precincts One and Two. When the fire flared up again the next day, they returned to extinguish it for a final time.

"We had everything we had out on it except the engine and the rescue truck," Millican said. "We had six units out on it."

Combined with the other fire departments, there were over 22 units fighting the wildfire east of Pampa that Wednesday.

Little did they know it was just a harbinger of things to come.

Friday afternoon, March 10, Hoover was called to help with a fire between Amarillo and Dumas.

Hoover sent two trucks and four firefighters west of Four Way, toward Channing.

"We left here about 5 p.m.," said Assistant Fire Chief Bud Rose. "We got back about 2 a.m. Saturday."

"Saturday, we sat around and put everything back together," Millican said. "We were on pins and needles Saturday, thinking it was going to break out then."

Sunday morning March 12, they were called back out to the fire east of town.

"That was about 9 a.m.," Millican said. "It was nothing but blowing dirt and dust."

About 11 a.m., however, they were called out to assist Pampa Fire Department on a structure fire.

"We sent six personnel and two units in on that fire," Millican said.

Before they finished there on South Somerville, they were called to Interstate 40 to extract the victims of a seven-car pile-





Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Antelope graze the dry prairie grass north of Pampa while watching the spreading grass fire on the horizon on March 13.

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Photo by DAVID BOWSER

A windmill is silhouetted against a raging grass fire that eventually burned across several hundred thousand acres in the Texas Panhandle on March 12. The spike in the flames indicates that the wildfire is hot enough and big enough to generate its own winds.

up near Groom.

To the north, Clayton White, chief of the Skellytown Volunteer Fire Department, and his crews found themselves fighting to save their homes.

Called out the morning of March 12 east of Borger to battle what became known as the Borger Fire, the Skellytown fire department took the range fires personally.

"We weren't doing any good," White said. "We weren't knocking it down."

They pulled out and tried to flank it, but the heat and smoke was so intense White and his assistant chief had to have their eyes washed out by medical personnel that were standing by.

"We got out to Texroy," White said, "and the fire had already run through there."

They headed back toward Skellytown where the former fire chief, Guy McKissick, was manning the fire station.

"By radio, I asked him to find some guys with maintainers to start grading the area around Skellytown," White said. "This was about 45 minutes before the fire hit Skellytown."

When the fire came into town, it crossed into a junk-yard, White said.

"By that time," he said, "the planes were dropping

fire retardant."

The fire line crossed the barren ground cut by the maintainers. White said his two units attacked the fire along with two Fritch units and several other fire units.

"We had people there from Sudan, Borger, Hoover, White Deer, almost every one in the Texas Panhandle," he said.

The residents began evacuating Skellytown as smoke engulfed the community. White said his wife called him and asked what she should do. He told her to take what she could. He told her there was no stopping the fire.

"It was a really close call," White said.

It's one thing to protect someone else's home, he said, but the Skellytown Volunteer Firefighters were fighting for their own homes, their own community.

"We did not lose any structures," White said.

He said there were some tense monients when the fire blew through Skellytown.

"We were all very frightened," White said.

He said everybody, the paid fire departments and volunteers, came together and stopped the fires.

McDonald said the McLean Volunteer Fire Department was first called out to battle a grass fire at





Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Homeowners try beating out grass fires with blankets and shovels as flames climb out of a canyon behind their homes on March 13.

Interstate 40 and Texas Highway 70 about 11:30 a.m, March 12. It was the thick smoke from that fire that blocked visibility on the interstate which led to the seven-car pile up resulting in four deaths.

"We sent a rescue truck with three personnel," said Hoover's Millican. "The DPS requested two fire trucks with four personnel."

Heavy smoke from the grassfire east of Groom caused-poor visibility on the interstate and has been blamed for the pileup on I-40.

The two fire trucks that went to I-40 started pick-

ing up the slack from the Groom and other fire departments battling the blaze along the interstate and went on to save structures along the Lake McClellan highway, Millican said.

"There were several farm houses and ranch houses down there," Millican said.

Hoover ended up sending their 5,000-gallon tanker down there.

"When our rescue truck came home," Millican said, "we put that crew in a fire truck, and they went back out."

Called out about 11 a.m. Sunday, those crews got back in about 8 p.m. Monday.

"We had every truck out," Millican said, "and every fireman out."

He said they even had some former firefighters come in and volunteer.

"We suited them up and sent them out to relieve some of our personnel," Millican said.

As the fire spread and blew west along I-40, McDonald and his fire crews came back to McLean to protect the community.

"It was coming this way," McDonald said.

That, he said, was when his units headed north on Texas Highway 273 from McLean to Nine Mile Station. Among the homes lost to the fire was Gray County Justice of the Peace Mary Ann Carpenter's.

She and her husband are staying with their daughter and son-in-law, McDonald said. Their son-in-law is part of the McLean fire department and was three miles away from the Carpenters' home when it burned. He was trying to save another home at the time, McDonald said.

"We can't describe our feelings about what's happened," McDonald said. "Our friends have been burned out. They're family."

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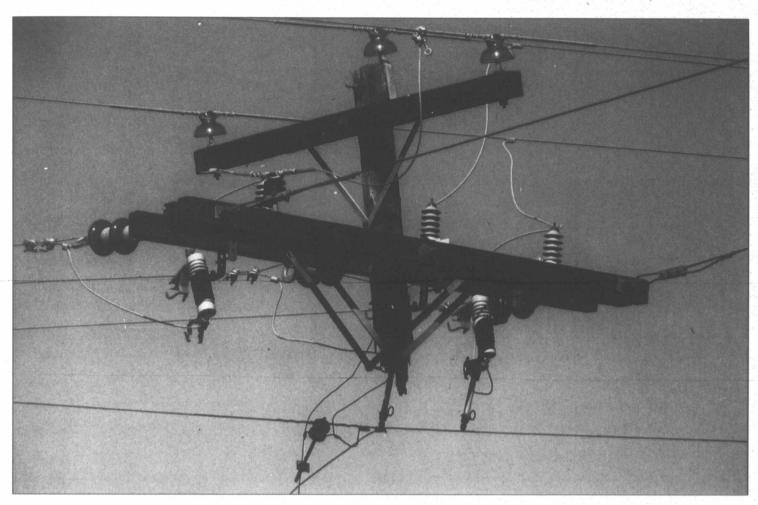


Photo by MARILYN POWERS

A utility pole burned from the bottom up as the crosspiece remained attached to power lines on State Highway 2473, one mile east of Kellerville in Wheeler County on March 13, the second day of Panhandle wildfires.

After the fire blew across Texas Highway 273, the wind shifted and the fire crews fell back to protect their homes in McLean.

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"We were trying to keep it out of here," McDonald said.

They fought for McLean on three different occasions March 13 and 14.

McDonald said the wind would shift and smoldering embers would flare up.

"It's been really tough," McDonald said.

To make matters worse for Summers, one of his trucks rolled over, injuring several of his firefighters. Fortunately, the injuries were relatively minor. "Everybody's healing up well," Summers said, "and doing OK."

In fact, one of the men injured earlier in the week was out on a fire call a few days later.

"It's been very hectic," Summers said.

Summers' week started out at 10 a.m. March 12.

"We were up and out about 40 hours in the first bout," Summers said. "We had fires all around us. We were able to contain the fire west of us at the river to keep it from coming into the city."

Everything to the south and east were pretty much destroyed, he said.

Once White determined

that Skellytown was out of harm's way, at least for the time being, he and his units headed south to protect Bill Arrington's house between Skellytown and White Deer and east to help protect Pampa.

They ended up spending much of the night near Winters Quarter Road, 10 miles north of Pampa on the west side of Texas Highway 70, fighting alongside the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department.

At dawn, however, they were called back to Skellytown to extinguish some hot spots.

"Friday we put out our last rekindled fire," White said. "It was right before the rain came in."

White said a lot of the rekindled fires were power line poles that had burned down into the ground and would smolder until winds fanned them into flames again.

In the middle of it all, they had a tank battery fire to contend with.

"It was three miles north of town," White said.

Summers and his units had to deal with a pipeline explosion east of Lefors.

While McDonald and Summers were dealing with the growing blaze in the south half of Gray County, Chief Terry Sargent of the





Photo by DAVID BOWSER

Emmett Riggle, a volunteer firefighter with the Skellytown Volunteer Fire Department, rests atop his pumper truck on March 13 before returning to the rolling grasslands north of Pampa to try and stop a grass fire that eventually burned more than 200,000 acres.

White Deer Volunteer Fire Department and his crews were fighting flames with Skellytown that would soon threaten Pampa.

"We got a call at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 12, to go assist Skellytown at Texas Highway 152 and Girlstown," Sargent said.

At the same time, Sargent had to send his rescue unit to Groom for the multi-car crash on I-40.

"We sent our Jaws of Life down there to cut some folks out," Sargent said.

The units at Girlstown moved to north of

Skellytown, fighting a retreat across a broad front of flames throughout the night of March 12 to Perry Lefors Air Field, then on across the north side of Pampa.

White Deer had one unit that came in about 1:45 a.m. Monday and another unit that came in about 4 a.m. Monday

"Then we got another call to go back out about 4:30 a.m.," Sargent said.

That unit returned at 6 a.m. with mechanical problems.

"We just had to do a little

bit of maintenance on it and get it back into shape," Sargent said.

By 9 a.m., March 13, White Deer had one unit in Roberts County and another north of Skellytown.

Monday afternoon they had units at Gray County Road 4 and Gray County Road D on a grass fire. That evening they moved to a mile north of the intersection of Gray County Roads D and 2, fighting a fire on CRP land.

"We got in about 8:30 p.m.," Sargent said.

Tuesday afternoon, they

sent a unit to McLean to help with a fire blowing up from the south and threatening I-40 and McLean.

"They were gone from about 1:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.," Sargent said.

"It was a flare-up from the original fire Sunday that went south of town," McDonald said. "That's when we finally got all the resources, the air drops and the helicopters in here."

On March 16, White Deer had a run from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. about a half-mile

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Photo by SEAN SMITH
These buildings at Hidden Hills Country Club north of Pampa escaped the raging grass fire that partially jumped a road. Pilot Jerrod Imel ferried Pampa News Publisher Sean Smith to survey damage.

west on FM 294 on Carson County Road 23. Then they headed north of Skellytown to deal with a rekindled fire.

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After that, they checked on the fire they'd put out at FM 294 and Carson County Road 23. It had rekindled, and they spent the next hour there battling it.

On March 17, White Deer had five runs.

There were two fires south of U.S. Highway 60 between White Deer and Panhandle.

A call came in at 10:15 a.m. March 17 reporting a fire at Carson County Road Y and Texas Highway 293.

"That was a separate fire from the one that Panhandle was on," Sargent said.

After fighting their fire, White Deer assisted Panhandle on a fire at Carson County Road W and Texas Highway 293.

"While they were fighting that fire, we had another fire north of town," Sargent said.

That was north of the wind farm north of White Deer.

"Those three fires were caused by lightning," Sargent said.

Another unit was dispatched March 17 about noon from I-40 east of Conway.

"After the smoke cleared, we had to start repairing trucks," Summers said.

They had one truck roll over and two trucks break down.

"We were down to one truck to protect our city," Summers said.

Still they protected not only Lefors, but they were able to help McLean.

"We've been working on trucks ever since," he said. "We do have two small trucks back on line."

He said they're applying for Texas Forest Service emergency grants to replace the pumper that they lost.

"It's what we had rigged up to do our foam on these oil well fires," Summers said. "We're trying to replace that as soon as possible."

Summers has organized an annual poker run, giving away a new motorcycle every year, as a fund-raiser to buy or replace firefighting equipment. Last year, the \$30,000 the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department raised went to pay off their ambulance.

Three of Lefors' four trucks are back on line. The newest truck is a 1994 model, but the oldest truck is a 1964 model. The 1994 truck has 180,000 miles on

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Photo by DAVID BOWSER

Spectators line up to watch as a rapidly moving grass fire jumps Texas Highway 70 north of Pampa.

it.

The lack and age of equipment is a common problem among fire departments.

"The volunteer departments aren't the only ones that need the help," McDonald said.

He said even fire departments like Pampa could use some help.

"Everybody needs help," McDonald said. "Our newest fire truck that we're running right now is a 2005. We bought it off a Texas Forest Service grant."

The next newest one, he said, is a 1981 model.

"You go down from there to the '60s," McDonald said.

He said they're running some old military trucks.

"They're tougher than a boot," he said.

Sargent said their equipment held up pretty well during the week.

White Deer Volunteer Fire Department has four grass rigs, two pumpers, a command car and a rescue truck. They have 22 personnel.

"You carry that many," Sargent said, "but you're lucky if you get half of them to show up most of the time."

Summers said he has a 22-man department, but only 12 of those are firefighters.

Sargent said most everybody showed up and worked hard. Sargent said they had some men off on vacation so there was no work conflict.

By March 16, Sargent admitted he took a day's vacation and slept about 12 hours. White ended up taking emergency vacation days to stay on the fire line.

McDonald said his firefighters' roster has grown this past week.

"We had 22 members when this started,"

McDonald said. "We have more than that now. Now, we're up to about 30."

"We had some of that, too," White said.

McDonald said the deaths and destruction opened the eyes of a lot of people.

"Including mine," McDonald said.

The Skellytown Volunteer Fire Department has between 20 and 25 members, White said.

"Before the fires," he said, "there were about 10 of us who were really active."

White said all the mem-

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Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Hoover Volunteer Fire Department was one of the groups on the scene for some 36 hours fighting high winds and rolling grass fires across Gray County.

bers rolled in as well as some former members and honorary members.

"They were fighting for their homes," White said.

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"We have four grass rigs," White said. "We have an emergency attack unit plus a rescue unit all in one package. It has the Jaws of Life in it and a 500-gallon tank on it. We got it from Texas Forest Service year before last on a grant."

They also have a city pumper and command vehicle.

Two of Sargent's grass rigs are 1999 models that they were able to buy over the last couple of years to replace 1966 and 1968 rigs.

"We were really happy to get them," Sargent said. "Let me tell you."

They kept the 1968 model in reserve.

"We still use it," he said. They had to use it March 17.

"At least we're able to keep it in reserve where we don't have to use it all the time," Sargent said. "It's still a good truck, and it still functions."

Sargent said that while most of the other volunteer fire departments need fourwheel drive to deal with rangelands, White Deer is surrounded mostly by farmland.

"Our biggest concern is CRP," he said. "We just need something we can get out there in. We've got one four-wheel drive vehicle. It's a one-ton truck. That's the one we sent to McLean

because I didn't think ours would make it in all that sand down there. We're kind of limited on what we can send at certain times."

"We started out with five trucks," McDonald said. "We got down to two. Got back up to five. Got back down to two, and we're up to four right now."

He said that he and his firefighters were trying to build a new one that they had bought with a grant from the Texas Forest Service.

"We're really in good shape," McDonald said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, in a press conference in Amarillo, said he expects legislation to be introduced next year in the Texas Legislature to make more funds available to rural and

volunteer fire departments.

"It would sure help a lot of people," McDonald said.

As the week seemed to wind down, McDonald had thanks for the help he got, particularly from other firefighters and communities.

"Man, the list is so long," McDonald said.

He said Tulia rolled into McLean March 12 and didn't leave until March 14.

"Lubbock rolled in here sometime (March 14)," McDonald said. "They left sometime (March 16) at dinner. That's just the tip of the iceberg to what's happened."

He said the Tulia firefighters never slept while they were in McLean.

"They were right there with us the whole time,"

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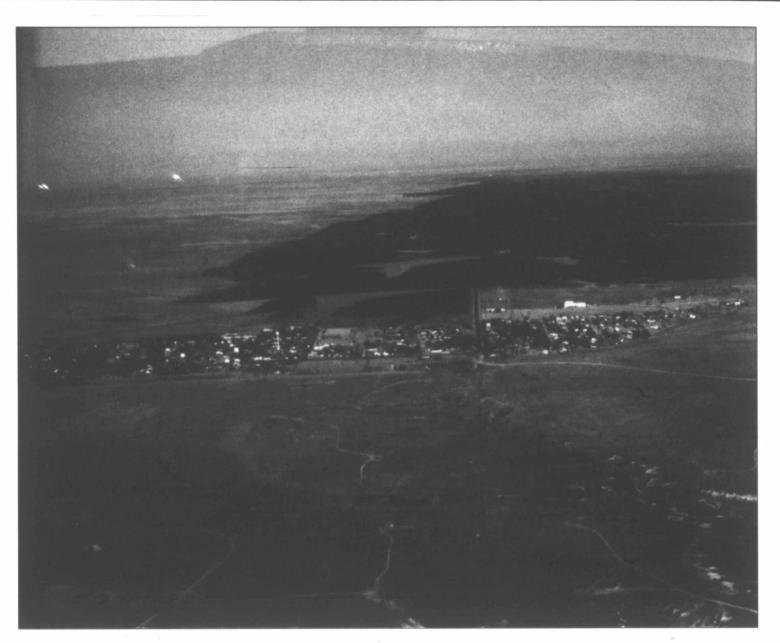


Photo by SEAN SMITH
Skellytown was in the path of this wildfire and the town was evacuated.

McDonald said.

He said McLean got great support from Pampa, Amarillo, Canyon, Randall County, White Deer and many others.

"Just everybody," he said.

"We couldn't have done it without all these other people," White said.

Sunday, March 12, soon after sunset, Millican, balancing two cell phones, a land line and a radio was pulling units of Pampa and sending them to Miami to

help protect structures in that community, but as the roaring fire threatened Walnut Creek, many of those units were called back.

"It was the first time the chief had ever sent me to cover a structure when I still had fire where I was," said Hoover Volunteer Trent Price

Hoover units joined other firefighters in what was by then a wildfire covering thousands of acres Sunday night that burned to the edge of the runway around Perry Lefors Airport.

That fire went on to jump Price Road and then Texas Highway 70 on Pampa's north side. Millican said the fire was leaping out 150 feet at a time.

Monday morning, they made a stand on Winters Quarter Road about 10 miles north of Pampa, running their pumpers along the edges of canyons that were engulfed in flames.

The Skellytown Volunteer Fire Department, after fighting a battle to save their homes Sunday evening, regrouped and joined Hoover with a tanker and truck.

The wind switched Monday and started driving it back into town.

"We made another stand at the Little Red School House and stopped that fire there from jumping the highway," Millican said.

By midnight the exhausted crews were sent home to get some rest only to be

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boost "I ever that," called out again at 6 a.m. Tuesday.

Those units were out until 6 a.m. Wednesday fighting fires at the Bob Price Ranch north of town. Other units were assisting Lefors.

Tuesday afternoon, Millican sent another unit down south of McLean to help with a blaze being driven north by strong winds toward I-40. They went on into Donley County and ended up in Collingsworth County.

"We cover around 350 square miles in Gray County," Millican said. "When Lefors went down from four trucks to one truck, we assumed their 250 square miles as part of our responsibility. We covered 300 square miles in Roberts County."

Millican said part of that area was on contract with Hoover and part of it was through mutual aid agreement, but when the call came for help, nobody questioned the paper work.

Running 12 trucks and with 28 people, Hoover is one of the largest volunteer departments in the area.

The thing that Millican is proudest of, he said, is that in their operational areas they lost no structures and had no injuries to their firefighters nor any injuries reported to any citizens.

Rose said he was amazed by the support of private residents and churches that brought firefighters water and sandwiches.

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ne aid "We wouldn't have made it without the citizens of Pampa," Rose said.

Although the nourishment was needed, Rose said the water and sandwiches were a great morale booster.

"I don't know how you ever thank people like that," Rose said.

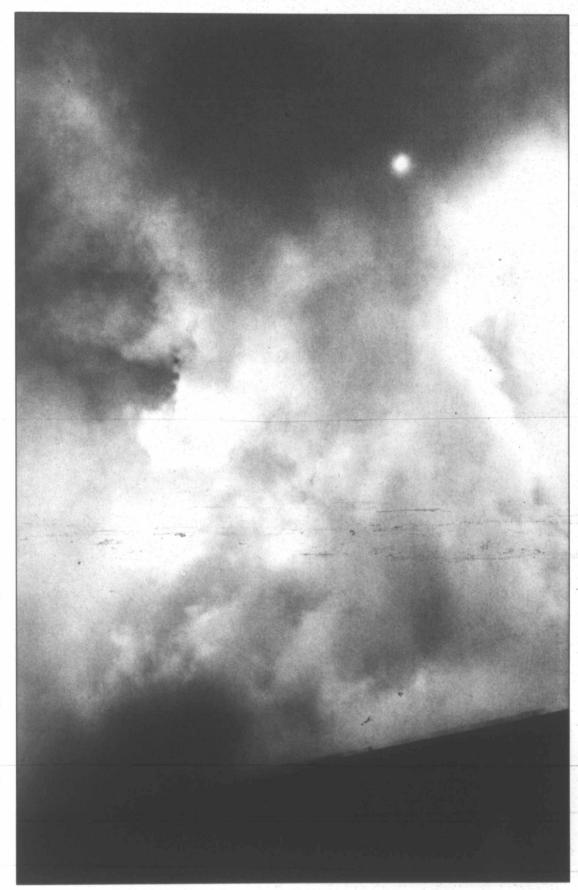


Photo by DAVID BOWSER

A column of smoke from a spreading wildfire blots out the sun south of Interstate 40 on March 14. Firefighters stopped the fire before it reached the community of McLean.



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Photo by DAVID BOWSER

Volunteer firefighters from Skellytown load their pumper with water at dawn on March 13 after spending the night battling roaring wildfires in the Texas Panhandle that eventually burned about 1,000 square miles.



Photo by DAVID BOWSER
An interdenominational church stands untouched on a hill across from pastureland that was blackened by widespread grass fires along Interstate 40 near Alanreed on March 13.



Photo by LEE CARTER Wildfires during March came perilously close to Pampa. This is a northern view toward Walnut Creek, north of Pampa.

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Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Fires were still sputtering along Interstate 40 near Alanreed on March 13 one day after smoke from a wildfire caused four deaths in a seven-car pileup.



Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Smoldering ashes were all that were left of a mobile home in Alanreed after wildfires raced through on March 13.



Photo by GARY WILLOUGHBY Grass fires burned much more than grass and fences. Trees were victims, too.

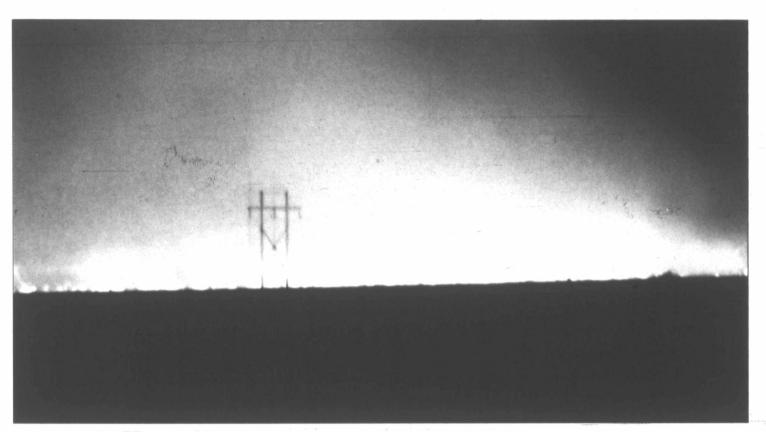


Photo by PAUL FLEMING
This is a view of the fire that threatened Walnut Creek, north of Pampa Regional Medical Center.



Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Mary Leathers with the Texas Forest Service started backfires on March 16 on Conservation Reserve
Program land as grass fires roared across the Texas Panhandle.

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Photo by ROGER RANNEY
This view is from the corner of Magnolia and Harvester at about 9 p.m. on March 12.

Photo by DAVID BOWSER

A tractor and truck were silhouetted in flames fanned by high winds as a grass fire burned out of control near Pampa.





Photos by SHARI MORRISON

Top photo, a view from the Morrison Ranch home as a wildfire approaches about a half mile from the house. Bottom photo, firefighters waited for the fire near the Morrison Ranch to move on so they could attack it from the rear. The Morrison Ranch is about 15 miles north of Pampa.



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hoto by SUSAN OLDHAM dichael Oldham battles a fire in a canyon on the Trew Ranch, west of Alanreed.

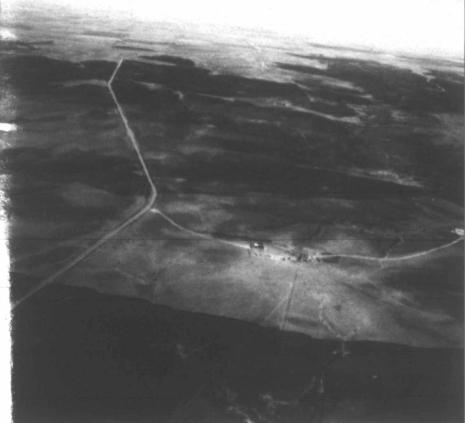


Photo by PAUL LOYD An employee of the Arrington Ranch battles fires that broke out on the ranch.



Photo by OMA LEWIS
This photo shows parched fields west of Skellytown on the Hay Hook Road on March 13.





Photos by MILES KIMBEL

Photographer Miles
Kimbel and pilot Locke
Carter, both professors at
Texas Tech University,
ventured out to photograph damage from the
wildfires. Top photo is a
view over Bluff Creek
looking east toward
Miami. Photo at left is a
view north of Red Camp,
looking back south of
Pampa.

