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## 4th of July celebrations abound in area

By Marilyn Powers  
The Pampa News

A variety of activities are available in the cities of Pampa, Canadian and Wheeler for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

**PAMPA**  
The City of Pampa is once again sponsoring its annual fireworks display, which will begin at dusk Friday in Recreation Park. Viewers may observe the display from the park, but are prohibited

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, the show will be held on the 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, break-away roping, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing, bull riding, a kids' calf scramble, mutton bustin' and open steer saddling.

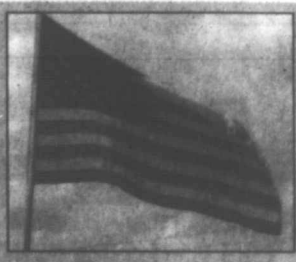
Also tonight is music by the Smiley Johnson Municipal Band, which will begin playing at the Presbyterian Park Gazebo at 7:30 p.m.

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



**Happy Holiday!**  
The Pampa News will not publish on Friday.  
Have a happy and safe 4th of July!



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

Local author T.R. Oatman will hold a book signing at Hastings's Books and Records in Pampa beginning at 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 5 for the release of his second 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 around. It kind of seemed like he was lost," Oatman's wife Lashell said.

As they were leaving, Lashell asked if he had enjoyed himself and Oatman responded with, "I have an idea." Oatman spent the rest of that winter writing "River Rose," a tale of lessons learned by heroine Katrina Ambrose when a love from her recent past pays a visit for a surprising and chilling reason.

"He had decided then that

he was going to write a fictional story about Red River and some of the people there," Lashell said. "Then we went to a reunion later, and he wound up writing "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 hired to do x-rays and assist in surgery.

"We basically just stayed here and unloaded our U-haul," Lashell said.

Oatman and his wife have lived in Pampa for 11 years now. Lashell handles public relations for his writing and even designed and painted the cover for "River Rose." As for future endeavors, Lashell confirms that another book is on it's way.

"He's got a couple more in the works," Lashell said.

## '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 his 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 volunteer work that led to a job in the White House under George Herbert Walker Bush, his appointment by President 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 Presbyterian 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 beautiful country."

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



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.

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at the Pampa Optimist Youth Club Park  
July 5th and 6th



**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms 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. South-southwest 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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**Services tomorrow**

**Services SATURDAY**  
**BROWN, Paul Audre** — 2 p.m., Macedonia Baptist Church, Pampa.  
**HUDSON, A.E. "Andy"** — Memorial services, 11 a.m., First Baptist Church Parlor, Pampa.

**Obituaries**

**Paul Audre Brown**

Paul Audre Brown died Friday, June 27, 2008. Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Saturday at Macedonia Baptist Church in Pampa. Arrangements were handled by Golden Gate Mortuary in Amarillo.

**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-Whitley 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 Mapes on Aug. 8, 1980, at Miami, Okla. Mr. Hudson retired from Phillips Petroleum in 1986 and belonged to First Baptist Church, Pampa Trap and Skeet Club and Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM. He was past worthy patron of Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star and volunteered at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center. 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 Rhodes, Jr. Survivors include his wife, Edith "Edie" Hudson, of the home; two stepsons, Ronald Rhodes of Pampa and Charles Rhodes of Hanover Park, Ill.; a sis-

ter, Jo Lindstrom of Bartlesville; and two step-grandchildren. **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 register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.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 zone.  
 April Ruth Goldthrite, 19, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance.  
 Claudia Renate Frame, 42, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for no driver's license, expired tags and no insurance.  
**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 by Pampa PD for driving while intoxicated, 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**

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**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.

**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** Cook-in' Old Fashioned Cook-Out. Sat., July 5th, serving 11am-7pm. 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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# Viewpoints

## Cats & dogs: The BEST way to travel

You can never replace a good dog — and, 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 no-frills, 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 cosmetic 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'

tails must be clipped. 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 datted 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 acquire a feline nor, as far as I know, has any member of my family.

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

**Skyla Bryant**  
City Editor

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 ninnyes 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 decade ago. Republicans, who once preached fiscal restraint — they even tried it for a few years — ended up growing government more than Democrats ever dreamed.

Things are getting worse in a hurry.

Take on a gimmicky mortgage bigger than you could afford? Not to worry. Our esteemed Congress is pushing through a \$300 billion bill 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 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

**Tom Purcell**  
Columnist



politicians want to tax them plenty more so they can transfer more goodies to you.

Sound like the ideas of a government founded on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

They're not. They're the ideas of the "Takings Coalition," a term coined by Grover Norquist, author of "Leave Us Alone: Getting the Government's Hands Off Our Money, Our Guns, Our Lives."

The Takings Coalition is composed of trial lawyers, labor unions, big-city political machines, government workers and contractors, nanny-state radicals and lots of other folks who benefit as government size and power expand.

The Takers "view the proper role of government as taking things from one group and giving them to someone else."

Fortunately, explains Norquist, there is another coalition that stands in stark contrast to the Takings crowd: the "Leave Us Alone Coalition," the center-right, commonsense folks who simply want the government to leave us alone.

We don't want other people'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 educate our kids where and how we see fit.

Whereas the Takers are trying to turn America into France — where most everybody is dependent on gov-

ernment in one way or another — we Leave-Us-Aloners believe what our Founders believed.

We believe that government 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 though. The Takings 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.

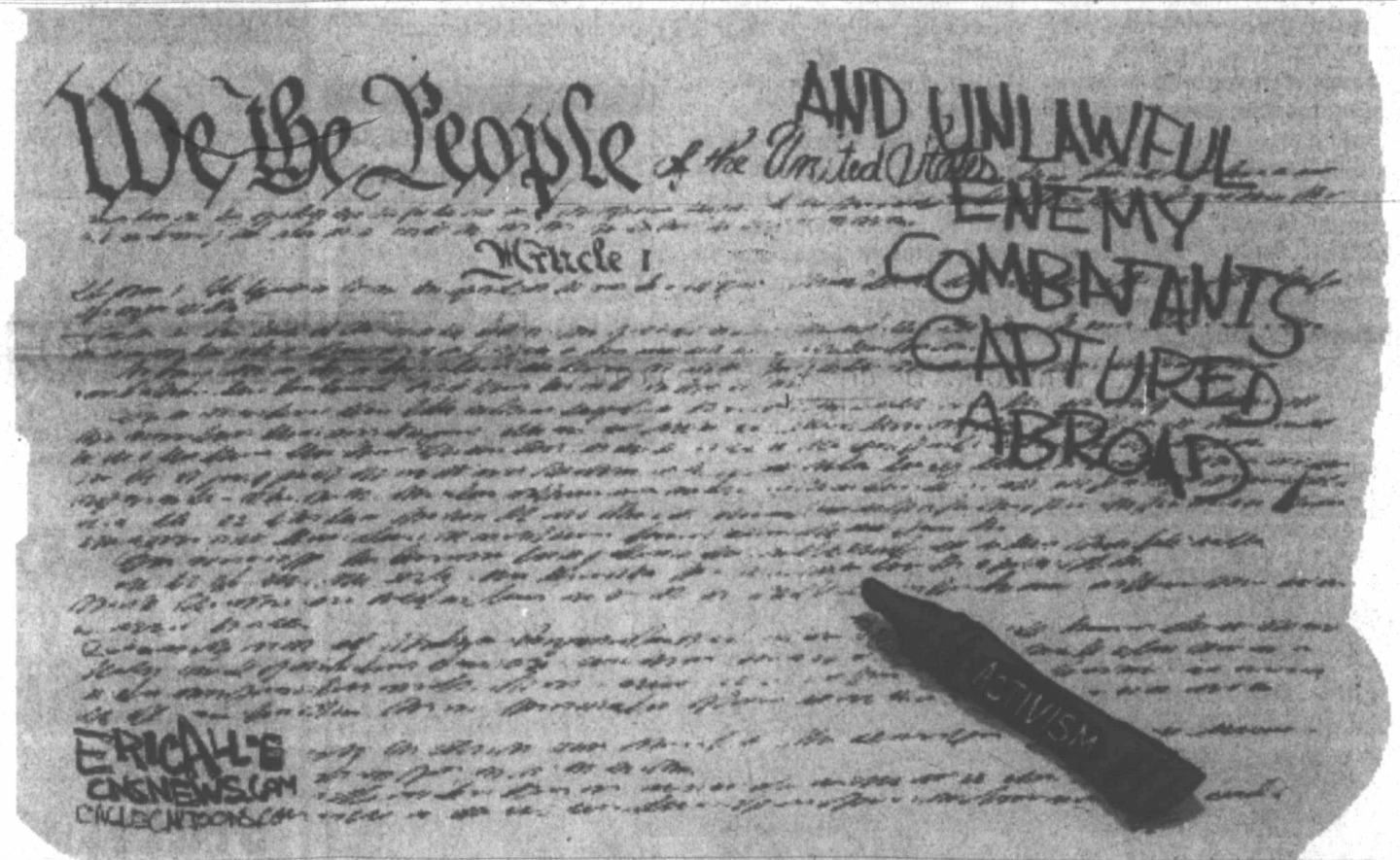
As much of the world is emulating America's leave-us-alone success — many countries have slashed taxes and reduced government meddling to unleash the ingenuity and productivity

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 exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.



## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around 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 started to

learn, for example, that according to an analysis of Census data and information gleaned from 13 annual Houston-area 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 States.

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 well-trained 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

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.

URL: <http://www.chron.com>

## THE PAMPA NEWS

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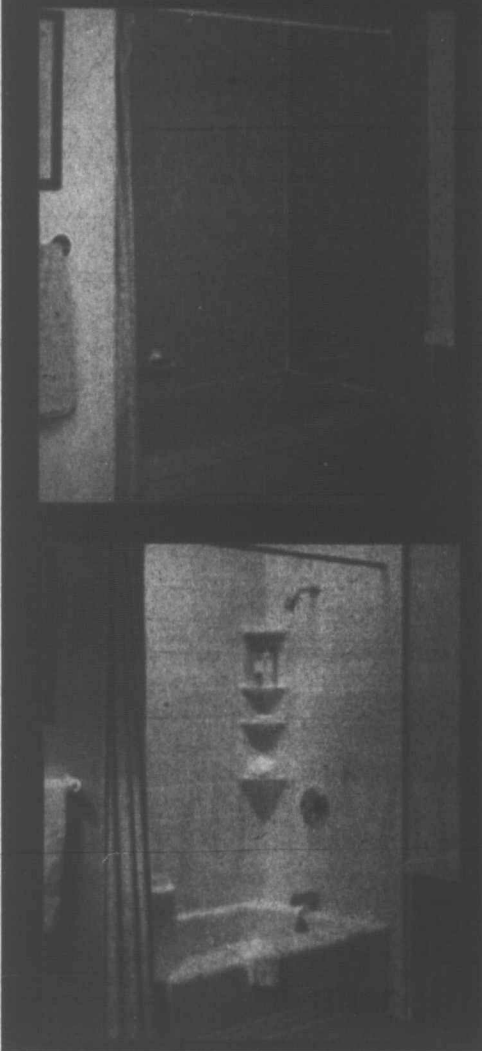
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# BUSINESS REVIEW

## BATH FITTER



The bathroom may not be the largest room in your home, but with a little attention, the small room can add big value. Remodeling is time consuming and difficult right? Not with trained technicians and the Bath Fitter solution.

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For more information on remodeling bathroom and to schedule your appointment, call Bath Fitter and the trained technicians at Amarillo PC & R at 806.355.4200. Bath Fitter of Amarillo is located at 2525 M 2590.

"Customers can relax with Bath Fitter. Installation is only performed by trained technicians and the Bath Fitter product is easier to clean and maintain for my customers, and I take comfort in knowing that Bath Fitter will last them many, many hassle-free years," says Curt Pohlmeier, owner of Amarillo PC & R.

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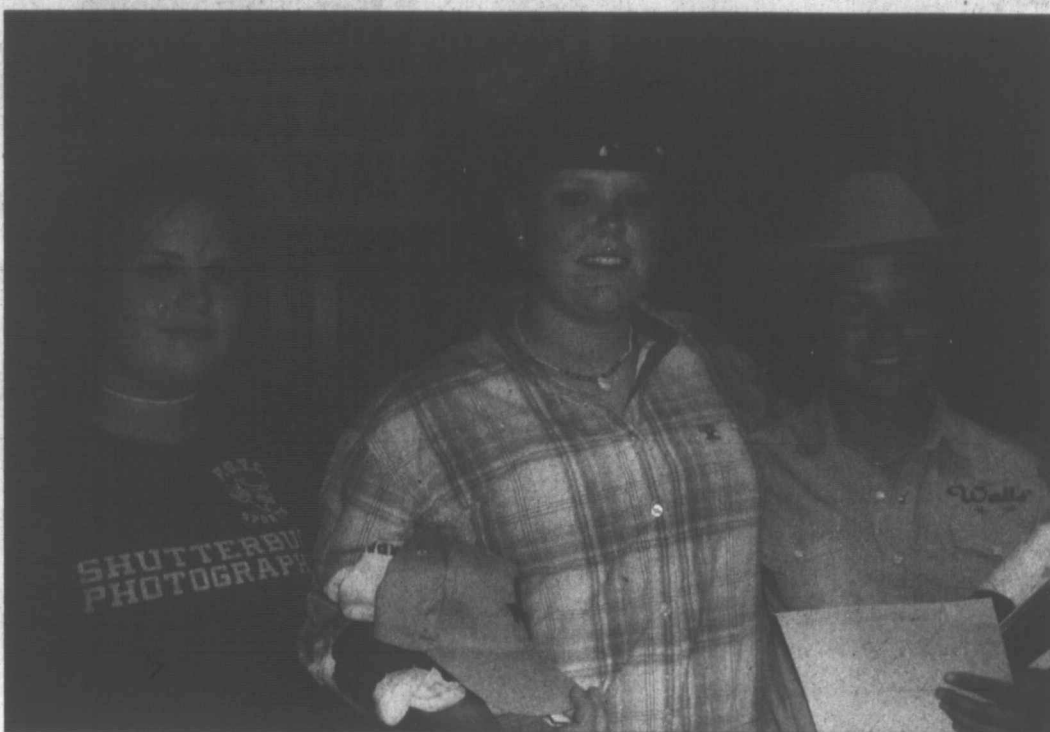
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Community Camera photo  
Lacie Oxley, Jennifer Huffhines and Shaley Morris were recently recognized for memorizing the most Bible verses during Texas Rodeo Bible Camp staged at Top O' Texas Rodeo Area adjacent to Recreation Park.

### Minister's Musings

What is bigger than current war casualties?

Since October 2001, there have been 4,587 casualties in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). That averages out to about 680 deaths per year; about two per day. Is that horrible? Absolutely!

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 perspective.

In 2007, there were 1,370,000 legal abortions in the USA. That translates to about 3,700 innocent babies slaughtered every day.

Now if 4,587 deaths in war is horrible (and it surely is), then just how horrible would 8,775,000 deaths of defenseless 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 1,913 to 1!

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 comparison between one and 1,913.

So if you're going to get your "dander" up or your "Irish" up or whatever, then at

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 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 have all of the opinions you want to on all of the issues that are being presented as "signif-

icant" in this upcoming 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/Election2008/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 youth. 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 drawing. 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. The Game Plan will get started with a pre-registration ice cream party at 3 p.m. Sunday, July 6 for participants and their parents. A preschool and kindergarten class will be offered from 6-7:30 p.m. nightly. Children enrolled in the VBS can choose 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 the 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. For more information, call 665-7201.

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# Sports



Courtesy Photo  
 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

The Pampa 9-10 All-Stars had to battle back through the losers bracket after dropping the first game of the District I tournament to the Canyon All-Stars with a score of 10-7. Pampa was able to come back and win their next two games over the High Plains East and High Plains West All-Star teams with scores of 13-0 and 18-3 before dropping a heartbreaker to North Randall County on a score of 6-5 after leading the game for the first five innings. Pampa's third place finish in District I competition guaranteed them the number one seed in the state tournament and a first round game against the District II number three seed.

Pampa was led offensively in the tournament by Ashton Robison, Adam Zuniga, Cade Engle, Bryson Burrell and Zach Wilson. Robison went

six for seven at the plate with one single, two doubles and three triples. He struck out only one time with three RBI's and four runs scored. Zuniga was eight for 14 with eight singles, two walks, six runs scored, one RBI and he did not strike out. Engle went seven for 14 in the three hole and came up big with runners in scoring positions. Cade plated six RBI's and eight runs scored on five singles, one double and one triple while striking out only once. Burrell cleaned things up for Pampa going six for 14 with four singles and two triples. He crossed the plate seven times, tallied four RBI's and struck out only three times.

Pampa's lead-off hitter Zach Wilson made 15 appearances at the plate and put the ball in play with every opportunity. He had

seven singles and crossed the plate five times. Kyndan Lott touched home four times on four singles while Ryan Lee and Colton Thompson each touched home three times on three hits. Solon Wilson went three for six with two singles and an in the park home run. He scored two times and had one RBI. Nathan Furgason wrapped up Pampa's scoring by going five for 11 and touching home one time.

Defensive highlights came from nearly every position for Pampa and some of the best were two double plays turned in by second baseman Zach Wilson. Left fielder Nathan Furgason got on his horse to track down a ball hit in the gap and hustle a relay throw in to shortstop Cade Engle who turned and pinned a bullet to third baseman

Adam Zuniga to catch one of the North Randall runners trying to stretch a double into a triple. Bryson Burrell came up big in centerfield on several occasions with some big catches and Kyndan Lott at third base snatched a line drive out of the air for an incredible catch. Ashton Robison, Brendon Woelfle, Ryan Lee and Colton Thompson each made defensive gems in the field to prevent extra bases by opposing teams.

New starting pitcher Garrett Mullican came on in the last game and did his best Randy Johnson impression by sending six Randall hitters to the bench in the first two innings with three strikes and no runs scored.

The Pampa All-Stars represent the Pampa Optimist Youth Club which is a United Way Organization.

### Optimist club to host All-Star State Tournament

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club will sponsor a 12 Year Old West Texas 70 Foot Cal Ripken All Star State Tournament which will begin Saturday and end on Wednesday, according to Bill Kidwell, the tournament director.

"Canyon will play Hi-Plains Saturday at noon followed by Pampa's playing host to Seminole at 2:30," Kidwell said. "The winner of the first game will play Plainview at 5 p.m. The winner of the second game takes on North Randall County at 7:30 p.m."

The six teams will play a double elimination tournament for the right to compete in the regional tournament which will be held in Amarillo later this month. "North Randall County will

host the regional tournament which will include state champions from Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and the top two other teams from our tournament," explained Kevin Davis, the Optimist baseball commissioner.

Shane Stokes is the manager of the Pampa all stars. He is assisted by Shawn Clifton and Jackie Martindale. Players on the team are Aaron Allen, Ben Arbuckle, Cyler Clifton, Tanner Doucette, Thomas Haley, Jordan Lemons, Casey Martindale, Braxton Maul, Krysten Miller, Sheldon Reeve, Brandon Stokes and Dylan Zawicki.

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

## Kiwanis Club to hold annual golf scramble

The Downtown Pampa Kiwanis Club's 8th Annual Golf Scramble will be held Saturday, July 12 at Hidden Hills Golf Course, North of Pampa on Highway 70. Shotgun starts at 8 a.m.

"We use this as a fund raiser to promote a lot of the different things that we do in the community," Kiwanis member Ron Wood said. "We raise money for various projects ... youth projects, college scholarships, scouting activities, we work with Christmas shopping ... this is where we use all of our funds to help

support some of these things." The scramble will be structured in four-player teams with only one person with an eight handicap or below per team. Teams will be flighted according to handicap prior to play by Hidden Hills Golf Pro David Teichman. All players must be at least 18 years of age or out of high school.

Entry is \$40 per player or \$160 per team which includes green fees, carts and lunch. Players will be able to purchase one mulligan per

person the morning of the tournament for \$5. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third places in each flight based on a full field. Special prizes will be awarded for longest drive, straightest drive, and closest to the hole. There will also be drawings for multiple door prizes.

To register contact Hidden Hills Golf Course at 806-669-5866.



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 Coutts, 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 CRU AXE HCR IY

YZYHQYU QX CRAQGMRL

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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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 DADDY  
 BABY BROTHER  
 BIG BROTHER  
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Look how great!

Love  
 Your Adoring Family

### 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.

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**1 Public Notice**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT**

Benson-McCown & Company, P.O. Box 7805, 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 inject fluid into the 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 Panhandle 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 State-wide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or request 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 78711, Austin, Texas 78711. (Telephone 512/463-6792).

B-2 July 3, 2008

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**21 Help Wanted**

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

**3 Personal**

**NO PAPER will be published for FRIDAY, JULY 4TH so that all employees may have the day off. Thanks, The Pampa News.**

**5 Special Notices**

**ADVERTISING Material 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.

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**For an opportunity to apply and further info., please contact: Ron Graag at 806-679-9481 or Steve Lane at 580-225-1385.**

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**We invite all nations to celebrate with Americans online this Fourth of July.**

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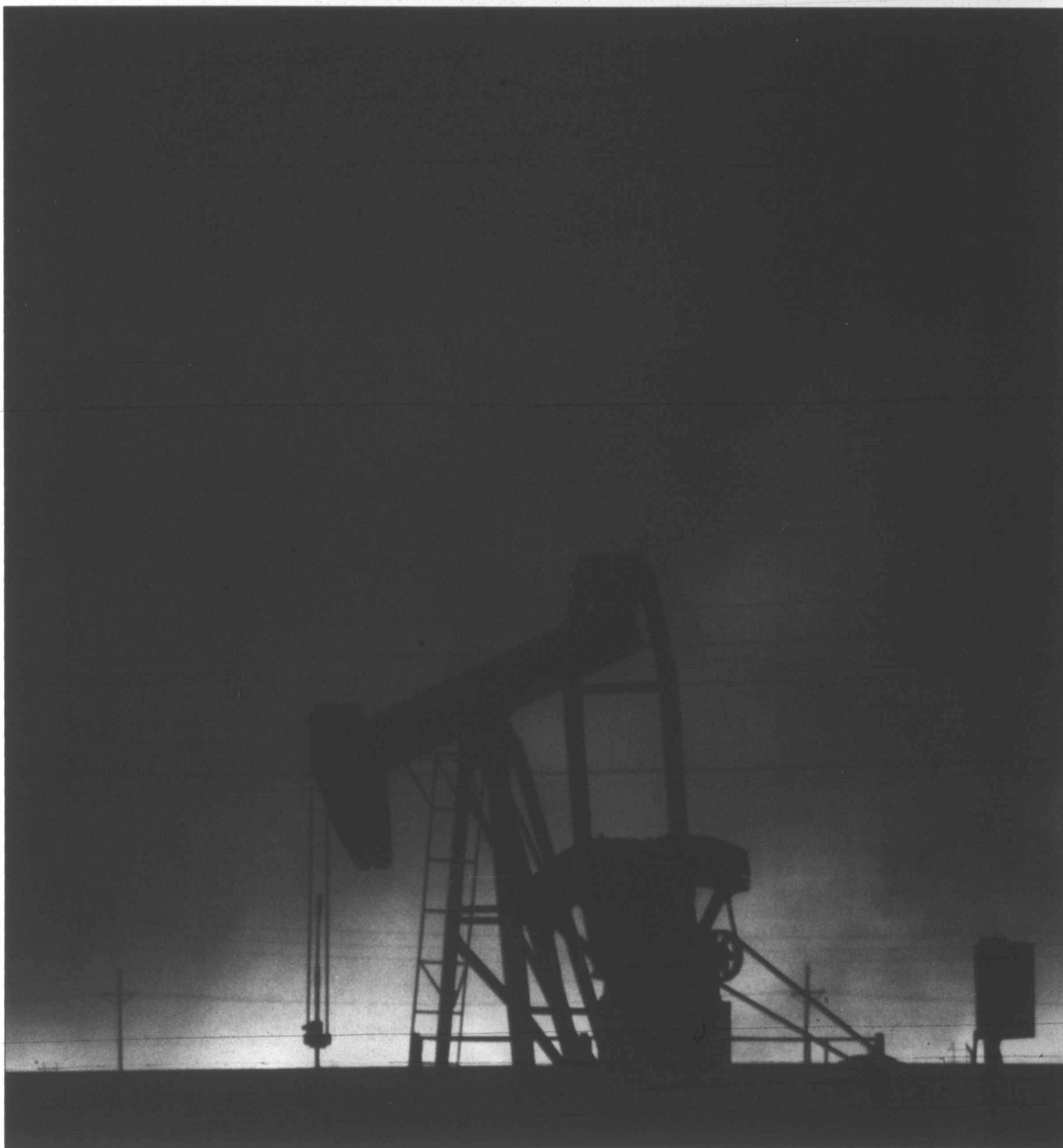
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# *Wildfires*

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-fire.

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 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 out-buildings were destroyed, thousands of acres of grassland burned and about 1,700 pump-jacks 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 facilities at Pampa's First Baptist 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 livestock.

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

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 Nine 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





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 junkyard, 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 moments 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

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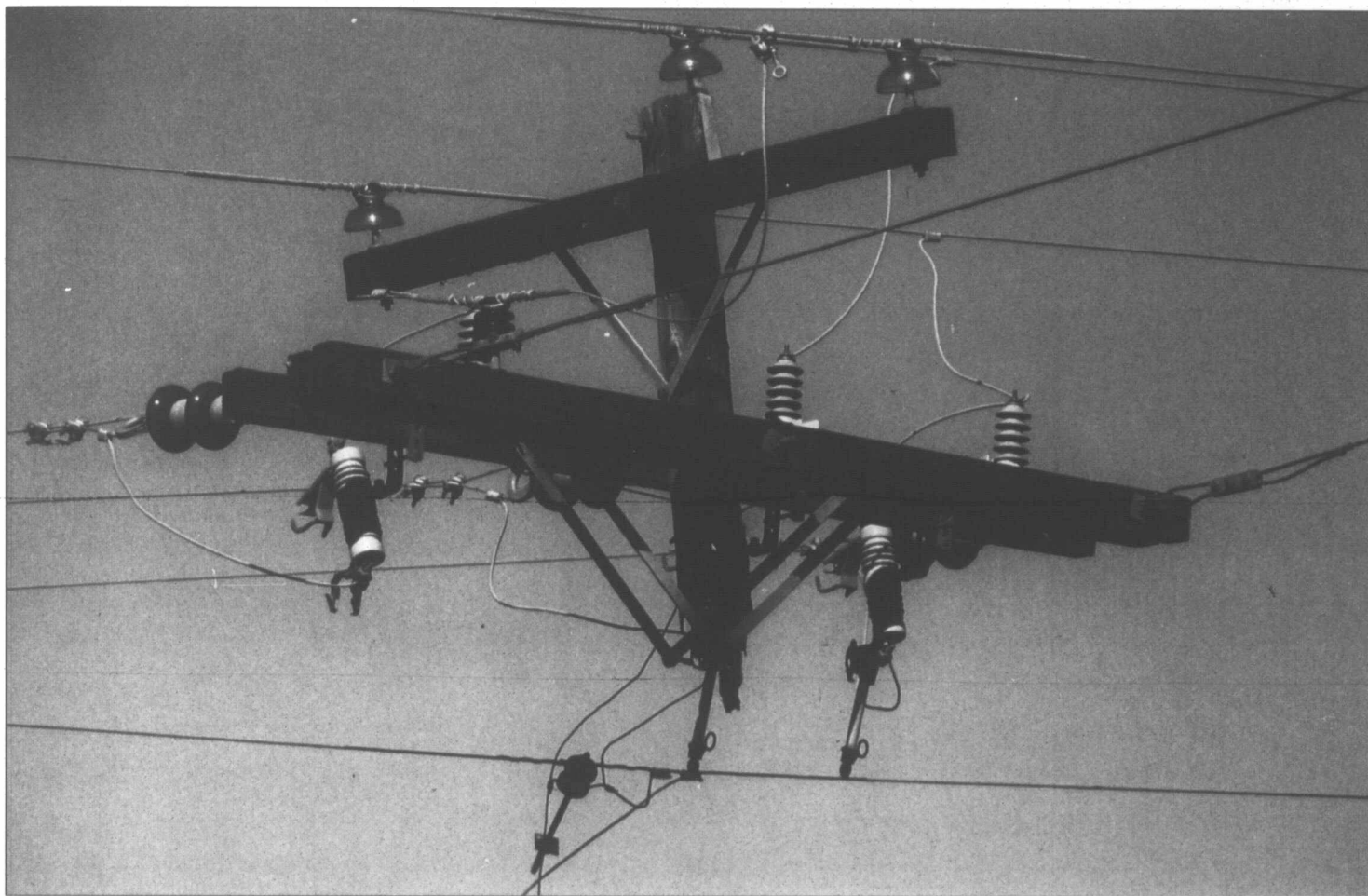


Photo by MARILYN POWERS

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.

"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**  
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.

"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 four-wheel 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,"







**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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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.

"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.





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.

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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.



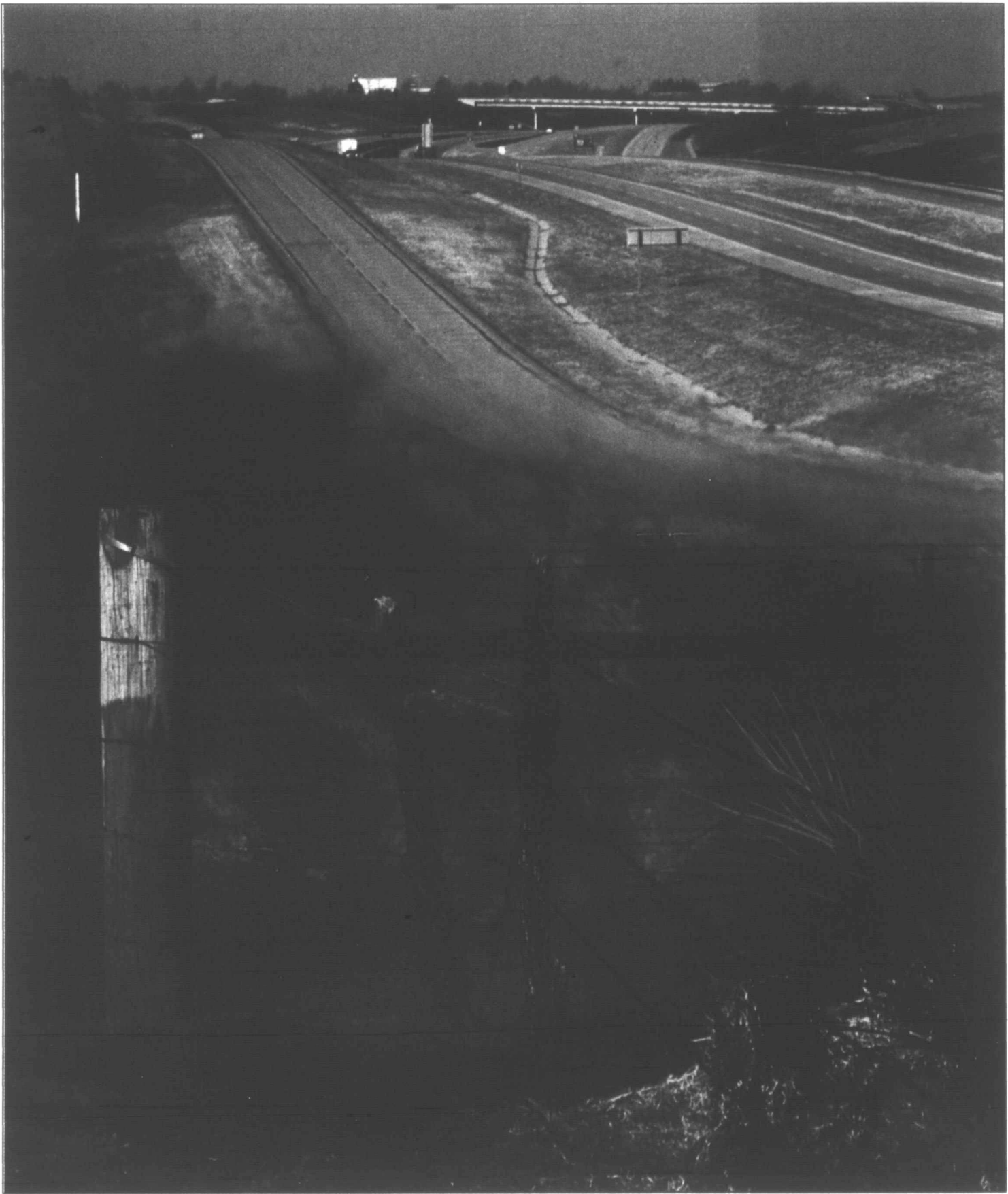


Photo by DAVID BOWSER

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.

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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.



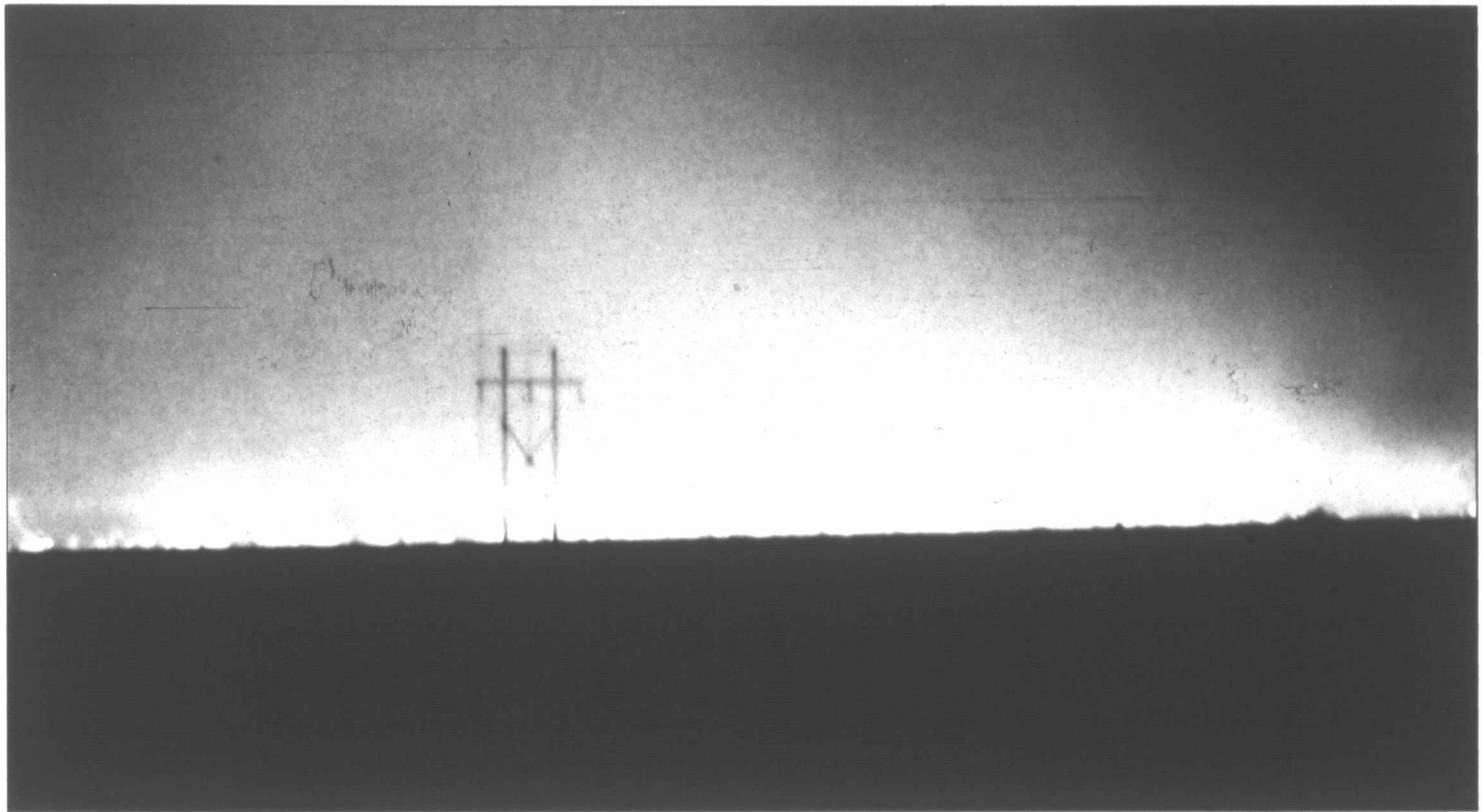


Photo by PAUL FLEMING

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.







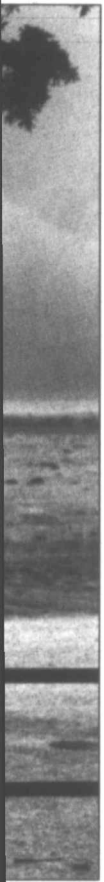
Photos by SHARI MORRISON

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





Photo by PAUL LOYD

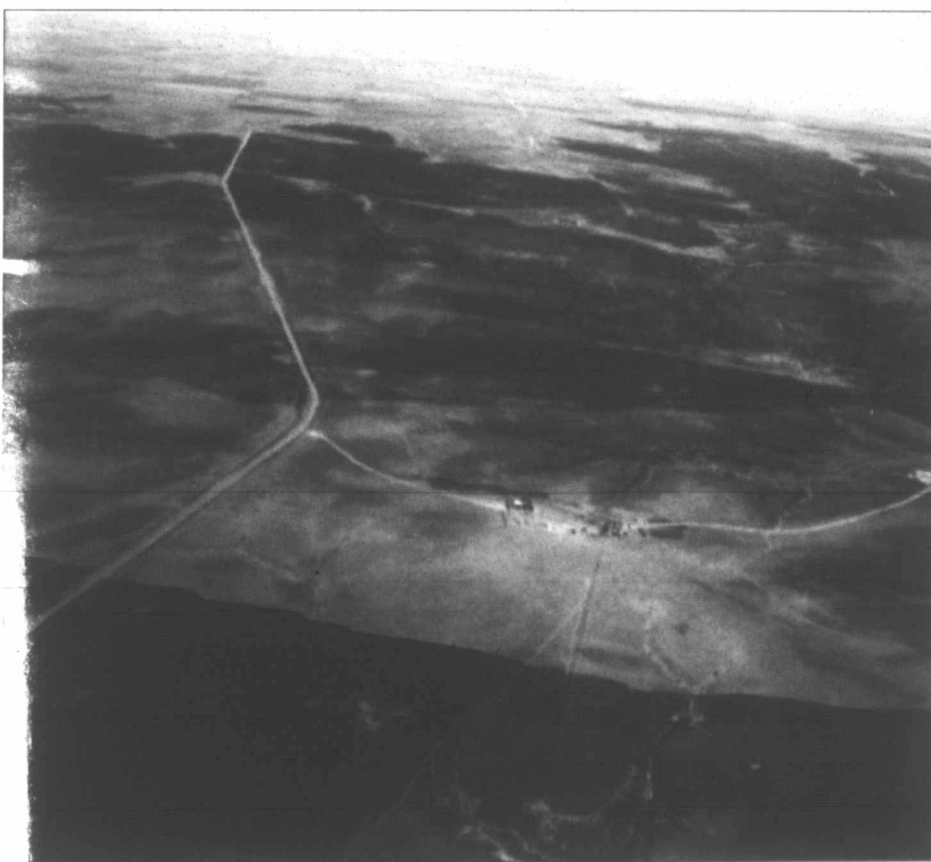
An employee of the Arrington Ranch battles fires that broke out on the ranch.



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.



