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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Getting ready for opening day



Pampa News photo by David Bowser
Coach Shane Stokes works with Ethan Hunt during batting practice for the Celanese Cal Ripkin League. (Story and photos on Page 7.)

Fuel prices driving up cost of maintaining city streets

By DAVID BOWSER
The Pampa News

More streets in Pampa will be seal coated this summer than originally planned. The Pampa City Commission in a special meeting Tuesday afternoon approved another \$300,000 to seal coat more city streets and patch others this summer. They had already

budgeted \$250,000 for the city's seal coating project next summer. Donny Hooper with the city's public works department told the commission that because of fuel costs the price of seal coating has increased. He said it had gone up from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per square yard and could go

See CITY, Page 3

County gov't defers action

Commissioners considering policy on junk yards, rural dumping

By MARILYN POWERS
The Pampa News

Gray County commissioners voted Tuesday to continue the burn ban currently in effect for the county but deferred action on the county policy concerning junk yards and rural dumping.

The burn ban, which went into effect Jan. 15, has been continued by commissioners at each of their subsequent meetings due to the presence of conditions favorable for wildfires. These conditions include an extended period of little to no rainfall with dry vegetation and frequent periods of high winds.

The ban prohibits outdoor burning with the exception of barbecue grills and some occupational practices such as welding.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby presented drafts of proposed county policy concerning junk yards and rural dumping. He first brought the issue before county commissioners at its Feb. 15 meeting after noting

several locations within his precinct where junk yards were present and where dumping of appliances, furniture, household trash, tires and other items had occurred.

"It is not my intent to infringe upon private property rights, but only to protect residents," Willoughby said at Tuesday's meeting concerning the proposed policy. "It is also not the intent of Gray County to make money out of this."

Action on the proposed policy was deferred until commissioners' next meeting in two weeks so that the draft could be updated and completed.

A request by property owners at Pampa Industrial Park, located along County Road 12 1/2 east of Pampa off Highway 60, was granted by commissioners. Dick Stowers, representing the property owners, asked that

See COUNTY, Page 3

LOCAL NEWS

Deputies arrest man on burglary, arson charges

By MARILYN POWERS
The Pampa News

An arrest has been made in connection with a burglary reported March 20 at the Taylor Mart located at 11818 Highway 60 West.

Joseph Ryon Gross, 20, of Pampa was arrested Friday by Gray County sheriff's deputies and booked into Gray County Jail on a charge of theft over \$500 and under \$1,500, burglary of a building and attempted arson.

He remained in jail as of Tuesday afternoon in lieu of \$7,500 bond on the arson charge, \$5,000 bond on the burglary charge and \$2,500 bond on the theft charge, for total bond of \$15,000, according to jail records.

See ARREST, Page 3

School trustees to convene next meeting

By MARILYN POWERS
The Pampa News

The Board of Trustees of Pampa Independent School District will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Carver Center Administration Office, 321 W. Albert.

Trustees will consider purchase of the READ180 curriculum and OdysseyWare. They will

examine a budget amendment and possible revision of school policy concerning commencement.

Clarification on a part-time teacher employment offer will be discussed, along with PISD construction projects.

Other agenda items include goal-setting for 2008-2009.

Library Book Sale begins tomorrow



Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers

Joy Haynes and Roy Morriss of Friends of the Library sort children's books by age group for display at the Friends of the Library's annual book sale, which begins Thursday in the conference room at the north end of Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston. Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday. This year's sale features a large number of children's and large-print books, as well as jigsaw puzzles and other books and publications. Music and movies round out the list.

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City

Continued from Front Page

up more during the summer. "If we wait too long," Hooper said, "the price may go up more." The initial \$250,000 that the commission had budgeted for seal coating was expected to cover seven miles of city streets. The additional \$300,000 will bring the total to 14 miles. Pampa Financial Director Robin Bailey said excess revenues from increased sales taxes should cover

the additional cost. The city commission also approved certifying 17 weapons in the Pampa Police Department as surplus. They will be sold to federally licensed gun dealers. City Manager Trevlyn Pitner, the former chief of police, told the commissioners that the weapons were all over 15 years old and in need of repair. They had been used by police officers, but were now considered unsafe. The list of weapons includes 15 Remington shotguns, one Winchester shotgun and one Armalite AR-180 assault rifle. The commission also authorized

an interlocal governmental agreement cooperation contract with Lefors. The person who oversees their water department is incapacitated, Pitner said, and the agreement would allow Pampa to provide emergency services for the water department should the need arise. Pitner said he expected the situation to be short term. "We're just being good neighbors," said Commissioner Robert Dixon. The commission also cancelled their regularly scheduled April 8 meeting. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 22.

Bernanke warns recession possibility

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned Wednesday the economy may shrink over the first half of this year and that "a recession is possible." Yet, he didn't offer any assurances of further interest rate cuts. Bernanke's testimony to the Joint Economic Committee was a much more pessimistic assessment of the economy's immediate prospects amid a trio of crises — housing, credit and financial. "It now appears likely that gross domestic product (GDP) will not grow much, if at all, over the first half of 2008 and could even contract slightly," Bernanke told lawmakers. GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is the best barometer of the United States' economic health. Under one rule, six straight months of declining GDP, would constitute a recession. Still, Bernanke said that he expects more economic growth in the second half of this year and into 2009, helped by the government's \$168 billion stimulus package of tax rebates for people and tax breaks for businesses as well as the Fed's aggressive reductions to a key interest rate. Nevertheless, the chairman acknowledged uncertainty about the Fed's next steps, notwithstanding the mounting economic woes. "Much necessary economic and financial adjustment has already taken place, and monetary and fiscal policies are in train that should support a return to growth in the second half of this year and next year," Bernanke said. To try to limit the damage, the Federal Reserve has aggressively cut a key interest rate, now at 2.25 percent, to spur buying and investing by individuals and businesses. At the Fed's last meeting in March, however, two members dissented from the Fed's decision to sharply cut rates, showing a rare division in the often unified front the Fed shows the public. The dissenting officials, who had reputations for being extra concerned about inflation, favored a smaller reduction.

County

Continued from Front Page

commissioners update the plat of the area by removing two proposed streets. Stowers brought to the meeting a letter signed by all property owners concerning the request. The original plat, filed in October of 1980, included two proposed streets in addition to what is now County Road 12 1/2, formerly called Green Street. The other two streets would be named Gold and White Streets. When Gray County accepted responsibility for Green Street, it was renamed County Road 12 1/2. Stowers explained that if either or both of the proposed streets were to be put in, it would interfere with the current and planned future arrangement of property in the area. Commissioners voted to have the roof at the Lovett Building repaired. The roof currently leaks, threatening damage to five rooms' worth of records currently being stored there,

said County Judge Richard Peet. The building also houses a county constable's office, the Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace office and the offices of the county juvenile probation department. County funds which were budgeted for repairs will be used to pay for the roof. Estimates from two roofing companies had been obtained prior to Tuesday's meeting, and commissioners voted to have Crawford Roofing, which turned in the lower estimate of \$7,950, do the repairs. Manuel DeLeon, local specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, spoke on the operation and maintenance agreement, inspection items and new inspection forms for the McClellan Creek watershed flood retardant sites. He also addressed commissioners concerning developing plans to address needs discovered by inspections of the sites. Bids on 19 tax-delinquent properties were accepted by commissioners. They are: Arthur Williams, \$200 for 709 S. Gray, \$308 for 1124 Varnon Drive, \$509 for 1149 Prairie Drive

and \$208 for 1048 Huff Road; New Hope Baptist Church, \$101 each for 407-409 Oklahoma and 404 Crawford; Glen Harris, \$3,321, 113 S. Wells; William Shelton, \$1,553 for 1105 S. Dwight, \$675 for 220-222 Craven and \$127 for 905 Murphy; Lonnie Moore, \$450, 510 Oklahoma; Jan Becker and Suzan Gregory, \$3,000, 509 E. Foster; Mary Thomas, \$500, 1037 Varnon Drive; Mary Mack, \$508 for 909 S. Somerville and \$553 for 900-902 Brunow; James Robles, \$500, 405 Davis; Robert Oliveira, \$100, 908 Campbell; Bruce McMahon, \$601, 833 Murphy; and Denia Sissom, \$150, lot on Albert Street. Commissioners also approved payment of overtime for county clerk's employees for working all 2008 elections, with cost to be shared by all entities involved in the elections; transfer of Perry LeFors Airport Hangar lease for Lot 24 from Jeff Kindle to Raymond Cox; a bond for the county deputy treasurer; the county treasurer's report; the county clerk's report; and payment of bills and salaries.

Arrest

Continued from Front Page

The burglary was reported at 3:15 a.m. March 20, said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard, and is believed to have

occurred sometime between midnight and the time of the report. Approximately \$650 cash was taken in the burglary. A trail of flammable liquid was found leading across the floor of the building into an office at the time the burglary was investigated, prompting the attempted arson charge, Hoard

said. The method of entry into the store at the time of the burglary had been undetermined at the time it was reported. Gross was an employee of the store at the time of the incident, Hoard said.

Police decide not to charge 14-year-old who gave birth on plane

HOUSTON (AP) — A 14-year-old girl who delivered a stillborn fetus in the bathroom of an airplane on her way back from a middle-school field trip will not be charged with any wrongdoing, Houston police said Wednesday.

The Harris County District Attorney's office decided not to pursue charges against the girl, who disposed of the fetus in a waste can. The students and their chaperones were returning from New York aboard a March 30 Continental Airlines flight. Houston homicide investigators interviewed both the girl and a 14-year-old boy believed to be the father.

The girl, who authorities have not identified, told police she didn't know she was pregnant. Preliminary autopsy results indicated the fetus was stillborn and not viable, police said. The Boeing 737 plane landed at Bush Intercontinental Airport on a non-stop flight from New

York's LaGuardia Airport. The plane, which was about 30 minutes late, carried 144 passengers and six crew members. A cleaning crew found the fetus inside a wastebasket in the bathroom of a Continental Airlines plane about 15 minutes after the plane landed.

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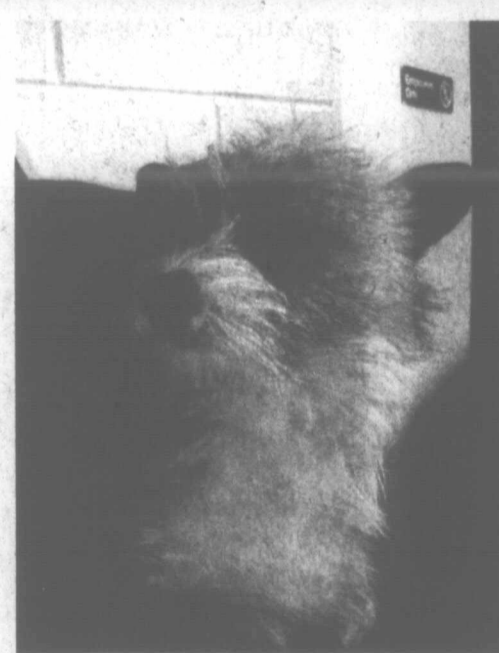
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Viewpoints

Making sense: When travel is experience ...

I'm indebted to Hillary Clinton for the revelation that my global wanderings when my dad was president qualify me to run for the presidency myself.

Mrs. Clinton has been insisting that her global junkets as first lady, and her meetings with foreign leaders, qualify her to be president of these United States.

I never thought of it that way, but if she is correct then I am eminently qualified to follow my father's footsteps and take up residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., not merely as a member of the president's family, but as president in my own right.

Hillary, who even the media now admit will say or do anything to win election, is using her past as first lady

to attempt to sell the American people on her expertise in foreign policy, a claim largely based on her travels during her husband's administration and the fact that she met with world leaders while junketing abroad.

Well I'll match my global travels and meetings with world leaders against hers any time, and I'll come out on top.

As a member of the president's immediate family I traveled far and wide, accompanied by an entourage of Secret Service agents, as are all members of a president's family. And because I was the son of a sitting president, my presence in their country — no matter what the reason for my visit — was treated by

their leaders as an official visit, and I was accorded the treatment given to such official guests.

Moreover, I was present during times of crisis when momentous decisions were made affecting foreign policy.

For example, I was in a suite in the Century Plaza Hotel when my father gave Attorney Gen. Ed Meese the authority to order our military to shoot down Moammar Gadhafi's aircraft in the Gulf of Sidra.

Following Hillary's reasoning, that experience qualifies me as an expert of military matters relating to for-

ign affairs capable of knowing what to do in a moment of crisis.

Hillary has made much of her alleged exposure to danger during a visit to Bosnia, claiming falsely that she came under sniper fire and is thus qualified to act facing personal threats.

When my father ordered air strikes against two of Gadhafi's homes, which killed his adopted child who was in one of them, Gadhafi swore to get revenge by killing Ronald Reagan's adopted son — me. My life was threatened by a world leader, not

merely threatened by imaginary sniper fire.

On one occasion during my dad's administration, when I went to Taiwan on private business (I was in the yacht business in those days), the government went all-out to greet me even though I came as a private citizen. Before I could check out the yachts there, I had to perform the official duty of laying a wreath on the tomb of Chiang Kai-shek, not as a yacht broker but as an official visitor representing the president of the United States.

Does that experience qualify me as an expert on Far Eastern affairs?

On the same trip, my family and I were greeted in the Philippines by Ferdinand

and Imelda Marcos, and invited to visit them in the presidential palace for cocktails and conversation. That was another meeting with a world leader.

Hillary's widely-touted experience is not at all unique. Any member of any presidential family has had similar experiences but not one of them ever even suggested that their travel and meetings with foreign leaders qualified them to be president of the United States.

Nancy Reagan, for example, had far more experience than Hillary, but she was content to be the loving wife of a president instead of crowing about the famous world leaders she met in her

See REAGAN, Page 10

Michael Reagan
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 2, the 93rd day of 2008. There are 273 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 2, 1968, the influential science-fiction film "2001: A Space Odyssey," produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick, had its world premiere in Washington.

On this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in present-day Florida.

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va., because of advancing Union forces.

In 1908, actor-dancer Buddy Ebsen was born in Belleville, Ill.

In 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1932, aviator Charles Lindbergh and John Condon went to a cemetery in New York, where Condon turned over \$50,000 to a man called "John" in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The child was not returned, and was found dead the following month.)

In 1974, French president Georges Pompidou died in Paris.

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain took back the islands the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II, who'd led the Roman Catholic Church for 26 years, died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

Ten years ago: Shaking their fists in rage, thousands of mourners marched in a funeral procession in the West Bank for a top Hamas bomb maker (Mohiyedine Sharif) hailed by Palestinians as a martyr and condemned by Israel as a terrorist.

Five years ago: American forces fought their way to within sight of the Baghdad skyline; Iraqi soldiers discarded their military uniforms by the roadside to hide their identity. A bomb blast near a wharf in the southern Philippine city of Davao killed 16.

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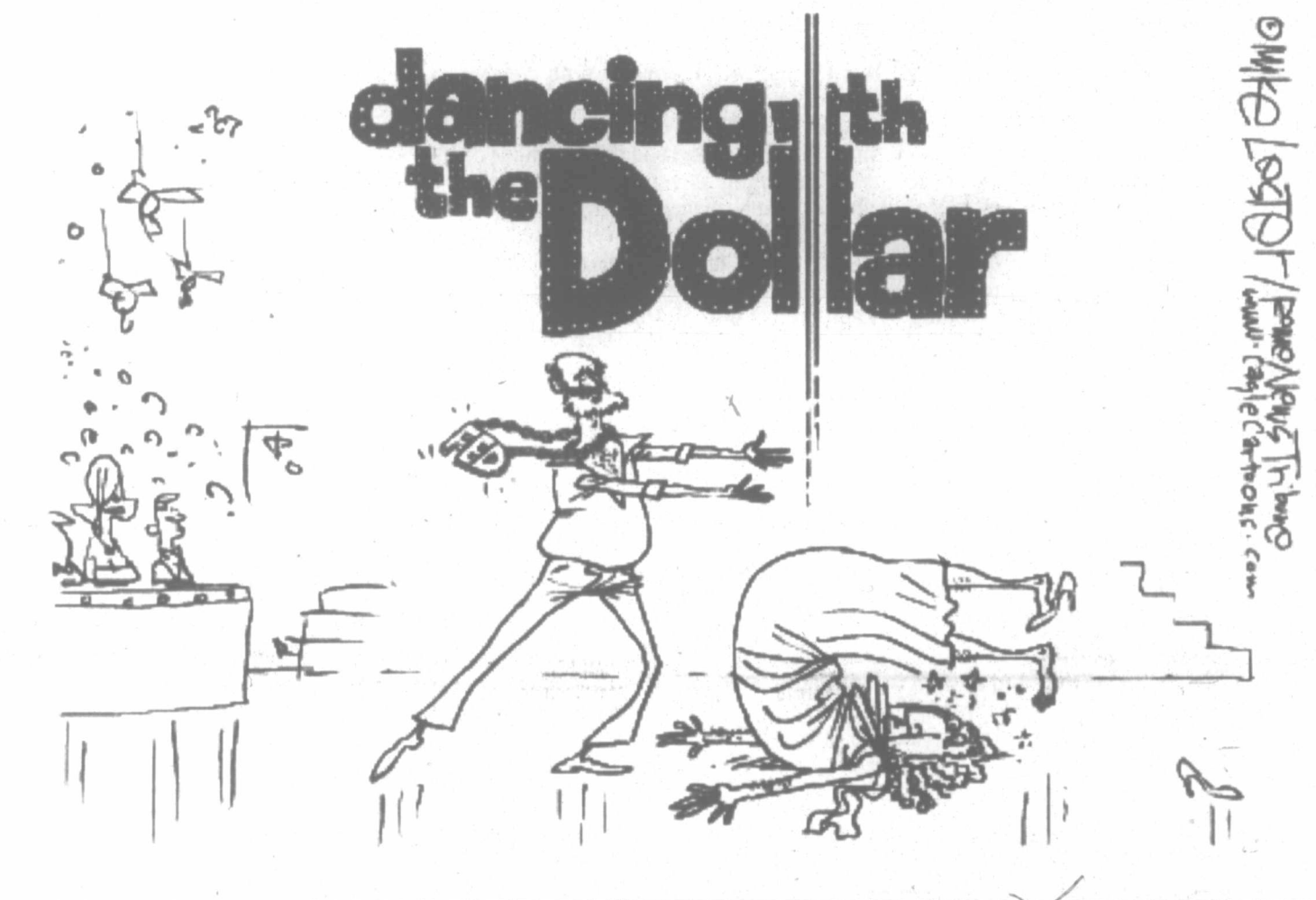
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Nation now into bungled war five years

We have passed the five-year anniversary of George W. Bush's bungled war in Iraq. What has it gained the American people? I'm afraid the answer is nothing. Let's look at the accomplishments.

We delivered a new ally to Iran. We lost nearly 4,000 American lives and suffered another 29,000 wounded. We spent \$400 billion, by Pentagon accounting. We increased the federal deficit to \$9 trillion. We've made the Middle East more, not less, unstable. American prestige is in the trash can. Oil is more than \$100 a barrel. The military is strained to the breaking point, so we are now recruiting high-school dropouts and people with criminal records. The American economy is on the tipping point of disaster. Bush's disapproval rating is at 65 percent.

Iraq is by no means stable. The destruction of infrastructure and loss of life in Iraq have, many say, permanently wrecked the country. The so-called rebuilding of Iraq has, from the beginning, been a cluster-blunder marked by greed, corruption, no-bid contracts and incompetence. To a large extent, we have lost our economic independence. Most of the brands you see advertised on television are Japanese; most of the stuff we buy is made in China. We are the biggest debtor nation in the world. The product of our public education system sucks when compared with most of the industrial world. If it weren't for foreigners with Ph.D.'s in the sciences

and engineering, many of our faculties would be lacking enough warm bodies to teach. You might think about that before you gripe about Muslims. The dollar has lost so much purchasing power,

foreigners are beginning to demand payment in euros.

We've had some incompetent tents as president. I've always thought Jimmy Carter was the champion incompetent, but by golly he's been dethroned by George Bush. The Chinese, the Japanese and the Russians think we are stupid. They may be right at the present time, but America's ace in the hole has always been the ability to change. We do not face a single

insoluble problem.

However, since all of our problems are self-created, we are going to have to change ourselves in order to solve them. I won't say, as Henry Hull said in an old movie about Jesse James, that the first thing we have to do is take all the lawyers out in the street and shoot them down like dogs. I will say we should close about three-quarters of the law schools in the U.S. We already have a surplus of lawyers, far more than any other three nations combined. Lawyers do not create wealth; they transfer it from their clients to themselves.

On the other hand, engineers and scientists, of which we have a shortage, do create wealth. I once argued that a new American missile should be sited on

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Charley Reese
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ March 20
Houston Chronicle on immigration and the next president:

The temperature of the immigration debate has cooled noticeably, both among voters and the leading presidential candidates. That bodes well for everyone.

With Sen. John McCain, Sen. Hillary Clinton or Sen. Barack Obama in the White House next year, the mix of political capital and a clear perspective will mean that real reform of the nation's immigration policy can finally take place. Voters can look forward to a calm, reasoned policy discussion in

place of the circus that passed for debate last time around.

According to a recent Zogby International poll commissioned by the Houston Chronicle, this measured attitude is exactly what Americans want. The survey showed that only one in 10 Harris County voters called immigration the most pressing issue in choosing a candidate in the general election. Republicans, predictably, felt more urgency: Illegal immigration ranked first for 20 percent of likely GOP voters, but for only 3 percent of Democratic voters.

Overall, 35 percent of likely voters in Harris County said the economy is their first concern.

Locally and nationally, voters already have acted on those priorities.

Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former N.Y. Gov. Rudy Giuliani immigration hard-liners all either jumped or were pushed from the presidential race this winter.

In Houston, the usually level-headed former district clerk, Charles Bacarisse, lost his bid to become the GOP's nominee for county judge in part because of his sudden zealotry about legal immigrants' medical bills.

Bacarisse clearly got some bad advice on what would energize local voters. Like his national counterparts, his alarmism on immigration ended up distracting voters from his record of competence in office.

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Shur Saving Aluminum Foil 12" x 25' Roll 79[¢]	Shur Saving Trash Bags 20-30 OZ. Box 2 \$4	Shur Saving Spaghetti or Elbow Macaroni 32 OZ. Pkg. \$1⁸⁹	Shur Saving Sliced Peaches or Fruit Mix 16 OZ. CAN \$1
Shur Saving Paper Napkins 200 OZ. Pkg. \$1	Shur Saving Long Grain Rice 7 OZ. CAN \$1	Shur Saving Tagless Tea Bags 100 OZ. Pkg. \$1	Shur Saving Chocolate Flavored Syrup 34 OZ. BTL. 4 \$5

MEAT DEPARTMENT SPECIALS

Family Pack Preferred Trim Ribs, Sirloin Cut Pork Chops \$179 LB.	Preferred Trim Beef T-Bone Steak \$5⁹⁹ LB.	Preferred Trim Boneless Beef Charcoal Steak \$2⁴⁹ LB.	Preferred Trim Boneless Beef Short Ribs \$2⁵⁹ LB.	Preferred Trim Boneless Beef Top Blade Steak \$2⁷⁹ LB.
Shur Saving Pork Roast 10 OZ. CAN \$1²⁹	Shur Saving Pork Steak 10 OZ. CAN \$1⁵⁹	Shur Saving Country Style Pork Sausage 10 OZ. CAN 4 \$5	Shur Saving Lunch Meat 12 OZ. Pkg. \$1⁰⁹	Shur Saving Beef Wieners or Bologna 12 OZ. Pkg. \$1⁷⁹
Family Pack Meaty Shoulder Country Style Pork Ribs \$129 LB.	Shur Saving Original or Dry Country Style Pork Sausage 10 OZ. CAN 4 \$5	Shur Saving Meat Wieners 12 OZ. Pkg. 5 \$5	Shur Saving Sausage Links 11 OZ. Pkg. 69[¢]	

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I just made the biggest career mistake of my life. I was working for a wonderful company. Then a former co-worker told me about a management position opening at the agency she went to work for. I thought it would be my golden opportunity for advancement. I submitted my resume and, after two interviews, got the job. The problem: This is the unfriendliest company I have ever seen. Management belittles staff. Praise is seldom given. There is no kindness, no "good mornings" uttered -- the people here are just plain MEAN. I am a friendly, outgoing person, and I'm having a hard time adapting. I miss my old job. I realize now that I made a hasty decision, and I don't know what to do. My old position has been filled, so there's no way I can go back. What should I do? -- **RELUCTANT MANAGER IN VERMONT**

DEAR RELUCTANT MANAGER: Your predicament proves the truth of the saying, "The grass isn't always greener." For the sake of your mental health, start looking for another job. There is no way you are going to change the corporate culture in the place you're now working. Don't discount your old workplace; stay in touch. Something may open up there, and your former colleagues may be glad to welcome you back.

DEAR ABBY: Help! I am engaged to a man with three kids -- a 7-year-old girl and 9-year-old twin boys -- and soon to become a stepmom. He has them about half the time. The family all believe their biological mother is failing miserably, and I feel as though they view me as a suitable substitute. I like his children, but I have three of my own. One is grown; two are teenagers. I see the light at the end of the tunnel and

do not want to start over again raising someone else's kids. Can I marry this man and not have to raise his kids? Or is that what a stepmother does? I would be happy just being their friend. -- **UNCERTAIN STEPMOM IN NEW ENGLAND**

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Although you would be happy just being their friend, at their ages and with the biological mother "failing miserably," face it: There will be plenty of mothering going on. Of course you will have a hand in raising those children -- it goes with the territory. If that's not what you are willing to sign on for, you should not marry him. Sorry.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Lee," and I have been married two years and have kept all of our finances separate, including having different auto insurance policies. While I was away on a business trip, Lee moved my car and parked it in our circular driveway. Subsequently, a tree limb broke and dented my car's trunk. I was extremely distressed that damage was done to my car when I wasn't even in the vicinity. I feel that, as a minimum, Lee should pay half of my car's deductible. He refuses because he says it was an act of nature. Obviously neither of us was directly to blame, but I truly believe he should pay half the deductible because he moved my car in the first place. What do you think? -- **OUT ON A LIMB IN GEORGIA**

DEAR OUT ON A LIMB: I see the logic. However, it depends on why your husband moved your car. If Lee moved it because it was street-cleaning or trash collection day, then he should not be penalized. However, if he moved it on a whim, he should fork over his half of the deductible.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin

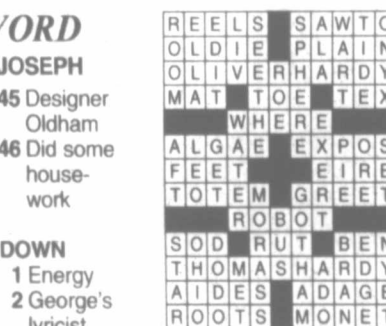


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Church leaders
 - 7 Swindle
 - 11 Patch type
 - 12 Church leader
 - 13 High points
 - 14 Sign of a sort
 - 15 Champagne bottle
 - 17 Walk nervously
 - 20 Deplete
 - 23 Antique auto
 - 24 Reception aid
 - 26 Belief, in brief
 - 27 Welcome sight
 - 28 Ballroom maneuver
 - 29 Firm
 - 31 Seventh Greek letter
 - 32 Some swords
 - 33 Bard's creations
 - 34 Like Russian dolls
 - 37 Tom's pal
 - 38 Serving as a symbol
 - 43 Understanding words
 - 44 Book blunders
- DOWN**
- 1 Energy
 - 2 George's lyricist brother
 - 3 Rowing team member
 - 4 Cartoon genre
 - 5 Capital of Italia
 - 6 Hidden obstacle
 - 7 Husband or wife
 - 8 Praised
 - 9 Gibbon or gorilla
 - 10 Fellows
 - 16 Peculiar
 - 17 Tag number
 - 18 Man of morals
 - 19 Began
 - 21 Join
 - 22 Half of a 1960s rock group
 - 24 Run up
 - 25 One of the Bobseys
 - 30 Glanced
 - 33 Smells
 - 35 Even
 - 36 Beige goal
 - 37 Batter's goal
 - 38 GI-entertaining org.
 - 40 -- "King" Cole
 - 41 Mineral suffix
 - 42 Scoundrel

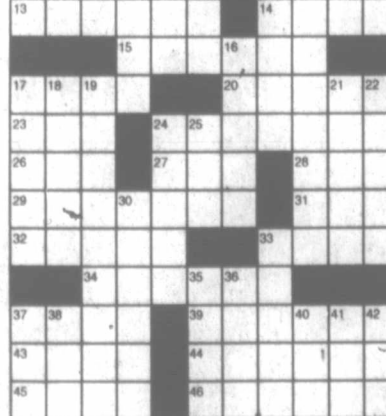


Yesterday's answer

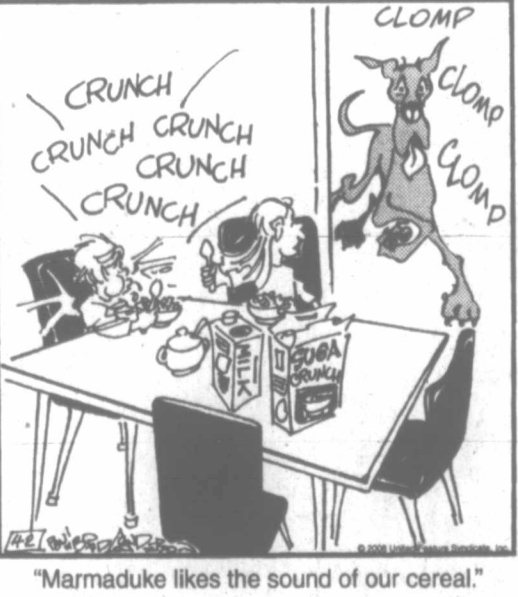
- 10 Fellow
- 16 Peculiar
- 17 Tag number
- 18 Man of morals
- 19 Began
- 21 Join
- 22 Half of a 1960s rock group
- 24 Run up
- 25 One of the Bobseys
- 30 Glanced
- 33 Smells
- 35 Even
- 36 Beige goal
- 37 Batter's goal
- 38 GI-entertaining org.
- 40 -- "King" Cole
- 41 Mineral suffix
- 42 Scoundrel

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!

Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

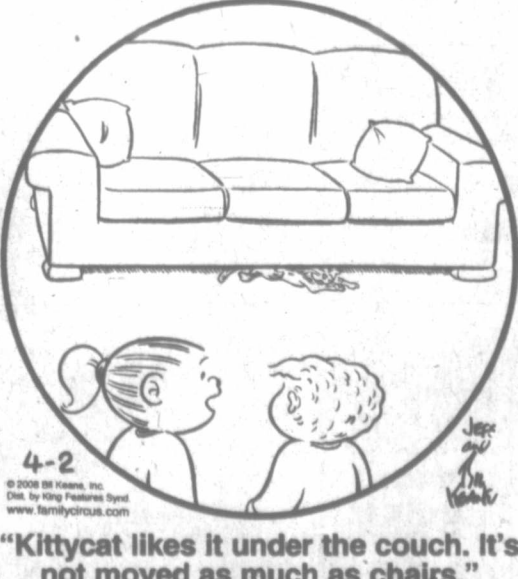


Marmaduke



The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports

Harvester varsity baseball team defeats Plao Duro 17-4

By Julie Ann Thompson
Staff Writer

The Pampa Harvester varsity baseball team defeated Palo Duro on Tuesday, April 1 with a score of 17-4.

Starting pitcher, junior Brett Powell, pitched the first three innings allowing nine hits, three runs and three earned runs. He had one strike out and no walks. Powell's season record is 3-3, and 1-1 for district.

According to Coach Clay Wilson, Palo Duro gained an

early lead with one run in the first inning, but were quickly passed by the Harvesters in the second starting with a double by Ryan Funderburg. This was followed by singles from Braden Hunt, Dakota Gowin and Jeremy Maxwell and another double from Colden Fortenberry.

Pampa's momentum increased in the third inning, scoring eight runs. Funderburg contributed two hits, an RBI double and an RBI single.

Relief pitcher, junior John

Luke Covalt, pitched the last two innings, Wilson said. He had three strike outs, allowing no hits and one run.

Junior Madison Wilson opened the fifth inning with his third home run of the season. Mitchell Killgo provided an RBI single and Funderburg hit his third double of the game.

The Harvesters are now at 6-15 on the season and 1-2 in district. The next district game is at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 5th in Pampa against Hereford.



Pampa News photo by David Bower

Shane Stokes with his Celanese Cal Ripkin team.

JV Softball



Courtesy Photo

Randall JV defeats Pampa

The Lady Harvesters JV softball team was defeated by Randall on Monday, March 31 by just one run.

Pampa lead 13-10 going into the last inning but Randall rallied for four runs. Pampa out hit Randall 9-7 in the game but hurt themselves with six errors and seven walks.

Katelin Wall took the loss and falls to 7-3 on the season. Brooklyn Barker had three doubles and three RBI's, Madi Shults had one triple and Emilie Troxell had two singles to lead the team in batting.

Pampa's record is 15-8 and 3-2 in district. The JV's next game is Saturday, April 5 at home against Dumas. Varsity softball plays at 1:00 p.m. and the JV will follow.

Above, Brooklyn Barker stands ready in the field while below Rachel Houston waits for her turn to bat.



Stokes prepares Celanese Cal Ripkin team for Opening Day

By David Bowser
The Pampa News

With opening day just a couple of weeks away, Shane Stokes and his Celanese Cal Ripkin team of 11 and 12-year-olds are spending evenings on a makeshift field next to Clifton Supply getting ready for baseball season.

"We try to practice three times a week," Stokes said as he looks out at 10 of the 12 team members that showed up for practice.

Their first game is April 14 at the Optimist Club field.

"There are five teams in our division," Stokes said. Stokes, community rela-

tions director for Pampa, was recently cited by the president of the Pampa Optimist Youth Club, John Warner, in a letter to the City of Pampa.

Warner said Stokes, who is also a member of the Optimist Club, was voted Optimist of the Month in November for his work in the club's equipment room. Stokes was also a football coach in the Optimist's youth program, second-vice president and liaison between the football program and the club's board.

Stokes has coached Optimist football, basketball and baseball for several years, Warner said. This is Stokes second year as man-

ager of the Celanese team in the club's 11 and 12 Cal Ripkin Baseball League.

"He does things behind the scenes that many people never know about," Warner said.

Stokes is in the process of writing a grant application to help the club build a new concession stand and restrooms.

"He has shown great people skills and works well with kids, parents and fellow coaches," Warner said. "He is a great ambassador from the City of Pampa to the people of this area."

The question is can his team win this year?

JV Baseball defeats Caprock

By Julie Ann Thompson
Staff Writer

The Pampa Harvester JV Baseball team traveled to Amarillo on Friday to take on the Caprock Longhorns. The JV came out with a victory of 7-5 to improve their overall record to 8-6, 2-0 in district.

"I thought we competed well and made plays when

necessary," Coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said.

Leading the Harvesters offensively were Mitch Simon, who was 3-4, Wes Hannah, who was 2-3 and Zach Murray went 1-2. Pitching for the Harvesters was sophomore Anthony Allen. Allen struck out nine Caprock batters and allowed

only one walk over seven innings.

"All in all, it was a great team effort," Snelgrooves said.

The JV will face the Canyon Eagle JV team at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31 in Canyon.

Best season in Texas A&M history ends just shy of Final Four

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — There was just something that A'Quonesia Franklin saw in Texas A&M, and something coach Gary Blair saw in her.

She was a lightly recruited, undersized point guard. He had a reputation for building programs from the ground up, but a lot of work to do at his latest stop.

Together, the two made history in Aggieland.

Despite coming oh so close to the Final Four and then missing, Texas A&M heads into the offseason on a high. The Aggies (29-8) kept moving farther and farther away from a losing tradition — winning the most games in school history and advancing deeper than ever in the NCAA tournament, even leading powerhouse Tennessee in the final 4 minutes of a 53-45 loss Tuesday night in the Oklahoma City Regional final.

Only three years after playing for a team that went

4-12 in the Big 12, Franklin and fellow seniors Patrice Reado and Morenike Atunrase leave with a regular-season conference title and a Big 12 tournament championship in addition to a memorable NCAA tournament run.

"I think that's one of the reasons why we came to Texas A&M is to be able to be at a program that's on the rise and not a program that already had a name for itself," said Franklin, who received AP All-America honorable mention the last two seasons. "And just to play against Tennessee and be in the Elite Eight is an honor to us."

Franklin said she saw some promise in the Aggies from Blair's first season despite a 2-14 Big 12 record. Between the lines, there were six losses by three points or less, including two against top 10 foes, and another in overtime.

Her freshman season

brought a women's NIT bid and two postseason wins, and the following year brought the first NCAA tournament berth in a decade. After that came a share of the conference title with Oklahoma and national player of the year Courtney Paris. And now?

"Texas A&M is back on the map," Franklin said.

The players who believed in Texas A&M when there was little reason to do so can now take pride in what they've built in College Station. Blair has said he believes this year's Aggies were better than the 1998 Arkansas team that earned him his only Final Four appearance as a head coach.

"I knew what kind of coaches and coaching staff that coach Blair had, so I knew coming here that he knew how to coach, he knew what type of players to go after and what it took to win," Atunrase said. "There was no doubt in my mind we wouldn't reach the goals that we

have reached."

The departure of the three key seniors leaves Blair with a more difficult task to return the Aggies to the glory days they experienced this year. He had all five starters back from last season's Big 12 co-champs, but now will have to find a new team leader to replace Franklin, another perimeter threat to fill in for Atunrase and a post player that can provide Reado's grit.

"These seniors have been so special. They believed in us first. They said, 'Hey, we'll only come to a program that's not winning, and I'm going to believe in the coaching staff and I'm going to believe in the quality of education. We can get it at Texas A&M,'" Blair said.

"They're special. I hope a couple of them get next-level opportunities. But if not, I want them to be successful in life. Use this as a learning experience. Sometimes you have to fail before you can succeed."

Texas Sports Digest

BASKETBALL:

Women's NCAA

NCAA-TEXAS

A&M-TENNESSEE

OKLAHOMA CITY —

With Tennessee's best player struggling to keep her arm in its socket, the fate of the women's basketball powerhouse depended on someone digging through laundry in the team bus.

Candace Parker's shoulder needed to be stabilized, and someone needed to find a sleeve to do the trick. Needless to say, college basketball's winningest coach was a little bit antsy. By Sports Writer Jeff Latzke.

AP Photos OKTG103, OKTG106.

NBA

WARRIORS-SPURS

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs' Big Three had a good night and two of the Golden State

Warriors' top three scorers had a bad one. The result was an eighth straight victory for the defending NBA champions, who inched closer to securing a playoff spot. By Elizabeth White. . .

AP Photos TXEG105, TXEG104.

ROCKETS-KINGS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — If the Sacramento Kings were in the Eastern Conference, they would be in the thick of the playoff race with huge meaning in every game. In the power-packed West, they have long been eliminated and must take solace in playing the role of spoiler. Ron Artest scored 30 points, Kevin Martin added 27 and the Kings dealt a blow to Houston's chances of winning the Southwest Division with a 99-98 victory over the Rockets on Tuesday night. By Sports Writer Josh Dubow.



Above: the Lady Harvesters walk off the field just after their win against Randall. Callie Preston, below, left, stands on third and cheers her team on during the game. Carlyn Teichman, below, right, gets the out just in time.

Courtesy Photo

Varsity softball improves district record to 5-0

By Julie Ann Thompson
Staff Writer

The Pampa varsity softball team defeated Randall on Monday, April 1 with a score of 5-2. This improves the team's district record to 5-0 for the season.

"Yesterday was a big game for us and we handled that pressure and importance very well," Coach Bobbi Gill said.

Carlyn Teichman pitched the game and improved her record to 8-0-1 and overall to 15-11-2 for the year. She made eight strikeouts and gave up only four hits.

Jasmine Moore had one hit, one run and one RBI. Kelby Doughty had two hits, one stolen base and two RBIs. Callie Preston had one hit and one run. Sammie

Pearson had two hits and one run. Ashley Facio had one RBI and one run and Teichman also had one run.

"We have just finished the first half of our district play and are 5-0," Gill said. "I am very proud of how the girls are rising to the occasion and performing well when we need them to."

The teams closest behind Pampa are Dumas at 4-1 and Randall at 3-2. Pampa will play Dumas at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 5 here at home. According to Gill, it is a must win for the Lady Harvesters.

"We really need to take care of business on Saturday and that will put us in a two game lead for first place," Gill said. "Climbing that would be huge for us."



DRAG RACING RESULTS

Saturday, March 29
Pampa Slot Car
Speedway

First - Bryce
Second - Ken Curtis
Third - Rick Dunn

Sunday, March 30
Pampa Slot Car
Speedway

First - Samantha Hern
Second - Ken Curtis
Third - Rick Dunn



Courtesy Photo

These 8th graders competed at the Amarillo relays on Saturday, March 29. On the left is Reid Miller who came in 5th in the 110 Hurdles out of 59 boys. In the middle is Jessie Cruz who came in 3rd in the 200 out of 89 boys. On the right is Latigo Collins who came in 4th in the 400 out of 77 boys.

Hamilton homers in 9th to give Rangers win

SEATTLE (AP) — From no chance to "No way!" In Monday's opener, new Ranger Josh Hamilton could only flail at a 97 mph fastball that J.J. Putz buzzed past him for the final out of Seattle's win.

"I cleared that at-bat out of my head," Hamilton said Tuesday.

Guess so. Hamilton hit the next fastball he saw from the All-Star closer for a stunning, two-run homer in the ninth, sending Texas to a flip-flopping, 5-4 victory over the Mariners on Tuesday night.

Putz (0-1) angrily snapped his glove at the new baseball after Hamilton pulled the old one, a 93 mph fastball with one out, four rows into the bleachers beyond right field.

Hamilton said he was sitting solely on Putz's fastball again. When he got one slower than he expected, he was able to pull it mightily.

Putz blew his first save in his second game of the season. He didn't blow his first last year until July 25 — at Texas.

"It's early in the year. We are getting our feet on the ground all the way around," was Mariners manager John McLaren's only explanation of the rarity.

The Mariners were 75-0 last year when leading after eight innings, thanks to Putz. They are 1-1 this year in that situation, thanks to Hamilton.

"That was fun," Hamilton said, smiling.

The 26-year-old was a first-overall draft choice of Tampa Bay in 1999 troubled by cocaine and alcohol addictions before he revived his career last season with 19

home runs in a delayed rookie season for Cincinnati. Then Texas traded for him in December.

Hamilton says he's felt comfortable with his new team since the first week of spring training.

"This is an awesome team to be around, great guys," he said. "I want to be a part of that."

His new manager, Ron Washington, thinks Hamilton is pressing.

"He's a great player. He's just got to relax and play and not put so much pressure on himself, because what he did today is what he's capable of," Washington said after the winning homer.

Hamilton shook off two strikeouts against starter Felix Hernandez, then got hits in each of Texas' last two rallies — one that broke a 1-1 tie in the eighth and one led by his homer that erased a 4-3 deficit.

Texas' new center fielder also made a running, over-the-shoulder basket catch of a drive to the warning track in left-center field by former-Ranger Brad Wilkerson in the fifth. That saved a run.

Joaquin Benoit (1-0) relieved with a 3-1 lead in the eighth but Seattle went ahead on an RBI single by Yuniesky Betancourt, who had four hits, an RBI grounder by Ichiro Suzuki that second baseman Ian Kinsler misplayed for an error and a run-scoring wild pitch.

Betancourt doubled with two outs in the ninth off C.J. Wilson. But Wilson earned his first save by retiring Suzuki, who had three hits, on a game-ending ground-out.

The Rangers made three errors, two in Seattle's three-run eighth.

"That was a rewarding one to win, considering all the mistakes we made," shortstop Michael Young said.

Young went 0-for-4, hit into two double plays and made one of the errors in the eighth that sparked Seattle's rally. Then again, he played with a 104-degree fever.

"I don't feel good at all," he said, describing a flu that Kinsler had Monday and is spreading through Texas' infield.

Vicente Padilla did. He allowed eight hits, one run and stranded 11 Mariners in six innings.

Hernandez looked ace-like in his new role as Seattle's No. 2 starter behind new teammate Erik Bedard. The youngest Mariner, one week short of his 22nd birthday, allowed only an unearned run and five hits in seven innings of fist-pumping, yelling and continual escapes. He struck out three and walked three, and his fastball reached 97 mph.

He and Bedard have allowed just eight hits and one earned run combined through their initial starts as Seattle's new twin aces.

Notes: Suzuki is 15-for-26 (.577) against Padilla. ... Texas hasn't won a season-opening series since 2001. ... Betancourt's four hits tied a career high. ... The Rangers ended a six-game losing streak in Seattle. ... Mariners DH Jose Vidro got his first stolen base since April 23, 2006, in the second on a botched hit-and-run when Kinsler dropped the throw from C Gerald Laird for another error.

Hoffman and Hairston carry Padres to 2-1 win over Astros

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Trevor Hoffman's 2008 season started much better than '07 ended.

The 40-year-old Hoffman earned his 525th career save on Tuesday night, pitching the ninth inning in the San Diego Padres' 2-1 win over the Houston Astros.

It was Hoffman's first since blowing two saves over the final three games last season, including in an epic 13-inning, 9-8 loss to the Colorado Rockies in the wild-card tiebreaker game on Oct. 1 at Coors Field.

Hoffman got a nice ovation from the crowd as he jogged in from the bullpen.

"Tremendous fan base," Hoffman said. "I think it was more than just a first-appearance kind of cheer. It was, 'We're behind you, that's how we're going to show you.'"

As is usual with Hoffman, it wasn't without some drama. Hunter Pence beat Hoffman to the bag for a two-out infield single before Hoffman struck out Lance Berkman to end the game.

"You try not to make any particular opportunity greater than others, but the first of the season is always important, the meaning of it," said Hoffman, who wasn't needed in Monday night's 4-0 season-opening win. "The start of the '08 season was very important. Tight ballgame. The team played well tonight. Those are the ones

that you want to try and preserve."

The Padres needed to win just one of their final three games in 2007 to reach the postseason for the third straight year, but lost all three.

"I don't think any of us in here have any doubt about who Trevor Hoffman is and how good he is," said right-hander Chris Young, who won his season debut thanks to Scott Hairston's two-run homer. "If we're overly happy for Trevor, I don't think that's the case. I think we all expect Trevor to go out there and be successful."

Hoffman threw a fastball that topped out at 87 mph and a changeup that clocked 76 mph.

Hairston's 393-foot drive on a 2-1 pitch from Brandon Backe reached the second deck in left field with one out in the fourth. Kevin Kouzmanoff was aboard on a leadoff single.

"In that situation you've got to be looking for a fastball and he was able to give me what I wanted," Hairston said.

"It was right down the middle," Backe said. "It wasn't high, it wasn't low, it was screaming. 'Hit me!'"

Astros manager Cecil Cooper didn't quite see it that way.

"I thought Brandon pitched well," Cooper said. "Even the pitch for the home run wasn't a bad pitch. The

ball was down and the guy put a good swing on it."

Normally a left fielder, Hairston started his second game in center field while filling in until Jim Edmonds (strained right calf) returns from the disabled list. Edmonds is expected back on Saturday.

Hairston hit a few clutch homers down the stretch last season, including a two-run shot that gave San Diego the lead in the 13th inning of the Oct. 1 game against the Rockies.

The Astros don't expect their slump to last long.

"I don't have any doubt about it. You're not going to see this team struggle a lot," Cooper said.

San Diego's Khalil Greene went 3-for-4 and has five hits in two games.

Young, an All-Star last year, got in trouble in the sixth, loading the bases on two singles and a walk. Left-hander Joe Thatcher came on and walked Michael Bourn on four straight pitches to bring in Miguel Tejada with the Astros' first run of the season. Thatcher got Pence to ground out to end the threat.

Young (1-0) allowed one run and four hits in 5-2-3 innings. He was unusually wild with five walks while striking out three.

Backe (0-1) gave up two runs and five hits in five innings while striking out three and walking three.

Public Notice that original tamentary of Mary ceased, March 17 No. 9495 County County, Dout. All perso against t is curren istered present t signed and in the bed by la c/o Gene Attorney P.O. Box Pampa, Dated t March, 2 Attorn
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Events calendar

• **Pampa's Tribute to Woody Guthrie Center** is currently seeking memorabilia from the Dust Bowl Days for a special commemoration of this particular period in history April 10-13 at the center. For more information, e-mail immb777@hotmail.com.

• **Copper Breaks State Park** at Quanah will premier

a new children's campsite program April 5. The family-oriented presentation will begin at 3 p.m. and is part of the statewide "Great Texas Trash Off" events being observed at the park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. that day. For more information, call (940) 839-4331.

• **Pampa Book Club** will review the following books

in the coming months: "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, April 9; and "Walking Drum" by Louis L'Amour, May 14. The club meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.

• **The Texas LST/Amphibious Association** (including veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and other peacetime veterans) will meet April 10-12 at Corsicana. For more information, call (806) 435-5647.

• **"Fang-Tastic"** 47th Annual Rattlesnake Hunt will be staged April 12-13 at Waurika, Okla. For further information, call (580) 228-2553 or visit www.rattlesnakehunt.com on the Internet.

Reagan

Continued from Page 4

eight years as first lady and claiming it qualified her to be president. Unlike Hillary, Nancy tells the truth.

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

stream.

The three front-runners instead favor a regulated path to legal residency and citizenship for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants who are already here. Only immigrants with a clean record would be eligible, and they wouldn't be allowed to shove aside those who have applied to come here legally.

This, again, clearly reflects the wishes of most Americans. According to a May poll by the New York Times and CBS, 62 percent of those who answered wanted illegal immigrants who had been here more than two years to be eligible for some form of legal status. In Harris County, where many candidates thought a hard line on immigration would be a winner, 48 percent of respondents told Zogby that they favored a path to citizenship; in contrast, 42 percent didn't.

This relative calm about immigration, both nationally and locally, doesn't mean a lack of interest in this important issue. Instead, it suggests something more promising: a mainstream consensus on how to approach it and a frame of mind in which reform can be reasoned through and finally passed. URL: <http://www.chron.com>

Border

Continued from Page 4

That's not to say that illegal immigration as a societal, security, labor and economic question is irrelevant. Although fear of illegal immigrants was flogged to life as a bogeyman for partisan purposes, the United States does have to face the schism between what we want affordable houses, onshore business, cheap food and labor with the way we have been achieving it: exploiting human beings who live among us but can't take part in our society.

Clinton, Obama and McCain all acknowledge this challenge. And they largely share the same philosophy about it: Each favors a comprehensive reform. McCain, whose name was on the early bipartisan reform bill, has triangulated a bit: In recent speeches he's called for border security before installing overall reform. But each candidate accepts the need for a multifaceted approach. All three see the lunacy of mass deportations, a cockamamie idea that extreme voices in the past year tried to force into the main-

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Courtesy Photo

AFS

AFS foreign exchange students, from left, Lina Marie von Hacht of Germany, Hanna Baumgartner of Austria and Rene Cazenave of Chile, all students at Pampa High School, recently presented a program for Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

law-school campuses on the grounds that their destruction would at least provide a silver lining to a nuclear war. Lawyer-politicians in Washington, however, thought cornfields in the Middle West were more expendable than law schools. Therefore, one thing you can do is make a solemn pledge to never vote for a lawyer running for public office.

We also need to regain the civic courage that our ancestors had. That means the courage to face tough questions without regard for the special plead-

ers who claim they will be "offended" if you discuss it. It means the courage to demand of the schools that they educate and not entertain students. It means the courage to demand that students study and study hard, because learning is hard work. It means the courage, if necessary, to toss the television and the electronic games in the garbage can. And it's necessary if parents can't control the amount of time their children spend on these time-killers.

Lastly, we should all post on our refrigerators the immortal words of Pogo Possum when he said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

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

Wildfires!

We have a few copies left of the special magazine documenting the tragic wildfires of 2006. Get your copy at The Pampa News Office.

Wildfires March 2006

