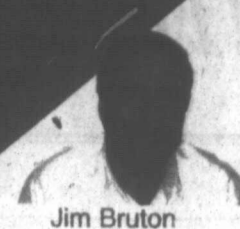


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County Commission

Proposed consolidation tabled 'til next year

By Marilyn Powers
The Pampa News

Any consolidation of Gray County Voting Precincts 3 and 7 will not occur this year and will not affect the November general elections, according to County Elections Administrator Linda Lewis.

"We are not considering this for the November elections," Lewis said at the county commissioners' meeting Tuesday in the second-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell. "This

would be something for the future, for next year."

The item was on the agenda for the meeting, and Lewis had been asked by County Judge Richard Peet to speak on the topic. The issue arose after it was noted that only one ballot was cast at the Voting Precinct 3 polling place, Grandview-Hopkins School, at the May 10 election, the last one in which that precinct's voters could participate.

Voting Precinct 3 also came under scrutiny because of the problem of providing election judges,

alternates and workers for each election. No one from the voting precinct has volunteered to fill any of those positions for the past five elections in which the precinct participated, according to Lewis. Workers from other precincts have helped in Voting Precinct 3 to provide coverage.

The lack of volunteers to work elections in the voting precinct was noted at county commissioners' July 1 meeting, when a slate of judges, alternates and workers was presented by Lewis for commissioners' approval.

Voting Precinct 3 currently has 102 eligible voters. The other precincts and the number of eligible voters in each are Precinct 1, 412; Precinct 2, 2,425; Precinct 4, 674; Precinct 5, 3,035; Precinct 6, 2,783; and Precinct 7, 2,311.

"The census will give us more information once we get that and see how many people are currently living there," Lewis said of Voting Precinct 3.

Lewis has contacted the legal department of the Secretary of State's office in Austin concerning

See COUNTY, Page 3

Fund fee would help defray cost of capital cases

By Marilyn Powers
The Pampa News

Gray County commissioners have agreed to spend some money in order to avoid spending even greater amounts of it for certain indigent defendants in its district courtrooms.

Commissioners agreed at their meeting Tuesday morning in the courthouse to add Gray County to the list of 48 counties which have banded together to create the West Texas Regional Public Defender's Office.

In exchange for an annual fee, the office will provide legal representation for indigent defendants in capital cases, according to 223rd District Judge Lee Waters.

"One advantage to the county would be that the budget would be a fixed amount annually, and the county would not be hit with a large amount in a certain year," Waters said during the commissioners' meeting.

The cost to Gray County for providing such legal representation in recent years includes \$177,654 for Henry Watkins Skinner; \$49,243 for Joseph Landon Ridenour; \$26,050 for Jeffery Goldsmith; \$51,089 to date for Levi A. King; and \$7,500 to date for Mary Lee Bolin.

The annual fee that the county will now pay in order to provide such representation will be zero dollars for 2008, followed by \$10,888 in 2009; \$9,137 in 2010; \$13,706 in 2011; and \$21,776 in 2012.

The public defender's office, in addition to fees collected from each of its participants, was initially funded through a state grant, Waters said. The grant funds will end after 2012, at which time the cost to each county of continuing to participate will be formulated.

Legal counsel for indigent defendants in capital cases has to date been appointed by a committee made up of Waters, 31st District Judge Steven Emmert and Gray County Judge Richard Peet. Attorneys representing defendants in such cases must meet required criteria in order to participate in those cases. There is currently one eligible attorney in Pampa and three or four in Amarillo, Waters said.

The change in how legal representation of indigent defendants is provided would only apply to capital cases. In cases involving all other felonies and in misdemeanors, indigent defendants would still receive representation paid for directly by Gray County and appointed

See FUND, Page 3

Super Playground



Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers

Quinna Emory of Borger helps her son, Cash, operate a digging toy at the Super Playground.

Overall health can suffer severe consequences after failed suicide

By Julie Ann Thompson
The Pampa News

Pampa has doubled its rate of suicide this year, according to Cathy Land who heads the emergency room at Pampa Regional Medical Center ... and it's only July.

Recently, Pampa's ER saw five suicide attempts inside a single week and all of those patients were 18 or under. Most of them had overdosed on Tylenol.

"They're not dealing with peer pressure, their home life, and the boyfriend/girlfriend thing is a

See SUICIDE, Page 3

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Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 93. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 91. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

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

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 89. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer.

Wheat	7.36
Milo	10.15
Corn	11.13
Soybeans	13.38

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY	79.18	-1.02
BP PLC ADR	61.78	-0.53
Cabot Corp	22.43	-0.40
Celanese	43.77	-0.77
Cabot Oil Gas	57.36	+0.04
Coca Cola	51.81	+0.02
VLD	33.04	+0.82
HAL	46.71	-0.05
XCEL	19.89	-0.16

Anadarko	66.04	-0.31
XOM	81.30	-0.89
Nat'l Oilwell	82.50	+0.23
Limited	14.93	+0.02
Williams	35.68	-0.16
MCD	58.87	+0.31
Atmos	25.93	-0.08
Pioneer Nat	68.45	-1.05
JCP	28.50	+0.10
COP	84.43	-0.39
SLB	96.83	-0.48
Tenneco	12.57	-0.19
CVX	88.90	-0.52
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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

WHEELLEY, Joseph Ephron "Joe" — 2 p.m., United Methodist Church, White Deer.

Margaret Elizabeth Broadbent, 74

AMARILLO — Margaret Elizabeth Broadbent, 74, of Amarillo, died Sunday, July 13, 2008.
 Private family services

will be held at a later date. Mrs. Broadbent was born on July 6, 1934, in Shawnee, Kan., to Clarence and Ivy Keele. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, Charles "Red" Broadbent of Amarillo; a daughter, Charlotte Ann

Broadbent of Lubbock; a son, Bobby Broadbent of Moscow Mills, Mo.; and three grandchildren.

John David Welborn, 73

John David Welborn, 73, of Pampa, Texas, died July 15, 2008, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Welborn was born June 26, 1935 in Hydro, Okla., to Howard and Reola Welborn. He grew up in Medford, Okla., where he played football under the coaching of his father.

He served in the U.S. Navy and then attended the University of Oklahoma and Northwestern Oklahoma University where he

received his bachelor's degree.

John began his coaching career in Dalhart in 1959. He married his wife of 46 years, Marci Donnell on July 18, 1962, in Artesia, N.M. He coached in Artesia, N.M., from 1961-1968, and Shawnee, Okla., from 1971-1973 where he won the state championship in 1973.

John became head coach in Pampa in 1974 through 1978, and he was principal of Baker Elementary in Pampa from 1972 until his retirement in 1992.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church and Everyman's Sunday School class.

John was an avid golfer. He was preceded in death by his father, Howard Welborn; a daughter, Beth Welborn; and a son, Bo Welborn.

Survivors include his wife, Marci Welborn, of the home; two sons, Brian Welborn and wife Marilyn of Amarillo, and Joe Welborn and wife Autumn of Lubbock; one daughter, Kellye Sparkman and husband David of Shallowater;

six grandchildren, T.J. Welborn, Bo Welborn and Zane Welborn, all of Amarillo, Zachary Sparkman and Maci Sparkman, both of Shallowater, and Chayce Welborn of Lubbock; his mother, Reola Welborn of Oklahoma City, Okla.; and three sisters, Cathy Welborn of Oklahoma City, Okla., Cindy McClellan of Louisville, Ky., and Janet Buck of Wichita, Kan.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Joseph Ephron 'Joe' Wheeley, 90

WHITE DEER, Texas — Joseph Ephron "Joe" Wheeley, 90, of White Deer, died July 14, 2008, at White Deer.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 17, 2008, at the United Methodist Church of White Deer with the Rev. Pam Lehman, former pastor, the Rev. John Westman, pastor, and Dr. Don Williams officiating.

Burial will be in Miami Cemetery in Miami with military rites courtesy U.S. Air Force personnel, Altus AFB, Altus, Okla.

Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley, Funeral Directors.

Mr. Wheeley was born on April 3, 1918 in Franklin, Texas, one of eight children born to James Andrew and Jessie Eola Barnes



Wheeley

Wheeley. Joe was preceded in death by all seven of his siblings.

He married Sara Branch on Sept. 5, 1942, in Houston. He had been a resident of the Texas Panhandle since 1949, farming before beginning work for Celanese Corporation.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Force, serving during World War II and the Korean Conflict.

Joe was as active as one could be in the First United Methodist Church where he served in every volunteer job possible, including singing in the choir, leading the youth, teaching Sunday School, serving as communion steward, and representative to annual conferences.

He was an avid fan of local high school sports and hardly missed a game. He was an amazing golfer and one who truly loved the game, winning a tournament even after he lost one eye.

Joe was always willing to share his golfing love and knowledge with new players. He was a joy to play with ... always ready to help others, always with a twinkle in his eye, a great Santa Claus, a positive kind and loving

spirit. If you think of a Bible verse about love being patient and kind, then Joe would be the epitome of that. He was a non-stop kind and loving volunteer and supporter of the youth, the elderly and the entire community.

He could make apple dumplings that were fantastic. He could make peach preserves really well and had been a co-plum picker and jelly maker for years.

He always kept a beautiful yard with fruit trees and grapes and handed out thousands of homemade popcorn balls at Halloween. Many people knew Joe from his years of volunteer service at Pampa Regional Medical Center where he was president of the organization at one time.

More could be said, but the best thing would be a big thank you from his children, his grandchildren and his beautiful wife Sara for being

the good and kind man that he was and for setting such an example of goodness to everyone he encountered.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Sara Wheeley, of the home; four loving children, Joe Hubert Wheeley and wife Sara of Pampa, Sharon Graff and husband Vic, Jan Flowers and husband Larry, and Nina Gray and husband Duncan, all of Houston; grandchildren, Collin and Rachel Bray and their children Jack and Erin, Julie Bray, Roy and Christina Graff, Matthew, Joseph and Michael Gray, all of Houston, Duncan and Shawn Gray and their children, Sugaree and Archie Gray of Farmington, N.M., J.J. Wheeley-Slatten and son Joseph, Heather and Richie Thompson, and Joanna Wheeley, all of Pampa; other survivors include numerous nieces and nephews; and special friend and neighbor, Jen Schnelle.

The family also thanks Vicky Tolbert and Marilyn Nichols for their kind and loving care.

MEMORIALS: United Methodist Church of White Deer, or White Deer Senior Citizens Center.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

World Court: America should halt executions of Mexicans

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The U.N.'s highest court ordered U.S. authorities on Wednesday to do everything possible to halt the executions of five Mexicans in Texas until their cases are reviewed.

The Bush administration

has unsuccessfully tried to get Texas courts to review the cases and said it expected the World Court's order to have little impact.

The World Court told U.S. authorities in 2004 to review the cases of 51 Mexicans sentenced to death by state courts after finding they had been denied the right to seek help from consular officials.

The World Court has no enforcement powers but President Bush issued a directive to the Texas courts to abide by the 2004 ruling. The state courts refused to review the cases and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in March that the president cannot compel the state courts to comply.

Mexico turned again to the U.N. court in The Hague last month, arguing that the United States was defying the 2004 World Court order and asking the judges to issue an emergency injunction to stop the killings of five men whose executions

were imminent. Chief State Department advocate John B. Bellinger III argued that the World Court, the U.N.'s judicial arm for resolving disputes among nations, lacked jurisdiction because the Bush administration agreed with Mexico and there was no dispute.

"It almost never happens that the federal government enters an appearance in state court proceedings," he said, calling the Bush administration's intervention "highly unusual."

Mexico's chief advocate, Juan Manuel Gomez-Robledo, told the court the U.S. was nonetheless "in breach of its international obligations." He said international law applies not only to nations, but to their component states and asked the court to clarify its earlier ruling and in the meantime intercede with the U.S.

See WORLD, Page 3

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Bernanke: Frannie, Freddie in no danger of failing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Wednesday that troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are in "no danger of failing."

The Fed chief made his remarks to the House Financial Services Committee, his second day on Capitol Hill where he briefed lawmakers on the problems plaguing the economy.

Bernanke appeared amid a backdrop of fading confidence in the U.S. financial system and in the national economy.

The Fed and the Treasury Department on Sunday came to the rescue of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, offering to throw them a financial lifeline.

The two companies hold or guarantee more than \$5 trillion in mortgages — almost half of the nation's total — and are major sources of financing for the mortgage market. The Bush administration is asking Congress to temporarily increase lines of credit to Fannie and Freddie and to let

the government buy their stock. The Fed has offered to let the companies draw emergency loans.

The pledges of aid have raised concerns on Capitol Hill and elsewhere about the government's role in intervening to ease such financial troubles and the risk posed to taxpayers.

The two mortgage giants are "adequately capitalized," Bernanke said. However, "weakness of market confidence is having an effect" on the companies, making it difficult for them to raise capital.

The companies' shares have plunged as losses from their mortgage holdings threatened their financial survival.

The government's rescue plan was intended to send a signal to nervous investors worldwide that the government is prepared to take all necessary steps to prevent the credit market troubles that started last year from engulfing financial markets and further weakening the economy and housing markets.

"We will work our way through these financial

storms," Bernanke said.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson told Congress on Tuesday that he hoped this lifeline won't need to be used. He said the pledge was aimed at boosting eroding investor confidence in the companies.

Bernanke said the "best solution" is to keep Fannie and Freddie "in their current form" as opposed to having the government take them over. It is also vital for Congress to boost regulatory oversight on the two companies. Such powers are contained in a sweeping housing-rescue package. Congressional leaders plan to add to the bill the provisions Paulson is seeking to aid Fannie and Freddie.

The Fannie and Freddie troubles came on the heels of the failure of IndyMac Bank. Earlier this year, a run on investment bank Bear Stearns pushed the company to the edge of bankruptcy and into a takeover by JPMorgan Chase, backed financially by the Fed.

"How long before we hear a splash? Is there a bottom?" Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Ill.,

asked of the financial troubles.

Spencer Bachus of Alabama, the panel's most senior Republican, said of the housing boom-to-bust situation: "Fortunes were made on the way up and pain will be felt on the way down."

With the bust, banks and other financial companies have racked up huge losses due to soured mortgage investments. Foreclosures rose to record highs.

For a second day in a row, Bernanke outlined the economy's problems, including a housing slump, financial turmoil, credit troubles and high energy and food prices. And, employers have cut job for sixth straight months.

"Families are facing hardships ... this is clearly a rough

time," Bernanke said. "It is clear (economic) growth has been slow and the labor market is weak. So conditions are tough on average families."

The situation is tough on the Fed, too.

Caught between risky cross currents of plodding growth and rising inflation, Fed policymakers are facing "significant challenges" as they try to find a way to right the economy, Bernanke told lawmakers.

The Fed can't afford to lower rates again to shore things up because it will aggravate inflation. On the other hand, boosting rates would deal a setback to the fragile economy and the already crippled housing market.

Against that background,

most economists predict Bernanke and his colleagues will leave rates alone when it meets next on Aug. 5.

"I think conditions clearly call for a second stimulus," said Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the Financial Services panel.

Democrats in Congress are exploring more economic stimulus efforts to follow up on the \$168 billion package, including tax rebates, enacted earlier this year.

Bernanke said it was a "bit premature" to go that route just yet but he didn't rule out such a course of action. He repeated his belief that the most important action Congress could take was to shore up the housing market.

Fund

Continued from Page 1

by the judge presiding over the court in which the defendant's case is tried, Waters said.

One way in which the county recoups a portion of that cost is through payments

required of defendants as terms of probation, Waters said. That full or partial repayment may not occur if the defendant is sentenced to prison at the end of their trial or if their probation is revoked.

County

Continued from Page 1

combining voting precincts in order to determine the requirements and procedure for combining voting precincts.

"We don't want to create a hardship for anyone," she said. "We don't want to disenfranchise any voter. It's not something I would bring to the table unless I thought it would benefit the county monetarily. This is going to be a lengthy process."

The cost to the county for programming the voting machines used in Voting Precinct 3 in the May 10 election was approximately \$1,400, which also includes fees for the election workers, Lewis said.

Commissioners took no action Tuesday concerning possible consolidation of Voting Precincts 3 and 7.

Commissioners did, however, take action on an item which had first appeared on their July 1 agenda. They voted to enter into a contract with the West Texas Regional Public Defender's Office for provision of legal representation to indigent defendants in capital cases.

Expenditures in recent years by the county for such defense counsel has included \$177,654 for Henry Watkins Skinner; \$49,243 for Joseph Landon Ridenour; \$26,050 for Jeffery Goldsmith; \$51,089 to date for Levi A. King; and \$7,500 to date for Mary Lee Bolin. The information was provided by 223rd District Judge Lee Waters, who addressed commissioners concerning the issue.

Gray County will participate in the public defender network at no cost in 2008, with

varying annual payments due each year thereafter through 2012, when the cost to the county will be \$21,776.

Commissioners voted to continue the \$10 road and bridge fee paid by vehicle owners each time they register their vehicles in the county. Proceeds from collection of the fee by the county tax assessor-collector go into the county's road and bridge account.

An amendment to the data services processing agreement with Indigent Healthcare Solutions was also approved. The amendment will allow the county to search the system's database to determine whether an individual is receiving public assistance in Gray County or elsewhere. The cost to the county will be 50-cents per inquiry, Peet said. Persons who qualify for indigent health care in the county are eligible to receive \$30,000

per year in care.

The county's contract with Gray County Child Welfare Services was continued by commissioners. Funds in the budget which are allocated for the child welfare services are used in providing emergency placement for children removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, Peet said.

In other action, commissioners accepted the county treasurer's report and the county clerk's report. Commissioners approved enforcement of the prohibition of rogue wireless networks used in or near the courthouse.

Payment of bills totaling \$198,120.37 and salaries of \$233,455.19 was also approved.

World

Continued from Page 2

authorities to halt the schedule of executions.

The U.N. judges ruled 7-5 Wednesday that it would consider Mexico's case and also try to stop the executions.

The World Court acknowledged that the U.S. federal government "has been taking many diverse and insistent measures" to persuade Texas not to carry out the execution of any of the 51 Mexicans covered by

the original 2004 ruling.

Bellinger said that the World Court has limited powers over U.S. states or federal authorities in Washington.

"It does not have technical legal effect in the United

States that would ... have a direct impact either on the United States or on Texas itself," he said.

Federal authorities were still discussing the case "constructively" with Texas, Bellinger said, and "Texas

does take this all very seriously."

Mexico's ambassador to the Netherlands, Jorge Lomonaco Tonda, said he was satisfied with the result.

"We have full confidence that the ruling will be

applied," he added.

The first of the Mexicans, Jose Medellin, is scheduled to be killed by lethal injection on Aug. 5 for taking part in the gang rape and murder of two teenage girls 15 years ago.

Suicide

Continued from Page 1

big issue," Land said. "People are just not handling the stress of their personal lives."

Thirty tablets of Tylenol can cause liver damage, according to Land. Taken in a single dose, liver toxicity peaks in four hours.

"It's a very miserable death," Land said. "They turn yellow and swell up like they're nine months pregnant. It's constant, excruciating pain ... and then every-

thing starts to shut down."

Pampa's Regional Medical Center has also seen a high number of overdoses which may or may not be accidental, according to Ann Thompson, a social worker at PRMC. Acetaminophen, or Tylenol, can be found in an increasing number of prescription medications and can already be found in 600 over-the-counter cold, flu and headache medications.

"People are going doctor hopping and the doctors aren't communicating. You

might not know you're taking something that has Tylenol in it," Land said.

Tylenol is the most common cause of acute liver failure in the United States and accounts for the most overdose deaths due to a pharmaceutical agent. Clinical signs of overdose are nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, jaundice (yellowing of the skin), decreased kidney output and passing blood in the kidneys and stool. In some cases, the only thing that can save a patient is a liver trans-

plant and according to Thompson, those are in short supply.

"The key is getting to the hospital so we can start mucomyst or activated charcoal which draws the pills away from the lining of the stomach," Land said. "If you get in under an hour of the overdose we can start stomach pumping."

Even if a patient who has attempted suicide by overdosing on Tylenol is saved, there's a good chance that they'll have lifelong compli-

cations.

"The bottom line is if you think you're going to OD on Tylenol and if it doesn't

work that you'll be okay,

you won't," Thompson said. "You're still doing damage."



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Viewpoints

Public's knowledge of Congress thin

While Americans acknowledge that there are substantial shortcomings in the public's knowledge of and engagement with Congress, this doesn't restrain them from taking an extremely negative view of the legislative branch, according to a public opinion survey commissioned by the Center on Congress.

Asked to grade Americans on "following what is going on in Congress," 71 percent of survey respondents gave the citizenry either a D or F. And on "contacting members of Congress on issues that concern them," 69 percent of those surveyed gave citizens either a D or F.

"The public doesn't

believe it lives up to its civic responsibilities, but it is even more negative in evaluating the performance of Congress," said Edward G. Carmines, director of Research for the Center on Congress.

Survey respondents were asked to grade Congress' performance in seven areas, and by far the most frequent grades given were D's and F's. Seventy-seven percent of those surveyed gave Congress a D or F on "controlling the influence of special interests" and almost as many (74 percent) gave Congress a D or F on "holding its members to high ethical standards."

Even the areas in which

the public was most generous in its grading of Congress — "carrying out effective oversight of the President and executive branch" and "conducting its business in a careful, deliberate way" — 63 percent gave Congress either a D or F.

The public's dim view of Congress as an institution brightens little when people are questioned on the integrity of individual members. Asked, "Are members of Congress honest people, of good character," only 5 per-

cent of respondents said "almost all" are honest, and 42 percent said "few are honest." The remaining 53 percent said "some are honest."



Lee Hamilton
Guest Columnist

When those surveyed were given five characteristics — honesty, positions on issues, good judgment, religious convictions and ability to get things done — and asked to rank what they look for in a member of Congress, honesty came out far ahead. It was rated a 1 (most important) or 2 by 80 percent of respon-

dents. Good judgment was rated a 1 or 2 by 48 percent, and positions on issues a 1 or 2 by 47 percent. Trailing in importance were ability to get things done (rated a 1 or 2 by 17 percent) and religious convictions (rated a 1 or 2 by 9 percent).

One bit of good news for Congress is that a large majority of the public (88 percent) thinks the national legislature has a "major impact" or at least "some impact" on their lives.

However, 51 percent think Congress does not "listen and care about" what people like them think, and 90 percent think Congress "listens more to the lobbyists" than to "the voters back home."

In a similar vein, 82 percent of respondents said that members of Congress contact them "only around election time," not "regularly."

The survey evidence suggests that one way to close the communications gap would be for members to make more use of online outreach tools. Seventy-three percent of respondents said they would more likely use an online survey than a mail-in questionnaire if members of Congress wanted to get their opinions on issues. And 63 percent said they would more likely participate in an online, virtual forum than attend a public meeting held

See HAMILTON, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, July 16, the 198th day of 2008. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 16, 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb, in the desert of Alamogordo, N.M.

On this date:

In 1790, the District of Columbia was established as the seat of the United States government.

In 1862, David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1935, the first parking meters were installed, in Oklahoma City.

In 1957, Marine Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8 seconds.

In 1958, the science-fiction film "The Fly" opened in San Francisco.

In 1964, in accepting the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater said "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that

'The fear of becoming a 'has been' keeps some people from becoming anything.'

— Eric Hoffer
American author-philosopher (1902-1983)

"moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy, Fla., on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

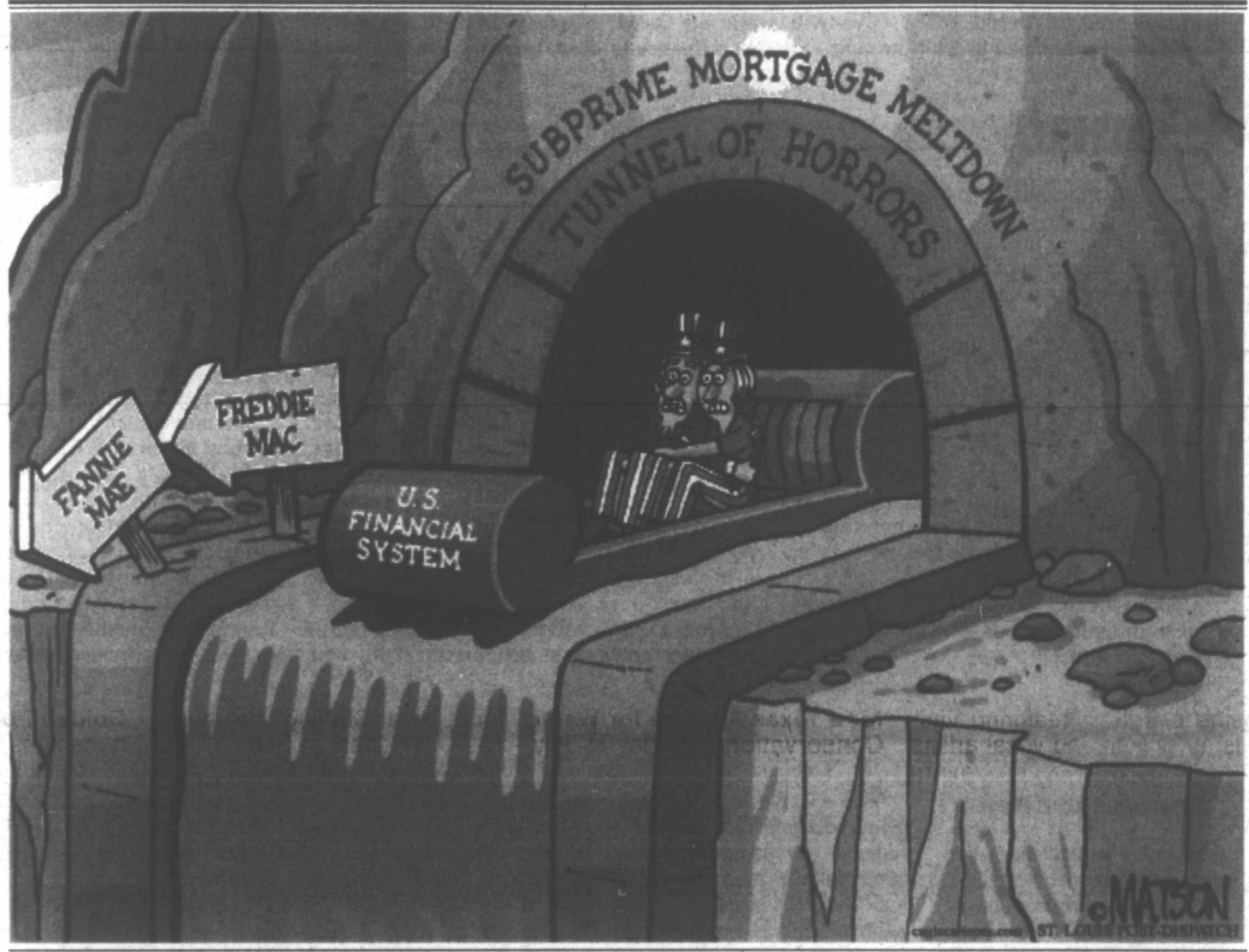
In 1973, during the Senate Watergate hearings, former White House aide Alexander P. Butterfield publicly revealed the existence of President Nixon's secret taping system.

In 1979, Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

Ten years ago: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia refused to block Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr from calling President Clinton's Secret Service protectors before a grand jury.

Five years ago: The Environmental Protection Agency announced it was starting big-money, long-term cleanups at 10 Superfund toxic waste sites and putting 10 other sites aside for later. A car driven by 87-year-old George Russell Weller plowed through a farmer's market in Santa Monica, Calif., killing 10 people and injuring more than 70. (Weller was convicted of manslaughter and was sentenced to five years of probation.) Cuban-born "Queen of Salsa" Celia Cruz died in Fort Lee, N.J., at age 77.



American 'justice' system is perverted

America's court system has been broken, abused and perverted by lawyers, judges and legislators.

You would think that at least the lawyers and judges, who use the system to make a comfortable living, would have an interest in preserving it. Instead, they are the main abusers of it.

These thoughts are prompted by the execution of Mark Dean Schwab, a 39-year-old psychopathic monster who kidnapped, raped and murdered an 11-year-old boy. The problem is that it took 16 years after his conviction to execute this piece of human dung thanks to laws, lawyers and judges. It's not justice. Neither is lethal injection. How in

God's name did we become so squeamish that we have to provide a peaceful, painless death to vile and vicious criminals?

Schwab wasn't so kind to his victim, Junny Rios-Martinez, a little boy who would have made any parent proud. I'm very proud of this boy's father, who attended the execution. The boy's father said he had vowed that his would be the last face Schwab would ever see.

Schwab was released from prison early in 1991 after serving half a sentence

for raping another boy at knifepoint. Within a month, he was stalking little Junny. At the time of his trial, he boasted that he would gladly go to the electric chair if he could have a famous child actor sit on his lap. When the end finally came, he wasn't boasting about anything.

"Finally" is the key word. It shouldn't take years and even decades to execute a criminal. Two years from the day of sentencing should be the final day of the perp's life. "Virtually all of the appeals in capital cases are

frivolous, filed by opponents of the death penalty who simply are trying to wreck the system.

Let's get our thoughts in order concerning the death sentence. Everybody dies. Everybody is condemned to death from the day of his or her birth. Thus, executing a criminal isn't doing anything to him that won't happen anyway. Good and decent people get death sentences every day from their doctors, and there are no appeals or stays.

When the Founding Fathers wrote the Bill of Rights and prohibited cruel and unusual punishment, it was an era when people

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ July 2
San Antonio Express-News on the decline of children's health and fitness: The results of a new physical fitness assessment should disturb parents and teachers throughout the state a sign that educators must intensify their efforts to focus on the body as well as the mind.

About 20 percent of seventh graders passed all six portions of the assessment designed by the Cooper Institute in Dallas, the Express-News reported recently.

By the senior year of high school, those figures worsened, with only 8 percent of females and 9 percent of males passing the tests.

The \$2 million study, which debuted

this year, measured the physical fitness of 2.8 million students ranging from third grade to the senior year of high school.

"Those results just confirmed what many of us already know, and that is our children's health is in jeopardy," Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, told Express-News.

If this trend is not reversed, the results could be disastrous. When children are in poor physical condition, health problems often emerge when they grow older. These include heart ailments associated with obesity.

"Our kids are the fittest, the least fit that they have been in our lifetime," Kenneth Cooper, the founder of the institute, said. "Since 1963, we have quadrupled the number of students who are obese."

The impact, however, is not just

physical. In 2005, for example, obesity-related health problems cost state businesses an estimated \$3.3 billion, according to a study released by State Comptroller Susan Combs. The figure reflected the loss of productivity due to illness.

"We cannot allow an entire generation of Texans to grow up and live a shorter life than previous generations," Nelson said.

The question is: How do you prevent that? The study is a good start, because you cannot attack a problem until you know it exists. And, now that we know, lawmakers, educators and parents must do everything they can to create an environment in which children can flourish physically as well as mentally. URL: <http://www.mysa.com>

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Hamilton

Continued from Page 4

The findings are based on a March 2008 survey of 1000 people nationwide conducted by the internet polling firm Polimetrix, as part of a yearlong, multi-phase public opinion study of the 2008 elections. For complete survey data, go to www.centeroncongress.org.

—Hamilton is with the Center on Congress at Indiana University.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

We should be neither hesitant nor squeamish about executing people who take the lives of innocent people, especially children. God knows, if we don't have enough juice to protect and, failing that, avenge the death of children, then we are a poor excuse for a society.

We could provide university education to 10 children for the cost of keeping one of these dysfunctional human slimeballs alive for his natural life. I'd support a return to public hanging in the county where the crime was committed. Let the public come and see justice done. I'd even favor hiring a Saudi with a good, sharp sword to take the man's head off. If beheading was good enough for English royalty, it should be good enough for American animals with two legs.

As for convicting the wrong person, that's a problem with a community's police and prosecutors and sometimes incompetent defense lawyers. Clean house. Fix that problem. Don't use it as an excuse to stop the death penalty. Lawyers, who claim to be professionals, do a lousy job of policing their own ranks. Incompetent lawyers often end up as judges with nice vacations and pensions they don't deserve.

One day, the American people may get fed up enough to vow to never elect a single lawyer to a legislative post. Then we might get some clear laws that protect the people rather than provide a lucrative living for lawyers and judges.

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

TRAVEL

U.S. ban on visitors with HIV could come to an end soon

WASHINGTON (AP) — A two-decade ban on people with HIV visiting or immigrating to the United States may end soon through a Senate bill aimed at fighting AIDS and other diseases in Africa and other poor areas of the world.

The U.S. is one of a dozen countries — including Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Russia — that ban travel and immigration for HIV-positive people.

Even China, said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., recently changed that policy, deciding it was "time to move beyond an antiquated, knee-jerk reaction" to people with HIV.

"There's no excuse for a law that stigmatizes a particular disease," Kerry said Tuesday at a speech to the Center for Strategic & International Studies HIV/AIDS Task Force. Even people with avian flu or the Ebola virus have an easier time than those with HIV when it comes to applying for visas, he said.

Kerry and Sen. Gordon Smith, R-Ore., are trying to repeal the ban, first implemented in 1987 and confirmed by Congress in 1993. The two have attached their measure to legislation — which the Senate may pass this week — that would provide \$50 billion over the next five years to fight AIDS and other diseases in Africa and other poor areas.

Foreign citizens, students and tourists can apply for a difficult-to-obtain special waiver for short-term visits, but an HIV-positive person has little chance of obtaining permanent residency.

Under current law, HIV is the only medical condition explicitly listed

under immigration law. The Kerry-Smith provision would make HIV equivalent to other communicable diseases where medical and public health experts at the Health and Human Services Department — not consular officials at U.S. embassies — determine eligibility for admission.

Herwitz said some HIV-positive people seeking visas lie on their applications and then don't bring their medications. "It's not only wrongheaded and discriminatory, but can also cause people to not tell the truth."

Those with HIV seeking legal permanent residency would still have to demonstrate they have the resources to live in this country and would not become a "public charge."

The HIV ban was "adopted during a time of widespread fear and ignorance about the HIV virus," said Allison Herwitz, legislative director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian civil rights group.

Among the consequences, experts on HIV and AIDS who are themselves infected have been unable to attend conferences in the U.S.

Students and refugees in the country who may be at risk of infection have been reluctant to seek testing or treatment.

"Health care professionals, researchers and other exceptionally talented people have been blocked from the United States," some 160 health and AIDS groups said recently in a letter urging Congress to end the current policy. "Since 1993, the International Conference on AIDS has not been held on U.S. soil due to this policy."

Herwitz said some HIV-positive people seeking visas lie on their applications and then don't bring their medications. "It's not only wrongheaded and discriminatory, but can also cause people to not tell the truth."

Both President George H.W. Bush and President Clinton sought to ease the policy and in 2006 the current President Bush asked the Homeland Security Department to streamline the waiver process. Congress so far has not gone along.

There's still opposition.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., may offer an amendment to eliminate the Kerry-Smith provision from the Senate bill. Sessions cited Congressional Budget Office estimates that the new immigrants coming in under the relaxed policy could cost the government more than \$80 million over a 10-year period. "Most people just don't want to talk about that."

Sessions said the Health and Human Services Department already has considerable flexibility to grant entry visas.

Events calendar

• **Amarillo Botanical Gardens** will conduct its "Music in the Gardens" featuring various musicians and vocal artists from 7:30-8:30 p.m. every Monday now through August. Gates will open at 7 p.m. Performances will last from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Visitors must provide their own lawn chairs, blankets and sunscreen. Admission will be \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for children 2-12. Children under 2 are free. Membership Card holders also get in free. For more information, call the gardens at (806) 352-6513. Summer hours for the gardens are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and

9 a.m.-5 p.m. week days.
• **The deadline to register for a Texas Alliance for Water Conservation field day** is July 15. The field day will be conducted July 31 at the Floyd County Unity Center in Muncy. The program will highlight current and future production and water management project activities and what has been discovered from past production practices and research efforts. The event will include on-farm demos and a commodity leader panel discussion. For more information, visit <http://depts.ttu.edu/tawc> on the Internet.
• **The reunion committee for**

the PHS Class of 1969 will meet at 7:30 p.m. July 17 at Innovative Staffing Solutions, 1327 N. Hobart, in Pampa.
• **Copper Breaks State Park** at Quanah will host a Summer Art Exhibition July 19-Aug. 17 at park headquarters. For more information or to enter, contact the park during normal business hours at (940) 839-4331.
• **Timeless Treasures Quilt Guild** will meet at 10 a.m. July 19 at Nazarene Church in Guymon, Okla. The quilt program will be presented by Donna Meyer of Sunray. An afternoon workshop will focus on quilting options and tools. All visitors are welcome. For more

information call (806) 338-6488.
• **The deadline to enter a Golden Poets Guild free poetry contest** is July 26. A grand prize will be awarded. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 601 16th St # C-115 Golden, CO 80401, or enter via the Internet at www.freecontest.com.
• **The deadline for local businesses** to purchase a rodeo banner in lieu of the upcoming Top O' Texas Rodeo is July 30. The 62nd annual rodeo is scheduled Aug. 14-16 at Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena in Pampa. For more information, contact the rodeo office at 669-0434.

• **The deadline to enter the Name the Mascot Contest** being sponsored by Amarillo Botanical Gardens is Aug. 20. The name will be applied to a new statue erected at the gardens of a six-foot "frog musician." The winner will be announced at the season finale of "Music in the Gardens" on Aug. 25. If more than one entry supplies the winning name, the first to submit the name will be considered the winner. To enter, choose a name for the mascot and submit the name to Amarillo Botanical Gardens, Name the Mascot Contest, 1400 Streit Dr., Amarillo, TX 79106.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My 17-year-old niece, "Nicki," was recently diagnosed with an STD. When her mother, my sister-in-law "Cynthia," found out she was horrified. She had ignored several family members - including me -- who had tried to warn her that Nicki was sexually active and not taking proper precautions. Now Nicki's 14-year-old sister, "Danni," has come to me because she was afraid she was pregnant. I took her to get a pregnancy test done. Thank God, it was negative. I think Danni should be tested for STDs, and both she and Nicki should be on birth control. I can't get this through to my sister-in-law. Cynthia thinks I "don't understand" because I have sons, and "all I have to do is give them condoms." Yes, but I have also talked to them about sex, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and prevention, as well as the importance of acting responsibly. I just want my nieces to be safe. Cynthia is living in a state of denial. How can I protect my nieces? -- **CONCERNED AUNT IN NEW YORK**

DEAR AUNT: Danni obviously trusts you, or she would not have come to you when she thought she was in serious trouble. It's a shame the girls don't have a closer relationship with their mother, and that she has chosen to hide her head in the sand rather than confront the obvious. Because she seems unable to talk to her daughters about sex and the responsibilities that go with it, you should. If you feel uncomfortable talking to them about this, I have a booklet that can help you. It's called "What

Every Teen Should Know," and it has been used by doctors and educators to get the message across in easy-to-understand language. It also contains sections on drugs, alcohol and date rape. My teen booklet can be ordered by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Your nieces must understand that having unprotected sex is not only dangerous, but could also prevent them from having children at a time in their lives when they're prepared to provide for them. It's obvious that you care about those girls. So schedule the discussion ASAP, and impress upon them that the decisions they're making now will affect their entire futures and how important it is for them to avoid the pitfalls.

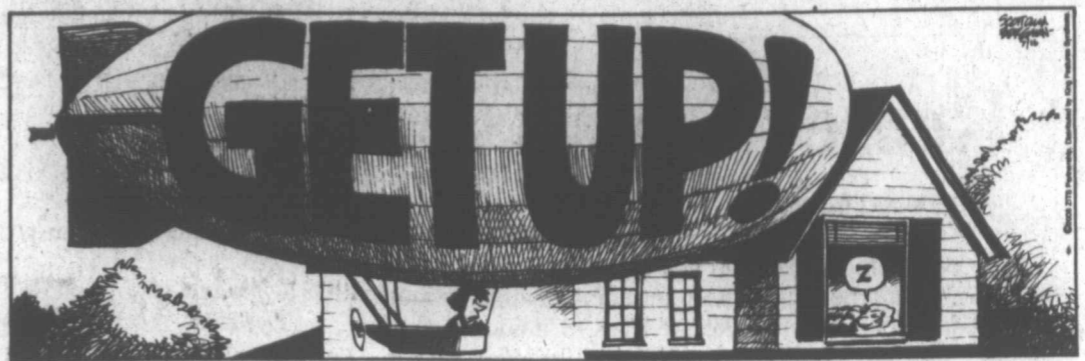
DEAR ABBY: Is it rude or inconsiderate for a person to knit, crochet or piece a quilt while attending a meeting or other gathering? -- **CURIOUS IN THE SUNBELT**

DEAR CURIOUS: Although I may get some argument about this, I do think it's rude. When someone is attending a meeting or a social gathering, it is considered good manners to give the speaker or other attendees your full attention. And while I expect to hear from readers who say they can "multi-task," to do so sends the wrong message.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



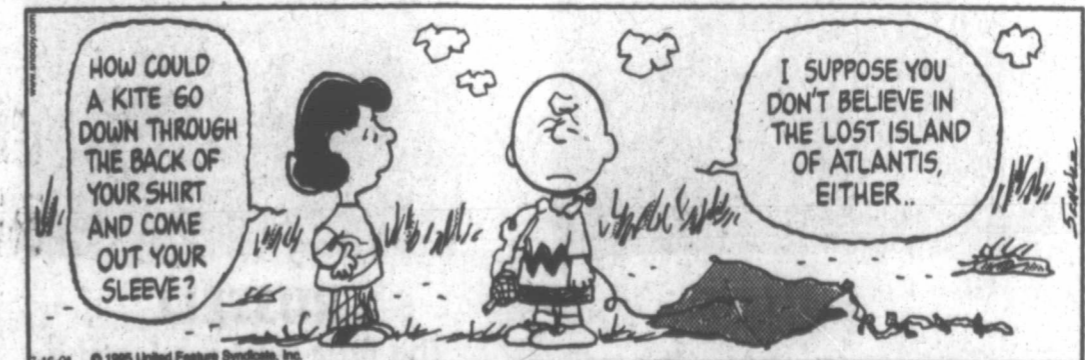
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Agriculture

Fighting worldwide wheat threat ...

By KIM KAPLAN
ARS News

Wheat stockpiles are at a 30-year low and production costs are rising, but what really scares wheat growers is the specter of Ug99, a new rust fungus to which very few of the currently grown varieties of wheat are resistant.

But the seed of a solution may sprout this fall when Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists release the first wheat lines pyramiding two or more genes for resistance to Ug99. One of these lines will be released this fall as a specialty wheat for the eastern United States. Wheat breeders will be able to use the new line along with others to develop new commercial varieties with high yield and Ug99 protection.

ARS has a priority program tackling many aspects of Ug99 with a team of more than 10 scientists, all of whom are keenly aware of Ug99's growing shadow, which emerged in Uganda and has already spread to Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen and Iran. The scientists are located at ARS labs at Raleigh, N.C., Aberdeen, Idaho, St. Paul, Minn., Manhattan, Kan., and Fargo, N.D.

Among their tasks are determining U.S. wheat and barley vulnerability to Ug99, identifying new sources of genetic resistance, discovering molecular markers to speed up breeding for protection, developing rapid detection methods and nationwide surveillance for Ug99 in the United States.

To support the monitoring work, ARS has established "trap" plots of wheat along known wheat rust pathways throughout the United States.

Of course, the ARS scientists are not going it alone. They're collaborating with researchers across the country and around the world to find ways to deal with this massive threat to a global food staple.

As part of this cooperation and collaboration, ARS coordinates sending promising U.S. wheat varieties to Kenya and evaluating them for Ug99 resistance. This provides U.S. wheat breeders with a head start on protecting the country's wheat. The screening is done in partnership with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), based in Mexico.

ARS has already evaluated more than 5,000 U.S. wheat lines in Africa through this program. Results from the 2005-07 screening showed that Ug99 has overcome even more major resistance genes than previously



Photo by James Kolmer

A close-up of wheat leaf rust on wheat. Most wheat varieties grown around the world today have no resistance to Ug99, a new race of wheat rust.

believed.

ARS also will develop new sources of genetic resistance to rusts from three wild relatives of wheat and make it easier to introduce those genes into commercial wheat varieties.

ARS is a scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mass. Senate votes to let out-of-state gays marry

BOSTON (AP) — Gay couples from across the country are one step closer to a Massachusetts wedding.

The state Senate voted Tuesday to repeal a 1913 law used to bar out-of-state gay couples from marrying in the state. The move to repeal the law, which prohibits couples from obtaining marriage licenses if they couldn't legally wed in their home states, is driven in part by California's recent legalization of same-sex marriage.

The House is expected to vote on the repeal later this week. Gov. Deval Patrick, whose 18-year-old daughter announced publicly last month that she is a lesbian, would have 10 days to sign it.

Michael Thorne, 55, and James Theberge, 50, say they're hoping for an August wedding in Provincetown.

The Maine couple have been together for 25 years, have two children, and wanted to get married four years ago after Massachusetts became the first state to legalize gay marriages. They were blocked when then-Gov. Mitt Romney ordered town clerks to enforce the little-known law and deny licenses to out-of-state gay couples.

"If Gov. Patrick signs the bill, we'll be at the Provincetown City Hall" in August, said Thorne, who called Maine's domestic partnership law a poor substitute.

Patrick, a Democrat and the state's first black governor, said the 95-year-old statute also carries a racist taint.

The law dates to a time when the majority of states outlawed interracial marriages. Critics said the law was designed to smooth relations with those states. Massachusetts has allowed interracial marriages since 1843.

Dianne Wilkerson, the Massachusetts Senate's lone black member, said the vote was long overdue. She called the law "evil."

"This is one of the most

pernicious statutes on our books," said Wilkerson, a Democrat. "This bill puts the final nail in the coffin of those dark days."

'The Massachusetts Senate has no right to infringe on the internal issues of how other states define marriage, but that's exactly what they voted today to do.'

— Kris Mineau
Massachusetts Family Institute

Opponents of gay marriage said the 1913 statute is needed to ensure Massachusetts respects the marriage laws of other states. They said it will also help prevent same-sex couples from entering into mar-

riages and then returning to states that have already passed laws or amended their constitutions to bar gay marriages.

"The Massachusetts Senate has no right to infringe on the internal issues of how other states define marriage, but that's exactly what they voted today to do," said Kris Mineau of Massachusetts Family Institute.

The law was rarely enforced until Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 2003 that the state could no longer bar gay couples from marrying. Romney, then eyeing a run for president, ordered city and town clerks to enforce the statute, although some town clerks balked.

Eight gay couples from surrounding states challenged the 1913 law in court and in 2006 the same court that allowed gay marriage refused to toss out the law.

Mark Pearsall and Paul Trubey, of Lebanon, Conn., were among the plaintiffs.

The two married on May 21, 2004, just before Romney closed the door on out-of-state gay couples.

While they remain married in Massachusetts, the best Pearsall, a 41-year-old teacher, and Trubey, a 45-year-old goat dairy farmer, can do in Connecticut is a civil union.

Pearsall still welcomes the chance that Massachusetts might open its door to other marriage-minded gay couples from other states. He said the couple cherishes their Massachusetts marriage.

"When we got married it was really a powerful thing for both of us and for our families," he said. "The civil union, by comparison, it was nothing. It was just a legal document."

But Anne Stanback, president of the Connecticut gay rights group Love Makes a Family, said she doubts many Connecticut couples will opt to travel across the border to marry in Massachusetts.

Consumer prices jump 1.1 percent in June

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices shot up in June at the second fastest pace in 26 years with two-thirds of the surge blamed on soaring energy prices.

The Labor Department reported that consumer prices jumped 1.1 percent last month, much worse than had been expected. Energy prices rocketed upward by 6.6 percent, reflecting big gains for gasoline, home heating oil and natural gas.

The big rise in prices cut deeply into consumers' earning power with average weekly wages, after adjusting for inflation, dropping by 0.9 percent in June, the biggest monthly decline since 1984.

The 1.1 percent June price increase was the second largest monthly advance in the past 26 years, surpassed only by a 1.3 percent gain in September 2005 from a jolt to energy costs after Hurricane Katrina.

Separately, the Federal Reserve reported that industrial output rose 0.5 percent in June, the fastest pace in 11 months. The increase, the highest since a 0.6 percent gain in July of last year, reflected an end to an auto-

motive production strike rather than any widespread strength in the economy.

The report on retail inflation followed similarly grim news on Tuesday that wholesale prices had shot up by 1.8 percent in June.

The news on inflation kept a lid on stock prices, which were trading mixed after one of the nation's largest banks, Wells Fargo, announced it would raise its dividend.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress on Tuesday that the Fed was concerned about the threats posed by rising inflation.

Bernanke said that the "upside risks to the inflation outlook have intensified lately, as the rising prices of energy and some other commodities have led to a sharp pickup in inflation and some measures of inflation expectations have moved higher."

Bernanke's comments underscored the bind the central bank is in, caught between a faltering economy that is struggling to overcome a prolonged housing slump and a severe credit squeeze, and the risk that inflation would move higher.

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE OF DRAFT OPERATING PERMIT DRAFT PERMIT
NO.: 01547
APPLICATION AND DRAFT PERMIT. Celanese, Ltd., P.O. Box 819005, Dallas, Texas 75381-9005, an Industrial Organic Chemicals facility, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal and revision of Federal Operating Permit (herein referred to as Permit) No. 01547, Application No. 10857 to authorize operation of the Pampa Plant, an organic chemical processing plant. The area addressed by the application is located at five miles west of Pampa, Texas on Highway 60, Pampa, Gray County, Texas. This application was received by the TCEQ on August 14, 2007.

The purpose of a federal operating permit is to improve overall compliance with the rules governing air pollution control by clearly listing all applicable requirements, as defined in Title 30 Texas Administrative Code § 122.10 (30 TAC § 122.10). The draft permit, if approved, will codify the conditions under which the area must operate. The permit will not authorize new construction. The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and has made a preliminary decision to prepare a draft permit for public comment and review. The TCEQ Executive Director recommends issuance of the draft permit. The permit application, statement of basis and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Central Office, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building E, First Floor, Austin, Texas, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Amarillo Regional Office, 3918 Canyon Drive, Amarillo, Texas 79109-4933, and the Lovett Memorial Library, 111 North Houston Street, Pampa, Texas. At the Central and Regional Office, relevant supporting materials for the draft permit, as well as the New Source Review permits which have been incorporated by reference, may be reviewed and copied. Any person with difficulties obtaining these materials due to travel constraints may contact the TCEQ Central Office file room at (512) 239-1540.

PUBLIC COMMENT / NOTICE AND COMMENT HEARING. Any person may submit written comments on the draft permit. Comments relating to the accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness of the permit conditions may result in changes to the draft permit. A person who may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the permitted area may request a notice and comment hearing. The purpose of the notice and comment hearing is to provide an additional opportunity to submit comments on the draft permit. The permit may be changed based on comments pertaining to whether the permit provides for compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 122 (examples may include that the permit does not contain all applicable requirements or the public notice procedures were not satisfied). The TCEQ may grant a notice and a comment hearing on the application if a written hearing request is received within 30 days after publication of the newspaper notice. The hearing request must include the basis for the request, including a description of how the person may be affected by the emission of air pollutants from the application area. The request should also specify the conditions of the draft permit that are inappropriate or

1 Public Notice

specify how the preliminary decision to issue or deny the permit is inappropriate. All reasonably ascertainable issues must be raised and all reasonably available arguments must be submitted by the end of the public comment period. If a notice and comment hearing is granted, all individuals that submitted written comments or a hearing request will receive written notice of the hearing. This notice will identify the date, time, and location for the hearing.

Written public comments and / or requests for a notice and comment hearing should be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 and received within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice. A notice of proposed final action that includes a response to comments and identification of any changes to the draft permit will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments, a hearing request, or requested to be on the mailing list for this application. This mailing will also provide instructions for public petitions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request that the EPA object to the issuance of the proposed permit. After receiving a petition, the EPA may only object to the issuance of a permit which is not in compliance with the applicable requirements or the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 122.

MAILING LIST. In addition to submitting public comments, a person may ask to be placed on a mailing list for this application by sending a request to the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address above. Those on the mailing list will receive copies of future public notices (if any) mailed by the Chief Clerk for this application. **INFORMATION.** For additional information about this permit application or the permitting process, please contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Office of Public Assistance at MC-108, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or Toll Free at 1-800-687-4040. General information about the TCEQ can be found at www.tceq.state.tx.us. Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained for Celanese, Ltd., by calling Ms. Christa Perry at 1-806-663-4216.
A-41 July 16, 2008

1 Public Notice

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY OF PAMPA TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The City of Pampa will hold a public hearing at 5:30 PM on August 5, 2008, at City Hall in regard to the submission of an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TxCDBG funding available, all eligible TxCDBG activities, and the use of past TxCDBG funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TxCDBG application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Trevlyn Pitner, City Manager at the City of Pampa City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
B-5 July 16, 2008

5 Special Notices

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

NOW HIRING:
Greenhouse Sales, must be able to lift 50 pounds, hardworking, and dependable.
General Laborers,
Exp. Diesel Mechs/Assistant.
Must be at least 18 years of age and submit to a drug test.
Apply in person at:
West Texas Landscape
120 S. Hobart
Please No Phone Calls!!!

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.
7-16 CRYPTOQUOTE
H LXAI QXWIEN EITIX FILZ
WE CMAX OHC AESIZZ CMA
GHBBIE LM JI FMWEP NMOE.
— H X E M S N F S H Z M O
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: STOPPING AT THIRD BASE ADDS NO MORE TO THE SCORE THAN STRIKING OUT. — E. JOSEPH COSSMAN

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We're talking Cream of the Crop here!

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(Day and Night shifts available)
(Advancement opportunities based on your performance)
Or send resume to
email: rpattton@braums.com
Fax: (405)475-2411
Mail: 3000 N.E. 63rd, OKC, OK 73121


10 Lost/Found

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

FOUND
Male great Pyrenees
Call 898-2230.

LOST set of keys, Fri. 7/11/08: post office, car, house keys, etc. on a belt clip. 664-1275.

FOUND Black Mixed Puppy. Has red collar on. 806-216-1804.

13 Bus. Opp.

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

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. Replacement windows. Ref. avail. Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

RICHARD'S General Carpentry. Roofs - Painting, Building & Remodeling. Fences & sheetrock. 886-0267, 275-9038

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...! Pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

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QUALITY work affordable price, handy man services, paint, tile, texture, trim, etc. Aaron, 664-7792, Jason 664-1252

CLEAN offices at a very reasonable price. I have excellent references. Please Call Linda, 669-7611, 661-4123.

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14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115.

19 Situations

CHILDCARE Available In my home. Mon-Sat. Night time care also available. Call 806-663-2214

21 Help Wanted


Petroleum Bulk Drivers
Eastex Crude Co. is taking applications in Pampa, TX. Applicants must have a Class "A" CDL with Hazmat & Tanker Endorsements +Home Daily +Full Benefit Package
(903)856-2401 x-137 (800)443-8580 Clint

21 Help Wanted

NOW hiring Assistant Management Trainee for the Pampa Office. Come join our dynamic team! National Consumer Finance Co. with over 850 locations. Full benefits package. Vacation-paid holidays-medical & life ins. 401K retirement-excellent training program. No finance exp. required. We're looking for qualified candidates with a desire to succeed & advance. Professional appearance. Automobile. For more info or to schedule an interview call 806-665-6442. World Acceptance Corp. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE PAMPA NEWS! CALL 669-2525 FOR INFORMATION

\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS
IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
GENESIS HOUSE
If you feel that you would be a positive influence in an adolescent's life, Genesis House, a non-profit agency, has immediate openings for House Parents working with teens ages 13-17. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. Shifts include 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. If you are interested in joining this professional treatment team, please contact Innovative Staffing Solutions, 1327 N. Hobart, 665-2991, or call 665-7123, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EOE



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PAMPA, TX 79066-2215
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Wal-Mart will not tolerate discrimination of employment on the basis of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, veteran status or any other legally protected status.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, July 17, 2008:
Others present a different view. Listen. You don't need to agree. Often you question yourself about boundaries. This juggling act could be very important to the long term, as you decide on limits. If you feel resentful, you have given too much. On the other hand, if you feel guilty, you probably need to give more. Travel, spirituality and mental pursuits increase in importance. If you are single, meeting people will be easy. You might need to date several different people in order to meet Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, travel increases the quality of the bond between you. CAPRICORN understands you.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Take charge, as your very nature dictates. You function on a very high level, and a boss or contemporary acknowledges just that. You could be surprised at the end result of a money proposition. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Reach out for someone at a distance. Your caring can only grow if you are open. Don't try to dictate what should happen or what someone needs to do. Stay open to possibilities, and you will be a lot happier. Tonight: Reach for the stars.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Togetherness is a strong theme right now. Stay centered and understand that perhaps a partner who

might not agree with you also has validity and logic in his or her thought process. The unexpected occurs professionally. Tonight: Accept an invitation.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Work with others. You might not have the only answer, but you certainly have a good one. Loosen up in your dealings and welcome a different opinion or thought. Remain easygoing no matter what pops up. Surprising events could change plans. Tonight: Defer to someone else.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Easy does it. You might try another approach or do something very differently. You might not have all the right ideas, but you have many. Still, go along with a surprising, eccentric person. His or her vision is very different from yours. Tonight: Easy does it.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You have a playful and frisky side that rarely manifests itself. What is true is that a change of pace would be most welcomed by many. A new friendship could start budding out of the blue. You cannot know what someone else is thinking. Tonight: Think "weekend."
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Once more, you could opt to play it low-key or work from home. You might surprise yourself with how innovative you can be if you just let yourself go. Your sense of humor makes a hurdle a lot easier. Share that gift. Tonight: Happy at home.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You simply need to make that extra effort. If properly coaxed, some will tell you exactly what is on their mind. Knowing when to pull back or do something differently could remain key.

Tonight: Hook up with some friends.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your finances could swing, giving you a surprise — hopefully. Certainly risking in this realm could toss your life one way or the other. Be aware of your objectives. Build security rather than toss it to the wind. Tonight: Your treat.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
The cards are stacked in your favor. The moment has come to take a leap of faith. You could be uncomfortable with the unexpected person who blows into your office or with what you hear. There is more coming. Strap on your seatbelt. Tonight: What makes you happy.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Investigation befores you, instead of causing yourself a problem. Your ability to understand another's motives can help you in many ways, in whatever arena of life the two of you interact. As you get to the bottom of a problem, you recharge. Tonight: Check in on someone who feels less than great.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Zoom in on what makes a difference. Your sense of humor helps you see the real nature of another person. Help others loosen up and see the fun in life rather than be gloomy. Tonight: Say yes.
BORN TODAY
Former vice president Elbridge Gerry (1744), businessman John Jacob Astor (1763), actress Diannah Carroll (1935)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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FORECLOSED HOME AUCTION: Texas Statewide 250+ homes must be sold! Free Catalog 1-800-489-8503, www.USHomeAuction.com
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21 Help Wanted

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

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

SHAMROCK General Hospital is now hiring RN for 7pm shift, full or part time, benefit package. Contact Jeanne Crossland, RN, DON, 806-256-2114.

YARDSALES Person. Highly self-motivated. Full time. White House Lumber, 101 S. Ballard.

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

WESTAIR Gas and Equipment, L.P. is looking for a Warehouse Man /Driver. The qualified applicant must have a minimum Class B CDL with haz-mat endorsement, pass a drug test, DOT physical and be able to lift up to 50 lbs. Westair is a joint venture with Praxair, Inc. which assures an outstanding benefit package, which includes medical, dental and life insurance, a great 401K plan, along with competitive pay. We have the benefits of a large company and the attitude of a small company. Come join our team! We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are available at our location in Pampa, TX. @ 740 W. Brown Street (HWY 60) or call 806-665-2351 for more information.

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

TOP O' Texas Oilfield Service needs Class A CDL Drivers. Benefits. Apply 408 S. Price Rd.

LOOKING for office assistant. Part-time job that could turn into a Full-time position w/benefits. Must be able to work in Microsoft Excel & Word. Apply @ 1211 N. Price Rd.

HIRING Rig Supervisor. Minimum 10 years experience on pulling unit. 401K, Insurance, Vacation, Holidays. Send Resume to Box 43, Pampa, Tx.

21 Help Wanted

HOUSEKEEPERS & Laundry Staff. Apply in person Pampa Nursing Ctr., 1321 W. Kentucky.

HELP Wanted: Part-Time Evening Dietary Helper. Come in and apply in person or call for more information. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle. 537-3194

PETCO Petroleum is now hiring a pumper. Experience preferred but not required. Oilfield experience a plus. Insurance, Vacation, 401K, Holidays. Call Dennis @ 806-669-3947.

NEEDED Drivers, Cook & Prep Person at Pizza Hut Delivery (1500 N. Banks). Ins. avail. & 401(k). Apply in person. No Phone Calls Please!

CRALL

CODE WELDER
Must pass plate & bead tests, flux core handwire, stainless, blue print & fabrication skills required.
50+ hr. Week
100% Employee Paid Insurance, 401k
Paid Holidays

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

CRALL

SHOP WELDER
Must pass sheet metal test, flux core & stick.
Competitive Wages
50+ Hr. Week
100% Employee Paid Insurance
401k
Paid Holidays

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

21 Help Wanted

McLean Care Center
has Immediate opening for
Certified Nurse Aides.
Call 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, McLean, to apply.

Want a Career
in the Oil and Gas Industry?
Must be willing to relocate. Have a good driving record & background. Must have a GED. Please contact 806-648-2633.

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Deliver & set fiberglass & steel tanks 60-70 hrs. Clean Driving Record Competitive Wages 100% Employee Paid BCBS Medical Ins. 401K, Paid Holidays

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LOOKING FOR SHOP & PRODUCTION LABOR
Immediate Openings w/ 48+ Hours/Week Competitive Wages 100% Employee Paid BCBS Medical Insurance 401K, Paid Holidays

Apply in person
100 N. Price Rd.
Pampa, TX
806-669-1128

W&W FIBERGLASS TANK CO.

TRUCK DRIVER WANTED
Must have current Class A CDL, pass drug test & DOT physical. Good driving & previous employment record. Clear drug & alcohol record.

Frequent Home Time!
Competitive Wages
100% Employee Paid BCBS Medical Ins. 401K, Paid Holidays

Apply in person
100 N. Price Rd.
Pampa, TX
806-669-1128

21 Help Wanted

ASME Code Welder. Benefits avail., weld test req. Apply in person, 1333 N. Price Rd., Pampa

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

McLean Care Center
has Immediate RN, (Director of Nurses) position available. Nursing home experience a plus but not required, also an immediate opening for Certified Nurse Aides. Call Nita or Sissy at 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, in McLean, to apply.

NEED Overhead Door Helper or Technician. Rasco Construction, 1000 S. Price Rd. Please No Phone Calls.

TRUCK Drivers needed & hot shot drivers. Drug test and references required. Competitive pay! Call 665-0379.

Job Opportunity: National Bank of Commerce, Pampa, Texas is taking applications for a teller apply at 1224 N Hobart, Pampa, Texas. National Bank of Commerce is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EYECARE TEAM
Reception, Optical Tech needed to be filled by energetic, career-minded persons. Must be able to multi-task Interviews are being scheduled for both entry and advanced positions.

Drs. Simmons And Simmons VISION SOURCE
1324 N. Banks
FAX 665-3511

PEST Control Company seeking motivated male or female, must be able to crawl houses, good driving record. 665-5294.

XTO Energy needs contractor oil field pumper. Experience preferred. Good pay & days off. Call 835-2400, Cell 662-8022.

FORT ELLIOTT CISD is seeking a full-time maintenance worker. Please contact Roy Barker at 806-375-2454.

21 Help Wanted

YARD HAND NEEDED
Must Pass Pre-Employment Drug Test. Must be dependable and able to lift 50+ lbs. Will help load trucks, clean up shop & yard & help drivers with daily operations.
If this is you, please apply at:
Bourland & Leverich Supply Co.
Borger Highway (11707 Hwy. 152 W.) between 8am-5pm.
Mon. thru Fri.

EZ MONEY is in search of experienced retail / service industry Managers and CSRs for our new Pampa location opening soon! We are closed on Sundays and work better than retail hours. Apply on-line today at www.ezmoneyjobs.com

NEED Manager or Manager Trainee. Drug test required. Good hours. Good pay. Apply at Pak-A-Burger in Pampa.

Titan
SPECIALTIES, LTD.

RECEPTIONIST
Front line person who will greet visitors while operating a muktoline telephone system, performing various office duties. Accounting experience helpful. Pre-employment physical exam and drug screen required. Competitive wage and benefit package. EOE

Contact Titan at:
806-665-3781
11785 Hwy. 152
Pampa, Tx. 79065
hr@titanspecialties.com

50 Building Suppl.
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101 S. Ballard
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MATTRESS \$100 TWIN SIZE set. In perfect condition. Never used. 806-341-6233.

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HARLEY Davidson Electrica Glide for sale. Low Miles. \$10,000. Call 688-9715 or 662-0097.

Congress votes to override veto on Medicare bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress on Tuesday rejected President Bush's veto of legislation protecting doctors from a 10.6 percent cut in their reimbursement rates when treating Medicare patients.

The override vote in the House was a lopsided 383-41, easily meeting the two-thirds threshold needed to nullify the president's veto. About an hour later, the Senate voted to override, 70-26.

Bush has vetoed bills nine times, and Congress has had the muscle to override him only on a water projects bill and twice on farm legislation.

Lawmakers were under pressure from doctors and the elderly patients they serve to void the rate cut, which kicked in on July 1. The cut is based on a formula that establishes lower reimbursement rates when Medicare spending levels exceed established targets.

The president said he supported rescinding the pay cut, but he objected to the way lawmakers would finance the plan, largely by reducing spending on private health plans serving the elderly and disabled.

"I support the primary objective of this legislation, to forestall reductions in physician payments," Bush said in a statement. "Yet taking choices away from seniors to pay physicians is wrong."

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt also expressed his displeasure.

"I was disappointed by tonight's vote to override the President's veto of the Medicare bill," Leavitt said.

"Medicare is drifting towards disaster," Leavitt said. "Congress has once again given into special interests and shown an unwillingness to change the program's path and take on the important task of entitlement reform."

He said he supports "fully reimbursing physicians at pre-reduction Medicare payment levels and we want to fix the way physicians are paid. We do not support many other provisions in the bill which will hurt both taxpayers and Medicare beneficiaries."

He said the bill undermines the very successful Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit by harming competition and driving up prices and it will reduce the ability of many to choose a private plan.

About 600,000 doctors treat Medicare patients. Many said they would no longer accept new elderly patients if the cuts stood.

Democratic lawmakers used a variety of terms to describe Bush's veto earlier Tuesday. Some called it "meaningless." Others called it "mean-spirited."

Four church VBS



Courtesy Photo

Linda Carlton practices for the upcoming Vacation Bible School to be held from 6-9 p.m. July 28-Aug. 1 at Hi-Land Christian Church. The VBS is being conducted by St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church and Hi-Land Christian.

Sports

Panhandle District 1 4-H record book judging results

A total of 135 youths from 22 Panhandle counties submitted record books to be judged by County Extension Agents and adult volunteers recently at Texas AgriLife Research and Extension in Amarillo.

These youths kept detailed records of 4-H projects undertaken throughout the year in order to develop skills in communication, organization, goal setting, problem solving and documentation.

Juniors and intermediates in each category were given blue or red ribbons. The first place senior books will advance to the state competition held in Lubbock on August 13.

District 1 placing includes: Beef: Seniors - McKenzie Sheridan, Hall; Jacob Dunlap, Collingsworth; Jacy Bradford, Carson; Jacob Hefner, Deaf Smith; Laura Burandt, Ochiltree.

Intermediates: Blue - Emily Marnell, Deaf Smith; Jayson Pigg, Donley; Jacob Pigg, Donley; John Pigg, Donley; Tres Hommel, Donley.

Junior: Blue - J.D. Schnitker, Hall; Emily Brorman, Oldham; Rylee Barber, Hartley.

Citizenship and Civic Education: Senior - Lane Fornby, Deaf Smith.

Clothing and Textiles: Seniors - Jennie Spurlock, Sherman; Emily Jackson, Gray; Abigail Arroyos, Deaf Smith; Jessica Detten, Carson.

Intermediates: Blue - Jenna Harrison, Dallam; Jaci Wagner, Oldham; Rochelle Fangman, Oldham; Brayden Been, Hartley; Macy Cochran, Gray.

Juniors: Blue - Cire Jaurequi, Donley; Chelsie Jasper, Gray.

Communication and Expressive Art: Seniors - Hannah Cochran, Randall.

Intermediate: Blue - Jenny Aldred, Randall.

Conservation of Natural Resources: Intermediates - Blue - Chirae Christie, Potter.

Consumer Education: Senior - Shelly Fangman, Oldham; Julian Baca, Dallam; Jacob Smith, Deaf Smith.

Intermediate: Blue - Domanic Baca, Dallam.

Juniors: Blue - Marlee Youree, Gray.

Consumer and Family Science Open: Seniors - Jordan Meador, Dallam.

Energy Management:

Seniors - Ty Baggerman, Gray.

Entomology: Intermediate - Blue - Jacob Cochran, Randall.

Family Life: Intermediate - Rachel Smith, Randall.

Food and Nutrition: Seniors - Lindsey Ferguson, Moore; Jenny Detten, Carson; Daniel Bouchard, Ochiltree; Eric Burton, Sherman.

Intermediates: Blue - Leah Redwine, Armstrong; Jodie Detten, Carson; Paula Adams, Deaf Smith; Ginger Younger, Potter; Mackenzie Odom, Randall.

Juniors: Blue - Sydney Farris, Potter; Daniel Syfrett, Gray; Katherine Bezner, Dallam; Hattie-Carole Bezner, Dallam.

Forestry: Senior - Matthew Molloy, Hall.

Gardening and Horticulture: Senior - Kyle Schlabs, Deaf Smith.

Goat: Senior - Ashton Hokanson, Moore.

Intermediate: Blue - Brittany Deckard, Briscoe; Garret Hancock, Randall; Stormy Moore, Wheeler.

Juniors: Red - Renee Molloy, Hall.

Health: Senior - Emily Boothe, Armstrong.

Healthy Lifestyles: Senior - Lauren Redwine, Armstrong.

Horse: Seniors - Tabatha Taylor, Randall; Robin Smith, Deaf Smith; Katy Kasch, Hutchinson.

Intermediates: Blue - Rachel Dickey, Moore; Logan Pluhar, Randall; Sparklynn Rust, Randall; Adin Mizer, Randall; Sheridan Artho, Randall; Beth Tucker, Randall; Chaylee Gilmore, Randall.

Juniors: Blue - Cutter Smith, Deaf Smith; Cody Stroebel, Moore; Lauren Moore, Moore. Red - Madison Stephens, Randall; Casey Rust, Randall.

Housing and Home Environment: Senior - Paydon Hales, Potter.

Leadership: Seniors - Jennifer Warren, Moore; Laci Snider, Hall; Emily Garcia, Briscoe; Tammy Syfrett, Gray; Mary Dittfurth, Potter.

Intermediates: Blue - Katy Kett, Randall; Madeline Bezner, Dallam.

Personal Development/Leadership Open: Senior - Brianna Yauk, Armstrong.

Plant and Soil Science: Senior - Hanna Baucom, Hall.

Poultry: Intermediate - Blue - Derrick Neusch, Potter; Marlee Youree, Gray.

Public Speaking: Seniors - Corinna Browning, Hartley; Jacob Landrum, Deaf Smith.

Intermediates: Blue - Jordan Vogel, Randall; Joni Wagner, Potter.

Juniors: Blue - Bailey Been, Hartley.

Rabbits: Seniors - Emma Browning, Hartley; Leah Dixon, Dallam.

Intermediates: Blue - Danae Parman, Hartley.

Safety: Senior - Levi Keeling, Deaf Smith.

Science and Technology: Seniors - Brandon Baca, Dallam; Gabriel Miller, Gray; Ashton Cates, Hemphill.

Juniors: Blue - Clay Burkham, Randall.

Sheep: Senior - Garth McDonald, Dallam; Brittany Weinheimer, Armstrong; Joshua Hardcastle, Wheeler; Breanna Hall, Hartley; Erin Beal, Ochiltree.

Intermediates: Blue - Kenzie Perryman, Donley. Red - Quay Owen, Randall. Juniors: Blue - Bryan Owen, Randall; Haley

Thurman, Randall. Red - Taylor Perryman, Donley.

Shooting Sports: Seniors - Desta Franks, Deaf Smith; Sunny Russell, Sherman.

Intermediate: Red - Brady Sayers, Randall.

Swine: Senior - Ty Youree, Gray; Kaleb Horsford, Sherman; Evinn Wyatt, Dallam; Braden Moore, Wheeler; Katie Baucom, Hall.

Intermediates: Blue - Brewster Garcia, Briscoe; Cari Snider, Hall; Maggie Baucom; Codi Howard, Wheeler; Megan Monzingo, Hall.

Juniors: Blue - Baylee Deckard, Briscoe; Kloe Baca, Dallam; Edy Brainard, Hemphill; Jamie Lear, Ochiltree; Kori Howard, Wheeler.

Veterinary Science: Senior - Jessica Baggerman, Gray; John Baker, Moore; Nicholas Hardcastle, Wheeler.

Intermediate: White - Sierra Hayes, Moore.

Wildlife and Fisheries: Intermediate - Blue, Cayde Christie, Potter.

Els, Garcia feel comfortable on links course

SOUTHPORT, England (AP) — Sergio Garcia is from Spain. Ernie Els hails from South Africa.

Both feel right at home on the western coast of England.

Even before Tiger Woods had to call it a year to have more surgery on his ailing knee, Garcia and Els would have liked their chances at a course such as Royal Birkdale, with all those odd bumps, that howling wind off the Irish Sea, the ominous clouds hanging overhead in seeming perpetuity.

The site of this year's British Open is the sort of place where they learned the game, honing their swings and accepting that it's not necessarily a bad thing to hit a grounder from the middle of the fairway.

Garcia got his first sampling of it as a junior golfer, playing for Spain against a team from Britain. He was 12 years old, 13 perhaps, and he fell in love with all the nuances and creativity.

"I've been fortunate enough to play a lot of links courses, a lot of links golf, and I love it," Garcia said Tuesday. "It's different, and it brings so many different parts of the game ... with a lot of imagination. It's always good when you get challenged on the course."

Els developed a similar kinship with this style of golf, so different from the aim-and-fire brand common on the PGA Tour with its perfectly manicured courses, smooth landing areas and intermittent doses of foul weather.

The Big Easy has extensive experience on the European Tour. On this side of the Atlantic, he knows surviving can be more important than hitting pretty shots.

"I think players like Sergio, like myself, feel very comfortable in this event more than any other," the 38-year-old Els said. "It's just because of the style of play, the style of golf courses, the layouts. I've played it since I was a teenager."

While some players might feel they have a better chance to shine with Woods watching from his couch back in the U.S., both Els and Garcia sincerely believe they would have stacked up just fine with the world's greatest player this week.

"I feel I'm on a much better level with Tiger in this kind of environment than say at the Masters or the PGA," Els said. "Let's face it, Sergio is very much a factor over here. This tournament, for a lot of guys, you feel like you can take on a guy like Tiger on a much more level playing field."

Of course, Woods is a three-time British Open champion, and he undoubtedly would have been the favorite if his knee was sound — just as he is at every major he plays.

But he's not here, so Garcia and Els are carrying the mantle of co-favorites, according to a popular British bookmaker.

The charismatic Spaniard

'It's different, and it brings so many different parts of the game ... with a lot of imagination.'

— Sergio Garcia
Pro Golfer

has six top-10 finishes in the last seven years, including an excruciating playoff loss to Padraig Harrington a year ago at Carnoustie. The Irishman hit into the Barry Burn twice on the final hole and took double bogey, leaving Garcia with a 10-foot putt for the win.

The ball slid by the edge of the cup, and the four-hole playoff was all Harrington. Garcia, by most accounts, is the best player in the world without a major title on his resume.

Among Els' three major titles was the British Open in 2002 at Muirfield. He's been runner-up three other times — the most painful a playoff loss to unheralded Todd Hamilton in '04. Throw in a couple of third-place showings, then marvel at the fact that 10 of his 17 appearances have resulted in top-10 finishes.

"I'd like to think that experience might help," Els said.

Garcia said he's gotten over last year's setback, which was probably his best chance yet to break through in one of golf's biggest

events. Sure, it bothered him for a day or two, but he insists that he quickly changed his focus to everything that went right.

"It's not really that big a deal, you know? There's a lot worse things than losing an Open in a playoff," he said. "There were a lot more positives coming out of the week than negatives."

But Harrington was the one left holding the claret jug at the end of the day. After having possession of it for the past year, he returned it to the R&A on Tuesday — then revealed that he's bothered by a sore right wrist.

The Irishman sprained it last weekend while swinging into an "impact bag," sort of like a punching bag for golfers — only it's supposed to strengthen the wrist, not leave it hurting.

After skipping a couple of days of potentially crucial practice, Harrington finally made it onto the course Tuesday. But he only managed to play nine holes, cutting back to mere chipping and putting on the back side.

The sight of Harrington walking the course — trailed by a caddie who had ditched the bag and was carrying a half-dozen wedges, plus a putter, over his shoulder — sent a murmur through the crowd at Royal Birkdale.

"If his wrist is hurting so bad that he can't play two days before the Open, it's not going to get any better, now is it?" one fan said.

While conceding that a "tingly" feeling prompted him to skip the back nine, Harrington said he fully expects to tee it up in the opening round Thursday, assuming he does no further damage in practice.

He planned to get in at least nine more holes Wednesday, though he will pass on hitting out of the tangly rough until the shots actually count, looking to cut down on the risk of re-injuring the wrist.

As for the man he beat in last year's playoff, there are no hard feelings — either toward Harrington or the Open.

"I love this major," Garcia said. "We don't get to play on these kind of courses too often, so I try to enjoy the moment as much as possible."

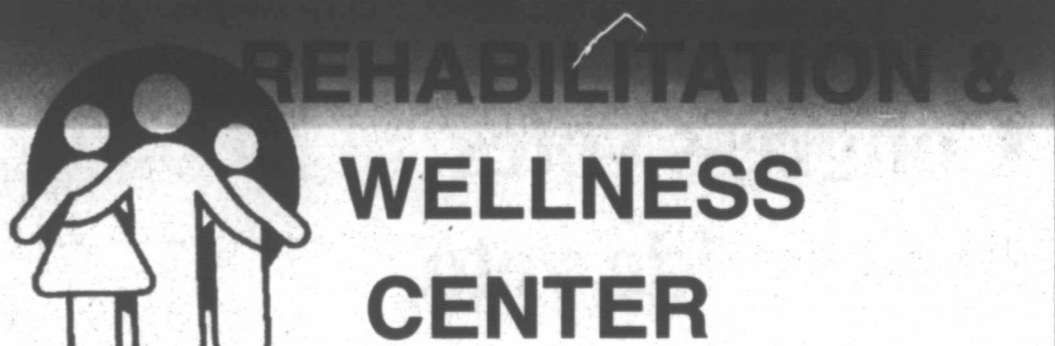
Olympic ban to be reversed for US boxer

DALLAS (AP) — Luis Yanez, the 19-year-old light flyweight who was banned from the U.S. boxing team for the Beijing Olympics after skipping several workouts, apparently has reached an agreement to be reinstated, a Dallas newspaper reported early Wednesday morning.

The Dallas Morning News' online edition, quoting people familiar with the deal who were not identified, reported that Yanez's reinstatement was to be announced Wednesday morning. USA Boxing did not confirm the report and Yanez could not be reached late

Tuesday night. The newspaper said an agreement was reached late Tuesday night requiring Yanez to publicly apologize to USA Boxing CEO Jim Millman, national director of coaching Dan Campbell and his teammates.

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