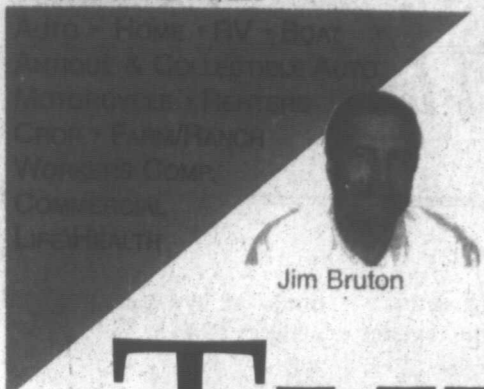


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Jim Bruton

THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, July 21, 2008

Volume 104 • No. 404

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Submitted photo

Work continues on at the Pampa High School renovation project.

Flurry of activity marks ongoing PHS renovation project

By Miranda G. Bailey
 Special to The News

(Editor Note: This is the first in a series of stories highlighting the school district's renovation and construction projects.)

Donned with a hardhat, and pen and paper in hand — Pampa ISD Director of Construction Randy Stephenson guided me through the mazes and tunnels of plastic coverings hanging from the ceiling of Pampa High School's first floor hall.

Much of the first floor is sealed off as asbestos abatement continues in the "ceiling above the ceiling," Stephenson explained. School ended on a Friday, he said, and all of this abatement began the following Monday.

"I feel like I should have to wear a special space suit around here or something," remarked Secretary Sandee Stokes as she crossed the hall before us on our first-floor trek.

There was definitely something extraterrestrial-feeling about the scene, if for nothing

else than the fact that the clear, plastic, makeshift wall-ways had severed the familiar, first floor principals' offices from the rest of the school.

The ceilings were stripped in the air-contained hallway revealing the electrical wiring and decades-old piping that has kept this historical building going all these years since it was built in 1942 as part of the Depression-era's Work Project.

A PHS makeover has been way overdue.

When Gray County citizens voted to approve the bond issue in November of 2006, this allowed the school district leadership to begin the process of

bringing campus facilities into the 21st century along with Pampa's tech-savvy students.

As is usually the case, construction, or reconstruction for that matter, is no easy feat. It almost always takes longer than initially expected and requires ample amounts of patience to overcome the daily obstacles that are destined to be uncovered as the building and its grounds are also exposed.

But Western Builders' Jeff Popp has taken up the gauntlet. He is the superintendent for the high school's renovations, which are now projected to

See PHS, Page 3



Submitted photo

A large crane towers above the high school and is used to set steel for the project.

Man drowns at Lake Greenbelt

An autopsy was to be performed this morning in Lubbock on a Pampa man who drowned early Saturday morning at Greenbelt Lake.

Chafen Wayne Wilson, 21, of Pampa, drowned shortly after midnight Friday near Old Clarendon Point.

Donley County sheriff's officials said today that they received an emergency call about 12:30 a.m. Saturday concerning a drowning at

Lake Greenbelt.

Wilson's body was recovered by the Donley County Fire Department dive team about 1:16 a.m. Saturday in eight feet of water. Officials



See DROWNING, Page 3

Stout named to interim post

Assistant Police Chief Logan Stout has been named Interim Police Chief for the Pampa Police Department effective immediately, according to City Manager Trevlyn Pitner.

Pitner, the former police chief, was named to the city manager position on July 8. After former City Manager John Horst retired, Pitner served the dual roles of interim city manager and police chief.

Pitner said that Stout is "the right choice at the right

time" and that having someone in place within the department who is ready to step into the top spot makes the transition much easier.

"Not having to worry



Logan Stout

See STOUT, Page 3

Economic development incentives on city agenda

Economic development will top the agenda at the Pampa City Commission meeting set for 4 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall.

Ken May, president of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, and Dwight Fiveash, executive director of the economic development corporation, will talk with the city commission concerning tax abatement incentives.

The commission will consider the Pampa Economic Development Corporation's operating budget. It is projected to be \$440,000 for the year.

The tax abatement issue and wind energy are to be

part of the discussions planned for a work session following the commission meeting.

The city commission will also consider a contract with Gray County for tax assessment and collection services and fees set by Gray County.

The county is going up on their fees from \$6,800 a year to \$7,004.

During the work session, the commission is scheduled to discuss the city's budget for the next fiscal year, the city landfill, water wells, utility rates and the municipal court judge in addition to tax abatements and wind energy.

PEDC to meet in closed session tomorrow afternoon

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation board of directors will meet in closed session Tuesday afternoon.

It is scheduled to meet in executive session at 2 p.m., Tuesday, in the Nona Payne Room of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce

offices in the Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

Pampa Economic Development Corporation President Ken May and Executive Director Dwight

Fiveash are scheduled to appear before the Pampa City Commission at 4 p.m. at City Hall.

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday



Sunny

Tuesday: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday



Sunny

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 92. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Services tomorrow

EVANS, Eva Lorene — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the period from 7 a.m. Thursday through 11:59 p.m. Saturday.

Thursday, July 17

Nine traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Hobart and Alcock streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Highway 293 and Farm to Market Road 2300, the 600 block of Jupiter and the 100 block of West Foster.

Calls and stops concerning animals occurred in the 1000 block of Terry Road, the 1600 block of Evergreen, the 1000 block of Love (twice), the 700 block of North Gray, the 900 block of East Browning, the 400 block of North Sumner, and the intersection of Powell and Harvester streets.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Highways 60 and 70.

A welfare check was made in the 300 block of Miami.

A suspicious person call was received from the 700 block of North Roberta. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from Recreation Park, 1600 E. Highway 60.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1300 block of Garland, the intersection of Harvester Avenue and Bradley Drive, and the 400 block of Hughes.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of Carr. A window valued at \$100 was broken.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of East Browning.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Hughes. A vehicle and its driver were egged.

A threat was reported in the 1600 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of Bradley Drive.

Assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th. Minor injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of North Nelson.

A checkbook was either lost or stolen.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported

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Obituaries

Fred Mann, 74

Fred Mann, 74, of Pampa, died July 20, 2008, at

Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-

Whatley Funeral Directors. —Sign the on-line register

book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Eva Lorene Evans, 82

Eva Lorene Evans, 82, of Pampa, Texas, died July 17, 2008, at Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. Carl Novian, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church, officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Evans was born Sept. 10, 1925, in War Eagle,

Ark. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1942.

Eva married Audrey Evans in Pampa, and he preceded her in death in 1978.

She worked at a waitress at the Owen Johnson Café for several years and worked as a cook for the Pampa Senior Citizens Center.



Evans

Eva was a member of the First Baptist Church for many years. She loved her animals as much as she did people.

Survivors include two stepsons, James Evans of Arizona and Earl Evans of Montana; one stepdaughter, Peggy Gallgan of Arizona; two grand-

nephews, her longtime caregiver, Roy Burton and wife Louann and Robby Burton, all of Pampa; and one grand-niece, Rosland Moya of Houston.

MEMORIALS: American Diabetes Association, 8008 Slide Road, Suite 12-A, Lubbock, TX 79424.

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

Chafen Wayne Wilson, 21

Chafen Wayne Wilson, 21, of Pampa, Texas, died July 19, 2008, at Lake Greenbelt. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Wilson was born Sept. 11, 1986, in Pampa. Chafen was a lifelong resident of Pampa where he graduated from Pampa High School in 2006. He was raised in the First Baptist Church and was a member of Highland Baptist Church of Pampa.

He was employed a various times at the family businesses.

Survivors include his mother, Jill Wilson of Pampa; his father, Loney Wilson and wife Melody of Mobeetie; two sisters, Chandon Portillo and husband Felipe of Pampa, and Lily Forbes of Mobeetie; four brothers, Cade Wilson, Conor Wilson, Dillon Forbes and Ben Wilson, all of Mobeetie; his maternal grandparents, Kaye Zachary



Wilson

and Dwayne Johnson, both of Elk City, Okla.; his paternal grandparents, Wayne and Zelda Wilson, and Dwight and Kathy Dennis, all of Pampa; his paternal great-grandparents, Ardelle Sirmans and Jean Orr, both of Pampa; a nephew, Ayden Portillo of Pampa; aunts and uncles, Brad and Sheri Johnson of Yukon, Okla., Chil and Stephanie Wilson

of Amarillo, Judd and Sherri Wilson, Todd and Jona Little, and Michael Dennis, all of Pampa; and a host of cousins and extended family.

MEMORIALS: Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) in care of Suzanne Pingel, Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Amarillo Arborlogical will be sending an ISA Certified Arborist to service Pampa, Wheeler and Canadian on Tuesday, July 22nd.

To schedule an appointment, call Matt Johnson at 341-8257.

Amarillo Arborlogical is a full service Tree and Plant Health Care Company specializing in Fertilization, Insect Control, Pruning, Tree and Stump Removals.

arrest.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1100 block of South Dwight concerning follow-up on a runaway.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 700 block of Lefors and the 11800 block of West Highway 60.

Welfare checks were made at the intersection of Nelson and Alcock streets, the 1000 block of Twiford and the 1500 block of Williston.

Civil matters were reported in the 1000 block of East Browning and the police department lobby.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 700 block of East 16th, the 1200 block of North Wells and the 2100 block of North Wells.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1000 block of North Frost, the 600 block of East Frederic, the 2600 block of Dogwood and Recreation Park.

Evading arrest was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Siroco and the 1300 block of North Starkweather.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of Municipal Drive.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of Magnolia. A vehicle windshield valued at \$500 was cracked.

Threats were reported in the 1200 block of North Wells, the police department lobby and the 800 block of East Francis.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 600 block of Bradley Drive, the 500 block of North Naida and the 1500 block of North Wells.

An offense against family and children was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

One alarm was reported. Two building checks and one business check were made.

Burglary was reported at Verona Italian Bistro, 220 N. Hobart. Consumable goods valued at \$160 were taken.

Burglary was reported in the 3000 block of East Foster. Two windows of unknown estimated value were broken. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.

Saturday, July 19

Michael Francis Lyons, 21, of Lynn, Mass., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of 50 pounds or less but more than five pounds of marijuana.

Jodie S. Mathews, 26, of Dover, N.H., was arrested by DPS for possession of 50 pounds or less but more than five pounds of marijuana.

Ignacio Vargas III, 34, of Pampa was arrested in the 600 block of Plains by Pampa Police Department

for no valid driver's license and no proof of financial responsibility.

Sunday, July 20

Benito Nicholas Martinez, 22, of Pampa was arrested in the 1200 block of North Hobart by Pampa PD for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Jeremy Frank Martinez, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 1200 block of North Hobart by Pampa PD for public intoxication.

Bobby Joe Remy, 67, of Amarillo was arrested by GCSO for theft of property over \$20 and under \$500 by check.

Kelly Ray Finger, 38, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for no valid driver's license.

Theodore Edward Whitley, 34, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance.

Michael Marquest Diamond, 23, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of East Atchison by Pampa PD for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Megan Renee Payne, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 1400 block of North Hobart by Pampa PD for theft of property over \$50 and under \$500.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchery Grain of White Deer:

Wheat	7.30
Milo	9.46
Corn	10.44
Soybeans	12.69

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward

Jones & Co. of Pampa	
OXY	78.98 +1.39
BP PLC ADR	62.33 -0.07
Cabot Corp	24.44 -0.07
Celanese	45.07 +0.68
Cabot Oil Gas	52.46 +0.85
Coca Cola	49.76 -0.27
VLO	34.83 +1.72
HAL	47.74 +0.76
XCEL	20.07 +0.13
Anadarko	64.29 +1.04
XOM	81.74 +0.76
Nat'l Oilwell	79.49 +0.54
Limited	16.26 -0.12
Williams	34.60 +0.48
MCD	60.48 +0.04
Atmos	25.57 +0.06
Pioneer Nat	65.71 +0.63
JCP	31.64 -0.07
COP	84.66 +0.75
SLB	104.09 +3.54
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HIGHLAND BAPTIST Church's VBS will be Saturday, July 26 from 8:30 am to 2 pm at Central Park. Contact Eva Price at 440-2281 for more information.



Renovating the women students' restroom on the first floor.

Submitted photo

PHS

Continued from Front Page

be finished by the Christmas of 2009.

Jeff accompanied Stephenson and me on our venture.

"Western Builders will do both the high school renovations and the new junior high," Stephenson said of Western Builders. "Jeff will be with us for two and a half years or so."

As we continued walking through the plastic-adorned hallway of the first floor, aside from the ceilings and the men working toward abating asbestos — something which is commonly present in facilities of this age — Stephenson explained that the workers were not only preparing for abatement work, but that others were also putting in the mechanisms required for new fire sprinkler, electrical telephone and intercom systems.

"They're all working on something different," he said.

Other than the obvious multi-tasking occurring in the hallways, the next major area under renovation on the first floor was happening in what used to be the old Home Economics classrooms on the south side of the first floor.

These former adjoining classrooms, one for cooking and one for sewing, are now nothing more than one large concrete-slabbed area stripped down to the bare essentials. The old cooking room will be converted into a regular classroom and an administration conference room, to replace the one that will be eliminated in the reconstruction plans.

The remaining sewing area will be converted into a regular classroom as well. The home economics program will then temporarily be combined into one classroom in the vocational building for the coming school year.

Plans are being made next summer for the sewing room to be replaced in a portion of the welding area of the vocational building, while the cooking program will then be taught in its current location in the vocational building.

The first floor girls' restroom, across the hall from the former home economics classrooms is also getting a facelift. It is the only student restroom being totally renovated, according to Stephenson.

"We're redoing all the stall partitions and replacing plumbing and fixtures on half of the restroom. One reason we're doing this is to make sure one of the stalls is ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliant," Stephenson said.

As many in the community saw last summer, the old newspaper and yearbook classroom at the east end of the first floor was completely demolished. It will be relocated on the second floor. Speech and debate,

video broadcast, the foreign language classes and ISS will be relocated to the renovated basement area.

The cafeteria will be placed in the new portion of the high school just north of the current first floor hallway, which is what many of us see going on right now. The new cafeteria is positioned west of the tennis courts. The visible steel structured-area will be the new, two story science classroom complex — replacing the old demolished second-story science wing.

This is what makes things a little complicated, according to Stephenson, for the construction crew is not only renovating the current high school, but they are also working on building the brand new portions of the campus as well.

In addition to the new science wing and cafeteria facilities, a student commons area is also being built, attached to the cafeteria area, providing students a safe, open area for congregating.

A new library is in the works as well. The library and all of its books were temporarily relocated in the vocational building this last school year. But the librarians weren't the only ones moved out. Science teachers and their students were relocated into the portable buildings placed in the school's main parking lot last summer.

Second-floor English and social studies teachers will get the portable building experience starting this coming January. According to Stephenson and Popp, the plan is for the science complex to be completed at Christmas. Science teachers will then move into their facilities, and then the English and social studies teachers on the west end of the second floor will move out to the portable buildings at that time while their classrooms are being renovated. Plans are for the third floor classrooms to move to the portables during spring break of 2009. First floor administration offices and the basement will be renovated during the summer of 2009.

But the most immediate work to be done involves the renovation of 16 classrooms on the first floor that must be completed by the time school starts.

I walked into one of the rooms slated to be finished. All of these rooms will have new ceilings with recessed lighting and electrical outlets to support the computers and technology of education in the coming years. In addition, new storage units, paint and flooring will also be provided.

What is the Plan B if these classrooms aren't ready by August 25? I ask Mr. Stephenson.

"That's not an option," he told me.

And so the race is on. The typical crew of 30-40 construction workers could

go to as many as 100 to make sure the work gets completed in the next few weeks.

The school office is presently closed until July 14.

Drowning

Continued from Front Page

said the body was found about 75 feet off shore.

Sheriff's officials said Wilson was apparently swimming across a cove northwest of the Sandy Beach area. He was at the lake with friends, officials said today.

Officers said statements were taken from witnesses, but there appeared to be no sign of foul play.

Sheriff's officials said that in addition to the Donley County Fire Department and Donley County Sheriff's office,

Donley County Emergency Medical Technicians and officers with the Greenbelt Water Authority assisted in the recovery.

Donley County Justice of the Peace Ann Kennedy of Hedley ordered an autopsy. Judge Kennedy was on call during the weekend.

Services were pending today with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors in Pampa.

Wilson was born in Pampa and graduated from Pampa High School in 2006. He was raised in the First Baptist Church and was a member of the Highland

Baptist Church.

Survivors include his mother Jill Wilson of Pampa; his father, Loney Wilson and his wife Melody of Mobeetie; two sisters, Chandon Portilo and her husband Felipe of Pampa, and Lily Forbes of Mobeetie; four brothers, Cade Wilson, Conor Wilson, Dillon Forbes and Ben Wilson, all of Mobeetie; maternal grandparents, Kaye Zachary and Dwayne Johnson of Elk City, and paternal grandparents, Wayne and Zelda Wilson and Dwight and Kathy Dennis, all of Pampa.

Stout

Continued from Front Page

about the immediate future of the police department means the world to me right now," Pitner said. "We have many issues to face as a city and the Police Department is not one I want to worry about."

"I was searching for a good assistant chief and future chief for Pampa when Logan came along and he came along at the right

time."

Logan Stout is a fifth generation Texas peace officer. He graduated valedictorian from the 63rd Class - Panhandle Regional Law Enforcement Academy in Amarillo and has over 15 years of municipal police experience working with Vernon and The Colony Police Departments. During his career, Stout has been assigned to a wide variety of duties as an officer and/or

supervisor including patrol, police fitness training and criminal investigations.

Stout is a Texas Panhandle native who graduated from Dalhart High School and later receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University. Logan and his wife Melissa have two boys, ages 12 and 15.

Study says Texas, Delaware residents enjoy highest level of economic freedom

Delaware and Texas are the most economically free states in the U.S., while West Virginia has the dubious distinction of being the least economically free, according to a new study from the Fraser Institute.

"Economic freedom is one of the main drivers of prosperity and growth. States with low levels of economic freedom reduce the ability of their citizens to prosper economically, leaving people poorer than they need be," said Fred McMahon, co-author of the report and director of globalization studies at the Fraser Institute, an economic think tank with offices throughout North America.

States with the next highest levels of economic freedom are Colorado, Georgia, and North Carolina. Maine and Mississippi join West Virginia near the bottom of the rankings.

The Institute's peer-reviewed study, Economic Freedom of North America: 2008 Annual Report, measures the impact of economic freedom on the level of economic activity and the growth of economic activity in 50 U.S. states and 10 Canadian provinces by creating an index utilizing 10 components based on size of government, taxation, and labor market freedom.

The Economic Freedom of

North America index is an offshoot of the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World index, the result of two decades of work by more than 60 scholars, including three Nobel Laureates.

This year's Economic Freedom of North America report includes a new overview of economic freedom in different regions of the United States.

"This snapshot of economic freedom in the Northeast, the Southeast, the Midwest, the Southwest, and the West allows for comparisons between neighboring states in a number of categories," said Alan Dowd, Fraser Institute senior fellow and contributor to the report.

"For instance, it's interesting to note that the states with the best record of economic freedom are predominately in the western half of the country."

Between 2000 and 2005, North Dakota had the fastest growth in economic freedom with Wyoming and Montana tied for second. South Dakota, Nevada, Nebraska, Iowa, and Florida tied for fourth.

New Mexico stands out as the only state with negative growth in economic freedom between 2000 and 2005. Arizona had the second lowest growth rate, with Connecticut, Michigan,

South Carolina, New York, and Ohio all tied for third lowest.

Over this same time period, per-capita GDP in the United States grew by nine percent, compared to five percent in the states with the worst growth record and 18 percent in the states with the best.

Reinforcing the notion that economic freedom leads to greater prosperity, the 2008 report shows that Colorado, Georgia, Delaware, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and Texas — states with consistently strong records of economic freedom — had a GDP per capita that was more than \$4,300 above the American average in 2005. Plus, their growth from 1981 to 2005 is nearly 20 percentage points higher.

"States with high levels of

economic freedom are those that tend to have lower taxes, smaller government, and flexible labor markets. These conditions create jobs and opportunities leading to economic growth," McMahon said.

Delaware, the most economically free state, has the best score for both low levels of government and low taxes. Nevada and Texas are second and third for low levels of government with Alaska and South Dakota ranked second and third for low tax levels.

States in the South and Southwest tend to have the best scores for labor market freedom, with North Carolina and Texas leading the way, followed closely by Georgia and Virginia.

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SHARON CHILDRESS

Viewpoints

Texas tales: The story of Pecos cow

She didn't have a particularly feminine sounding name, but the old heifer they called Pecos sure came branded with a good story.

The tale came to light in the fall of 1928, when W.E. "Will" Pruett of Santa Rita, N.M., showed up in Alpine and Fort Davis looking for old acquaintances.

His father, Philip H. Pruett, had been one of Fort Davis' earliest civilian settlers. He and his family had arrived at the small town adjacent to the frontier cavalry post in what is now Jeff Davis County in the summer of 1880.

Forty-eight years later Will Pruett found only two people still living in Fort Davis who had been around

during his youth, and only one person in Alpine. But at some point during his visit he ran into a newspaper correspondent who interviewed him and wrote a story about him for the Dallas Morning News. (The journalist may have been Barry Scobee, who came to Fort Davis in 1917, but the piece does not have a byline.)

In 1876, Pruett related, his father took the family by train from White County, Arkansas, to Trinidad, Colo. From there, Philip Pruett carried his wife Martha and five kids (then 8 year old Will was the oldest child) in a wagon to Santa Fe, N.M. That fall Pruett bought a herd of 40 shorthorn cattle and with his family and three

cowboys left New Mexico for West Texas.

All they had was one wagon and two horses. Along the way, they had to melt snow to provide drinking water for themselves and their stock.

On New Year's Day 1877, they finally reached Ben Ficklin, at the time the seat of Tom Green County. The 500-plus mile trip in the dead of winter had been hard on man and beast.

"After our long and perilous journey," Pruett recalled, "all of our herd died of the Texas fever [a

tick-borne illness] except four dogie calves and one 2 year old heifer."

That sturdy heifer was Pecos, named after the river the Pruetts had to cross midway on their journey from Santa Fe to Texas.

Not yet named, Pecos joined the herd about a week before Christmas.

The Pruetts and their herders sat in camp on the north side of the river near the present town of Pecos when a rider approached. The man, who worked on a nearby farm, offered a 2 year old heifer to Pruett in exchange for a

pound of coffee.

"Father told the Mexican that he had no saddle horse and that the heifer was wild and that he couldn't keep her with the bunch," Pruett remembered.

The visitor said he would stay with them until the heifer settled down.

"So my father told him that he would give him the pound of coffee for the heifer," Pruett continued. "Then the Mexican went from the camp and in a little while came back with the heifer roped."

The man tied her to a mesquite bush for the night. The next morning they formally made the trade, cow for coffee. Soon after, presumably, the previous owner

of the heifer enjoyed a hot cup of Joe on a cold December day.

Not long after acquiring Pecos, the Pruetts ran into a caravan of traders on their way to Mexico down the Chihuahua Trail. Their wagons were loaded with dried buffalo meat.

After that, Pruett said, they did not see anyone else for 19 days straight, the time it took them to travel the stage coach road from Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos to Ben Ficklin.

The Pruett family stayed in the Concho country until 1880, when the elder Pruett decided to relocate to Fort Davis. They pushed a herd

See COX, Page 6

Mike Cox
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 21, the 203rd day of 2008. There are 163 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 21, 1861, the first Battle of Bull Run was fought at Manassas, Va., resulting in a Confederate victory.

On this date:

In 1831, Leopold I was proclaimed King of the Belgians.

In 1925, the so-called "Monkey Trial" ended in Dayton, Tenn., with John T. Scopes convicted of violating state law for teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (The conviction was later overturned on a technicality.)

In 1930, President Hoover signed an executive order establishing the Veterans Administration.

'This is the final test of a gentleman: His respect for those who can be of no possible service to him.'

— William Lyon Phelps
American educator
(1865-1943)

In 1944, American forces landed on Guam during World War II.

In 1949, the U.S. Senate ratified the North Atlantic Treaty.

In 1954, the Geneva Conference concluded with accords dividing Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1955, during a summit in Geneva, President Eisenhower presented his "open skies" proposal under which the U.S. and the Soviet Union would

trade information on each other's military facilities and allow aerial reconnaissance.

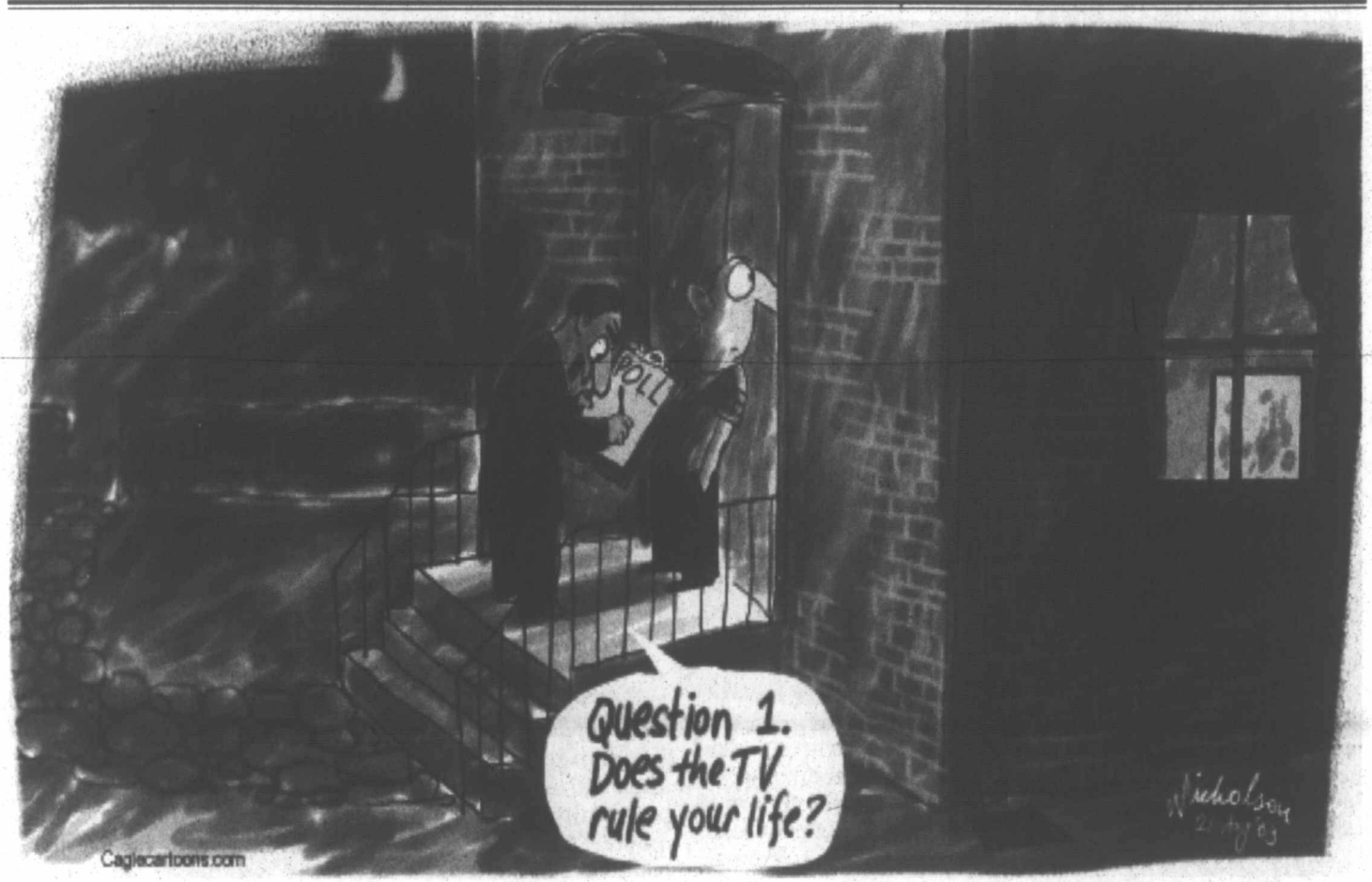
In 1961, Capt. Virgil "Gus" Grissom became the second American to rocket into a suborbital pattern around the Earth, flying aboard the Liberty Bell 7.

In 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin blasted off from the moon aboard the lunar module.

In 1980, draft registration began in the United States for 19- and 20-year-old men.

Ten years ago: President Clinton announced a crackdown on nursing homes that were lax about quality and on states that were doing a poor job of regulating them. The Pentagon said it found no evidence to support allegations in a CNN report that U.S. troops had used nerve gas during a 1970 operation in Laos designed to hunt down American defectors. Astronaut Alan Shepard died in Monterey, Calif., at age 74. Actor Robert Young died in Westlake Village, Calif., at age 91.

Five years ago: President Bush said he was working to persuade more nations to help in Iraq. Carlton Dotson Jr., the roommate of missing Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy, was arrested and charged with Dennehy's murder. (Dotson later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 35 years in prison.)



True free-market system dog-eat-dog affair

I've observed through the years that more people like to support free-market economies verbally than actually participate in one. It's understandable when you know that a true free-market economy is a dog-eat-dog affair. Any good history of the Industrial Revolution will teach you that.

Living in the South, I've never belonged to a union. I've always thought that one boss was one too many. I was never about to pay somebody else to be a second boss. On the other hand, I've always recognized that most of the workplace benefits most of us take for granted are the result of long battles waged by unions.

Ironically, when unions were strong, the best situation was to work for an employer who was afraid his employees would unionize. A little industry developed in the 1950s of consultants who advised corporations that the best way to keep unions out

was to pay a decent wage and provide a safe workplace and reasonably good benefits. Most of the smart bosses went along, however reluctantly.

Today, the American union movement is largely broken, thanks to free trade and generally unsympathetic politicians. Free trade — which as practiced is not really free and certainly not based on reciprocity — enabled the multinational corporations to export their jobs to foreign countries. No union has any leverage if an employer can say, "Accept my terms or I'll close the plant and move your jobs to Mexico or China."

The Big Lie politicians trot out when people begin to complain about so-called free trade is that American workers can compete with

anyone. That qualifies for the Big Lie label because it is obviously untrue. How can an American making \$20 an hour compete with somebody who will do the same work for \$4 a day? Can you compete at \$9 an hour sewing bluejeans when poor women in Central America get paid 75 cents a pair to cut and sew bluejeans?

How can American farmers compete, while complying with all of our labor and environmental laws, against somebody south of the border who can grow the same produce without giving a spit for his workers, sanitation or the environment? The trouble with the "flat earth" propagandists is that the hidden assumption is Americans will endure the same low standard of living you find in places like South America

and many parts of Asia.

Some of the blame for this falls on the shoulders of union leaders who were either stupid or corrupt. They were stupid if they fell for the government line "Don't worry about lost jobs; we'll train people for new jobs." Sure, some 56-year-old assembly line worker will easily transition to a computer programmer or a medical doctor. Sure, frogs sing opera and lions eat turmps.

People sometimes forget when they talk about the 19th-century battles over tariffs that Southerners never advocated not having tariffs. They simply wanted a uniform revenue tariff. Even so, an honest look at the American economy will tell you that we became a great industrial power behind a wall of protective tariffs. If you want a prosperous population, you must have a strong manufacturing base,

See REESE, Page 6

Charley Reese
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ July 13
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the Federal Reserve's latest moves:

Better now than never. The Federal Reserve Board is expected to adopt regulations today curbing home lending practices that have led to a devastating nationwide wave of foreclosures, a credit crunch, destabilized financial institutions and tumbling stock prices.

You could accurately call these mortgage lending practices such as "liar loans" irresponsible, shady, loose or dangerous.

Whatever you want to label them,

they're foolish practices that must be stopped.

In fact, they should have been squelched long before now. Had that been done, subprime loan wouldn't have become a term almost rivaling toxic waste dump.

The Associated Press reports the Fed is likely to prohibit lenders from making loans without proof of a borrower's income, the so-called "liar loans" in which homebuyers fudged the truth about their income to get a mortgage approved.

The Fed also is expected to stop lenders from penalizing high-risk borrowers who pay home loans off early and require lenders to ensure that borrowers have the financial wherewithal to pay property taxes and insurance.

Costs for insurance and taxes often are included in the monthly mortgage payment but in some cases were not fully disclosed.

The new Fed rules, first proposed in December, also are likely to bar lenders from granting a loan without considering a homebuyer's ability to repay the loan with money from assets other than the home's value.

During a prolonged housing boom, when home prices were rapidly escalating, careless assumptions sometimes were made that a homeowner who got behind on mortgage payments could simply sell the home for a higher price and pay off the loan.

But when housing prices began

See FEDS, Page 6

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My cousin's 9-year-old son, "Andy," has been living with me for the past few years. Now my husband has been diagnosed with cancer, and I must return Andy to his mother. Abby, his mother is an alcoholic and drug addict. She has no income, and the list goes on. How do I return that boy to this type of environment? My immediate and extended families insist he go home to his mother, but I am worried about his future. What do I do? I need to concentrate and focus on my husband's health, but who will give Andy the care that he needs? -- **WORRIED AUNT IN COLORADO**

DEAR WORRIED AUNT: There is an alternative to returning Andy to that unhealthy environment, but it will require cooperation from your immediate and extended families. Keep the child with you, but have him stay with the relatives at the times your husband is getting his treatments. If they are unwilling, perhaps the parents of some of Andy's friends would be willing to help out. Please give it a try and let me know what happens, because the best place for Andy is with responsible people who know and love him.

DEAR ABBY: I am in my early 40s. Most of my good friends, whom I have known my whole life, have not given a second thought to our approaching "golden years." No one is saving money for retirement, participating in any sort of plan or even thinking about how they will manage later in life. They all have fun, interesting, low-paying jobs. This mindset may have been fine 20 years ago, but we aren't kids anymore. I worry that when my friends are senior citizens they will be destitute. They laugh off my worries. My parents are enjoying a modest but comfortable retirement which they worked for -- and planned for -- most of their lives. I want the same for myself and my friends. How can I inspire them to take action? -- **TOM IN**

LONG BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR TOM: You are a caring and wise friend who is surrounded by perpetual adolescents. Sometimes people can be their own worst enemies, and it's not always possible to save them from themselves. Talking to people who choose to live for today while ignoring the importance of preparing for tomorrow won't work. A better approach would be to teach them by example, then cross your fingers and hope they catch on.

DEAR ABBY: Perhaps you can settle a minor disagreement between a fellow bartender and me. I say it is impolite to remove a cash tip from the bar before a patron leaves. She, however, just grabs the money and counts it -- right in front of the customer. She thinks it's OK because the customer wants to be acknowledged and thanked. Abby, I always thank my customers, whether they tip or not, and I think counting money in front of them sends a message that we value their gratuity more than their business. What is the polite way to handle this? -- **SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED IN MARCO ISLAND, FLA.**

DEAR "S.N.S.": Your co-worker's technique makes me wonder if her acknowledgment is given on a sliding scale, commensurate with the tip. (Ten percent gets a nod. Fifteen percent gets a smile. Twenty percent and she says, "Come back soon!") I prefer your more low-key and appropriate method -- and it isn't even close.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



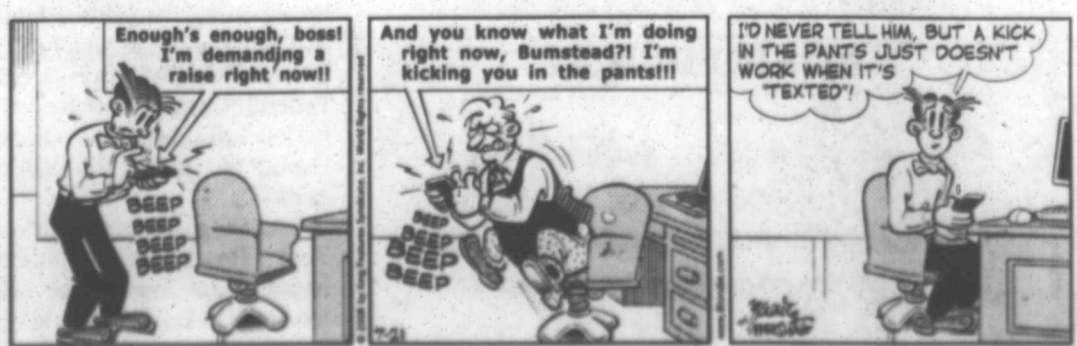
Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



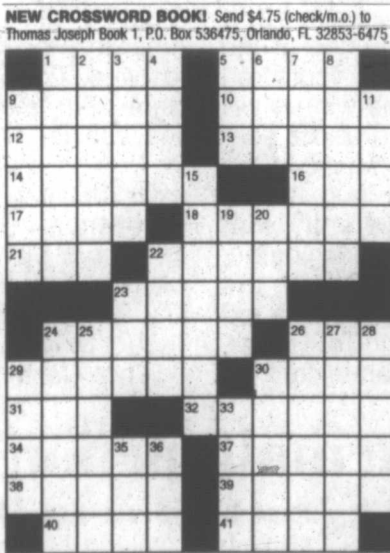
Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fly high protectors
 - 5 Surgery reminder
 - 9 Bolivian city
 - 10 Might
 - 12 "Rigoletto," for one
 - 13 Plant with spiny leaves
 - 14 Self-assurance
 - 16 Youngster
 - 17 Farm implement
 - 18 Art stands
 - 21 Collection
 - 22 Angelic
 - 23 College study
 - 24 Fiddle
 - 26 Toupee's kin
 - 29 Messy room
 - 30 Bike part
 - 31 Writer
 - 32 Italian thanks
 - 34 -- of (in conflict with)
 - 37 Stockpile
 - 38 Like Thor
 - 39 Binge
 - 40 Clarinet part
- DOWN**
- 1 Limber
 - 2 Spotted cat
 - 3 Quiver item
 - 4 Paper quantity
 - 5 Healthful retreat
 - 6 Gear part
 - 7 Come to address
 - 8 Upbraid
 - 9 Afternoon TV
 - 11 Some wines
 - 15 2008 Olympics site
 - 19 Stratford river
 - 20 Polite address
 - 22 Valley
 - 23 Swabbing tool
 - 24 Try to win
 - 25 Pay no heed to
 - 26 Spell expert
 - 27 Van Gogh subject
 - 28 Honkers
 - 29 Scheme
 - 30 Florida city
 - 33 Grating sound
 - 35 Employ
 - 36 Was a pioneer



Marmaduke



"We jumped over the fence, the car and the storage shed. He finally gave up on the moon."

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



Deadly tolls: Sick truckers causing fatal accidents

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of tractor-trailer and bus drivers in the United States carry commercial driver's licenses despite also qualifying for full federal disability payments, and some of those drivers have suffered seizures, heart attacks or unconscious spells, according to a new U.S. safety study obtained by The Associated Press.

The problems threatening highway travelers persist despite years of government warnings and hundreds of deaths and injuries blamed on commercial truck and bus drivers who blacked out, collapsed or suffered major health problems behind the wheels of vehicles that can weigh 40 tons or more.

The U.S. agency responsible for cracking down on unfit truckers, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, acknowledges it hasn't completed any of eight recommendations that U.S. safety regulators have proposed since 2001. One would set minimum standards for officials who deter-

mine whether truckers are medically safe to drive. Another would prevent truckers from "doctor shopping" to find a physician who might overlook a risky health condition. It's unclear whether any of the eight recommendations will be done before President Bush leaves office.

"We have a major public safety problem, and we haven't corrected it," said Gerald Donaldson, senior research director at the Washington-based Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, whose members include consumer, health and safety groups and insurance com-

The problems threatening highway travelers persist despite years of government warnings and hundreds of deaths and injuries blamed on commercial truck and bus drivers who blacked out, collapsed or suffered major health problems behind the wheels of vehicles that can weigh 40 tons or more.

panies. "You have an agency that is favorably disposed to maintaining the integrity of the industry's economic situation."

Truckers violating federal medical rules have been caught in every state, according to a review by the AP of 7.3 million commercial driver violations compiled by the Transportation Department in 2006, the latest data available. Texas, Maryland, Georgia, Florida, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Alabama, New Jersey, Minnesota and Ohio were states where drivers were sanctioned most frequently for break-

ing medical rules, such as failing to carry a valid medical certificate. Those 12 states accounted for half of all such violations in the United States.

Consider these cases:

—A Florida bus driver who suffers from lung disease and uses three daily inhalers to control breathing told congressional investigators that he "occasionally blacks out and forgets things." He works as a substitute driver despite not having a medical certificate, and his commercial license expires in 2010. The driver, who was not identified but will figure prominently in a congressional hearing this week, has collected Social Security benefits since 1994. He confided to investigators that he "gets winded" walking to his mailbox but has no problem driving a passenger bus.

—A Virginia trucker with a prosthetic leg from a farm accident more than 10 years ago is permitted to drive tanker trucks until at

See WRECKS, Page 8

Cox

Continued from Page 4 of Longhorns into that high country, according to Will Pruett, "the first bunch of stock cattle ever driven west of the Pecos."

They lived two miles up Limpia Canyon, initially making a living by selling milk and butter to the military garrison. Later the family moved to Musquiz Canyon, where Pruett continued to run cattle. The pioneer rancher also played a role in setting up one of the area's first schools and helped blaze the road from Fort Davis to the new railroad town of Murphysville, later renamed Alpine.

Pruett kept Pecos, the heifer he got for a pound of coffee, for the rest of her long life. He had made a sharp trade. According to Will Pruett, Pecos lived for 23 years, giving birth to 19 heifers and one steer calf.

"Her increase ran to more than 200 head in a few years," Pruett said in his 1928 interview. "One thousand dollars profit on the pound of coffee is a very conservative estimate of what the initial investment brought."

Reese

Continued from Page 4 and you must control immigration.

The politicians we've elected since the 1960s have destroyed most of our manufacturing base and opened the floodgates to immigration, both legal and illegal. When there is a surplus of labor, the price of labor is driven down. That's free-market economics. So-called free trade has consistently produced trade deficits, which have resulted in a massive transfer of wealth to overseas countries. Most Americans have no idea how much of our country is owned by foreigners. We are ill-informed by the press, lied to by our politicians and poorly prepared by public education. That's a formula for a bad future.

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

Feds

Continued from Page 4 crashing, that theory went out the window.

The Center for Responsible Lending has conducted a study forecasting that millions of American homeowners will lose their houses and as much as \$164 billion as a result of foreclosures in the subprime mortgage market.

The "Losing Ground" study forecast that one in five subprime loans issued in 2005 and 2006 will fail.

That not only hurts those who lose their homes, but also neighboring homeowners who experience a ripple effect of having their property values fall.

On Friday, the fallout from the mortgage mess hammered Wall Street.

The stocks of embattled mortgage finance behemoths Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac fell significantly, sending the entire market into a tailspin and generating talk of a potential government bailout. More than \$5 trillion worth of mortgages are held or guaranteed by the two entities a dollar figure roughly 70 percent higher than the annual federal budget of \$2.9 trillion.

The Federal Reserve's proposed rules are expected to apply to new loans made by lenders of all types, including mortgage brokers and banks.

The Fed should act immediately to help ensure that another disastrous housing crisis doesn't occur. We don't want to go through this again, do we?

POLITICS

Obama begins firsthand look at Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Barack Obama began Monday his first on-the-ground inspection of Iraq since launching his bid for the White House, with U.S. commanders ready to brief him on progress in a war he long opposed and Iraqi leaders wanting more details of his proposals for troop withdrawals.

His stops in Baghdad — and other areas of the country — marked the second major leg of a war zone tour that opened in Afghanistan. The contrasts in tone and message were distinct.

Obama sees the battle against the resurgent Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan as America's most crucial fight and supports expanding troop strength to counter a sharp rise in attacks.

But Obama had stood against the Iraq invasion and now worries that an open-ended U.S. combat mission will sap military resources and focus — at a time when Iraq violence has dropped to its lowest level in four years.

The Illinois senator — traveling in a congressional delegation with Sens. Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Chuck Hagel, R-Neb. — arrived in the country early Monday. Their first stop was Basra, the U.S. Embassy said.

Basra is the center for about 4,000 British troops involved mostly in training Iraqi forces. An Iraqi-led offensive begun in March reclaimed control of most of the city from Shiite militia believed linked to Iran.

Travel plans for the Democratic presidential candidate were kept secret, but he was seen arriving for a meeting with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in the heavily protected

Green Zone. Obama has made no public statements since arriving in Iraq. There was no noticeable tightening of security on Baghdad's streets and inside the Green Zone.

'This is the same strategy that he voted against, railed against. He was wrong about the surge. It is succeeding and we are winning.'

— GOP presidential nominee John McCain

The meetings were expected to include the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, and other military chiefs outlining the significant gains in recent months against both Shiite militia and Sunni insurgents including al-Qaida in Iraq.

The White House and military leaders — and many residents of Baghdad — trace the momentum back to last year's buildup of more than 30,000 troops in areas around Iraq's capital. Obama's challenger, Sen. John McCain, has tried to hammer Obama on his critical remarks before the so-called "surge."

In an interview Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America," McCain said he hoped Obama would now "have the opportunity to see the success of the surge."

"This is the same strategy that he voted against, railed against,"

McCain said. "He was wrong about the surge. It is succeeding and we are winning."

All five surge brigades have left Iraq, but there are still about 147,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq, more than in early 2007.

Obama has endorsed removing U.S. combat forces over a 16-month period, but has been less precise on the size and type of U.S. military role needed in Iraq after an exit from the battlefield.

Iraqi leaders are expected to press Obama for more clarity on his long-term vision. Such discussions have added importance since Iraq and U.S. negotiators appear stalled in efforts to reach a long-range pact to define future U.S. military presence and obligations.

American diplomats hoped to reach a final accord by the end of the month, but it now seems the goal is a stopgap "bridge" document that would maintain the status for U.S. forces once a U.N. mandate on their presence expires at the end of the year. Such a move would leave the hard bargaining to the next president.

Iraqi leaders, meanwhile, have gained a new measure of self assurance with revenue from record high oil prices and Iraqi-led successes to hobble Shiite militias believed linked to Iran. Recently, Iraqi leaders have increasing pressure for some kind of timetable for U.S. troop withdrawals.

Last week, the White House agreed to work on a "general time horizon" for removing U.S. troops — a significant reversal from President Bush's longheld opposition to discuss any timeframes.

See OBAMA, Page 8

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.
- **Harrington Cancer Center Pampa Support Group** will meet at 6:30 p.m. July 22 in the second floor classroom of Pampa Regional Medical Center. Beth Kean will present the program on "Information Resources." All cancer survivors and their supporters are welcome.
- **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.

• **The Greater Amarillo Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure** will stage its 2008 "pink luncheon" at 12 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Heritage Room of Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$35 a piece. For more information, call (806) 354-9706 or visit www.komenamarillo.org on the Internet.

• **Texas Medical Board** will host a town hall meeting Sept. 9-10 at Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Amarillo.

Court tosses out FCC 'wardrobe malfunction' fine

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A federal appeals court on Monday threw out a \$550,000 indecency fine against CBS Corp. for the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show that ended with Janet Jackson's breast-baring "wardrobe malfunction."

The three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Federal Communications Commission "acted arbitrarily and capriciously" in issuing the fine for the fleeting image of nudity.

The 90 million people watching the Super Bowl, many of them children, heard Justin Timberlake sing, "Gonna have you naked by the end of this song,"

as he reached for Jackson's bustier.

The court found that the FCC deviated from its nearly 30-year practice of fining indecent broadcast programming only when it was so "pervasive as to amount to 'shock treatment' for the audience."

"Like any agency, the FCC may change its policies without judicial second-guessing," the court said. "But it cannot change a well-established course of action without supplying notice of and a reasoned explanation for its policy departure."

The 3rd Circuit judges — Chief Judge Anthony J. Scirica, Judge Marjorie O.

Rendell and Judge Julio M. Fuentes — also ruled that the FCC deviated from its long-held approach of applying identical standards to words and images when reviewing complaints of indecency.

"The Commission's determination that CBS's broadcast of a nine-sixteenths of one second glimpse of a bare female breast was actionably indecent evidenced the agency's departure from its prior policy," the court found. "Its orders constituted the announcement of a policy change — that fleeting images would no longer be excluded from the scope of actionable indecency."

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Home invasion: Father struggles to carry on slain family's legacy

CHESHIRE, Conn. (AP) — A year ago, Dr. William Petit had a thriving medical practice. He lived in a comfortable colonial house adorned with flower gardens in an upscale Connecticut suburb with his wife and two daughters admired for their charitable works.

Then two intruders turned the tranquil setting into a suburban nightmare. The hours-long hostage drama ended with the slayings of his wife and two daughters July 23, 2007.

Police say the men with long criminal histories severely beat Petit and forced his wife, Jennifer Hawke-Petit, to withdraw thousands of dollars from a nearby bank before they strangled her. Their daughters, Hayley, 17, and Michaela, 11, were tied to their beds and died of smoke inhalation from a fire that police say was set by the intruders before they fled.

The crimes turned Cheshire, called the "Bedding Plant Capital of Connecticut," from a town where many residents didn't bother to lock their doors to a place where people are increasingly buying guns.

And they left Petit to face a future with none of what he cherished from the past. To survive, Petit returned to the charity work of his wife and daughters.

On Sunday, he was among the thousands who turned out for the first GE 5K Road Race in Plainville, organized by two high school friends to benefit a foundation created in memory of his wife and daughters.

Petit, who received loud cheers as he crossed the finish line, said being involved in such events has been a "coping mechanism" for him over the past year.

"They're all very positive and you almost stay in the moment with the events and then — you know why you're here and you don't want to be here," Petit said as he choked back tears.

"So you just try to stay in the moment and stay positive because even though you feel like crying, you figure you don't want to cry in front of 20,000 people at every event," he added.

Lisa Gerrol, president of the Greater Connecticut Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, who knew Petit's wife and daughters, said she sees the diabetes doctor continuing his family's efforts to help others.

"I think that his emphasis from the very beginning is that he wants to take the most horrible situation that could happen to anyone and turn it into something positive, something good," she said.

About \$350,000 has been raised for the MS society. Both Petit children had supported the society after their mother was diagnosed with the disease.

Gerrol said she's never seen such outpouring of support.

"It's a huge amount of money. Raising \$350,000 is no simple feat, it takes a lot of hard work and effort," she said. "And I don't believe it's finished."

In all, donors gave about \$1 million to charity in the family's name, including \$600,000 to the Petit Family Foundation that will encourage young women to study science, help people suffering from chronic illness and assist those affected by violence. Some grants have already been awarded.

There are also funds honoring the late mother and her two daughters at schools where they worked and attended.

Petit, 51, has become involved in all aspects of fundraising events — from designing the medals given out to children at Sunday's road race to helping to choose scholarship recipients for the MS Society.

"Billy's always been strong," said Bob Heslin, who organized the road race with his brother Gary. "He was our class president in 1974. He was a leader then and he's a leader now. There's not too many people who could do what he's doing."

Police say the men with long criminal histories severely beat Petit and forced his wife, Jennifer Hawke-Petit, to withdraw thousands of dollars from a nearby bank before they strangled her.

Petit had the house where his family was slain torn down, although town records show he still owns the land. All that remains today are a few flower gardens growing in an empty lot and a large heart carved into what was once the lawn.

Petit moved in with his parents in nearby Plainville and sees a counselor, according to his mother-in-law, Marybelle Hawke.

"He still doesn't know who he is and what every day's purpose is," Hawke said. "He still feels like he's lost all his purpose for living."

Dr. Earle J. Sittambalam, president of Grove Hill Medical Center in New Britain, said he sees Petit, his friend and colleague of 20 years, at monthly Hartford County Medical Association meetings and notices how he has changed since the crimes.

"He's very calm and pleasant and friendly, but I do see a difference in him, you know, because he's my friend and I know him so well," he said. "When I talk to him, I see a difference and I feel it in my heart that he is hurting inside. He is putting a good show outside by talking and smiling and working with us, but I can sense the hurt he has inside."

Sittambalam said Petit has sought the solace of others.

"I remember that he would call friends at 2, 3, 4 in the morning to talk to them, because he felt so lonesome that he had to talk to people," he said. "And I'm sure he's talking to people to keep his mind occupied."

Friends have given Petit photos they had of his wife and children, to help replace his family photos, which burned in the fire.

Obama

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Obama is likely to face more questions about his pullout plans from al-Maliki.

Al-Maliki was quoted last week by a German magazine appearing to endorse Obama's 16-month timetable. The Iraqi leader's aides have since said his remarks were misunderstood, and he is not taking sides in the U.S. election. Obama also is expected to meet Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

It was unclear whether Obama would make any public appearances or comments while in Iraq. But even a low-key visit may garner more scrutiny than any stage of his overseas trip, which is scheduled to move on to Jordan, Israel and European capitals.

Iraq is one of the lighting rods in the presidential showdown with McCain.

McCain has been critical of Obama's position on Iraq, saying the decision to pull out should be determined by progress, not a timetable. McCain also strongly backed the troop surge into Iraq last year.

McCain's foreign policy adviser, Randy Scheunemann, said Obama "is stubbornly adhering to an unconditional withdrawal that places politics above the advice of our military commanders, the success of our troops, and the security of the American people."

There is no question that Iraq is a significantly different place than during Obama's first visit in January 2006, when the country was caught in a growing Sunni insurgency and was moving toward a flood of Sunni-Shiite violence.

Militant attacks and targeted killings by sectarian death squads is sharply down — by many measures back to levels before the rise of the Sunni insurgency in

2004.

So far this month, the U.S. military has reported nine soldier deaths in Iraq, in addition to the discovery of two bodies of soldiers abducted last year. The lowest monthly toll of the war was this May, when 19 military deaths were reported.

In Afghanistan, meanwhile, U.S. military officials say the number of attacks in eastern regions, where most of the foreign troops are American, has increased by 40 percent so far in 2008 compared with the same period in 2007.

But there are pockets of concern in Iraq.

Bombings and slayings have been creeping higher in the northern city of Mosul, the last main urban stronghold for al-Qaida in Iraq. Insurgents also remain entrenched in the Diyala Province northeast of Baghdad and a main gateway to the city. Iraqi authorities have announced plans to send more forces into the area.

Iraqi leaders also continue to stumble on some political measures supported by Washington.

The nation's election commission on Sunday proposed delaying important provincial elections from this October until near the end of the year. Iraq's parliament has been unable to reach agreement on the guidelines for the voting, which would hand greater powers to regional authorities and is seen as a vital step toward national reconciliation.

Obama arrived following a brief stop in Kuwait, a key U.S. ally. The delegation met Sunday with the emir, Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and other senior officials, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

In Afghanistan, Obama met with U.S. military commanders and troops and held talks with President Hamid Karzai.

Wrecks

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least 2012, even though he doesn't have the proper federal paperwork required for amputees. Virginia revoked the medical license for the official who approved him to drive over charges the official was caught illegally distributing controlled substances.

—George Albright Jr., 61, smashed his 70,000-pound tractor-trailer into congested traffic on Interstate 70 in June 2006, killing four women in a Ford sedan about 30 miles east of Columbia, Mo. Albright's employer agreed earlier this year to pay \$18 million in a settlement. A Missouri jury acquitted Albright this month on four counts of second-degree involuntary manslaughter, after his lawyers argued in court that a diabetic episode "put him in an altered state of consciousness." Albright wasn't injured.

—A gasoline tanker plunged from an overpass and exploded in flames on Interstate 95 near Baltimore in January 2004, killing four people. Witnesses reported the driver slumped over the wheel. Maryland investigators concluded the driver, Jackie M. Frost, had suffered a heart attack or other medical emergency, but his family disputed that.

—The driver of a 15-passenger "Tippy Toes" day-care bus traveling 63 mph on Interstate 240 in Memphis, Tenn., in April 2002 crashed into a bridge, killing the driver and four of the six children aboard. The National Transportation Safety Board said the driver, Wesley B. Hudson, 27, fell asleep, "quite likely due to an undiagnosed sleep disorder." Investigators said children sometimes had to wake up Hudson, whom the NTSB described as obese and a marijuana user.

—A 55-passenger bus rolled off Interstate 610 in New Orleans in May 1999, killing 22 passengers. The NTSB said the bus driver, Frank Bedell, 46, suffered life-threatening kidney and heart conditions but held a valid license and medical certificate. Moments before the crash, a passenger recounted seeing the driver slumped in his seat. Bedell died three months later of an apparent

heart-related illness. Investigators said he was treated at least 20 times in the 21 months before the accident for various ailments.

Some truckers said the government should enforce existing rules, not make new ones.

"Do you enjoy your clothing and house? Without the truck driver you would have none of it," said Gary Hull, 52, a trucker for a Louisiana company, as he drove from Edinburg, Texas, to Mansfield, La. "Our economy is based on the truck. People don't understand the ramifications of making it more restrictive for truck drivers to drive."

Hull said most drivers are hard workers who earn a modest salary and cope with rising diesel prices. New regulations could add to costs and force truckers to evade the rules, he said.

The Transportation Department said 5,300 people died in crashes involving large commercial trucks or buses in 2006, the latest year for which figures are available, and about 126,000 more were injured. A federal safety study last summer found that cases where drivers fell asleep, suffered heart attacks or seizures or otherwise were physically impaired were a leading cause of serious crashes involving large trucks. But those cases included healthy drivers who fell asleep.

"The problem is major. It's one of the biggest causes of occupational death in the United States today," said Dr. Kurt Hegmann, chairman of the FMCSA's medical oversight board, which is urging more doctor visits in many cases for truckers with serious medical conditions.

While it may be years before any of the board's proposals take effect, there is nothing preventing doctors from stepping up scrutiny of drivers' medical conditions right away, Hegmann said.

Congress may take action soon. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, led by Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., will conduct oversight hearings Thursday. One proposal would create a clearinghouse for drug test results for commercial truck drivers to make it easier for employ-

ers to conduct checks. Oberstar's committee asked the Government Accountability Office to investigate unfit truck drivers.

The 30-page GAO study, obtained by the AP in advance of its release later this week, said 563,000 commercial drivers were determined by the Veterans Affairs Department, Labor Department or Social Security Administration to also be eligible for full disability benefits over health issues. It said disability doesn't necessarily mean a driver is unfit to operate a commercial vehicle, but its investigators found alarming examples that raised doubts about the safety of the nation's highways. They identified more

than 1,000 drivers with vision, hearing or seizure disorders, which generally would prohibit a trucker from obtaining a valid commercial license.

The chief safety officer for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Rose McMurray, acknowledged problems that could lead to unfit truck drivers on the roads. She blamed delays in reforms on a lack of federal money and difficulty coordinating with 50 states. McMurray said changes to strengthen the medical oversight program may not be done for months or even years.

"We have done a lot to recognize the deficiencies in our medical oversight program, and the building blocks we're

establishing are very smart and very strong," McMurray said.

Families of crash victims said stronger safety rules can't happen soon enough.

William Hieronymus II of Salina, Kan., said he remembers eating cereal each morning with his 10-month-old son. His son William and wife, Amanda, died in May 2005 when a truck crossed a median and struck their SUV.

The driver, Scott A. Wegrzyn, pleaded guilty to two counts of vehicular homicide. Prosecutors said Wegrzyn knew he suffered from sleep apnea and went to a second doctor without disclosing the condition to obtain the medical certification he needed to drive.

Horoscopes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, July 22, 2008:

Work on taking an overview instead of getting into details. Make this type of approach your hallmark this year. If needed, don't hesitate to find an expert or two. Your willingness to state that you don't know enough is a strength, not a weakness. You gain new insights with ease, as you are open. Emphasize the quality of your daily life. If you are single, romance could be waving at you before your next birthday. This relationship could be most important. If you are attached, take up a sport or hobby with your sweetie. You will create greater closeness. PISCES understands you and your issues much more than you realize.

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)

★★★ You might not want to toss yourself into an unpredictable situation. Your creativity starts emerging, adding to your self-confidence. Understand that you still might need to lie low to get the information you need. Tonight: Know and trust that you can deal with anything.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ People surround you and are willing to take a stand. They let you know that they support you, no matter what. Emphasize security, and don't allow a family member to be forgotten in the enormous amount of communication and activity. Tonight: Where people are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You might want to reach out to someone at a distance who you really care about. He or she might not be as

clear as you might like. Confirm impressions as well as messages and meetings.

Tonight: A must show.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Step back and refuse to get caught up in someone else's drama, even if you feel it might be yours too! Investigate possibilities. If you suddenly see the humor in what was previously a difficult situation, you finally have detached. Tonight: Take a walk and listen to favorite music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Dealing with others takes talent and direction. Knowing what you want helps you make fast, clear choices. You cannot underestimate what is happening. The unexpected from an associate or partner could stop you dead in your tracks. Tonight: Dinner for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Let others express themselves. (You won't be able to stop them in any case.) You could opt for another approach or a different focus for you personally. In the next few weeks, you will be prone to more soul-searching. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Emphasize what you can get done as opposed to what you cannot. A light and easy approach leaves you smiling. Think positively, and openly accept a new idea or technology. You will like what comes up for you. Remember that anything is possible. Tonight: Off to the gym — get some exercise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a problem or approach a situation from a different perspective. The more creative your thinking, the better the end results can be. Establish a stronger presence in

your work. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Pressure builds, but you'll see ways through a problem once you detach. The unexpected occurs on the home front. You might not be comfortable with everything that occurs, but you can handle whatever comes down the path. Tonight: Do some solid thinking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Communication could carry an exciting twist. Relax with a situation rather than trigger. You might need another approach or a different idea. A partnership proves to be far more important than you realize. Tonight: Catch up on news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Expenses could mount, making you more than uncomfortable. Don't attempt to gain control of a situation; instead, roll with it. Observe what others suggest. They might not be right, but their ideas are interesting. Tonight: Stick to your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You have lots of energy, but don't let your nerves get frayed. An element of the unexpected runs through your day. Stay even. Focus on your must-do's. You will accomplish a lot more if you stay even and focused. Tonight: What would put a smile on your face?

BORN TODAY

Artist Edward Hopper (1882), sculptor Alexander Calder (1898), priest, scientist Gregor Mendel (1822)

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