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Court news

Pleas heard, court dates set in 31st District Court

Trial date set in King murder trial
 By Marilyn Powers
 The Pampa News

A tentative trial date of Jan. 12, 2009, has been set for the capital murder trial of Levi A. King, who was indicted March 23, 2006, on capital murder charges by a Gray County grand jury in 31st District Court in connection with the Sept. 30, 2005, shooting deaths of four Gray County residents. Judge Steven Emmert discussed dates with 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer and with King's attorneys during a court session Wednesday morning in the third-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

A change of venue was also discussed. The trial may be moved to another Texas Panhandle county, possibly Wheeler County. Pretrial motions will be heard at 9 a.m. Dec. 15 in the Gray County Courthouse. The deadline for general discovery is Dec. 12, and the mitigation deadline concerning an expert witness is Nov. 14. King is accused of causing the deaths of Brian and Michell Conrad, Michell's unborn child, and Zack Doan, 14, at their home approximately 13 miles south of Pampa on Highway 70.

Jan. 12, 2009, is the appearance date, with jury qualifying to begin. The trial is expected to begin Jan. 19, 2009, according to a representative of Switzer's office.

Hopkins case: Deadline for discovery set
 By Marilyn Powers
 The Pampa News

Pretrial motions were heard in 31st District Court

Wednesday concerning the Aug. 18 trial of Matthew Wade Hopkins, one of four persons indicted for criminally negligent homicide in connection with the 2005 death of Cody Randall Best, 17, of Pampa.

Aug. 11 was agreed to by Harold Comer, defense attorney of Pampa, and 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer as the deadline for discovery.

See HOPKINS, Page 3

Ramey gets 30 years, waives right to appeal
 By Marilyn Powers
 The Pampa News

A Pampa woman was sentenced to 30 years in prison by 31st District Judge Steven Emmert after she pled guilty to all charges against her in a hearing Wednesday in the third-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Nicole Sharee Ramey, 26, will also have to pay court costs and fines of \$9,500 and restitution of \$6,925. The 11 charges for which Ramey will serve time in prison and pay restitution, court costs and fines are one or more each of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance, forgery, burglary of a building and fraudulent use/possession of identifying information. The offenses range from state jail felonies to first-degree felonies. A total of 17 cases against Ramey had been presented at the beginning of the hearing. "There's possibly up to 350 years in jail and \$170,000 in fines here," Emmert said of the maximum penalty for all charges

against Ramey before sentencing her. See RAMEY, Page 3



PAMPA

Free in this issue!
 Our annual Newcomer's and Visitor's Guide

CASA of the High Plains

Sale to raise funds
 By Marilyn Powers
 The Pampa News

The JCV Teens in Action will be selling everything from a cooktop to clothing at its garage sale Friday and Saturday at 411 Linda Drive.

The will sale open at 8 a.m. each day. Merchandise to be sold will include a gas cooktop, gun cabinet, secretary, small appliances and Home Interiors items. JCV is the Junior CASA Volunteers, a group of teenagers affiliated with CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, a non-profit organization where volunteers act as advocates for children who have been removed from abusive and/or neglectful homes.



Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers
The JCV Teens in Action, or Junior CASA Volunteers, are having a garage sale Friday and Saturday at 411 Linda Drive to raise funds for CASA of the High Plains. From left are Megan Pirtle, Autumn Chidester, Stephen Marszal, Austin Hinkle, Kirsten Kuhn and Shaylie Thompson.

The Pampa chapter is known as CASA of the High Plains. All proceeds from this weekend's garage sale will be used in CASA programs to benefit its clients, Marszal said. For more information, call the CASA office at 669-7638.

Traffic stop results in 2 arrests

By Marilyn Powers
 The Pampa News

A traffic stop led to two drug arrests Wednesday evening after Gray County Sheriff's deputies found substances believed to be

illegal drugs in a vehicle and on the person of one of the two.

Deputies Rhett Rollins and Zach Kidd stopped a vehicle at 7:01 p.m. Wednesday at the intersection of Crawford and

Hobart streets for a reported traffic violation. "Consent was given to search the vehicle," said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. "The deputies had the

See ARRESTS, Page 3

County commissioners to consider CCPC expansion budget

By Marilyn Powers
 The Pampa News

Clarendon College-Pampa Center's 2009-2010 expansion budget, along with any potential tax to meet that budget, is on Gray County commissioners' agenda for their 9 a.m. meeting

Friday in the second-floor courtroom of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

County voters approved a maintenance tax, which by law can be no more than 5-cents per \$100 valuation, for the Pampa Center in the May 10 election. Any

tax collected will remain in Gray County for the Pampa Center's use and may be used for such things as tuition reduction, maintenance costs, special projects, building construction and expansion of course offerings. County commission-

ers are responsible for setting the tax rate and are to receive and review the budget for any collected maintenance tax funds each year. The Gray County Tax Assessor-Collector's office will be responsible for collecting the maintenance


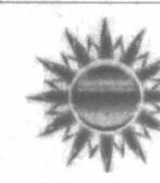
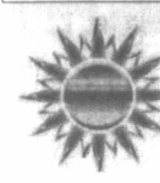
tax, which will appear as a separate tax on property owners' annual tax statements. Bids on tax-delinquent properties will be considered. A contract for tax assessment and collection services for various taxing entities will be presented for

approval. Commissioners will begin work on the Fiscal 2009 county budget with a work session at Friday's meeting. Also on the agenda are a quarterly investment report and payment of bills and salaries.

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|  |  |  |
| Sunny | Sunny | Sunny |

Friday: Sunny and hot, with a high near 98. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 72. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 95. South-southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Emergency Services

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, July 29

Karisa Lynette Mullen, 18, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department on capias pro fines for expired motor vehicle inspection, failure to appear and failure to attend school.

Wednesday, July 30

Jessie Douglas Calfy, 45, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO and charged with a probation violation for cruelty to animals.

Bradley Devon Scott, 23, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of South Christy by Pampa PD on a capias pro fine for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Lucias Paul Tollison, 26, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of South Christy by Pampa PD and charged with DWI.

Morris Earl Jahnel, 38, of Canadian was arrested by GCSO and charged with terroristic threat.

Quinn Andre Evans, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 600 block of North Zimmers by Pampa PD and charged with assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

Katina Ann Atchley, 30, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Billy Bob Cain, 31, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO and charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana.

Justin David Kalka, 24, of Pampa was arrested in the 1300 block of North Sumner by Pampa PD and charged with DWI, second offense; a wrong/fictitious/altered/obsured vehicle registration.

Jessica Carol Smith, 19, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD in the 1100 block of Barnard on bond surrenders for possession of under one gram of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana.

Thursday, July 31

John M. Jackson, 50, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa PD and charged with no driver's license.

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the period from 7 a.m. Tuesday to 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Tuesday, July 29

Thirty-nine traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the 1200 block of East Frederic, the intersection of 19th and Sumner streets, and the 2500 block of Dogwood.

A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Highway 60 and Loop 171.

Calls and stops concerning animals occurred in the 600 block of West Crawford, the 300 block of West Crawford, the 900 block of Wilcox, the 2200 block of North Christine, the 1500 block of North Zimmers (three), the police depart-

ment lobby, the 2200 block of North Nelson, the 500 block of North Christy, the 1400 block of North Hobart (twice), the 600 block of Naida, the 1700 block of Aspen, the 1300 block of Hamilton, the 2200 block of North Wells, the 1100 block of Seneca, the 1600 block of North Christine, the 600 block of Magnolia and the 1200 block of Wilcox.

Welfare checks were made in the 300 block of Sunset, the 100 block of North Sumner, the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 200 block of North Nelson.

A civil matter was reported in the 1100 block of North Christine.

A suspicious person call was received from the 300 block of North Starkweather.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported at the intersection of Primrose and Crane streets, and the 2700 block of Rosewood.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson. The incident involved a verbal disagreement.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of Magnolia.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of South Faulkner.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of South Sumner. Bicycle tires were cut and a motorcycle was taken. Estimated value of damage and loss is \$310.

Harassment was reported in the police department lobby.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart and

the 300 block of Sunset. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident in the 300 block of Sunset.

A narcotics violation was reported at the intersection of Crawford Street and Huff Road.

One alarm was reported. Burglary was reported in the 2900 block of Rosewood. An estimated \$35 damage was done to a front door.

Burglary was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart.

Burglary was reported in the 400 block of North Perry. A television was taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of South Cuyler. A stereo valued at \$50 was taken.

Wednesday, July 30

Eight traffic stops were made.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 900 block of Gwendolen and the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A civil matter was reported in the 400 block of Hill.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Recreation Park, 1600 E. Highway 60.

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather. Fuel valued at \$46 was taken.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls in the 24 hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, July 30

8:53 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident in the 1000 block of South Christy.

3:41 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky on a call for medical assistance.

CITY BRIEFS

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

2369 BEECH, Open House, Sun. Aug. 3rd, 2-4pm. \$219,900. Joan Mabry, 669-3201, Agent. Quentin Williams Realtors, 669-2522.

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BETH MOORE'S "Living Proof" Conference Live Simulcast is this weekend at Trinity Fellowship Church, 2225 N. Hobart. Event times are 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon on Saturday. Tickets may be purchased at the church office for \$30.00. There will be a limited number of tickets available at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Friday. Questions? Call TFC office at 665-3255.

THE FIESTA ad that ran July 29th should have read "5 for \$19.99" for the popcorn chicken, strips, fillets, chicken fry, onion rings, corn on the cob, seasoned wedges, mixed veg., & breaded okra. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, July 30

8:52 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Christi and Oklahoma streets. No patient.

3:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Russell and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

3:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

Stocks

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

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Wheat | 7.11 |
| Milo | 9.31 |
| Corn | 10.29 |
| Soybeans | 12.06 |

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

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-------|
| OXY | 79.09 | -1.60 |
| BP PLC ADR | 61.82 | -0.27 |
| Cabot Corp | 26.29 | +0.26 |
| Celanese | 39.74 | +0.64 |
| Cabot Oil Gas | 45.37 | -1.96 |
| Coca Cola | 51.36 | +0.05 |
| VLO | 34.10 | -1.06 |
| HAL | 45.16 | -0.54 |
| XCEL | 20.05 | -0.31 |
| Anadarko | 58.53 | -1.33 |
| XOM | 81.72 | -2.66 |
| Nat'l Oilwell | 81.13 | -1.75 |
| Limited | 16.81 | +0.13 |
| Williams | 31.84 | -1.43 |
| MCD | 60.92 | +0.47 |
| Atmos | 26.26 | -0.09 |
| Pioneer Nat | 59.69 | -2.45 |
| JCP | 31.08 | -0.27 |
| COP | 82.73 | -1.95 |
| SLB | 102.00 | -0.41 |
| Tenneco | 14.44 | +1.10 |
| CVX | 85.50 | -1.76 |
| Wal-Mart | 59.07 | +0.51 |
| OKE | 45.33 | -0.62 |

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| New York Gold | 912.30 |
| Silver | 17.47 |
| West Texas Crude | 126.77 |

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The Pampa News

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Hopkins

Continued from Page 1 A motion by Comer to check the qualifications of witnesses as to their character before they testify in either the guilt or any penalty phase of the trial was granted by 31st District Judge Steven Emmert.

Comer asked Emmert to issue an authorization to the prosecution's witnesses for them to discuss the facts of the case with him in his capacity as defense attorney.

Switzer said it would be improper for the court to issue such an order and pointed out that Comer had provided no legal precedent for such an order. She said that when asked by witnesses about their obligation to speak with defense attorneys, she informed them that they were free to do so but were under no obligation to do so.

The motion for the authorization was denied. Comer asked that the media be excluded from pretrial testimony concerning his last two motions.

"Any incessant trial publicity is going to result in a change of venue," he said.

"The harm I see in granting your motion is the First Amendment," Emmert said as he denied the motion.

A motion by Comer to require that the prosecution provide evidence of the veracity of a witness was also denied.

Comer's final motion was granted by Emmert. The motion requires that the prosecution reveal any evidence of an agreement with any witness such as concessions or discussions of possible leniency in connection with any criminal charges against the witness.

Hopkins' trial will begin at 9 a.m. Aug. 18. He was indicted by a 31st District Grand Jury on June 24 on the criminally negligent homicide charge, a state jail felony. Also indicted at that time in connection with the death of Best were Terry Glenn Honeycutt, Kylie J'Nae Winegeart and Penny June Summers.

Best was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center on Sept. 13, 2005, while he was unconscious from a drug overdose, according to a Pampa Police Department news release at the time. He died the following day.

The four named in the indictments for criminally negligent homicide in connection with the incident involving Best were originally indicted Feb. 9, 2006, by a Gray County grand jury in 31st District Court for manslaughter. The 2006 indictments said the four recklessly caused the death of Best by failing to seek medical attention for him in a timely manner.

An autopsy performed in Lubbock after Best's death showed that he had died of a lethal amount of methamphetamine. A tentative trial date of Jan. 12, 2009, has been set for the capital murder trial of Levi A. King, who was indicted March 23, 2006, on capital murder charges by a Gray County grand jury in 31st District Court in connection with the Sept. 30, 2005, shooting deaths of four Gray County residents.

Judge Steven Emmert discussed dates with 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer and with King's attorneys during a court session Wednesday morning in the third-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

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Jan. 12, 2009, is the appearance date, with jury qualifying to begin. The trial is expected to begin Jan. 19, 2009, according to a representative of Switzer's office.



Pampa News photos by Julie Ann Thompson

Motor vehicle accident

This Dodge Dakota, driven by Lucias Paul Tollison, rolled over at least twice yesterday morning before coming to rest 38 feet from the curb on the front yard of a residence. According to Pampa Police Department, Tollison was traveling south in the 900 block of Christy when he failed to control his speed and lost control swerving to the left. The truck left 122 feet of yaw marks as he drifted into the north bound lane and struck the curb.

Exxon Mobil Corp. profit sets US record, shares fall

HOUSTON (AP) — Exxon Mobil Corp. reported second-quarter earnings of \$11.68 billion Thursday, the biggest profit from operations ever by any U.S. corporation, but the results were well short of Wall Street expectations and its shares fell.

The world's largest publicly traded oil company said net income for the April-June period came to \$2.22 a share, up from \$10.26 billion, or \$1.83 a share, a year ago.

Revenue rose 40 percent to \$138.1 billion from \$98.4 billion in the year-earlier quarter.

Excluding an after-tax charge of \$290 million related to an Exxon Valdez court settlement, earnings amounted to \$11.97 billion, or \$2.27 per share.

Analysts on average expected Exxon Mobil to earn \$2.52 a share on revenue of \$144 billion, according to a survey by Thomson Financial. The estimates typically exclude one-time items.

The record-setting results were largely expected, given

... investors expected even bigger profits Thursday, especially after Europe's Royal Dutch Shell reported a 33 percent jump in second-quarter earnings to \$11.6 billion, which fell just shy of Exxon's own record earnings from 2007.

that crude prices in the second quarter were nearly double what they were a year ago. Natural gas prices were significantly higher too.

But investors expected even bigger profits Thursday, especially after Europe's Royal Dutch Shell reported a 33 percent jump in second-quarter earnings to \$11.6 billion, which fell just shy of Exxon's own record earnings from 2007.

Exxon Mobil shares fell \$2.81, or 3.3 percent, to \$81.57 in morning trading.

Setting U.S. profit records has become commonplace for Irving-based Exxon Mobil. The \$11.68 billion topped its own U.S. record of

\$11.66 billion, posted in the fourth quarter of last year. Right behind that was the \$10.9 billion it reported to start 2008.

Exxon Mobil owns the record for at least the top six most-profitable quarters for a U.S. company, as well as the largest annual profit.

The company, which produces 3 percent of the world's oil, got its biggest boost from its exploration and production arm, where earnings rose 68 percent to \$10.01 billion from \$5.95 billion a year ago. The main driver was record crude prices, partially offset by lower sales volumes and higher operating costs.

Once again, Exxon Mobil's results revealed a troubling trend at the heart of its business.

Production on an oil-equivalent basis fell 8 percent from a year ago — a significant blow for a company that generates more than two-thirds of its earnings from oil and gas production. That follows an opening quarter of 2008 when the company said overall production fell 5.6 percent from a year ago.

Excluding last year's loss of its Venezuelan assets, a labor strike in Nigeria and lower volumes because of production-sharing contracts, Exxon said production was down about 3 percent in the most-recent quarter.

Like its competitors, Exxon Mobil said it took a beating from lower global refining margins. Earnings from refining and marketing fell 54 percent in the quarter to \$1.55 billion.

For the first six months of 2008, Exxon Mobil said it earned \$22.57 billion, or \$4.25 a share, from \$19.54 billion, or \$3.45 a share, in the first half of 2007. Revenue rose to \$254.9 billion from \$185.5 billion.

Arrests

Continued from Page 1 occupants step out of the vehicle for a pat-down."

Billy Bob Cain, 31, of Pampa was found to have a substance believed to be marijuana in a pocket of his clothing, Hoard said. A substance believed to be methamphetamine was found inside the vehicle, he said.

Cain was arrested and booked into Gray County Jail on charges of possession of one or more grams but less than four grams of a controlled substance and possession of two ounces or less of marijuana, Hoard said.

Also arrested was Katina Ann Atchley, the driver of the vehicle. Atchley, 30, of Pampa was booked into jail for possession of one or more grams but less than four grams of a controlled substance.

Ramey

Continued from Page 1

As part of the plea agreement, Ramey waived all rights to appeal. She was represented by David Holmes at Wednesday's sentencing.

Ramey admitted in court that she had begun using illegal drugs four years ago,

and she used methamphetamine. She also admitted to participating in "cooking" the drug and selling it to others.

"You realize you're part of the biggest problem this community's got?" Emmert asked. "It's nobody's fault but yours." He then commented, "What a waste," as he handed down Ramey's sentence.

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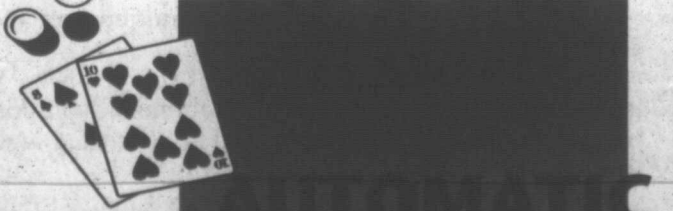
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Dr. Samantha A. Ford

Viewpoints

A few of my *not* so favorite things ...

Socks and dog hairs ... phone cords that twist ... these are a NOT a few of my favorite things. I love that song, but the way, but am, as usual, a tad bit confused. When exactly did "My Favorite Things" become a Christmas tune?

Okay, okay, that's really not relevant here. What is important is this beef I have with socks and dog hairs and gnarled phone cords. Hey, can I help it if my angsts are not exactly run of the mill?

For starters, the first two involve comfort issues. You see, I perennially fight the upside-down sock-up effect. Do you know what I mean?

I can see you probably do not. Let me explain. I have a number of socks that refuse to stay in the up/down position. These sadistic scraps of demon material insist on twisting until the heel is topside. Not only is the "twist" aggravating, but, to make matters worse, the main culprits are white with purple-colored toe areas along

with eye-catching purple triangles at the heel. I routinely trot around with a bunched up purple spot front-and-center on both ankles. Can you imagine?

It is beyond annoying. To add insult to pain, you can always depend on relatives or small children to point out this obvious flaw. Yup. First rattle out of the box, either an adorable little kid or an annoying, yet lovable relative will, in the most public manner possible, desire to know why those socks are upside-down?

Well, because I want to be eccentric and uncomfortable, of course! My main passion in life is to inspire bizarre new fashion trends! Huh.

Um, how about we move on to my next, er, complaint?

Though you might not immediately visu-

alize how dog hairs can threaten one's comfort level, let me assure you pet hair can lead to considerable agony. Simply visualize a piece of dog hair buried snugly into your heel instead of ... oh, say, a piece of glass or a sticker, and you get the picture.

I swear I am forever pulling dog hairs out of my heels belonging to one or both of my dogs. How ANYTHING can get past those upside-down socks of mine is anybody's guess, but my dogs' hairs routinely do. This somewhat embarrassing malady is suffered, I am sure, by only a slim margin of people with porous heels, but folks we are out here. I'm utterly serious. This situation is dire. I'm considering starting a support group.

Right now, I'm supposing there aren't but a few of you reading this who can properly relate to the aforementioned sock and dog

hair issues, but I'm sure one and all have at one time or other been sorely vexed by the twisty cord issue! Surely?

I don't ask this because I hope you have. Nay, I would not wish a twisty cord on my worst enemy. Here at The News, I battle a recalcitrant phone cord nearly every single day. At home, I deal with a twisty-corded curling iron.

I can't count the number of times I've accidentally slung both objects off onto the floor while battling their recalcitrant cords — just to have those silly slips of black plastic recoil almost instantly into the same uncooperative position.

If I were an inventor or an engineer, I would work on a solution for these knotty problems post-haste. Any breakthroughs should be worth a Nobel prize or two at the very least, don't you think? Forget about world peace, my feet and my sanity are in jeopardy!

Skyla Bryant
City Editor



Food and 'gas pains' go hand-in-hand

"Life isn't much fun anymore now that the wife has me doing all kinds of nutty things to economize."

"Ah, yes, you speak of the way Americans are responding to rapidly rising fuel and food costs."

"You got that right. The wife and I used to enjoy dining out. Now we sit around clipping coupons, searching for bargains and thinking up ideas to cut our household costs."

"The horror."

"Take one of the wife's bright ideas. Because meat and poultry are so high, she decided we're vegetarians now. I wake nights dreaming of juicy burgers. As one wit said, if God didn't want us to eat animals why did he make them taste so good?"

"An excellent point."

"But it's not like vegetables are cheap, either. So the wife made me plant a large garden. I spend hours digging, planting, pruning and weeding. I thought mankind invented the suburbs so slugs like me could avoid menial labor."

"I feel your pain."

"What's worse: The wife is so cost-conscious all we ever eat is leftovers. I got so frustrated, I took the advice of humorist Calvin Trillin. I hired a crew of archeologists to search for the original meal."

"That's no good."

"Then the wife reads an article in Money magazine about homemade laundry detergent. Next thing I know I'm grating natural soap, boiling it, then adding borax, baking soda and essential oils. It only takes several hours of what used to be my leisure time to make a batch."

"Rapidly rising fuel and food costs are surely agitating many Americans, but

Tom Purcell

Columnist



aren't there some upsides?"

"Upsides?"

"To reduce fuel and food costs, more families are dining together at home. They're carting their kids off to organized events less often and staying in. Such quality time is surely a good thing."

"Except that we spend our quality time doing menial labor and making soap."

"Many Americans are realizing how spoiled and wasteful we have been. We used to grab anything we wanted at the grocery store. Now we think things through. We look for lower-cost items, and we're finding lots of ways to enjoy a healthier diet on a smaller budget."

"Believe me, the wife has mastered the concept."

"A little pain can be good. The hope is more Americans will begin to understand how economics and global markets work — and how bad ideas can result in pain at the pump and in the grocery store."

"Bad ideas?"

"Look, 70 percent of the fuel that powers the American economy comes from foreign sources. That makes us extremely vulnerable — as evidenced by the recent spike in gasoline costs. It took years of bad policy to make us that vulnerable."

"It did?"

"Some politicians want to produce more oil and gas at home right away and some are dragging their feet."

Which ideas do you think are better?"

"I better bone up on what my congressman is thinking."

"One cause of high food prices is ethanol. As a result of hefty government subsidies, one quarter of our corn is being converted into fuel. That has increased the demand for corn, which has

driven up its cost. It's driven up the cost of beef and pork, too, because cows and pigs eat corn."

"So everything is connected?"

"To be sure. It ties into the presidential election, too. One candidate will raise taxes and one won't. Higher taxes will slow economic growth, which will hurt the

profitability of businesses, which will limit their ability to pay you higher wages. Won't that make it even harder for you to keep up with rising costs?"

"You're saying we can vote our way out of our food and fuel woes?"

"Not entirely, but it's an important place to start. Ideas matter and we'd be

wise to carefully examine the policies our politicians hope to impose on us."

"Will do, but I have to go. The wife rigged up the stationary bike to a power generator. It's my shift to pedal."

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



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ July 21
El Paso Times on food safety: Federal officials have declared that all kinds of tomatoes are officially OK to eat once again, following the well-known salmonella scare.

But lingering questions about the safety of the American food supply are leaving a bad taste in many people's mouths.

An Associated Press-Ipsos poll found that most consumers want a way set up to trace produce, a desire gener-

ated by the salmonella outbreak that was first linked to tomatoes and now to hot peppers.

A whopping 86 percent of poll-takers said there should be a way to label produce so that it can be traced from the farm through processors, packers, shipper and sales outlets.

It only makes sense. Look at the salmonella outbreak that has sickened more than 1,200 people in 42 states. No one is really sure what caused the outbreak.

And we've already seen the biggest beef recall in history.

The government has long been condemned for a dangerously inadequate

food inspection system. The salmonella scare has done nothing to help the feds' image, and indeed speaks loudly for a radically modernized and improved food inspection system.

Outbreaks of food-borne disease don't affect only the people who get sick.

There's also a chain-reaction economic effect as, suddenly, the consumption of a product goes down, farmers can't sell all their crop, processors and shippers have less to work with, and retailers lose potential sales.

Food inspection and tracking must be improved. URL: <http://www.elpasotimes.com>

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 31, the 213th day of 2008. There are 153 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 31, 1948, President Truman helped dedicate New York International Airport (later John F. Kennedy International Airport) at Idlewild Field.

On this date: In 1556, St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus — the Jesuit order of Catholic priests and brothers — died in Rome.

In 1777, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

In 1875, the 17th president of the United States, Andrew Johnson, died in Carter County, Tenn., at age 66.

In 1919, Germany's Weimar Constitution was adopted by the republic's National Assembly.

In 1945, Pierre Laval, premier of the pro-Nazi Vichy government, surrendered to U.S. authorities in Austria; he was turned over to France, which later tried and executed him.

In 1957, the Distant Early Warning Line, a system of radar stations designed to detect Soviet bombers approaching North America, went into operation.

In 1964, the American space probe Ranger 7 reached the moon, where it transmitted pictures of the lunar surface.

In 1972, Democratic vice-presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton withdrew from the ticket with George McGovern following disclosures Eagleton had once undergone psychiatric treatment.

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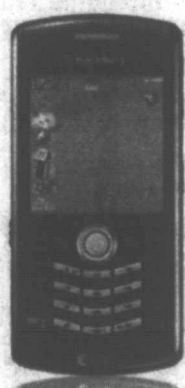
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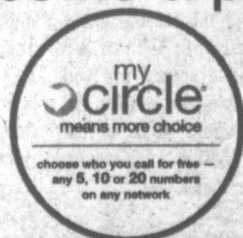
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Paw-Paw and Maw-Maw in Alabama" (May 13), whose son has cut off contact with their 5-year-old grandson to "protect" the boy from Grandpa's eventual death, left me feeling intense sorrow for all concerned. In 1996, my grandfather was ecstatic that I was pregnant and anxiously awaited the arrival of his triplet great-grandchildren. At age 102, he was with us at the hospital when they were born, and remained an integral part of their lives until his death five years later. We believe Grandpa's loving involvement with the children extended the quality and length of his life. In exchange, the kids' first years were blessed with the special love and adoration of a great-grandparent. Abby, the day "Paw-Paw's" letter was published, I picked up my now-12-year-olds from school. They told me their writing assignment that day was an essay relating a favorite memory. Be it serendipity, providence or coincidence, two of the triplets had written about "G.G." (Great-Grandfather). One of the stories ended with "although G.G. is no longer with us, he will always be in my heart." -- **JAN IN ARLINGTON, TEXAS**

DEAR JAN: Thank you for sharing that story. Response to "Paw-Paw's" letter was huge. Many readers wrote to describe the importance of grandparent memories in their lives. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: We lost my father 16 months ago after a long illness. My small children spent two days a week with him and my mother, and were a significant part of the joy in his life. We never hid his illness from them. We did just the opposite. My son was a great help to his Nana and Pop-Pop, bringing him lunch and helping to move the medical equipment back and forth across the house. I am convinced that allowing the children to be a part of their grandfather's life through the end of it has given them a sense of compassion and a life skill that all of us will need at some point in our lives. Children grieve, too, and

it is our job as parents to help them learn to cope with life's disappointments, not to shelter them from the realities they will face as adults. -- **NANCY IN ALLENTOWN, PA.**

DEAR ABBY: As a hospice chaplain, I have worked with many children and many levels of maturity. In my experience, it is important to listen carefully to children and let them "self-select." If they seem comfortable or choose to be with a family member who is passing, it is best to let them be there. If it appears to be traumatic or they verbalize that they don't wish to be there, honor that as well and perhaps find a parallel way in which they can share in the transition. And bear in mind that the age of the child does not necessarily indicate his/her preparedness for confronting end-of-life issues. --- **ARTHUR IN DERRY, N.H.**

DEAR ABBY: Months after my granddaughter Kacie was born in 2000, I found out I have a rare cancer. As long as the medicine I take works, I am fine except for occasional pain. We see Kacie every day, before and after school. I really don't think I would still be here if I couldn't see her. Kacie is the light of our lives and gives me something special to live for. -- **GRANDMOTHER IN OHIO**

DEAR ABBY: When our grandfather died, my sisters and I were upset that we didn't get more time with him. Years later, we found out that our parents had decided to shelter us from his last few weeks of life. This form of "protection" wound up "killing" Grandpa for us, before he was dead. Please don't do this. Allow them to spend every moment they have left. If you have had love and laughter to the end, you will grieve but with the knowledge that you did all you could to honor Grandpa and preserve his memory. Regret perpetuates itself -- and my parents now realize they did the wrong thing. -- **SHEILA IN MANHASSET, N.Y.**

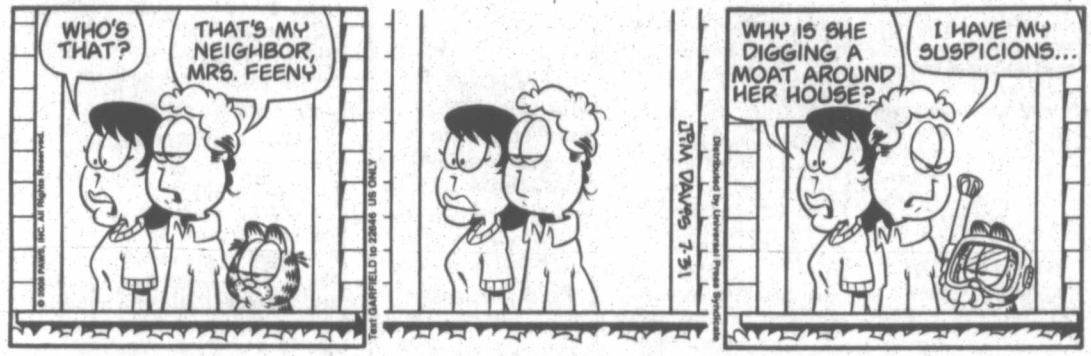
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1 Actress spilling Anne sound
6 Cowboy wear
11 Jacob's father
12 Dutch capital, with "The"
13 Hazard
14 Bumbling
15 Fishes with a net
17 Detective Archer
19 Jr.'s son
20 To's counter-part
23 Everyone else
25 Ship staff
26 Dairy buy
28 Boat part
29 Show sorrow
30 Angled pipe
31 Take to court
32 Dripping
33 Saudi Arabia's capital
35 Plains group
38 Kilmer classic
41 Biscotti flavor
42 Gardeners, at times
43 Soda fountain orders
- DOWN**
1 Roof part
2 Jargon ending
3 Hand-spring's kin
4 Locks
5 Bakery treats
6 Spicy dish
7 Painter
8 Application info
9 Baby boxer
10 Harden
11 Sardonic sort
12 "Lost" character
13 Lucy's pal
14 Ignore convention
15 Rick's pianist
16 "Super-man" star
17 Little nutshell
18 Baby hooter
19 Twisty fish
20 Greek X
21 Yule rings
22 Fast flier

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| R | E | C | O | N |
| I | D | E | A | L |
| T | E | A | R | J |
| I | A | N | C | O |
| C | L | I | M | A |
| S | C | A | R | A |
| C | L | E | M | A |
| B | A | A | S | O |
| A | D | L | I | B |
| G | O | L | D | A |
| G | R | E | E | D |
| Y | E | N | S | P |

Yesterday's answer

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18 Lucy's pal
20 Ignore convention
21 "Super-man" star
22 Little nutshell
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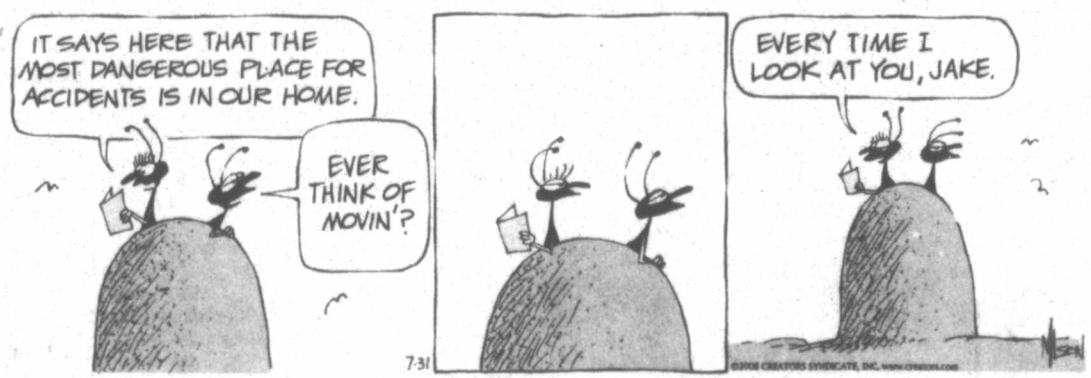


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Bush declares progress in war

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush hailed a new “degree of durability” in security gains in Iraq Thursday, saying it should permit him to announce further U.S. troop reductions later this year.

With the war in its sixth year and violence substantially decreased in recent weeks, Bush gave a brief and hastily arranged update on the war that focused on several fronts of progress.

He said that violence is at its lowest ebb since the spring of 2004, that forces are in their third consecutive month with lower violence levels holding steady, and that Iraqi forces are becoming increasingly capable of both fighting and securing the country.

“The progress is still reversible,” Bush acknowledged. But he added, “There now appears to be a degree of durability in gains.”

Looking ahead to the next recommendation on troop levels from U.S. generals in Iraq, Bush suggested its reasonable to expect “further reductions in our combat forces, as conditions permit.”

Bush’s four minutes of remarks showed him eager to talk progress. But he attached qualifications at every step, wary of repeating the mistake of his so-called “Mission Accomplished” speech over five years ago, in May 2003.

“We remain a nation at war,” he said. “The terrorists remain dangerous and they are determined to strike our country and our allies again.”

His appearance was timed to Friday’s start of reduced tour lengths for U.S. troops. Starting Aug. 1, Army units heading to Iraq will serve 12-month tours rather than the 15 months that soldiers are currently deployed. That’s a

milestone that Bush wanted to spotlight even though it won’t apply to troops now serving.

Bush said this reduction “will relieve the burden on our forces and it will make life easier for our wonderful military families.”

The statement also coincided with a growing acceptance that the mission in Iraq is starting to shift, from mainly combat to mainly training Iraqi forces, securing the Iraqi border with Iran, rebuilding the economy and battling foreign terrorists.

Still, the conflict remains a key issue in the presidential campaign. Republican nominee in waiting Sen. John McCain has repeatedly accused presumed Democratic standardbearer Barack Obama of planning a reckless withdrawal. Obama has countered that the United States never should have gone to war there in the first place.

Increasing numbers of people in this country believe the U.S. troop increase in Iraq has helped improve the situation there. According to a USA Today-Gallup Poll conducted last weekend, 48 percent say the buildup has made things better. That’s up from 40 percent who said so in February and 22 percent in July 2007.

On the other hand, 56 percent say the U.S. erred in invading Iraq in the first place. That figure is down slightly from the spring, but has changed little over the past two years.

About 145,000 troops remain on the ground in Iraq, now that all the combat brigades sent last year as part of the so-called surge have returned home as of this month. But that’s still higher than the roughly 130,000-

135,000 who were there before the troop increase.

Offering a concrete example of the gains made, Bush noted that Iraqi forces are taking the lead in a new offensive this week in the Diyala province northeast of the capital of Baghdad, considered one of the last major al-Qaida strongholds in the region.

About 50,000 U.S.-backed Iraqi military and police forces have launched a major operation against al-Qaida insurgents there.

“This operation is Iraqi-led; our forces are playing a supporting role,” Bush said. “In the months ahead, the Iraqis will continue taking the lead in more military operations across the country.”

Bush somewhat improbably claimed progress on negotiations for a long-term agreement with Iraq governing the U.S. troop presence there, including everything from rules of engagement to drivers’ licenses for the military. The White House’s original goal was to have it completed by Thursday — the end of July. The United Nations mandate that now allows the U.S. to be in Iraq expires Dec. 31.

But the difficult talks have spawned many disputes, including over setting timelines for troop withdrawals, and the best hope now seems to be only a stopgap agreement by the end of the year. With only a few months left of the Bush administration, the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has taken a toughened stance on its own demands.

Associated Press Writer Alan Fram contributed to this story.

Paulson says housing remains biggest threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson says the \$168 billion government stimulus effort has proven to be a timely support for the economy and will continue to assist growth in the second half of this year.

Paulson predicted in a speech Thursday that the economy will continue growing moderately the rest of this year even though the country faces major problems from the housing slump.

“We are making progress although not in a straight line,” Paulson said. “Housing continues to be at the heart of our economic challenges and remains our most significant downside risk.”

Killer in Amarillo robbery to die Thursday

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Condemned Texas inmate Larry Donnell Davis was set to die Thursday evening for orchestrating and taking part in the robbery and fatal stabbing and beating of a man in Amarillo 13 years ago.

Davis, 40, had been out of prison less than four months when authorities said he and several friends were involved in robbing an acquaintance, Michael Barrow, 26, and killing him at Barrow’s home.

Davis’ appeals were exhausted and no last-ditch legal efforts were filed to try to halt his punishment, the fourth execution in Texas this year and the second in as many weeks.

Executions were on hold in Texas and around the country for more than seven months until the U.S. Supreme Court in April rejected an appeal from two Kentucky prisoners who argued lethal injection was unconstitutionally cruel.

Texas resumed carrying out executions in June and Davis was among at least 15 condemned prisoners with death dates in the coming months, including six in August.

Davis acknowledged he was at Barrow’s home the day of the killing, acknowledged kicking the victim who had broken free of restraints on his hands and feet, but insisted in a recent interview with The

Associated Press he was not responsible for the fatal wounds.

“They finished him,” he said of his friends, who accepted plea deals for lesser sentences. “I don’t mind being punished for something I did — not for something I didn’t do.”

In a detailed confession to police that ran 14 pages, Davis said he tied Barrow’s hands, held him down while an accomplice stabbed him and handed his accomplice the weapons, including an ice pick, a knife and a lead pipe.

“This is a bad dude,” said Pat Murphy, a Potter County assistant district attorney who prosecuted the case. “Basically, Larry Donnell Davis helped him stab the guy, helped him choke the guy, he even coached him.”

“The confession is the thing. He talks about how he got the knife, told him how to do it, stuck his foot across the guy’s throat to show how to asphyxiate him. It’s pretty chilling.”

Davis was no stranger to prison or trouble at the time of the Barrow slaying in August 1995.

He’d been released from prison on mandatory supervision less than four months earlier, freed after serving 10 months for a parole violation and a four-year term for theft. Even before that, Davis was locked up in 1992 with a two-year term for a

weapons and theft conviction. He was released after five months, then was returned about a year later as a parole violator. In May 1994, he was released again, but was back in prison six weeks later.

He also was accused but never tried for another murder in Dallas in 1993, where authorities said the victim was fatally beaten with the top of a toilet tank.

“I used to drink a lot,” Davis said from death row.

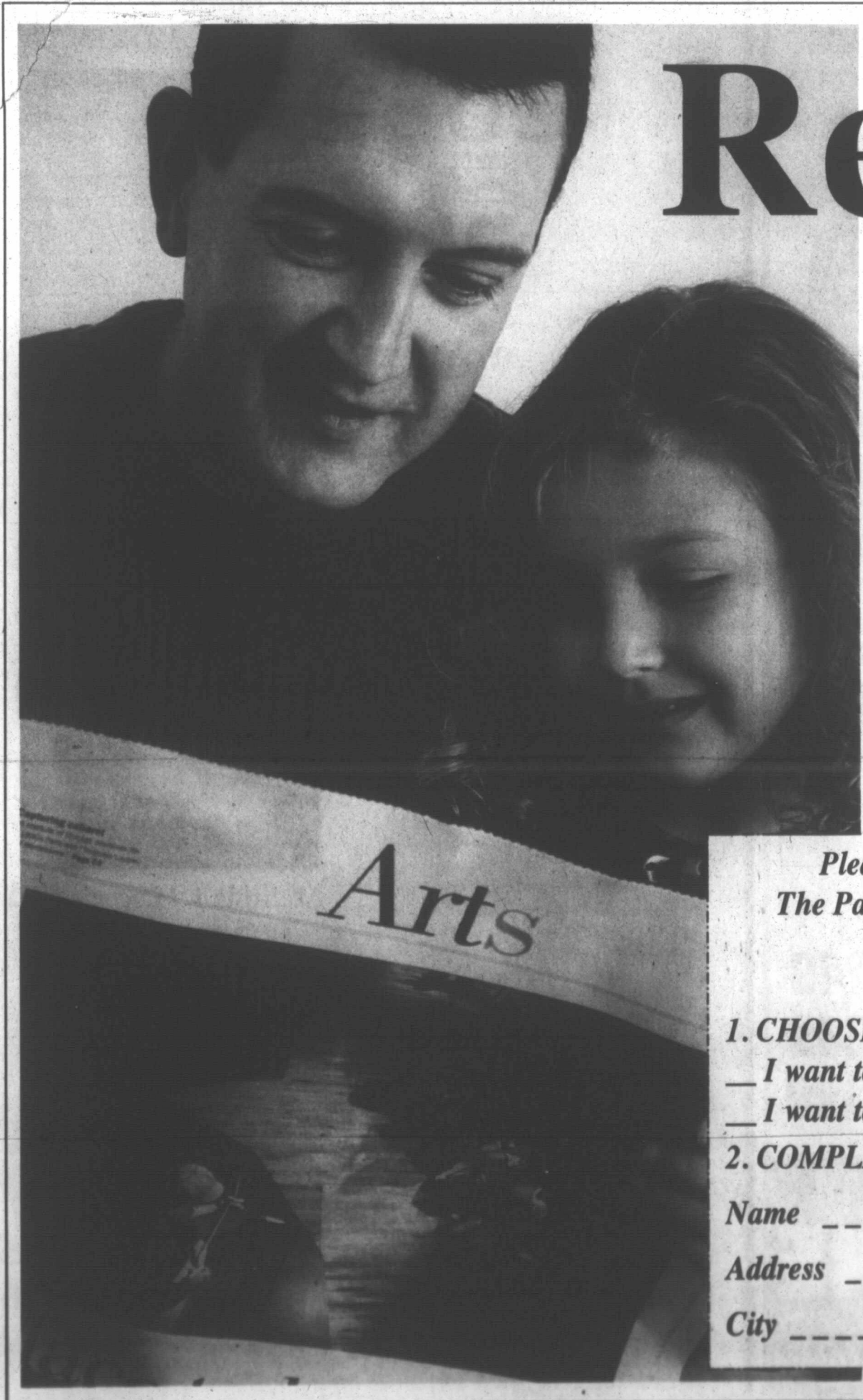
He said he was offered a plea bargain for Barrow’s death but rejected it.

“I didn’t murder the dude and wouldn’t accept it,” he said.

Davis told police Barrow’s death was a plot by two friends, brothers Raydon and Donald Drew, who needed money so at least one of them could get a teardrop tattoo, a gang symbol that can represent involvement in a killing or loss of a loved one in a slaying. Two others serving as lookouts, one of them a juvenile, also were involved.

Davis supplied the knife and an ice pick used by Raydon Drew to kill Barrow, according to his confession.

At his trial, Davis’ lawyers tried to show he was only a passive participant, may have been guilty of aggravated robbery or murder but not capital murder.



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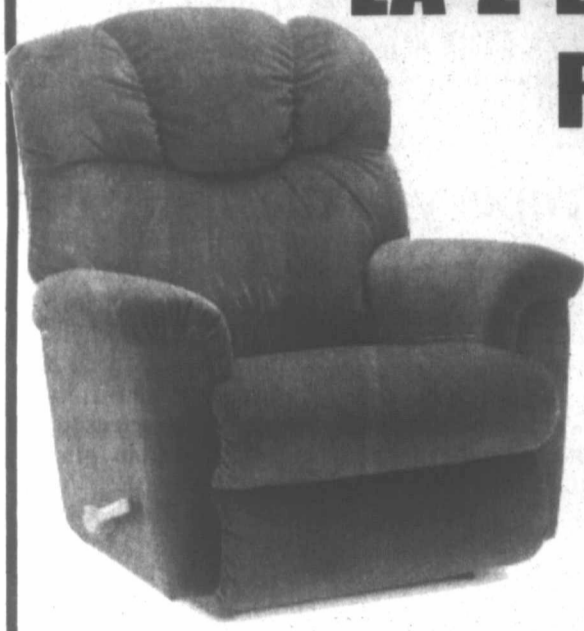
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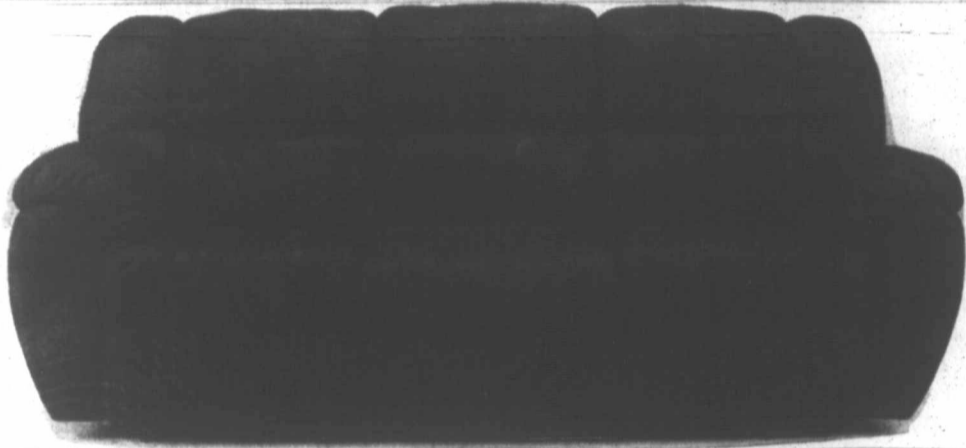
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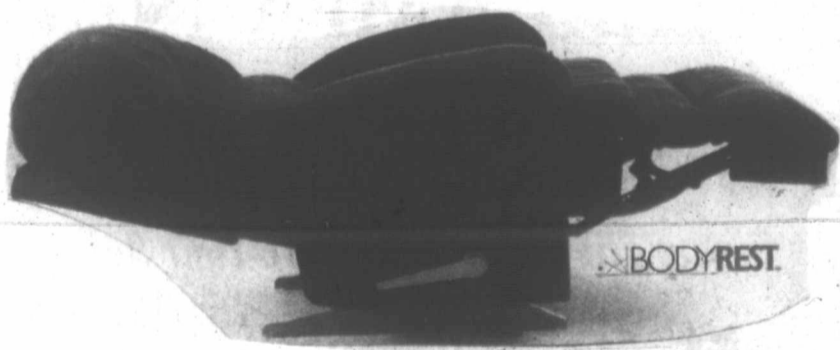


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**Growth weaker than hoped;
economy shrinks in Q4**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The country didn't get the energetic rebound in economic growth hoped for from the government's tax rebates in the second quarter, and the economy jolted into reverse at the end of 2007, raising new recession fears.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that gross domestic product, or GDP, increased at an annual rate of 1.9 percent in the April-to-June period. That marked an improvement over the feeble 0.9 percent growth logged in the first quarter of this year and the outright contraction in the economy during the final quarter of last year.

Still, the second-quarter rebound wasn't as robust as economists had hoped; they

were forecasting growth at a 2.4 percent pace. The pickup, while welcome, isn't likely to be seen as a signal that the fragile economy is growing healthier. There are fears that as the bracing tonic of the tax rebates fades, the economy could be in for another rough patch later this year.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrials were off nearly 40 points in morning trading following two days of gains.

The health of the economy is the top concern of the public — and by extension politicians including candidates vying for the White House.

Of the latest GDP news, President Bush said: "It's not as good as we'd like it to be, but I want to remind you a few months ago there were

predictions that the economy would shrink this quarter," he said.

Instead, GDP contracted by 0.2 percent, on an annualized basis, in the last three months of 2007, according to annual revisions released by the government.

That contraction reflected the deepest cuts in 26 years from builders clobbered by the housing slump and cautious spending by consumers spooked by all the fallout.

The fourth-quarter's dip marked the worst showing since the third quarter of 2001, when the economy was last in a recession. The government's previous estimate for the final quarter of last year was in positive territory — but not by much — at an anemic 0.6 percent growth rate.

GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is the best barometer of the country's economic fitness.

A pickup in consumer spending and brisk sales of U.S. exports abroad figured prominently in the second-quarter improvement.

Consumers boosted their spending at a 1.5 percent pace in the second quarter. That was up from a 0.9 percent growth rate in the first quarter and marked the best showing since the third quarter of 2007 when the economy was still performing strongly despite the severe housing slump.

Billions of dollars in tax rebates, the centerpiece of the government's \$168 billion stimulus package, spurred consumers to spend in some areas, a major force shaping overall economic activity. Spending on furniture and household appliances went up, while people cut spending on cars.



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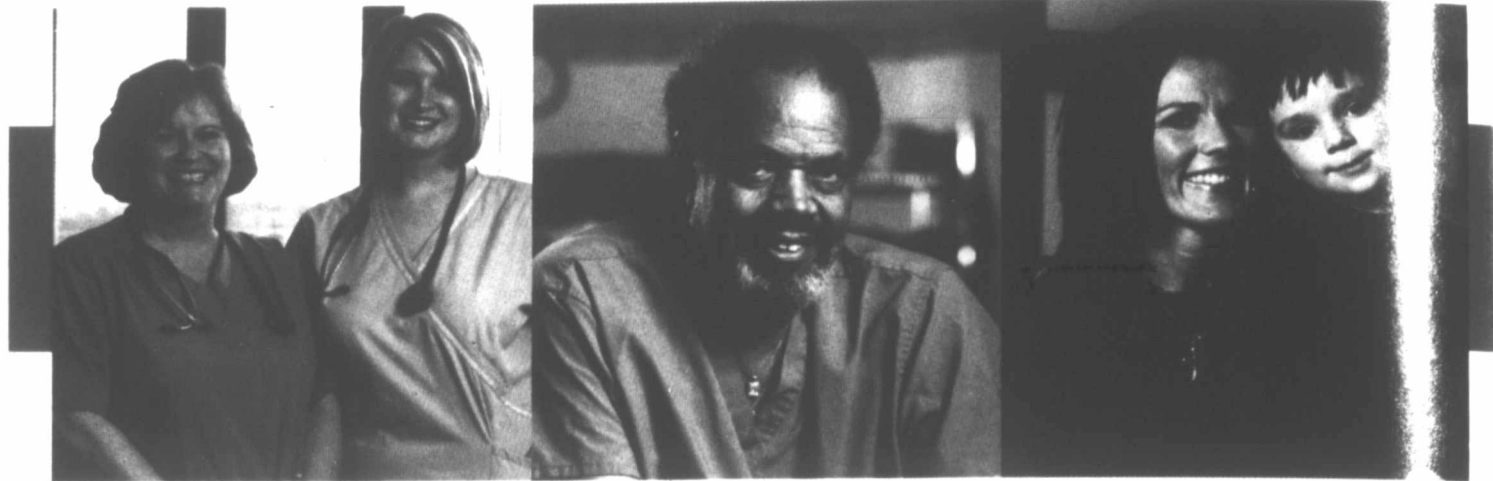
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west-texas
LANDSCAPE



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At Pampa Regional Medical Center, we are proud to be part of the Pampa community and are committed to its wellness, education and economic growth. Pampa Regional Medical Center is one of the largest tax payers and employers in the Eastern Texas Panhandle and has served its medical needs for over 57 years. For the past year, we have sponsored various community events and support organizations through our resources and donations.

We thank you for the privilege of serving you and your healthcare needs - today and into the future.

| Community Economic Impact this past year | |
|--|----------------------|
| Property Taxes | \$ 533,966 |
| Sales Taxes | 479,780 |
| Total Employment | 14,015,888 |
| Capital Investment | 3,066,402 |
| Dollars Spent with Local Vendors | 2,977,255 |
| Discounted Care | 4,535,511 |
| Donations | 16,726 |
| TOTAL | \$ 25,625,528 |

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Local Events

Community Health Fair
 Emergency Responder Recognition
 Area Relay for Life to Benefit American Cancer Society
 Project Hope (Breast Cancer)
 Chautauqua Fun Run/5K to Benefit United Way
 Tobacco Free Campus
 Pampa ISD Employee Health Screen
 Pertussis Awareness

Sponsorships

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 Rotary Club • Special Olympics
 St. Matthew's Day School
 Texas DPS Association
 Top O' Texas Livestock Association
 Top O' Texas Rodeo
 United Way

Support and Resources

Child Birthing Classes (Lamaze)
 Active Advantage (ages 40 plus)
 Hospital Auxiliary
 Cancer Support Group

Quick Facts 2007

Patients Admitted: 3,112
 Annual Births: 326
 Annual ER Visits: 12,114
 Inpatient Surgeries: 712
 Outpatient Surgeries: 1,620
 Outpatient Service: 20,776
 Total Employees : 289

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Suite 206



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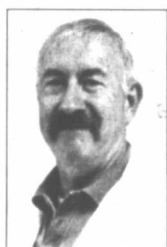
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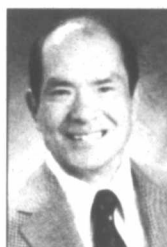
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On Military Leave
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CHAMBER LETTER

Pampa has many attractions



By Keith Pitner
Executive Director
The Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce

This magazine contains excellent coverage and data on and about Pampa. I want to focus on Pampa as seen by visitors to Pampa. What better way than to give you some remarks made by travel and tourism professionals.

Recently the Chamber Tourism Committee hosted a group sponsored by the Texas Travel Industry Association which included directors of each of the 13 Texas Travel Information Centers plus four American Automobile Association members. We met their tour bus at the East Gray County line, where Tourism Chairman John Curry and Texas Game Warden Logan Hudson boarded their bus.

Logan directed their tour bus to one of our large playas just east of Pampa and as Logan spoke of the abundant wildlife in the area, a large flock of ducks arose from the playa and flew directly over their bus. The group clapped and gave Logan credit for perfectly orchestrating the ducks departure. Before leaving the group, Logan told them about the pheasant, deer and antelope - and the different birds that brings bird watchers to our area.

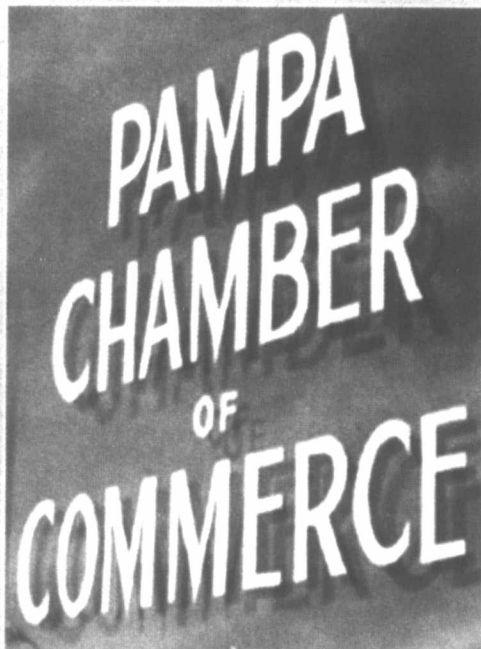
As the bus proceeded to Pampa, John gave the group a summary of the historic Red River Wars - involving Indian Chief Quanah Parker, tribes of the Southern Plains and the U.S. Army - that took place 1874-1875 just south of their drive into Pampa.

Next, John narrated a tour through Pampa's "Million Dollar Row", the title given the County Courthouse, City Hall, and Central Fire Station - all erected in 1929-1930. Eddie Kleppinger, director of the travel center in Laredo, wrote a note back to us stating that our architecture was some of the most perfect examples of the the 1920-30's that he had seen and that he knew of several people who make trips just to see such examples of period architecture. He included other buildings such as the Pampa Post Office and the Schneider Hotel, which was known for its elegant meals and guest performers including Bob Wills, Tex Ritter, Hand Thompson and Guy Lombardo.

Cheryl Granger and Donna Watson, directors of the travel centers in Orange and Waskom, respectively, remarked that the drives down several of our streets, including Mary Ellen and Somerville Streets, were remarkable, with the large trees and restored homes. All 13 of the directors were amazed that Pampa had 31 parks, one of which is stocked annually with trout, and all maintained by the city.

We directed their bus to the Holiday Inn Express, giving them time to check in and take a short break. Following this break, we escorted the bus to the Woody Guthrie Music Center at the old Harris Drug building, served them Dyer's BBQ, and entertained them with sing-along songs written by Woody Guthrie and stories of his life and song-writing in Pampa. This was the first trip to the Panhandle for Director Gabe Bautista and he said he loved every bit of it, especially the big sky and bright stars, which he "...never sees in my home town of Houston".

The Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce serves as the local welcome and information center for visitors and local people alike. We have brochures, local maps, and we will answer your questions to the best of our ability. Call us at (806) 669-3249.



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■ Photo by Marilyn Powers

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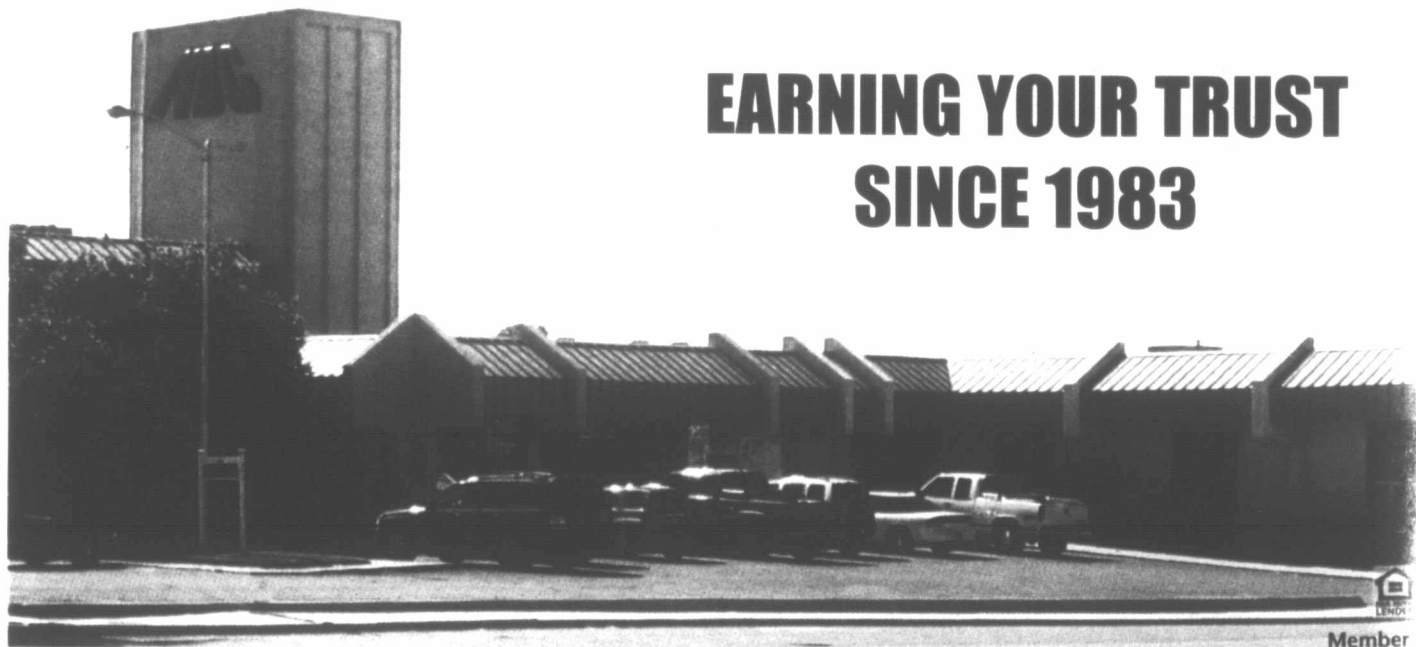
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C O M M U N I T Y

• **POPULATION**

Pampa
19,959 for 1990
17,887 for 2000
16,744 for 2005

• **Geographic Data**

Average elevation:
3,236-feet
Land area: 8.7-square
miles

• **CLIMATE**

Average annual ...
Rain, 22.8-inches
Snow, 16.4-inches
Temperature, 56.9
Seasonal temperature,
High 48/Low 22
(January)/High
92/Low 66 (July)

• **MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Council of
Governments member:
Yes
Form of local govern-
ment: Home rule
(council manager)
Annual budget:
\$10,000,000 general
funds
Police: 26 full-time
personnel
Firemen: 28 full-time
personnel
Ambulance service:
Yes
Rescue service: Yes
Regulated city zoning:
Yes
City planning commis-
sion: Yes

• **TRANSPORTATION**

Nearest Interstate: I-
40
Nearest major high-
way(s): Highways 60
& 70
Nearest airport: Perry
LeFors Field

Surface type: Asphalt

Landing lights:
Dawn/Dusk
**Instrument landing
system:** No
**Nearest commercial
airport:** Rick Husband
International Airport
in Amarillo (60-miles
from Pampa)

• **ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

**Chamber
of Commerce:** Yes
**Economic develop-
ment corporation:** Yes

• **Utilities**

Water supplier: City of
Pampa
Electric company: Xcel
Energy
Gas company: Atmos
Energy
Telephone companies:
AT&T, NTS, Cable
One
Wireless providers:
Alltell and AT&T
Internet providers:
AT&T, NTS, Cable
One, Centramedia,
Pampa Cyber-Net and
Pampa
Communications Inc.

• **HEALTH FACILITIES**

Number of hospitals: 1
hospital with 115-bed
facility
Number of physicians:
30
Number of dentists: 6
Number of clinics: 8
Number of hospices: 2
**Nearest emergency
room:** Pampa Regional
Medical Center
Nursing facilities: 2
Veterinarians: 2

• **COMMERCIAL,
INDUSTRIAL SERVICES**

Number of banks: 7
**Number of paid news-
papers:** 1 (The Pampa
News)
**Number of radio sta-
tions:** 2 (KGRO &
KMOX)
Cable TV service: Yes
Satellite TV service:
Yes

• **TAX STRUCTURE**

Area sales tax

• **MAJOR EMPLOYERS**

Pampa ISD: 504
employees
Wal-Mart: 297
employees
TDCJ: 249 employees
(Jordan prison unit),
73 employees (Baten
prison unit)
**Pampa Regional
Medical Center:** 289
employees
Celanese: 215 employ-
ees
National Oilwell: 387
employees
Halliburton: 300
employees
Hudson Drilling Co.:
155 employees
City of Pampa: 183
employees
Gray County: 140
employees
Titan Specialties: 197
employees
United Supermarket:
150 employees
Cabot Corp.: 105
employees
**West Texas
Landscape:** 250

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From the Mayor's desk...

By Lonny Robbins
Mayor
City of Pampa

As a native of Pampa and a graduate of Pampa High School, I passionately love this city and its citizens and am committed to doing all I can to secure a bright and exciting future for all families who live here.

What's so great about Pampa?

Isn't it a small town in a barren part of the country? I am asked questions like this whenever I travel to different parts of the state or nation and I embrace them because they give me an opportunity to tout Pampa's many wonderful assets and explain why Pampa is a great place to live and raise a family.

I have had the privilege of raising my family in Pampa.

There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's activities and growth outside of the home. The schools here are committed to training and educating its students and highly encourage parents to partner with them in that process. We also have other family activities to involve your children, whether it be sports, 4-H, church, or whatever your interest might be. Family is important, and Pampa is a community that still cares about the truly important things like family and how we treat each other.

Pampa has the most caring and friendly people you will find anywhere. People show genuine concern and loving care.

My family was overwhelmed this past year when Pampa residents showered us with love and concern when we lost my father. Many other residents have shared with me their similar experiences when they, too, faced the death or illness of a loved one. Pampa citizens care about each other and know how to face adversity together.

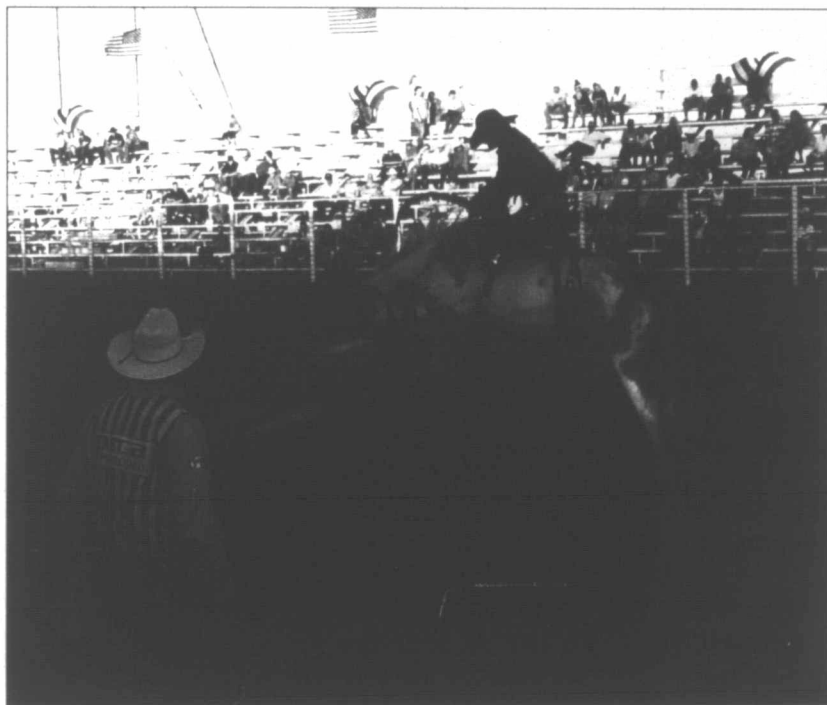
In my 50-plus years in Pampa, I have seen many changes in our community, both positive and negative. The city has flourished with a population of 28,000 and bottomed out at 17,000. We've experienced oil booms and busts, thriving crops and hailed out stubble, drought and wildfires, babies born, people die, and the list goes on. In spite of it all, the people in Pampa have continued to persevere and value life.

I encourage anyone to come to Pampa and experience the people who make Pampa a special community.

My desire is that our city will be blessed and fulfill its God-given purpose for generations to come.



Mayor Lonny Robbins

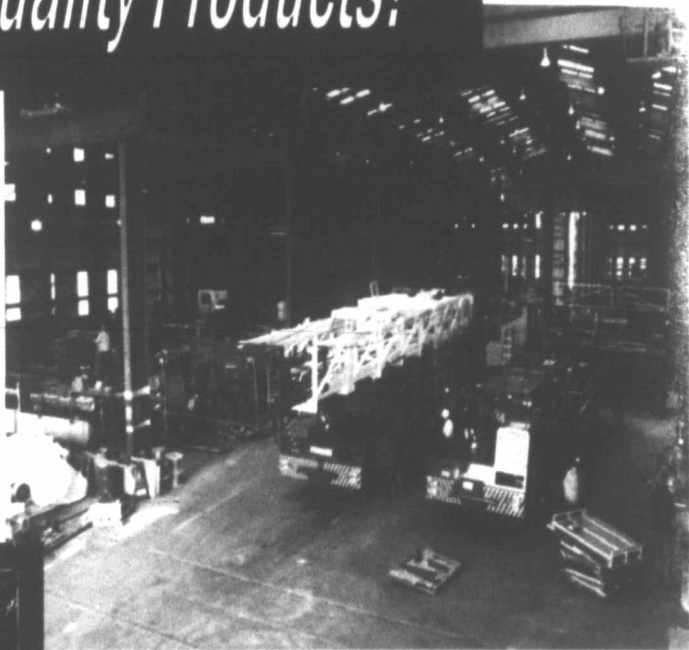


Among the many activities Pampa residents enjoy is the annual "Top O' Texas" Rodeo.

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A contestant heats up the competition in the annual "burnout" event during June's "Burnin' the Bricks."

Special events throughout the year

Story and photos by **MARILYN POWERS**
The Pampa News

Pampa hosts a variety of events each year which span the seasons and holidays. Below are some of the major annual activities.

Mud Bog — Spectators can watch the mud fly when drivers tackle a mud-filled trench to see whose vehicle can travel the farthest in the fastest time. Entrants are divided into several categories based on their vehicles. The event is held at Recreation Park each May.

Burnin' the Bricks in June — The second weekend in June each year is devoted to a variety of activities for car and truck enthusiasts. A car show kicks off the weekend, and a burnout competition, which gives the group of events its name, allows entrants to see who can generate the most noise and smoke by spinning their rear wheels while the vehicle remains stationary. Cruise Night offers the opportunity to travel back in time to the days when drivers could see and be seen while piloting their "rides" along Pampa's "drag" in the downtown area. A new event added in 2007 is *Cookin' the Bricks*, a barbecue cookoff. The weekend ends with drag races.

Top O' Texas Rodeo — For over 60 years, the Top O' Texas Rodeo has been the largest rodeo held annually in Pampa. The three-day rodeo has traditionally been part of the PRCA circuit, but in 2008 is for amateurs. The last day of the event includes a parade and a dance.

Kid Pony Show and Junior Rodeo — The Kid Pony Show, formerly a three-day event, immediately follows the Top O' Texas Rodeo each year. In 2008, the schedule has been changed to

See Events, Page 15



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3 yr. old: full day M-F

Science, Tumbling & Art

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Kid's Pony Show and Junior Rodeo

Continued from Page 13

two days of competition. Ages 8 through 18 will participate in a Top O' Texas Junior Rodeo, followed the next day by the Kid Pony Show for ages 7 and under. A disabled event for ages 8 through 18 will wrap up the slate of activities.

Chautauqua — Labor Day is the date of the annual Chautauqua celebration in Central Park. Features include a fun run/walk, live musical entertainment, and food and craft booths.

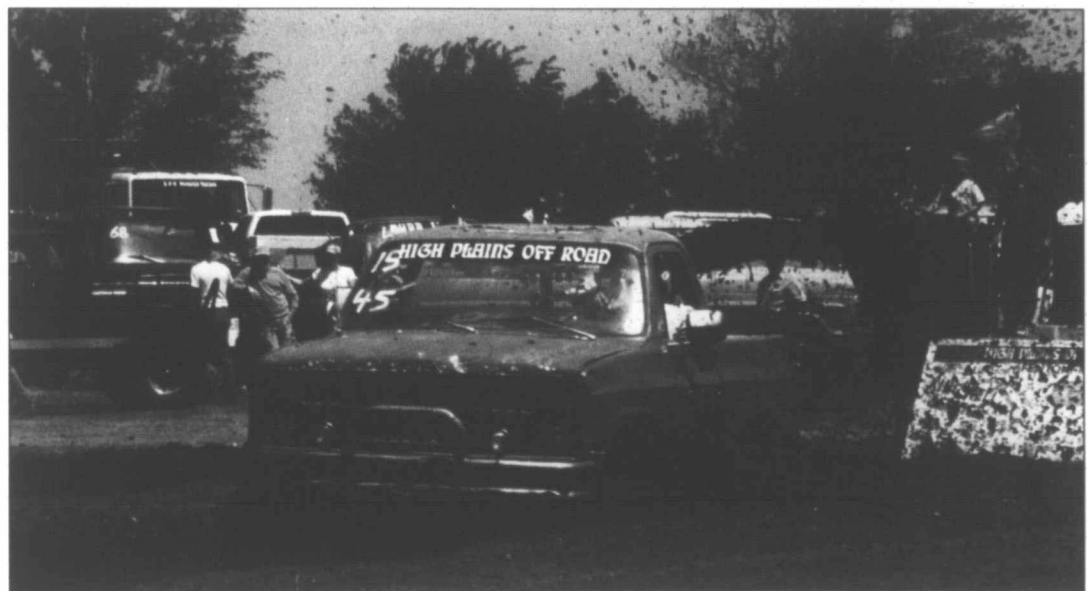
Tribute to Woody Guthrie — A weekend full of events is held each October in tribute to Woody Guthrie, a folk music singer perhaps best known for writing the song "This Land is Your Land." Guthrie lived in Pampa from 1929 to 1937, from the time he was 17 until he left the area at age 25. Activities include jam sessions, live music performed by area artists, a catered dinner and a street dance.

The Christmas season's Celebration of Lights display at Recreation Park opens Thanksgiving weekend and is open to the public through the New Year. Painted cutout displays can be seen during the day, and at night, the park is filled with colorful Christmas lights which form both animated and stationary figures.

Other activities — Pampa also hosts annual parades at Pampa High School's

Special events throughout the year

homecoming and at Christmas. A public fireworks display is provided by the City of Pampa on the Fourth of July. Downtown streets are decorated with lighted utility pole-mounted displays that reflect the current holiday, including Easter, Independence Day and Christmas. Other events include annual health fairs, business expos, community concerts and theatrical presentations.



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Welcome to Pampa!

**By Trevlyn Pitner
Pampa City Manager**

Welcome to your Pampa!

Wow, what a place to live, play, work, worship, or just relax! There is nothing like our big beautiful skies and breathtaking sunsets. Sitting atop the great plains of Texas, Pampa is the second largest city in the panhandle. We are a well-adjusted, full service community incorporating agriculture, industry, tourism, recreation, and commercial enterpris- es to promote an economy which has the potential to enhance the qual- ity of life for all families and individuals. But remember, "it takes you to make Pampa what it is and can be".

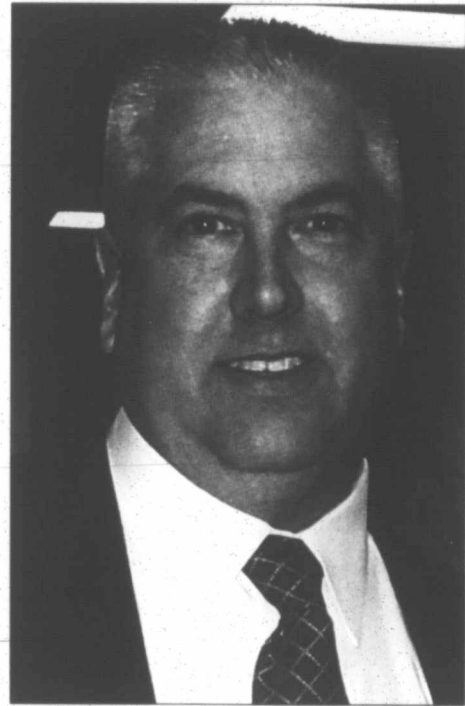
Pampa is already a very diverse community fueling a diversified economy and now with the future moving towards renewable wind energy, we are heading in the direction of the best times ever. We are situated in the center of the best wind in Texas which in turn places us in a prime location for bringing in all forms of wind energy industry and support services. Being strategically located 60 miles from Amarillo, having a great regional hospital, a great community college, great schools, and above all a great attitude - Pampa is where people want to be!

Our excellent environment, attractive and affordable lifestyle, and great amenities such as many parks, two golf courses, museums, histor- ical attractions, rodeos, and outdoor recreation facilities make for a very high quality of life. And of course we are known best for our 'Friendly People' with real Texas hospitality.

The City of Pampa staff work hard at maintaining the community as a great place. Our public works divisions, which include parks, sanitation, streets, water, wastewater and code enforcement departments, all strive to keep our services working seamless and smooth. The community services and recreation departments help with the overall quality of life maintaining our playgrounds, library, ball fields, M.K. Brown auditorium and the many activities these all encompass on a daily basis. Public safety is second to none in Pampa with highly recog- nized fire and police departments to serve and protect.

A top notch communications and 9-1-1 center along with an advanced emergency operations center (EOC) keep citizens informed and are ready for any emergency or disaster. A full service animal control division and shelter to help the little critters that can't help themselves are also a cru- cial part of city government. And don't forget the ones behind the scenes such as the clerks of various depart- ments, the courts, utility billing, finance, buildings and grounds who are the ones that hold everything together and keep us moving forward each day. We are a full service city and Pampa proud to serve!

So, take time to enjoy life and enjoy it in Pampa!



City Manager Trevlyn Pitner



Pampa City Hall

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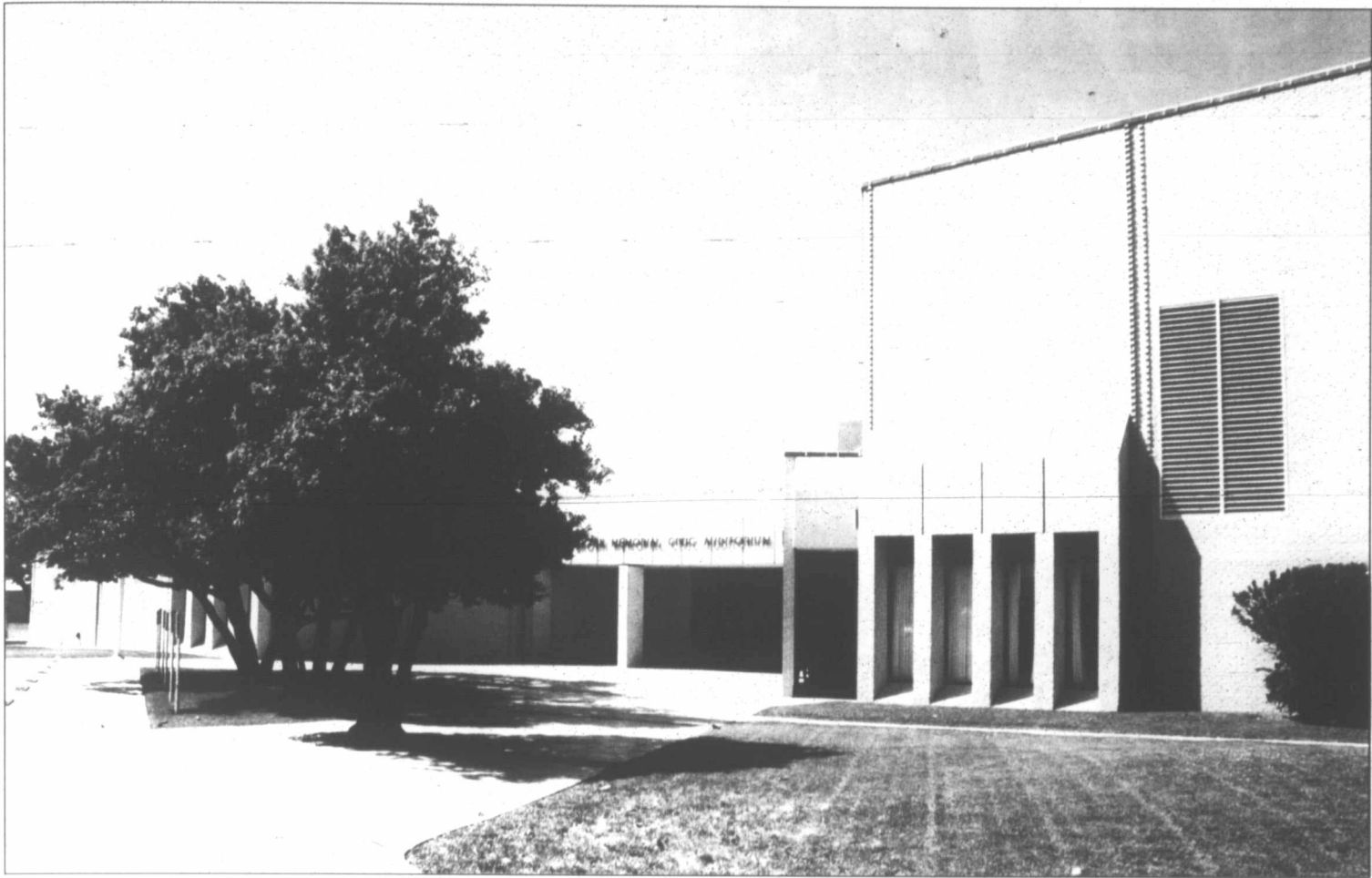
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The City of Pampa's M.K. Brown Auditorium is a 1,500 seat state-of-the-art facility used for concerts, plays and other community events.

Concerts, weddings, proms - all have a venue at M.K. Brown Auditorium

By **JULIE ANN THOMPSON**
The Pampa News

Pampa's M.K. Brown Auditorium was built in 1970-71 with money from an endowment from Montague Kingsmill Brown. The facility has a 1500 seat theater with state of the art sound and lighting systems, a 2200 square foot stage, a 2800 square foot lobby and permanent continental-style seating.

"It hosts all kinds of events from concerts to wedding receptions to prom," Shane Stokes said. "It's also used for exhibits, craft shows, etc."

The Heritage Room, a banquet room with seating for up to 500 people or 350 people when the dance floor is in use, also has a kitchen available. M.K. Brown has an on site manager ready to take calls and schedule events. There have also

been several improvements in the last few years.

"We've had some recent upgrades in capital projects. Both the upper and lower rooms have been replaced in the last ten years, the lighting and sound systems are both brand new, the interior has been renovated and the exterior walkways have all been renovated," Stokes said.

Brown, the auditorium's namesake, was born in Middlesex County, England in 1878 and came to America in 1903. He arrived first in New Orleans but set out straight for the Texas Panhandle, according to Stokes. He worked for Mr. Hobart at White Deer Land Company for a monthly salary of \$25. He later bought a building downtown and began developing it as an area museum. That building is now the White Deer Land

Museum. He also received a doctorate from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

Brown died in September of 1964 but he had a vision to build a building where artists could perform. His dream was realized through the efforts of the Trustees of the M.K. Brown Foundation Inc. which was organized in March of 1960. Along with Brown's endowment, a \$350,000 trust fund, the city issued a certificate of obligation for \$800,000 to raise the total for building the auditorium to 1.3 million dollars. Construction began in 1970 and the auditorium was opened in 1972.

For additional information call 806-669-5790 or visit the city's website at cityofpampa.org.

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Two



White Deer Land Museum

Pampa's love for history enshrined in two local museums

By **MARILYN POWERS**
The Pampa News

Pampa's two museums offer visitors the chance to trace the area's past as well as a lesson in military history.

White Deer Land Museum, 116 S. Cuyler, is itself part of Pampa's history. The restored structure, built in 1916, was once the two-story office building of White Deer Land Company, which was responsible for much of the settlement of the area by farmers, ranchers and others. During its years of operation, the land company sold 641,000 acres of land in Roberts, Carson, Gray and Hutchinson counties.

Two Englishmen, M.K. Brown and C.P.

See **Museums**, Page 29



Freedom Museum



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The City of Pampa, according to the city's Public Service Department, has 41 parks with a total of 3.5-miles of hike and bike trails. Among the services and/or facilities provided on these public lands are a small lake with a boat ramp, a skate park, an outdoor stage area, a swimming pool, softball fields, a Super Playground, camping areas, RV hookups and more.

Central Park, 12.5 acres.

Highland Park, 13.98 acres.

Hobart Street Park, 10.12 acres.

Marcus Sanders Park, 2.26 acres.

Recreation Park, 133.90 acres.

Almeda Park, 5.30 acres.

Aspen Park, 6 acres.

Beech Park, 1.94 acres.

Buckler Park, 3.96 acres.

Burdette Park, 1 acre.

Butterfly Garden Park, 0.2 acres.

Chestnut Park, 3.36 acres.

East Coronado Park, 8.54 acres.

West Coronado Park, 8.54 acres.

Cuyler Street Park, 0.23 acres.

Evergreen Park, 6.50 acres.

Fraser Park, 1 acre.

Hollywood Park, 1.83 acres.

Inez Carter Park, 4 acres.

Lions Club Park, 7.83 acres.

Louisiana & Duncan Park,
0.20 acres.

H.E. & Inez B. McCarley Park,
0.48 acres.

Memorial Park, 0.916 acres.

Mora Wilkes Park, 11.03 acres.

North Crest Park, 2.42 acres.

Octavius Park, 1.13 acres.

Petroleum Park, 0.25 acres.

Prairie Village Park, 2.50 acres.

Priest Park, 4.62 acres.

Red Deer Park, 10 acres.

Santa Fe Park, 1 acre.

Dr. V.E. von Brunow Park,
0.16 acres.

Yeager Park, 36.8 acres.



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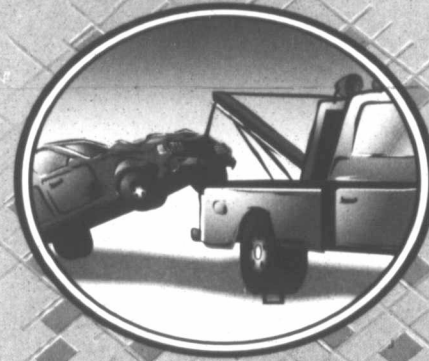
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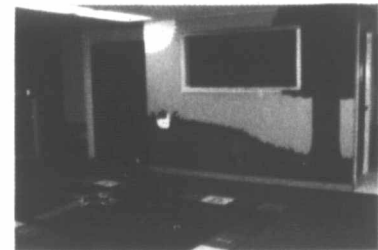
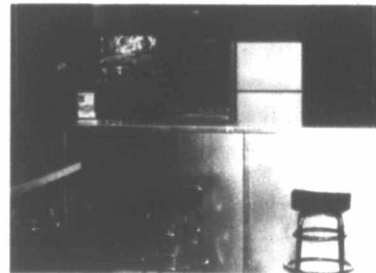
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| Sunday School | 9:45 a.m. |
| Contemporary Service | 11:00 a.m. |
| Evening Worship | 6:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday Worship | 5:00 p.m. |

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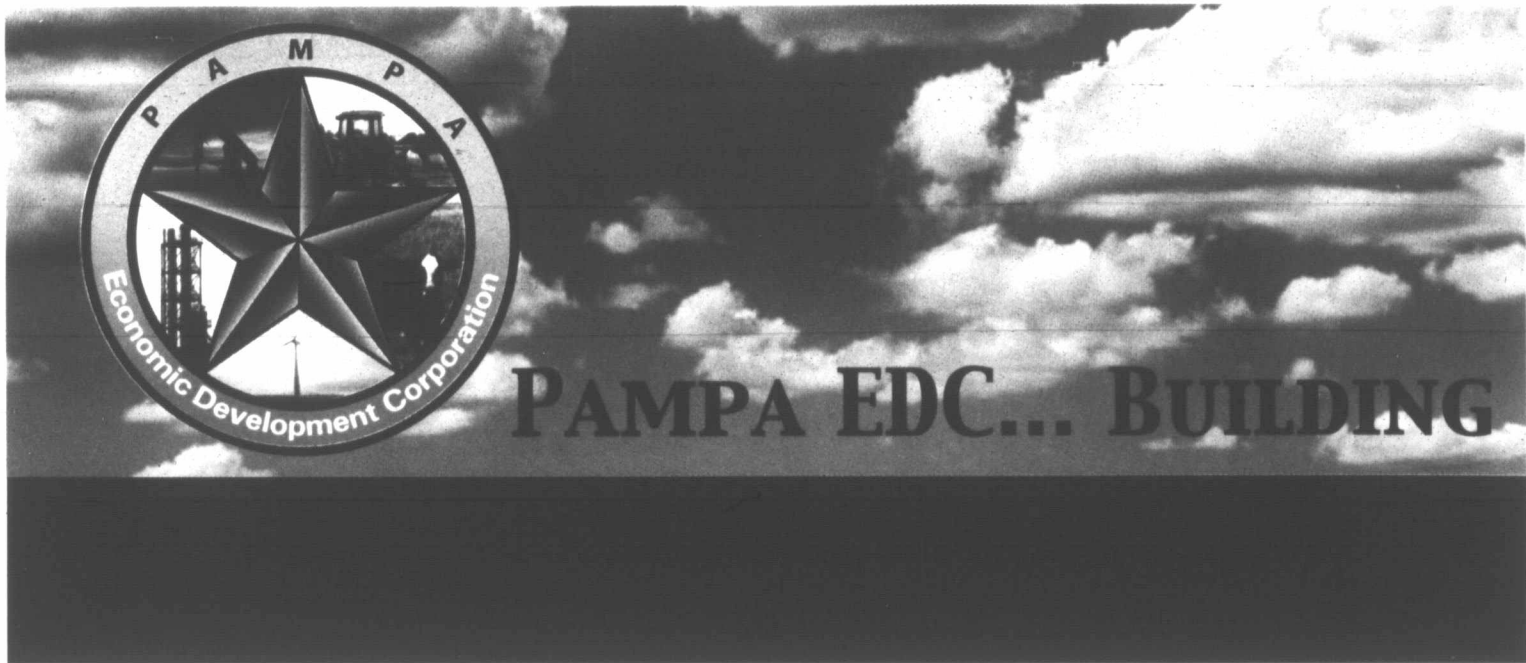
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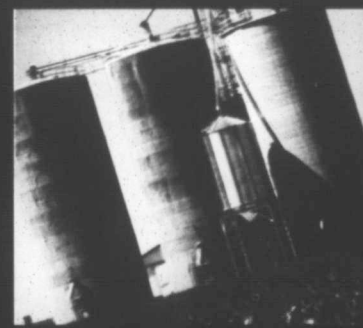


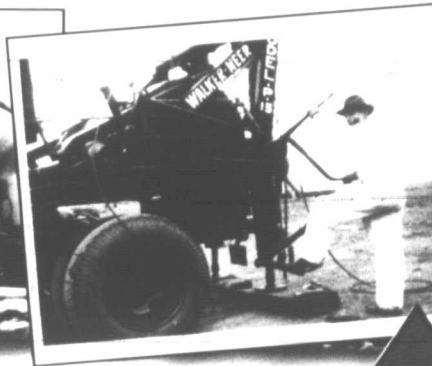


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The Pampa Economic Development Corporation is an organization that promotes new business in Pampa. The Pampa EDC 4B has aggressive business incentives funded from the half-cent sales tax for Economic Development that yields over \$1,000,000 dollars annually. Incentives are available to companies creating new jobs in Pampa. The level of assistance from the Pampa EDC is determined by the number of new jobs a company will create, the average wage rate of those jobs, and the company's total capital investment in the project. Location and excellent quality of life make Pampa a prime spot for new industrial business and sales. Pampa, Texas is located 50 miles Northeast of Amarillo, Texas, 113 miles from Elk City, Oklahoma and 120 miles from Liberal, Kansas. Pampa has 8,170 occupied homes and a population of 18,300.

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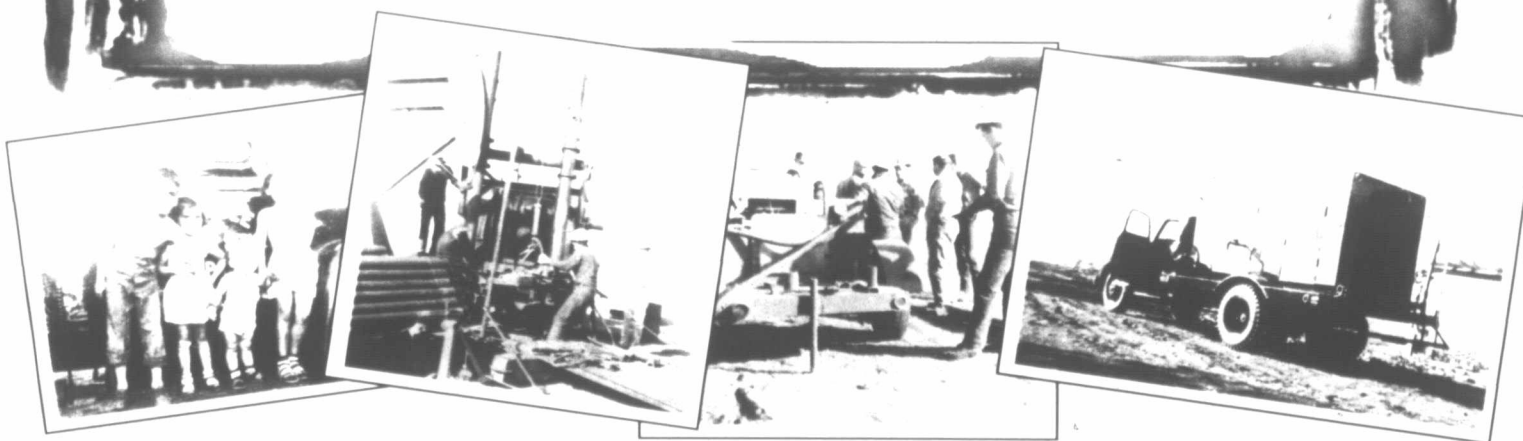
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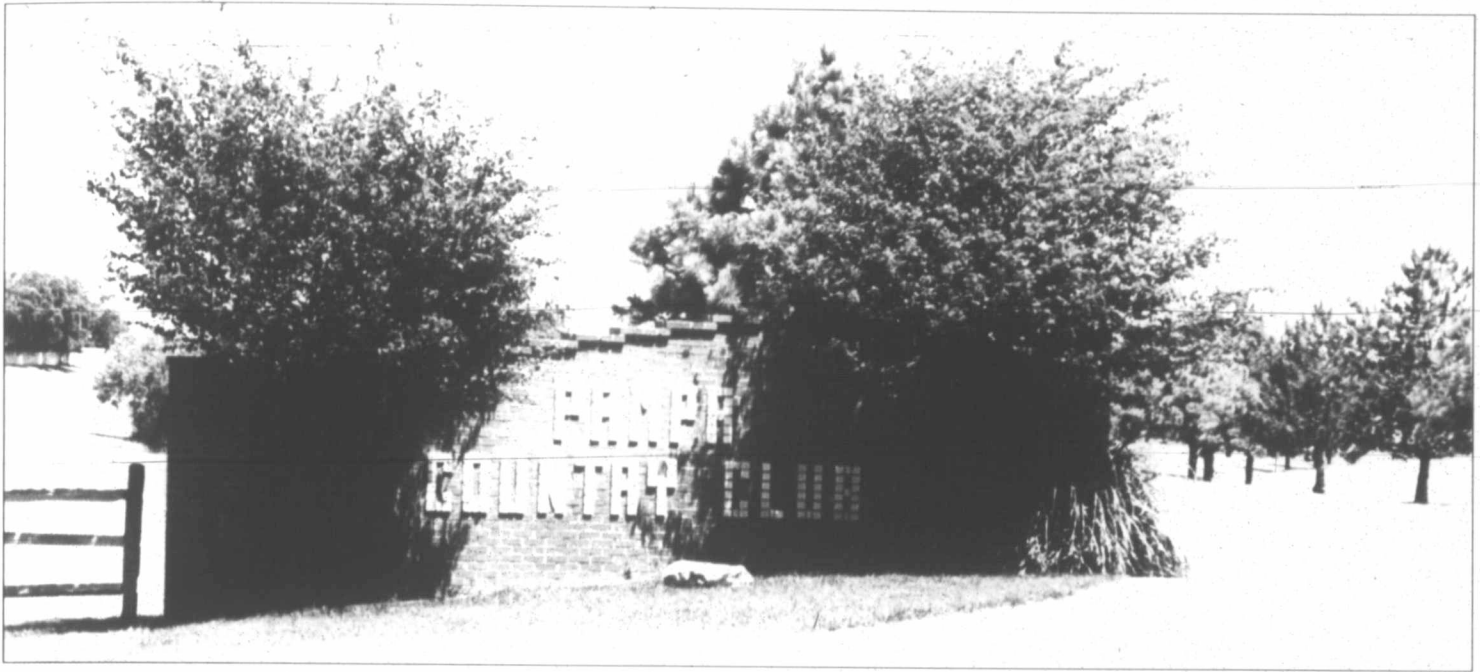
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Golfers - Relax in our rolling hills

Pampa residents have two very nice golf courses right in their back yards.

The Pampa Country Club, an "oasis in the Panhandle," boasts rolling hills, waterways, and a yearly schedule of events planned for young and old.

The club was founded in 1928. The golf course facilities include an 18-hole championship golf course, a full-time PGA professional, bag storage, cart rentals, driving range, two large practice greens and a full time pro-shop.

The country club offers various opportunities for active golfers including golf lessons, children's golf clinics, Thursday night golf scrambles, Lady's Golf Association and an active tournament schedule. The club is also host to the Top 'O Texas Golf Tournament.

Hidden Hills, a public course, is situated just north of the community.

There were 229 players present for Hidden Hills' opening day in 1990 and the numbers haven't declined

See **Golf**, Page 31



Museums

Continued from Page 21

Buckler, were the last two co-managers of White Deer Land Company. After the company was dissolved in 1957, Brown bought the office building with the intent of making it into a museum.

Brown and his secretary, Clotilde Thompson, began the work of transforming the building into a collection of exhibits. After Brown was killed in an automobile accident in 1964, Thompson continued the work and opened the general history museum in 1970.

In 1995, the museum's board of directors bought a building next door to the

museum and attached it to the original structure. An annex on the opposite side of the building is currently being prepared for public viewing.

White Deer Land Museum houses artifacts of residents of the Pampa area, both Native American and pioneer settlers. More recent times are also included, along with temporary exhibits which add something new for regular visitors to see.

Freedom Museum USA, located at 600 N. Hobart, is also housed in a historic building. A water pumping station built in 1939 by the Public Works Administration was reopened as the

museum in 1994 after eight years of remodeling and enlargement of the structure.

Freedom Museum houses military memorabilia spanning the Revolutionary War to the present. Displays are available for viewing both inside and outside the museum, where a B-25 bomber aircraft, two helicopters and other military vehicles are parked.

Inside, everything from weapons to uniforms is on display. The museum is a joint project of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 and Pampa Army Air Field Reunion Association.



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Make plans to attend 'Chautauqua'

By **JULIE ANN THOMPSON**
The Pampa News

Chautauqua, named for the traveling Chautauqua educational shows that toured small towns including Pampa in the early 1900s, is a community celebration in Central Park on Labor Day weekend. Chautauqua was started in 1982 to bring the arts to the community, and is sponsored by the Pampa Fine Arts Association.

"It is a popular family event that provides a free stage with a variety of entertainment from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m." Darlene Birkes said. "Long-time opening per-

formers on the stage have been the Pampa High School choir, band and cheerleaders."

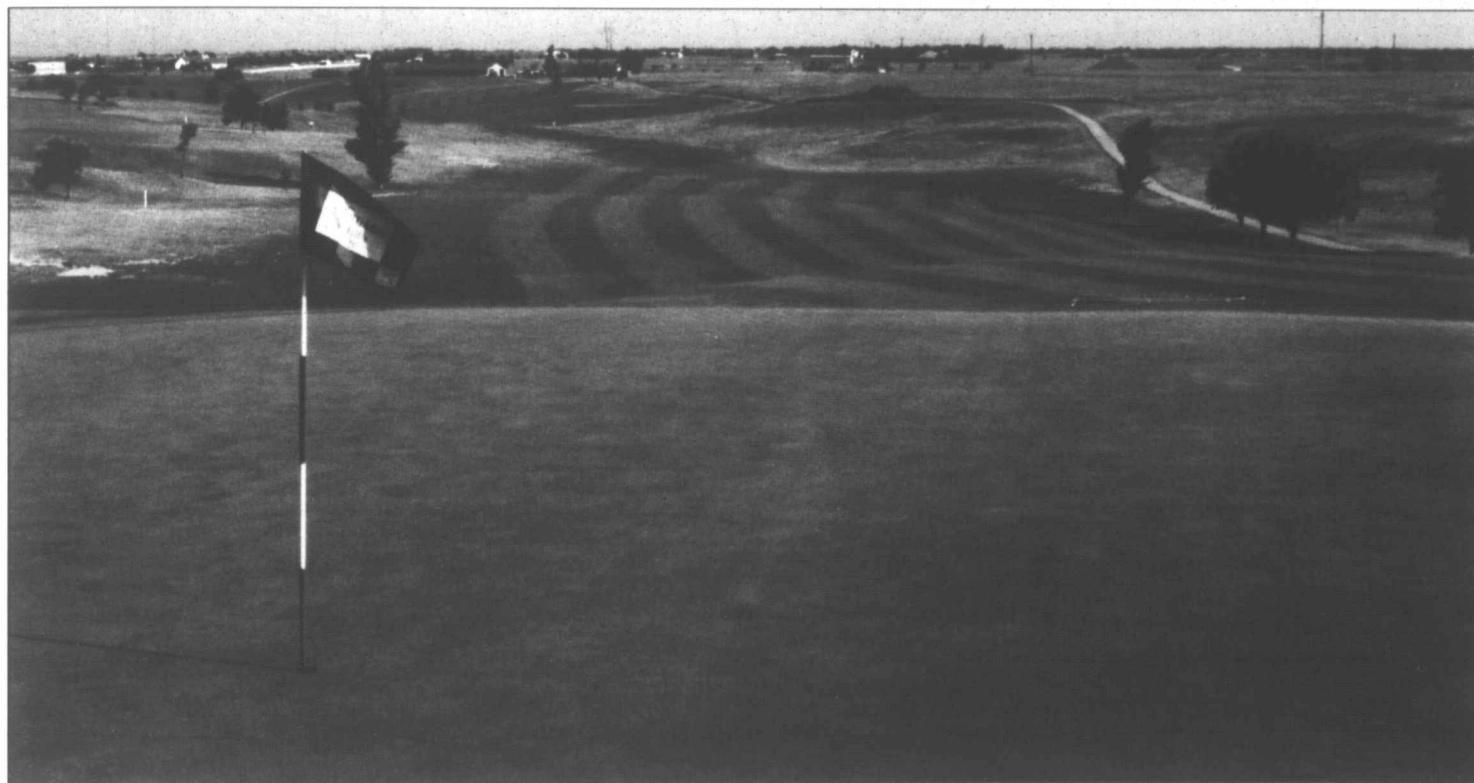
Many area bands, dance groups and performers have shared the spotlight as well. According to Birkes, everything from cowboy poets to a harpist sponsored by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts have taken the stage.

Exhibits, re-enactments and craft booths add to the festive occasion. Children's activities include train and wagon rides, face painting, sports competitions, arts and crafts and more.

The array of food and drinks served

by non-profit organizations benefits the Pampa area through the year. Rotary members begin their pancake breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and the Pampa Regional Medical Center begins the 5K fun runs at 8 a.m.

The first Chautauquas took place in Chautauqua, New York in the 1880s as an educational retreat, and a variety of summer programs are still held there. The word "Chautauqua" is a contraction of a Seneca Indian word meaning "where the fish was taken out" according to www.dos.state.ny.us, where a page is dedicated to the the origins of New York State's county names.



A green at Hidden Hills Public Golf Course.

Golf

Continued from Page 29

since. As Pampa's only public golf course, Hidden Hills continues to average 90-272 members a year, providing its players with challenging holes on the rolling plains.

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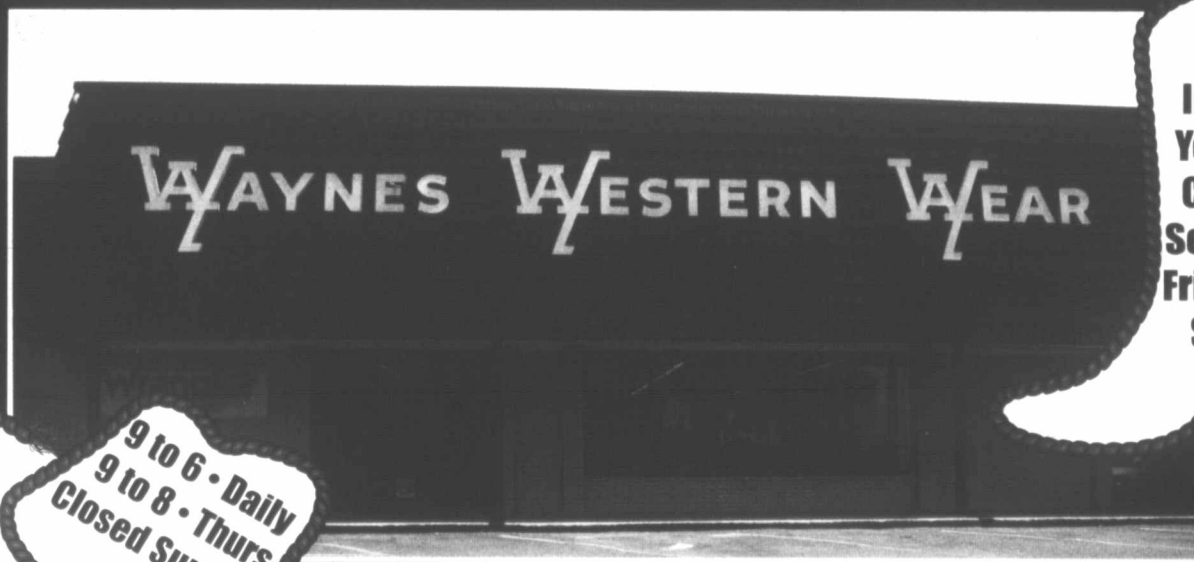


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Pampa is a community with its economic base firmly rooted in oil and agriculture, and with its eye on wind power as a future economic opportunity.

Pampa's EDC: Building on the past with an eye toward the future

By **DAVID BOWSER**
The Pampa-News

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation is effectively celebrating its first

birthday this year.

"The EDC was formed in January of 2006," said Dwight Fiveash. "We had a board of directors. We did not have an executive director until June, 2007."

Fiveash started with the economic development corporation as president of the board. In June, 2007, he became executive director.

The new economic development corporation was set up under different rules that its predecessor. The old PEDC that was dissolved by voters could only get involved in manufacturing jobs and there were fewer oversights on their activities. The new EDC that was approved by voters has broader areas of activities, but tighter oversight.

"There are an awful lot of opportunities sitting out there," said Dwight Fiveash, executive director of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation (PEDC).

"There are also a lot of questions to be answered yet."

He said the new EDC has an open future and a concern that it is handled right.

Since it was established in 2006, Fiveash said the new EDC has been working on housing, working on cleaning up Pampa and working on getting the city involved in the economic development community.

"We've probably sent out answers to questionnaires on 15 projects that have come in through the governor's office," Fiveash said.

The Texas Governor's office has a department devoted to tourism and economic development, he explained.

"They automatically send us inquiries by email," Fiveash said. "Those come in frequently."

He said that sometimes Pampa doesn't meet the general criteria, so there's no response.

"Somebody, for instance, that's looking for a building with 300,000 square feet, and they want 35 or 40 foot overhead doors," Fiveash said, "we don't have such a building. They might need to be next to a 15,000-foot landing strip. We don't have that either."

Some queries, he said, are discounted right off the bat.

"But others, we make proposals on."

See PEDC, Page 37



Two symbols of Pampa's economic and cultural heritage - an oil well and a pronghorn antelope - photographed in a rancher's field just west of town.



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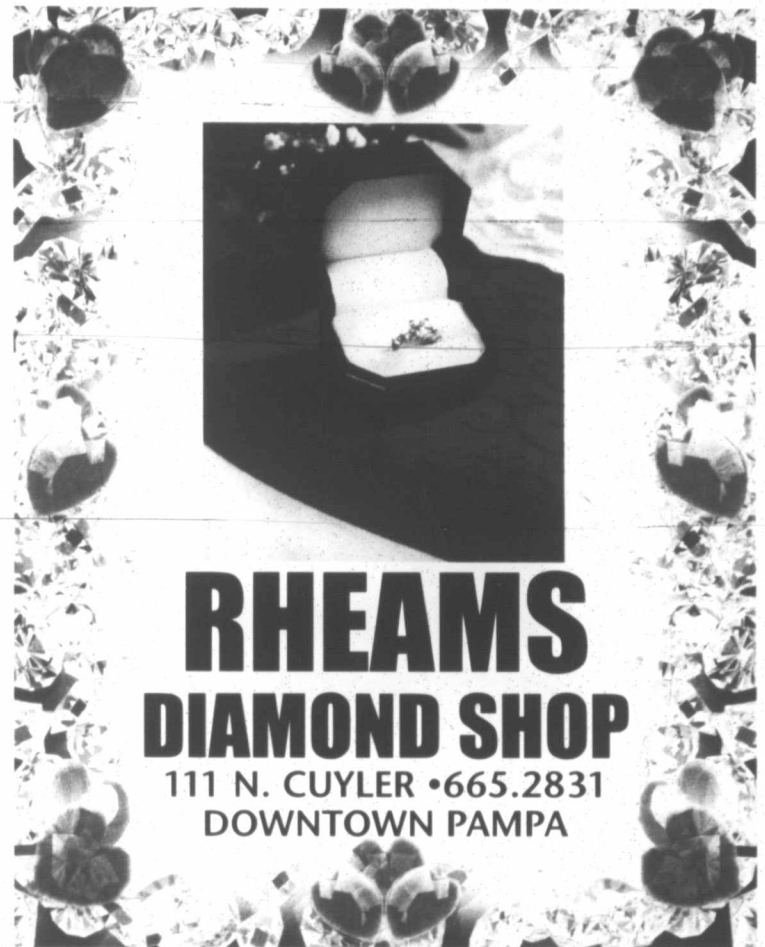
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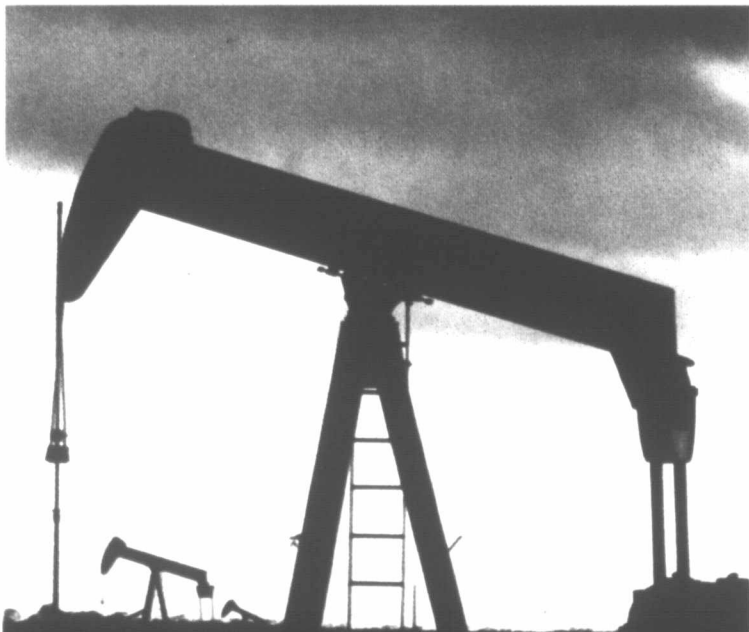
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Continued from Page 33

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"They need to seriously consider funds and how they're going to administer those funds and how they're going to keep up with those funds and try to do this without getting involved in their personal finances," Fiveash said.

"There is a very large percentage of small businesses that go out of business their first year because of poor planning and not understanding how to run a business."

He said they may have a great idea, and they may have something that will sell, but their marketing costs or some other aspect of their operation is so expensive that they end up failing.

Consequently, a good idea goes down the drain, he said. Fiveash said the Small Business Administration could help people like that.

"They've been doing this for a long, long time," Fiveash said, "and they understand that."

Fiveash said it's important to sit down and explain to a potential business owner what's involved in running a business. He said he doesn't try to dissuade them, but they need to understand what it takes to start a new business.

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"I have seen what happened in Sweetwater," Fiveash said.

Wind farms have popped up all around Sweetwater and the city has prospered, but there have been ups and downs, according to city leaders there.

"This evolved at Sweetwater," Fiveash said, "because they had power lines that were available to take the power."

Right now, Fiveash said, Pampa doesn't have that advantage.

"The power line here has to be built to the area it's going to serve," he said. "Because of the size of the wind energy project and the amount, the megawatts, that will be produced, there's nothing around here that can handle that."

Fiveash said that basically everyone is waiting for the power lines that have been proposed to be put in place to carry the electricity downstate to the ERCOT, the Energy Reliability Council of Texas, grid. That's a deregulated market where prices are much higher than the Southwestern Power Pool in the Texas Panhandle.

In the meantime, Fiveash said that plans are being made to take advantage of the new market.

"Sweetwater went through this procedure on kind of a step by step basis," Fiveash said, "over a period of almost eight years."

He said Pampa has the opportunity to look at what Sweetwater did and the problems that they had and plan ahead.

"We could get vacant buildings



Fishing at Recreation Park Lake

One thing that economic development directors like to point to is the "quality of life" - how the residents feel about their community. Pampa is chock full of churches and civic organizations whose goals are to help their neighbors and their community in many different ways. Sometimes, that quality of life means just doing what these folks are doing - taking a few hours to fish and relax.

See PEDC, Page 39

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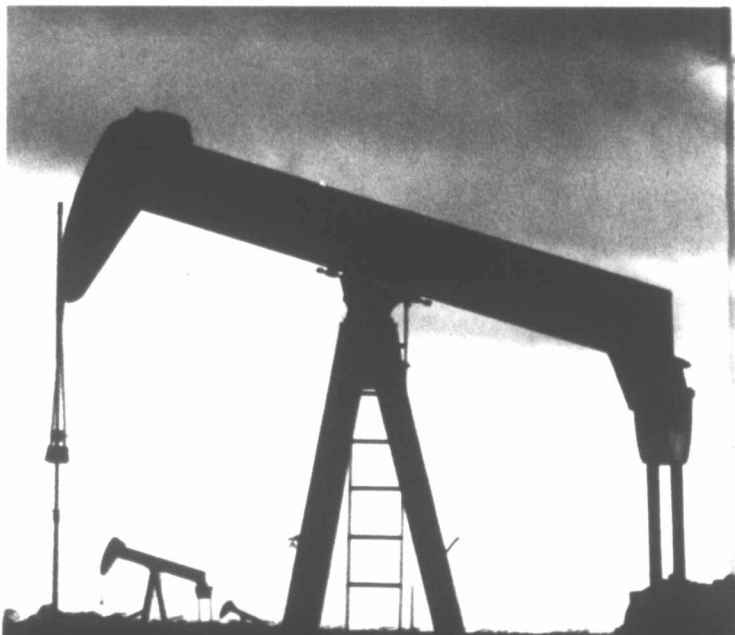
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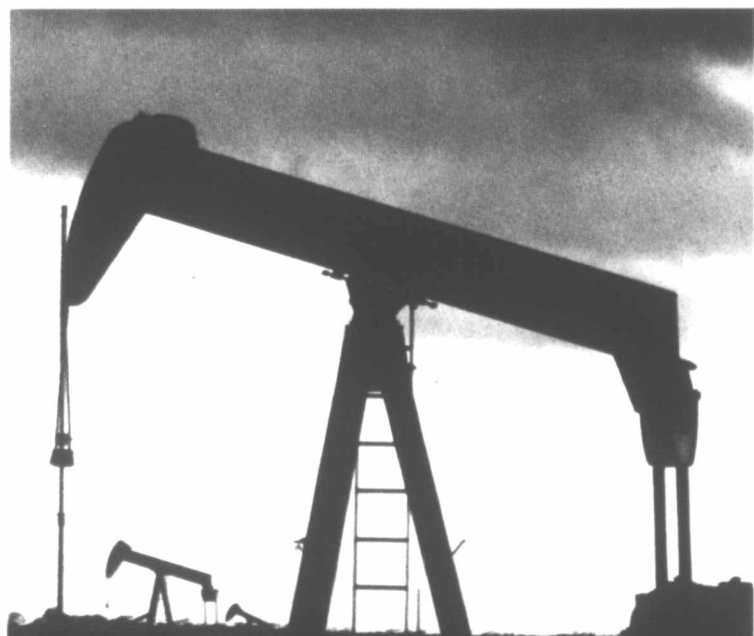


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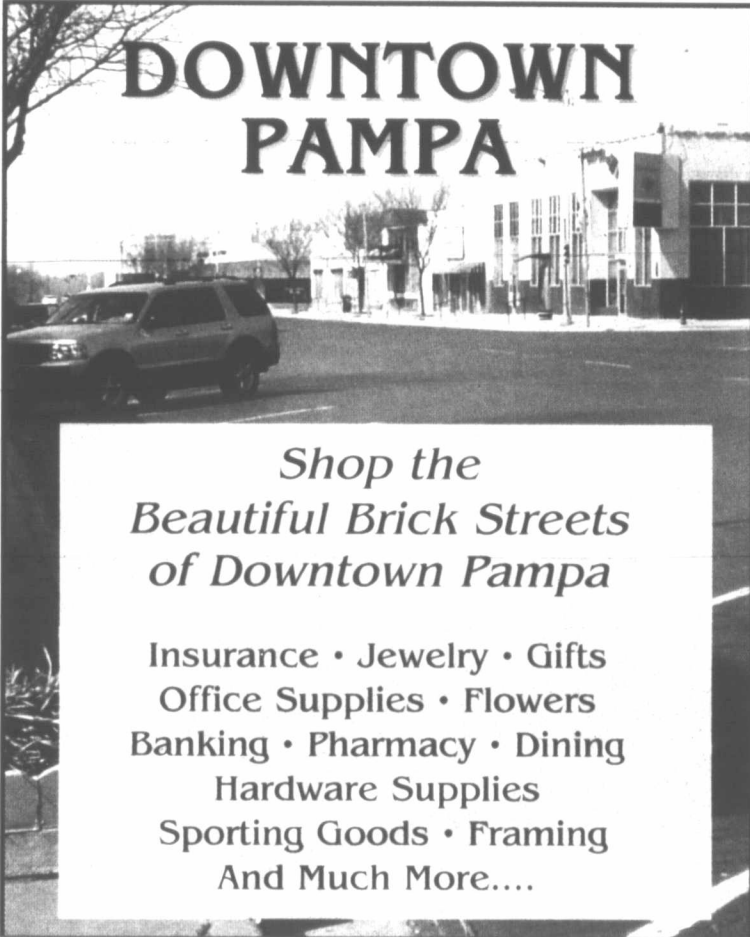


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inventoried," Fiveash said, "and business space inventoried."

He said the city can contact businesses that will be moving into Pampa and find out what they need in advance of their moving to the community.

"Steps can be put in place to have that ready when it happens," Fiveash said.

That would make the transition easier on everyone, he said.

"It would not be helter-skelter," Fiveash said.

One of the major issues facing Pampa and the region is housing.

"It's an issue for the whole surrounding area," Fiveash said. "It's going to be a problem because our unemployment rate is so low."

He said Pampa doesn't have people sitting around waiting for new jobs. Fiveash noted that The Pampa News classified section is filled with job opportunities and there's nobody to fill them.

"What we're going to have to do is we've got to get everybody who's a player in this organized so we're all unified on what we're going to do," Fiveash said. "We're going to have to help each other solve these problems."

He said the problems that Pampa faces are not insurmountable. They must be solved.

"We cannot not do this," Fiveash said. "We have to come up with solutions that work."

He said it's interesting that the Pampa Economic Development Corp. is not only looking for new businesses to bring jobs to Pampa, but it is also looking for people to fill existing jobs.

Normally, Fiveash said local existing businesses generate 80 to 90 percent of new jobs.

"We're on the other side of that," he said. "We've got the jobs. We don't have the people, and we're going to get more jobs, which is going to require more people. We've got to come up with solutions to figure that out."

He said there are other organizations in Pampa, such as the Pampa Industrial Foundation and the Texas Workforce Commission, that are going to be involved in finding the solutions. He said other groups, including Gray County and the surrounding counties, are going to have to be involved.

"One thing about our board," Fiveash said of the Pampa Economic Development Corp., "is that it really doesn't matter to us whether

those jobs hit the city limits of Pampa."

He said anywhere in the Pampa area is just fine.

"We're the largest city in the immediate area,"

Fiveash said. "We're going to get the business out of those people regardless of whether they live here or in Miami or Lefors or Groom."

He said a lot of the growing population projected for the area will patronize Pampa businesses.

"We need to provide facilities to make sure that they do patronize us," Fiveash said. "One way, of course, is for the jobs to be here."

He said he and his board are willing to work with any economic development group in the Panhandle.

"Sometimes, you've got to put out a little seed to get something to grow," Fiveash said. "Sometimes, the branches off that tree give you some shade as well as the place it's growing."

Fiveash said the Pampa Economic Development Corporation wants to put together the Greater Pampa Community Fund through the Amarillo Area Foundation and is asking Gray County, the city, Clarendon College and Pampa Regional Medical Center to join them.

The community will put up \$50,000 to be matched by the Amarillo Area Foundation. Fiveash said he hopes to grow the fund through donations.

"There's a lot of promise out there," Fiveash said.

Pickens wind energy project will bring an estimated 1,500 people to the area during the construction phase and, ultimately, more than 700 for the operational phase.

"They're going to have to live somewhere and buy groceries somewhere," Fiveash said.

He said that with 700 new jobs in the area, that means some 2,100 people, people to fill

those jobs with their families, moving to the area. That will boost Pampa's population from about 18,000 to over 20,000.

"That's really important," Fiveash said.

He said the passage of the school bond issue and expanding the high school and building a new junior high is important.

"That shows that we're looking ahead," Fiveash said.

Construction of new housing has picked up over the past year.

"There are more houses started this last year than have been built in the last five years or so," he said.

Sales tax revenue, part of which funds the Pampa Economic Development Corp., is up.

The original Pampa Economic Development Corporation got about \$55,000 to \$60,000 a month. The new EDC is getting anywhere from \$85,000 to \$140,000 a month.

"That says the economy is much better off," Fiveash said.

He said Pampa is also seeing increases in jobs with Halliburton and Titan and Cabot.

"We're starting to work with the Texas Department of Corrections," Fiveash said of the prison located east of Pampa. "They're wanting to offer some training for their employees. Those employees will be offered jobs here at this facility."

He said the details of that program are still being worked out.

"It'll be taught here at Clarendon College," Fiveash said.

With the passing of the maintenance tax for Clarendon College, they will be able to expand their facilities and their course offerings.

"They have a much brighter future now," Fiveash said.

They have already been approved for wind technology and there is hope they can institute a nursing curriculum.

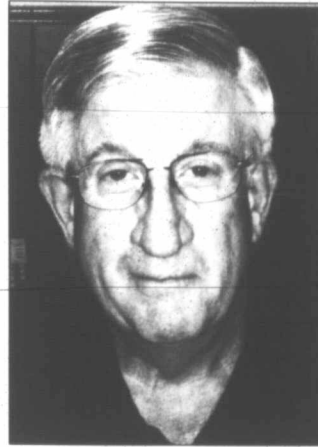
Fiveash said that will allow people to transition from jobs that will be going away to new jobs in the community.

"They'll have another skill that they can market," Fiveash said.

But more than anything else, energy seems to be in Pampa's future as much as it has been in the past, but this time, the energy will come from the wind.

"Wind could provide a balance for the economy here," Fiveash said. "We have oil and gas. We have cattle. We have ranching. We have farming. We have dairies."

Fiveash said the more Pampa can diversify, the better the economy will be.



Dwight Fiveash
PEDC Executive
Director

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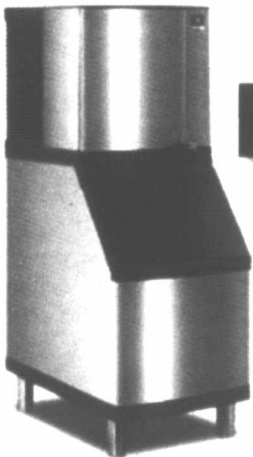
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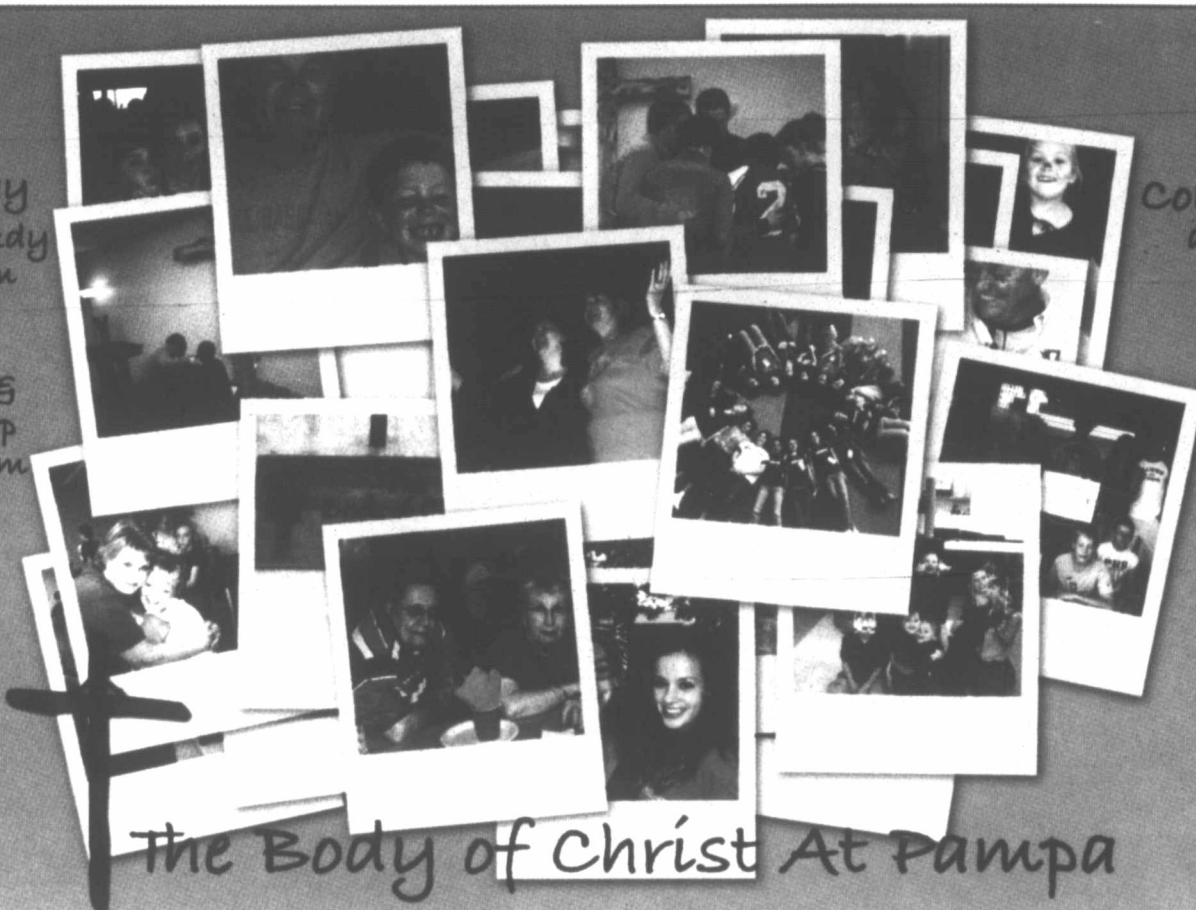
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Community supports Clarendon College expansion

By Miranda G. Bailey

Community colleges have it tough today. Without the state or federal funding that public universities or high schools receive, they often find themselves stuck in the middle—creatively trying to find ways to provide affordable opportunities for their communities while at the same time struggling to maintain a solid, educational program.

The Clarendon College - Pampa Center is seeking to become the exception to the rule.

With financial help from the Pampa community, the school has transformed from a small institution housed in the old Sam Houston Elementary School building to the modern, comfortable campus on Kentucky Street.

"We've had a presence in Pampa since 1972," according to Pampa Center Dean Raymond Jaramillo. "This building was built in 1999, and official classes began in 2000."



Dean Raymond Jaramillo hopes to offer cosmetology and welding programs in the fall and is making plans to add two career/technology buildings and a student center facility to the Pampa campus. "There's no reason why we shouldn't be bigger," he said.



Clarendon College-Pampa Center began in the old Sam Houston Elementary School in 1972 and moved to its current location on Kentucky in 1999.

But if Jaramillo gets it his way — that will only be the first chapter of what could turn out to be a wonderful story for the Pampa Center.

"There's no reason why we shouldn't be bigger," he said.

Jaramillo, who took his post in Pampa last fall after eight years working at the main branch in an administrative services capacity, already has a strong vision for what the Pampa Center can become for Gray County.

He helped organize and implement a five-cent increase in a branch campus maintenance tax campaign this spring, and now that the community has agreed to designate additional funding for the school, Jaramillo says he is planning on offering more programs and potentially adding

two career and technical buildings and a student center to create what he foresees as a "full-blown college campus."

"We're looking to start new Cosmetology and Welding programs in the fall," said Jaramillo. "And we will have new certificate programs for the technology program."

The college currently has approximately 200 students enrolled at the Pampa Center and 1135 at the main branch in Clarendon.

"We offer the first two

years of any degree program and our programs transfer to all colleges in Texas," he said.

The Pampa Center also now offers "Accelerated Associate Degree" programs for students who can only come on the weekends. These programs meet Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in both face-to-face and computer/face-to-face hybrid course for-



Eala Conner, a work-study student, is an administrative assistant in the main office at CCPC.

In addition, the school revitalized its Continuing Education program this spring, offering computer, music and photography classes for personal enrichment and enjoyment. And what began as three classes in April will be upwards of 15 courses when the next session starts June 16 — providing more opportunities for the community while involving them at the same time.

"We are extremely grateful to Gray County for passing this branch campus maintenance tax," Jaramillo said. "There really is no point for someone to move off and go to school when it's so much more affordable here."

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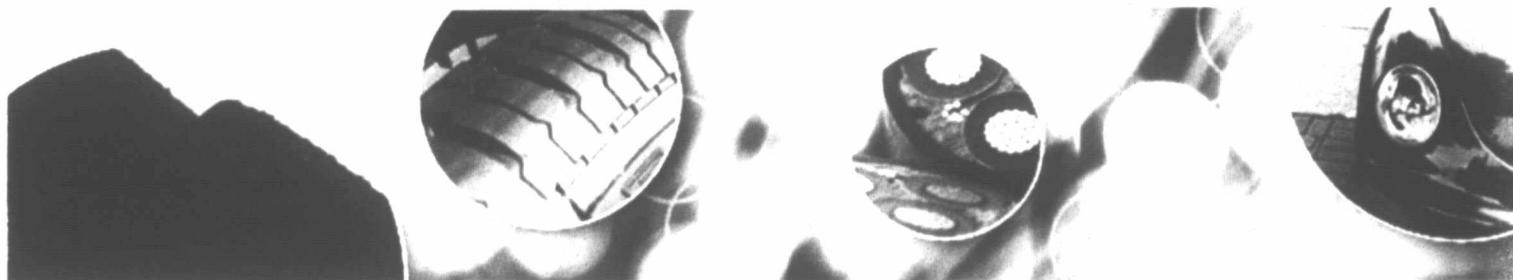


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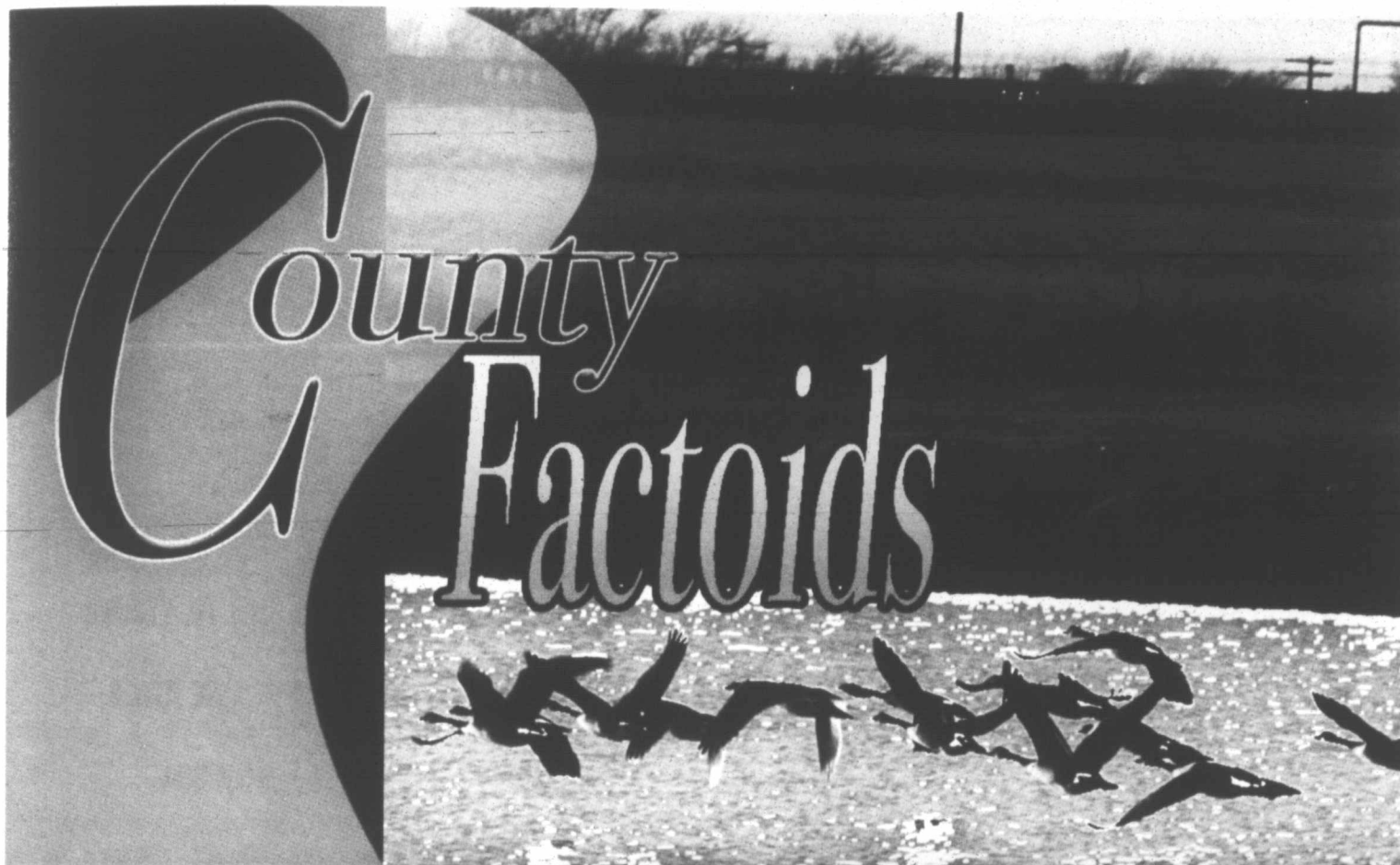
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■ SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Population 3 years and over enrolled in school

5,609
100.0%

Nursery school, preschool

229
4.1%

Kindergarten

332
5.9%

Elementary school (grades 1-8)

2,636
47.0%

High school (grades 9-12)

1,492
26.6%

College or graduate school

920
16.4%

9th to 12th grade, no diploma

2,579
16.7%

High school graduate
(includes equivalency)

5,182
33.6%

Some college, no degree

3,798
24.6%

Associate degree

796
5.2%

Bachelor's degree

1,281
8.3%

Graduate or professional degree

550
3.6%

■ EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25 years and over

15,420
100.0%

Less than 9th grade education

1,234
8.0%

Percent high school graduate or higher
75.3

Percent bachelor's degree or higher
11.9

—Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau.

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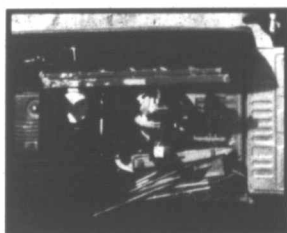
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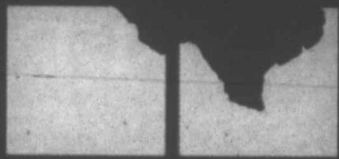
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