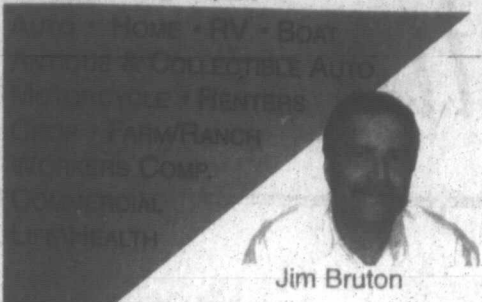


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Jim Bruton

# THE PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Volume 104 • No. 424

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## Commission to lower city tax rate

by David Bowser  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa City Commission is planning to lower the city's tax rate for fiscal year 2008-2009.

The commission took the first step this week at a regular meeting by passing a resolution indicating the intention to base next year's budget

on a tax rate of \$0.665 per \$100 valuation. The rate is now \$0.69.

The good news is that it follows through with its plan, the rate will be 2.5 cent less per \$100 valuation next year than this year. The bad news is that property values are rising so taxes may ultimately go up even with a lower rate.

However, the good news is

that property values are going up because Pampa's economy is prospering.

The commission also set the time, dates and places for public hearings concerning the tax rate and budget.

The first public hearing will be at 6 p.m., Sept. 4, in the city commission chambers at City Hall. The second hearing will be at 6 p.m.,

Sept. 11.

The commission's Sept. 9 meeting has been moved to 4 p.m., Sept. 16, at which time the commission will have the first reading and vote on the new budget and tax rate.

The second and final reading will be at 4 p.m., Sept. 23.

All hearings and meetings will be in the commission chambers of City Hall.

The commission also reappointed Benny Kirksey to represent Pampa for a two-year term on the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority board of directors.

"He has done a good job,"

Mayor Lonny Robbins said.

The commission also reappointed Kurt Curfman to a two-year term as Municipal Court Judge.

They also approved bids on 27 pieces of tax delinquent property.

The commission accepted a \$200 bid from Keith and Pamela Arzen for 433 Hill; \$1,200 from Larry Beck for 604 Craven; \$8,000 from Beck for 217 E. Brown; \$3,969 from Rolanda

Stubbs-Bowman Trust for 337 Canadian; \$1,000 from Patricia and Eleuterio Cabrales, 1021 Prairie; \$2,001 from Sherrie L. Cody, 516 Zimmers; \$400 from George and Linda Hendrick, 1019 E. Denver; \$400 from the Hendricks, 1003 Reid; \$100 from Donna Jean Kane, 913 Denver; \$105 from Marolyn S. Kayser Limited Partnership, 613 N. Christy; \$105 from the Kayser Limited Partnership, 1125 Huff; \$350 from Doyle Keeton, 640 N. Wells; \$1,500 from Stacy Landers, 736

See Rate, Page 3



Stunning view of a Painted Bunting.

Reader Pat Stubbs sent in these photos of a somewhat dazed Painted Bunting who had a run in with a glass door at her home north of Alanreed. "I found him stunned," Pat said, "laying on his side. I gently up-righted him and he was there long enough for me to get these good pics of him. I'm happy to say that he finally regained his senses and flew away. I have read where the males are very aggressive and I think he may have thought he was attacking another bird instead of his reflection. I believe he is rare to our neck of the woods."

## City considers tax abatements

A resolution addressing tax abatements is expected to be on the Pampa City Commission's agenda for the next meeting. Tax abatements are designed as incentives to bolster new business developments in a community.

They are a multi-step procedure. Pampa City Manager Trevlyn Pitner told the commission at a meeting Tuesday afternoon.

"There are several steps to get started," he said.

The first step would be a resolution by the commission, he said, and he expected to present them with such a resolution for their consideration at their Aug. 26, meeting.

Pitner said that the resolution would simply say that the city would consider tax abatements as a matter of policy, but

See Abatements, Page 3

## EDC sets hearing on Community Fund grant

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation will hold a hearing Thursday on a \$50,000 grant to fund the Gray Pampa Community Fund.

The fund will be managed by the Amarillo Area

Foundation, which will match the economic development corporation's grant, making the fund immediately worth \$100,000.

Principal and interest from the fund will be distributed for purposes allowed under

non-profit tax rules and consistent with the charter and bylaws of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation.

The hearing will begin at 11 a.m., Thursday, in the Nona Payne Room of the

Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

In the economic development corporation's meeting that will follow the hearing, the EDC board will discuss a grant writing training program in Amarillo, hear a

report from EDC Executive Director Dwight Fivesash and discuss vacancies on the Pampa Economic Development Corporation's board.

## Brochure promotes history of city, county

by Darlene Birkes

Special to The Pampa News  
 For history buffs, sightseers and art enthusiasts, a condensed version of Gray County history is available in the recently updated brochure titled "Texas Historical Markers." In addition, the brochure contains other points of interest in Gray County. The brochure is available free of charge at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

The brochure shows the location on a map and gives a short history of each of the Texas Historical Markers, the earlier 1936 Texas Centennial Markers and the

National Register of Historic Places District. The National Register District in Pampa is the only one in the Panhandle. It includes Gray County Courthouse, city hall, fire station, Schneider House, Combs-Worley Building and White Deer Land Museum, all designed by the same architect firm W.R. Kaufman and Sons, with the exception of the former Schneider Hotel.

Several other markers at the courthouse include a Confederate Marker to Peter W. Gray, namesake of the county, and a summary of our early area history on the 50th Anniversary Marker. A

Texas Sesquicentennial Marker, 1936, at the city hall features Pampa history.

Also included in the brochure are additional points of interest, including some art deco and the famous Montgomery Ward "Spirit of Progress" on the buildings at 209 and 207 N. Cuyler, the two eagles at the Bank of America building at 100 N. Cuyler (former First National Bank) and the exterior carvings and interior Spanish ceiling at the Pampa Post Office, 120 E. Foster.

The brochure lists Pampa's outdoor art. Among the pieces listed are the bronze sculptures at Lovett

Memorial Library - "The Lesson" by the late Don Ray in front and "Prairie Woman" by David Frech in the garden.

The bronze of early cowboy pioneer Perry Lefors on his horse is located on Highway 70 at 1101 N. Hobart.

Spacious M.K. Brown Auditorium is noted as well as the Art History Wall south of the auditorium that features Panhandle history along with Woody Guthrie's musical notes "This Land is Your Land" by Rusty Neef.

Other sculptures noted include "Grandfather's Vision" by Gerald Sanders at

V.E. von Brunow Park, 101 S. Cuyler. At Clarendon College-Pampa Center are the bronze geese in "Flight to Enrichment" with 5 1/2-foot wing span by Richard Thompson in the interior atrium of the Academic Building and the "Book of Knowledge" water fountain outside.

Also noted are "The Harvester" bronze by Don Ray at Pampa High School, as well as "Lock Ness Lizard," sculptured trees near Somerville and "Shape of Time-11" at Pampa Regional Medical Center.




See Brochure, Page 3

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**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

Thursday	Friday	Sunday
		
Partly cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 95. South-southwest wind around 10 mph becoming east-south-east.

Thursday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. East wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. East-north-east wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a low around 60. North-northeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 75.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 61. North-northeast wind around 5 mph.

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**Ray C. Belcher, 80**

Ray C. Belcher, 80, of Pampa, died Aug. 12, 2008, at Pampa.

Graveside services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Thursday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating.

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

Mr. Belcher was born Aug. 27, 1927, at McAlester,

Oklahoma. He had been a Pampa resident since the mid-1950s and worked for Ogden & Son Tire Co. for 43 years.

Mr. Belcher was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie.

Survivors include special friend, Peggy Smith of Pampa.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).

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**Obituaries**

**Bret Lee Atchley**

Bret Lee Atchley, of Midland, died Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008.

Born in Pampa, Texas, Sept. 13, 1961, Bret grew up and graduated with the class of 1980 from Pampa High School. He had a quick wit and was often referred to as the class clown. He went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Distribution from West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas, and promptly set out on a career in oil and gas construction.

Bret married his high school sweetheart, Alecia Fleming in 1984. Bret was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting and fishing as well as golf. He was always ready for a good laugh.

Bret was a Christ follower and believed in leading by example. He was an active

member of Stone Gate Fellowship and loved his church family. He was a good father, brother, and a great friend to all who knew him.

Bret was employed with Flint Energy for over 20 years and had recently made a career change to Strike Construction. He and Alecia have two terrific children, a son, Alan and daughter, Dani. In 1991, Bret had consented for Alecia to travel alone to Romania to adopt Alan. In 1994, when it came time to adopt again, this time in Russia, Bret insisted that it was his turn.

The family was complete, and they discovered their

love of travel. Bret's career also allowed them the opportunity to live and travel in Colorado, Utah, Louisiana and Wyoming. Through their journeys, they found that they were most comfortable in Texas, and Midland was always home.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Leone Atchley.

Bret is survived by his wife, Alecia; his children; his father and stepmother, RC and Betty Atchley of Coleman; brother, Steve and his wife Joan of Bastrop; sister, Jill Sandy of Abilene; brother, Greg and his wife Susan of Wylie; numerous

nieces and nephews and many friends.

Memorial services have been scheduled for 10 a.m. today, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008, at First Baptist Church. The memorial service will be "Bret" casual. Pallbearers will be Dwayne Dunn, Chuck McCall, Ronnie Walters, Wayne Brunette, Jarvie Arnold, James Stanfield, Hector Venegas and Bob Shipley. After the services, everyone is welcome to come by 6300 Driftwood Drive to share the good times with friends and family.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Highway, Midland, TX 79701 (432) 683-5555. To place on-line condolences, please visit <http://www.mem.com>.

**Patsy Elizabeth Fairchild**

FOUNTAIN, Colo. — Patsy Elizabeth Fairchild died Aug. 9, 2008.

Services are scheduled at 9 a.m. Thursday at Dove-Witt Fountain Valley Chapel in Fountain. Graveside services will be at 7 p.m. Friday in Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery in Canadian, Texas.

Burial will be under the direction of Hughs Funeral Home of Canadian.

Mrs. Fairchild was born

Sept. 2, 1930, to Horace "Bill" and Ruth (Stedman) Rupe in Canadian.

She moved around to Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado and graduated high school in Tribune, Kan. Later, she attended college in Sterling and Okmulgee, Okla., prior to marrying her husband of 45

years, Richard "Dick" Fairchild. He died in 1995.

Mrs. Fairchild was a homemaker and worked at many jobs to keep her family supported. Eventually, she returned to school to earn a license as a Touch For Life practitioner and a massage therapist. Mrs. Fairchild was preceded

in death by parents, sister, husband and two children.

Survivors include two sons, Richard Frank Fairchild and Quentin Fairchild; two daughters, Sally McDermitt and Nancy Sommerfeld; a sister, Marion Jenkins; numerous grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. today at Dove-Witt Fountain Valley Chapel.

**Emergency Services**

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

**Monday, Aug. 11**  
 Twenty-two traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of Price Road and Highway 60, and from Recreation Park, 1600 E. Highway 60.

Motorist assistance was rendered in the 900 block of Barnes.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 300 block of North Warren.

Calls and stops concerning animals occurred in the 400 block of West Brown, the intersection of Foster and Warren streets, the 600 block of Barnes, the 500 block of North Faulkner, the 400 block of Graham, the 2500 block of Charles, the 400 block of North Warren, the 500 block of West Brown, the 600 block of East Foster, the 1100 block of Juniper, the 2900 block of Rosewood, the 400 block of North West, the 400 block of Magnolia and the 300 block of Tignor.

A welfare check was made

at the intersection of Kentucky and Hobart streets.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

A suspicious person call was received from the 400 block of Graham.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 2100 block of North Williston, and the intersection of Browning and Lefors streets.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Christy, the 300 block of East Brown, the 500 block of North Sumner and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1300 block of Terrace.

A domestic assault was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 100 block of South Gillespie. Minor injuries were reported.

Assault was reported in the 1000 block of South Faulkner. Minor injuries were reported.

One alarm was reported. Theft was reported at Burlington Northern Santa Fe, 200 E. Atchison. Fuel was siphoned out of a vehicle.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby.

Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 900 block of South Finley. Mail was opened, and identity theft is suspected.

Identity theft was reported in the 100 block of West Kingsmill.

Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1100 block of South Houston.

The incident involves someone receiving checks and a credit card in another person's name.

**Tuesday, Aug. 12**  
 A suspicious person call was received from the 400 block of North Ballard.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

One open door was checked.

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

**Tuesday, Aug. 12**  
 Tammie Mae Knight, 45, of Canadian was arrested in the 500 block of Lefors by Pampa Police Department for forgery of a financial instrument.

David Keith Smith, 44, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of West Kingsmill by Pampa PD for harassment.

Ashley Deshawn Griffith, 19, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Kaci Dawn Hill, 17, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Henry by Pampa PD for no driver's license and capias pro fines for displaying expired registration, no Texas driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

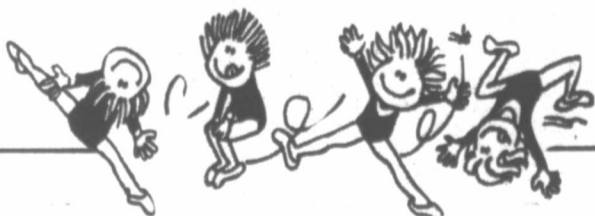
Casey Giles Wyant, 17, of Lefors was arrested by the Lefors city marshal for minor in possession of alcohol and disorderly conduct/excessive noise.

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**Gymnastics of Pampa Fall Registration**


**Proteam, Junior Team and Advanced Team ONLY Wednesday, August 20th 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

**All other new and returning students registration- Thursday, August 21st 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Gymnastics Classes - ages 3 & up  
 Cheerleading & Tumbling - Kindergarten and up  
 Parent & Tot - must be walking to 2 years  
 Tumbling & Trampoline Competition  
 Cheerleading Competition**

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**Date:** August 15, 2008  
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# Abatements

Continued from Front Page

each case would be considered individually on its own merits.

"There are no blanket commitments," Pitner said. "Everything is presented on a case by case basis."

The city staff has been researching tax abatements and what other area towns are doing with regard to their policies on the subject, Pitner said.

Some of them are quite complex. Pitner said he would like to see Pampa adopt a smooth, straightforward policy. He said he felt

it would be more easily understood by those applying for tax abatements and more easily directed by the city.

The tax abatement rates, he said, depended upon how aggressive the commission wanted to be.

While the exact figures vary, a large amount of the ad valorem taxes are usually abated during the construction phase of a project, possible for a couple of years. As the project begins to operate, the amount of the taxes abated or set aside decreases until at the end of the abatement period the

business is fully on the tax rolls.

A city may consider reducing taxes by 70 percent, for instance, for the first year and then reducing that amount in 10 or 20 percent increments over the next few years and dropping the abatement totally after six or seven years, or the city could abate 100 percent of the taxes for the first year or two. That helps a business get started in the community, but eventually brings it totally on to the tax roles.

The commission could abate all taxes for the entire abatement period or abate only a small portion of them. The commission has a wide latitude in such situations.

Seven years would be the longest period of time Pampa could abatement taxes, Pitner said.

The city has received a letter from Hampton Village, a company building low and moderate income housing development off Alcock, requesting tax abatements on ad valorem taxes for their project.

Pitner said the city has also received verbal inquiries about tax abatements from a company interested in building an assisted living facility in Pampa.

"This is something to ponder," Pitner said. "It's something to think about."



Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers

Clouds in shades of blue and gray hung over downtown Pampa this morning as thunder rumbled. A weather system which moved through the area during the overnight hours brought thunder, lightning and rain with it. A chance of rain continues for the Pampa area through Sunday.

# Rate

Continued from Front Page

Sloan; \$200 from Bruce McMahon, 838 E. Murphy; \$2,001 from McMahon, 521 Yeager; \$150 Nicolas Romero, 524 N. Davis; \$525 from Alexandro Ruiz, 112 S.

Starkweather; \$222.22 from Terry Henderson, 325 N. Dwight; \$125 from Micaela Sotelo Garcia, 1069 Varnon; \$127 from William L. Shelton, 417 Hughes; \$115 from Shelton, 917 E. Scott; \$125 from Shelton, 414 Yeager; \$101 from Shelton, 415 Crest; \$2,500 from Isaias R. Torres, 928 Barnes;

\$500 from Torres, 604 N. West; \$5,001.50 from Elias Daniel and Emma Trejo, 637 N. Nelson, and \$400 from Terri Caldwell, 1029 Varnon.

The commission also went into closed session to consult with their attorney with regard to closed sessions.

# Teen cited for possession

Continued from Front Page

For museum viewers, there are the two museums in Pampa — the White Deer Land Museum and the Freedom Museum USA military museum and Memorial. In McLean, the visitor is introduced to Route 66 and the history of barbed wire at the Devil's Rope Museum and to local history at the McLean-Alanreed Museum.

A Pampa teen was arrested Tuesday evening after a vehicle search yielded suspected marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Gray County Sheriff's Deputy Rhett Rollins stopped Ashley Deshawn Griffith, 19, on Hobart Street for a traffic violation at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard.

"He requested permission to search the vehicle and found suspected marijuana in a purse in the vehicle," Hoard said. "The purse belonged to her."

Drug paraphernalia was also found, according to the sheriff's report.

Griffith was arrested and booked into Gray County Jail on charges of possession of less than two ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to jail records.

Griffith was a passenger in the vehicle, Hoard said. The driver, a male, was not arrested at the time of the traffic stop.

# Brochure

The small Phillips Service Station in McLean is believed to be the oldest on Route 66 in Texas.

The brochure was financed by FOCUS Magazine and the Pampa Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee. It was prepared by the Gray County Historical Commission with maps by Topographic Land Surveyors.

# Jeanne Willingham

announces

# Fall Registration

Mon. & Wed., August 18th & 20th  
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

# Beaux Arts Dance Studio

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The Pampa Civic Ballet  
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# FUN RUN / WALK • 5K RUN

**Where: Central Park • Pampa, Texas**  
(corner of Georgia & Mary Ellen)

**When: September 1, 2008**

- Registration Day of Race beginning at 7:00 am
- Fun Run/Walk (one mile) begins at 8:00 am
- 5K Run begins at 8:20 am

**Entry Fees: Register By Mail Before August 27\***

- Fun Run/Walk \*4.00 & 5K \*8.00
- Register Day Of Race**
- Fun Run/Walk \*5.00 & 5K \*10.00

# ENTRY FORM

**Mail Entry Form To: Pampa Regional Medical Center**  
**Attention: Terry Barnes**  
**One Medical Plaza • Pampa, Texas 79065**

Last Name .....

First Name .....

Age.....  Male  Female

City & State .....

Check One  5K  Fun Run

T-Shirt Size Needed  Youth/Med  Youth/Large  Adult/Small

Adult/Medium  Adult/Large  Adult/X-Large

**ALL ENTRY FEES DONATED TO PAMPA UNITED WAY**

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20-29	20-29	9-11	20-29
30-39	30-39	12-15	30-39
40-49	40-49	16-19	40-49
50+	50+	50+	50+



# Viewpoints

## China: The REAL reason dogs are off the menu

If you're headed to Beijing for the Summer Olympics, I've got bad news: No dog meat for you.

According to The New York Times, the Beijing Catering Trade Association has ordered 112 designated Olympic restaurants to take dog off the menu.

As it goes, dogs have been raised for grub in China for thousands of years. The communists running the joint are afraid their gastronomic preferences might offend foreigners.

Boy, they got that right. Nothing is more offensive to Americans than the thought of having man's best friend for supper. (Medium-rare roverhouse? Buffalo paws?)

Which got me to thinking about the cleverness of our

friends in China. They're pulling out all the stops to portray China in the best possible light.

Sure, they're among the biggest polluters in the world — no environmental regulations are slowing down their economic growth — so they're firing anti-smog pellets into the air.

Sure, they're among the most repressive nations in the world — they monitor and censure citizens and a fellow will end up in the clink if he dares criticize his government — but Internet access appears to be widely available in the hotels where foreigners are staying.

Sure, they've modernized Beijing with upscale shops and Starbucks, but then we learn the cabs are equipped

with hidden microphones so Big Brother can listen in on the conversations of visitors.

The party leaders are stumbling a little as they try to mask the ugliness of communism — the torture, the jailing of dissidents and religious leaders, the lack of basic rights that Americans take entirely for granted — but by and large they'll probably pull it off.

They'll pull it off because many Americans will let them. Rather than see communism as an evil ideology — one that has exterminated more than 100 million peo-

ple — some Americans feel we have no right to criticize it.

Some Americans believe communism is just another form of government. Who are we to impose our ideas on other cultures that may see things differently?

What's worse: Some Americans think America is the real evildoer in the world.

Some are so forgetful of where our freedom came from — or that freedom is the engine that unleashed the economic miracles that produced the most productive, prosperous nation in the his-

tory of mankind — that they think socialism or communism are just as good and maybe even better.

I think the fellows running China are on to all of this — they know we've gone soft.

These fellows are hungry — they have a fire in the belly that is driving them to regain their greatness. Whereas their history dates back 5,000 years, they view America as a temporary upstart.

They know how hard it is to attain wealth and power. And while they are clawing their way upward — they aren't troubled by global warming or disturbing the habitat of the double-billed blue duck — they know many Americans have no idea how hard wealth and power are to

keep.

Consider: Some 70 percent of our energy comes from foreign sources — a great vulnerability. Despite the fact that oil prices are wreaking havoc on our economy — or that a major disruption to the world's oil supply could cripple us — many in Congress STILL want to restrict drilling.

They want us to properly inflate our tires and conserve. And I think the fellows running China are onto this. I think they know us better than we know them.

They know Americans will be far more troubled that the Chinese are eating dog than we will be about the really nasty stuff they are up

See PURCELL, Page 5

**Tom Purcell**  
Columnist



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 13, the 226th day of 2008. There are 140 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 13, 1961, Berlin was divided as East Germany sealed off the border between the city's eastern and western sectors and began building a wall in order to halt the flight of refugees.

On this date:

In 1521, Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured Tenochtitlan, present-day Mexico City, from the Aztecs.

In 1624, French King Louis XIII named Cardinal Richelieu his first minister.

In 1704, the Battle of Blenheim was fought during the War of the Spanish Succession, resulting in a victory for English-led forces over French and Bavarian soldiers.

In 1846, the American flag was raised for the first time in Los Angeles.

In 1889, William Gray of Hartford, Conn., received a patent for a coin-operated telephone.

In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

In 1932, Adolf Hitler rejected the post of vice-chancellor of Germany, saying he was prepared to hold out "for all or nothing."

In 1934, the satirical comic strip "Li'l Abner," created by Al Capp, made its debut.

In 1960, the first two-way telephone conversation by satellite took place with the help of Echo I.

In 1981, in a ceremony at his California ranch, President Reagan signed a historic package of tax and budget reductions.

Ten years ago: President Clinton led the nation in mourning 12 Americans killed in a pair of U.S. embassy bombings in Africa. Standing before black hearses carrying ten of the bodies, the president pledged to seek justice "for these evil acts."

Five years ago: Iraq began pumping crude oil from its northern oil fields for the first time since the start of the war. Libya agreed to set up a \$2.7 billion fund for families of 270 people killed in the 1988 Pan Am bombing.

One year ago: President Bush's political strategist, Karl Rove, announced his resignation. A bridge under construction in the ancient Chinese city of Fenghuang collapsed, killing 64 people. Two women among the 23 South Koreans kidnapped by the Taliban in Afghanistan were freed. Philanthropist Brooke Astor died in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., at age 105.

*'You should avoid making yourself too clear even in your explanations.'*

— Baltasar Gracian  
Spanish philosopher  
(1601-1658)



## In the United States, demagoguery works

The presidential campaign is getting nasty in its last 100 days. Actually, that's not a surprise. The campaigns always do. They always have, going back to the days of the early Republic. They probably always will.

It is a mistake to expect intelligent discussion of the issues in a political campaign. Even if such a discussion took place, the press would probably ignore it as being too dull to bother with. People like to say they don't approve of negative campaigning, but that's one of those cases where words and reality don't match.

American campaigns feature demagoguery, and there is a fairly well-thought-out reason for it. Years ago, a manual for winning elections explained that modern campaigns are aimed at what is called the "apathetic middle."

The theory is that there are a certain percentage of people who will vote Democrat no matter what and a certain percentage who will vote Republican no matter who is on the ticket.

Usually these hardcore partisan are not enough to constitute a majority. Each candidate therefore strives to get enough of the apathetic voters to add to his partisan base and achieve a majority.

Since these people in the apathetic middle don't really care that much about voting or politics or the issues facing the country, the candidates resort to demagoguery, which in modern times is often a collection of promises: "I will win the war,

reduce the price of gasoline, balance the budget, fix Social Security and Medicare, stop global warming and see that every American has a decent job."

Couched negatively, "My opponent will lose the war, is responsible for high gasoline prices, will spend us into bankruptcy and will do nothing to fix Social Security or stop global warming."

Well, at least these days our candidates don't have to fight duels. Andrew Jackson's opponents conspired to get him into a duel with an expert marksman who had killed 20 or more opponents. Fortunately, Jackson survived. Alexander Hamilton was killed by

Aaron Burr. Both men were Revolutionary War heroes. Terrible things were said about both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson during their campaigns.

So, comparatively speaking, Sen. John McCain's claim that Barack Obama would rather shoot hoops than visit wounded troops is rather mild, though false.

Another example candidates have to remember are the speeches of Brutus and Marc Antony in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." After Caesar's assassination, Brutus makes a factual, well-reasoned speech. Antony demagogues the heck out of it, and the mob goes after Brutus. As injurious to the commonweal as demagoguery is, reason has a difficult time competing against it.

See REESE, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Aug. 4  
San Antonio Express-News on fair taxation:

Over the course of the summer, the Legislature's House Committee on Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform has held public hearings across the state. And from Hidalgo to Tarrant County, citizens have raised two common complaints: Property taxes are too high, and regular homeowners aren't getting fair treatment.

Yes, property taxes in Texas are high. And they'll remain high as long as taxes on real property remain the primary source of revenue to pay for pub-

lic education.

A ruling from the Texas Supreme Court was necessary to compel lawmakers to give property owners a tax break by creating a broad-based business activity tax. Additional relief from shifting the tax base to a higher sales tax or dare one say it a state income tax simply isn't politically feasible at this time.

So the real issues the politically doable issues are ones of fairness: seeing that property owners get a fair shake from their appraisal districts and ensuring that residential homeowners pay their fair share of property taxes.

No single act would do more to ensure fairness in property taxes than to make mandatory the sales price disclosure of real estate transactions.

Appraisers have a relatively easy job assessing homes in working and middle class neighborhoods. Information on sales is readily available from public sources.

The prices of exclusive and custom homes, however, frequently can't be found through the Multiple Listing Service. Mandatory disclosure would bring uniformity to the appraisal process and help equalize the tax burden among all homeowners.

The real equity in mandatory disclosure, however, would come from more accurate assessments of commercial property. Commercial real estate transactions are so closely guarded that appraisal districts routinely underesti-

See TAX, Page 5



# US insists it strongly backs Georgia leadership

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration may have ceded mediation duties between Russia and Georgia to Europe but is holding firm to its support for Georgia's pro-Western leadership and demands that Moscow withdraw its troops from the former Soviet republic.

While waiting for the results of a European Union initiative led by French President Nicholas Sarkozy, the administration and its allies also are debating ways to punish Russia for its invasion of Georgia, including expelling Moscow from an exclusive club of wealthy nations and canceling an upcoming joint NATO-Russia military exercise.

Although mainly focused on securing a truce and dealing with Georgia's urgent humanitarian needs after five days of fierce fighting that may have killed 2,000 people, U.S. officials already are looking to next steps, including the

**A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe confidential high-level diplomatic conversations, said European and other leaders have been blunt with Russia that it must withdraw.**

pullout of Russian soldiers and new peacekeeping missions in the flashpoint separatist areas of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

"It is very important now that all parties cease fire," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday. "The Georgians have agreed to a cease-fire. The Russians need to stop their military operations, as they have apparently said that they will. But those military operations really do now need to stop because calm needs to be restored."

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe confidential high-level diplomatic conversations, said European and other leaders have been blunt with Russia that it must withdraw. Russia insists it does not plan a long-term occupation, the official said, but it isn't clear whether Russia has offered a timeline for withdrawal.

"People are saying, 'You know, you cannot stay,'" the official said. "We have been hearing from Russia, 'We don't want to stay.'"

Yet as they pursue those efforts, President Bush and his top aides are engaged in urgent consultations with European and other nations over how best to demonstrate their fierce condemnation of the Russian operation that began in South Ossetia, expanded to Abkhazia and ended up on purely Georgian soil.

"The idea is to show the Russians that it is no longer business as usual," said one senior official familiar with the consultations among world leaders and at lower levels, notably at NATO headquarters in Brussels. Alliance diplomats there met together and then with representatives of Georgia on Tuesday.

The U.S. boycotted a third meeting at NATO on Tuesday at which the alliance's governing board, the North Atlantic Council, was to prepare for as-yet unscheduled talks with a Russian delegation called at Moscow's

request, officials said.

In addition, a senior defense official said the U.S. has decided to dump a major NATO naval exercise in the North Pacific with Russia that was scheduled to begin Friday. Sailors and vessels from Britain, France, Russia and the U.S. were to take part in the annual Russia-NATO exercise aimed at improving cooperation in maritime security. But the official said there

was no way the U.S. could proceed with it in the midst of the Georgian crisis.

The naval exercise began a decade ago and typically involves around 1,000 personnel from the four countries, officials said. The Pentagon also is looking at a variety of ways it could respond to humanitarian needs in Georgia, but officials have not yet made any final decisions.

## Purcell

Continued from Page 4

to or the troubling fact that their economy is growing a lot faster than ours.

While the world hopes that China's

growth leads to a free, open, modern society, I'm guessing communist party leaders have a different notion.

I'll bet they're dreaming of the day that fortunes reverse entirely — the day when waiters around the world

say, "You want fries with your Labrador burger?"

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

## Tax

Continued from Page 4

mate market values by a wide margin.

Research by Bexar County Chief Appraiser Michael Amezcua found that while, statewide, residential property is assessed at 85 percent of

fair market value, commercial property is assessed at only 60 percent of fair market value. All homeowners bear the burden of lost revenue from commercial real estate.

Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, and Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, have waged a lonely

and thus far unsuccessful fight on this issue in Austin. If fellow legislators are serious about property tax relief and appraisal reform as well as instilling more fairness in the property tax process, they'll join the effort for mandatory disclosure. URL: <http://www.mysa.com>

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Continued from Page 4

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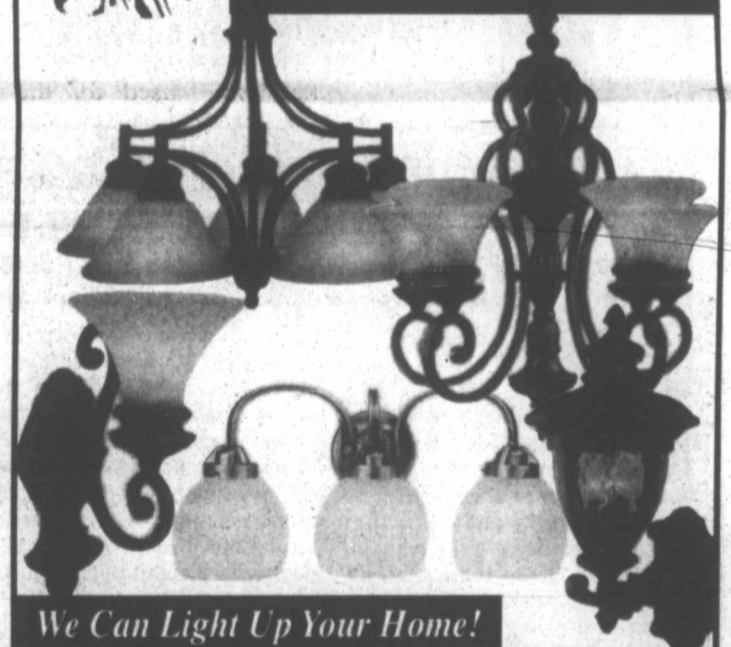
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# Most Americans back China hosting Olympics

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans think staging the Olympics in China was a good decision despite China's human rights abuses, Beijing's smog and threats of attacks by militants, according to a poll released Wednesday.

The Associated Press-Ipsos survey also found that by a slender margin, more Americans are rooting for the U.S. team to capture as many medals as possible than are savoring athletes' achievements no matter where they're from. Gymnastics remains the most popular sport, though swim-

ming has overtaken track and field as No. 2.

By 55 percent to 34 percent, respondents said the International Olympic Committee's selection of China was the right choice rather than a mistake, a sentiment expressed evenly across party and ideological lines. The poll was conducted during the games' early days, which went smoothly, although an American was stabbed to death at a tourist site in an incident apparently unrelated to the Olympics.

Beijing has been a controversial choice because of how the communist government treats minorities, dissenters and religious groups; its brutal handling of Tibetan freedom demonstrators; and its close relationship with Sudan, which has waged a savage war in Darfur. There were also worries about threatened attacks by an Islamic group seeking independence for Xinjiang province in western China and about the capital's haze, heat and humidity.

Among those supporting China's selection was David Pulsipher, an American history professor from Rexburg, Idaho.

"The more the Chinese become dependent on the rest of the world, the more the rest of the world has influence," said Pulsipher, 41, in a follow-up interview.

Others would have preferred shunning China, which before the games was the target of demonstrations around the globe as the Olympic torch journeyed to Beijing.

"I don't think we should legitimize their government, which oppresses people," said Donna DiMauro, 45, a homemaker from Vineland, N.J.

Underscoring peoples' rosy view of the games, 74 percent said the Olympic movement has been successful in its historic goal of making the world more peaceful through sports. That was similar to the number who said so in 2004, when the games were held in the less controversial Greece, and to the large majorities who have called the competitions good for international understanding in Gallup Polls since 1948.

About four in 10 say they think Olympians' use of performance-enhancing drugs like steroids is a major problem, with about the same number calling it a minor concern. For these games, the Olympic committee plans about 4,500 drug tests and is specifically testing suspected drug users. So far, more than 50 athletes are missing due to doping accusations.

Thirty-nine percent said they thought the smog was having a major effect on athletes' performances, while 43 per-

cent saw a minor impact. Despite stark steps like shutting factories and removing 2 million vehicles from the streets, Beijing's pollution has been persistent, though rain Sunday cleared some of it.

None of that has stopped many Americans from rooting hard for their athletes. By 51 percent to 45 percent, more want the U.S. team to return with a huge haul of medals than are simply enjoying athletic accomplishments without keeping score by country.

That preference, though, is hardly uniform. Those focusing on American victories are likelier to be white, higher income, Republican and conservative, according to the AP-Ipsos poll. Those not primarily interested in the national race for medals have higher proportions of minorities, liberals, Democrats and independents.

"Of course you're going to root for the American team," said Pennie Doss, 54, a homemaker from Des Moines, Iowa. "If anybody said any different, they'd be lying."

Two-thirds said they were interested in this year's Olympics, almost identical to the number who said so about the Athens Games. Men and women expressed interest in virtually equal numbers.

As was true in 2004, gymnastics was the sport people said they would follow most closely, with 30 percent saying so. But the sexes diverged: Forty-four percent of women and 13 percent of men said they would pay most attention to gymnastics.

Swimming rose to No. 2 this year, named by 22 percent. It switched places from 2004 with track and field, which 17 percent said they would watch closest.

Swimming was most interesting to more women than men, and to nearly three times as many whites as minorities. Nearly twice as many minorities as whites named track as their No. 1 sport, and more men than women said the same.

About half say they have watched coverage of the games, with men the likelier viewers. Seven in 10 are mostly watching the coverage on NBC, which has the broadcast rights to the games.

Yet four in 10 are reading Olympics stories on the Internet, one in four watching video online and one in 20 watching video on cell phones.

The AP-Ipsos poll was conducted Aug. 7-11 and involved telephone interviews with 1,001 adults. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

*Beijing has been a controversial choice because of how the communist government treats minorities, dissenters and religious groups; its brutal handling of Tibetan freedom demonstrators; and its close relationship with Sudan, which has waged a savage war in Darfur.*

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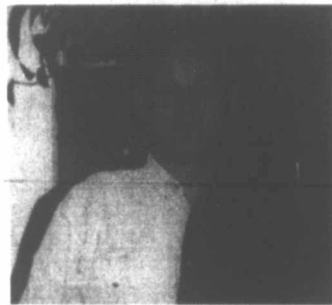
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## Events calendar

• **SHARE! High School Exchange Program** is currently seeking place-

ments for 39 exchange students to the U.S. For more information, call 1-800-941-3738.

• **In observation of August** as World Breastfeeding Month, the Outreach Health Services, WIC office in Pampa is making available to the public breastfeeding information at its office at 1201 N. Hobart, Suite 1-1.

• **A reunion meeting** for the Class of 1969 will be held at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 14 at Innovative Staffing Solutions, 1327 N. Hobart.

• **National park rangers**

will present programs at 8 every Saturday evening through mid-August at Fritch Fortress amphitheater at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area. The following program is scheduled: Aug. 16, "Staying Alive: Native American Pre-History of the Panhandle Area." Programs are free and open to the public. For more information, call (806) 857-3151.

• **The deadline to enter the Name the Mascot Contest** being sponsored by Amarillo Botanical

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

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., Aug. 20, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 21 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center for its monthly luncheon and program. For more information, call 669-9916 or 665-3617.

• **Austin Elementary School** in Pampa has scheduled a "Meet the Teacher" event from 12-2 p.m. Aug. 22 at the school. Parents are encouraged to bring their children's school supplies to the school on that day. The school is also preparing a "Tears and Cheers Event" strictly for kindergarten parents. Tears and Cheers will begin at 8 a.m. Aug. 25. The parents will be treated to a continental breakfast and a small welcome gift.

## CLARENDON DEALER TO OFFER GAS FOR 99¢ PER GALLON<sup>1</sup> Thru 2008 & To Sell Vehicles For Just \$29 Down & As Low As \$129 Per Month<sup>2</sup>!

Customers To Pay Just 99¢ Per Gallon Until 2009 When They Purchase Any Vehicle This Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> Through Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>!

Claire Wilson, Staff Writer

CLARENDON, TX — Mr. Phillip Frazier, General Manager of Stanley Chevrolet in Clarendon, just announced that he has issued a directive to the Management and Sales staff at the dealership to accept all reasonable offers from any customer who purchases a vehicle between now and Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. He states that he has several local auto loan specialists willing to waive all payments for 90 days with approved credit and he will sell pre-owned vehicles for as low as \$29 down and as low as \$129 per month<sup>2</sup>. Add gas for only 99¢ a gallon for the rest of the year<sup>1</sup> and that's an unbeatable deal! All recent trade-ins, lease returns, service loaner vehicles and dealer demos at Stanley Chevrolet in Clarendon are to be sold off during this event.

This unprecedented 4-day sell-off event is scheduled for this Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. This event must take place regardless of any weather conditions that may arise.

Frazier offers a simple explanation for this unprecedented sale. "We've had record sales due, in part, to recent manufacturer discount pricing programs. As a result we are now extremely well-stocked with hundreds of new and late-model, low mileage trade-ins, most with the remainder of the manufacturers' warranties still in effect." He adds, "During this massive sales event we will offer unbelievable discounts on all of these pre-owned vehicles and sell many for just \$29 down and as low as \$129 per month<sup>2</sup>. In addition, during these four days we will give every buyer free oil changes for one year. As you can see I am committed to doing whatever it takes to sell off our entire inventory of pre-owned vehicles by month's-end, even if people have had serious credit problems in the past. We've arranged for several finance representatives to be on-site each day to assist those with past credit issues. We can finance all qualified buyers."

He also points out that in most instances their prices could be

thousands lower than local auction prices. "Current automotive market conditions indicate that the best values exist in the pre-owned market. The recent surge in new vehicle sales due to several manufacturers' national discount programs has created a surplus of pre-owned vehicles leading to a rapid decline in the prices of like-new vehicles. It couldn't be any better for pre-owned vehicle shoppers." Expect to purchase a quality used vehicle at the lowest possible price, including vehicles priced as low as \$4,400.

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Phillip Frazier, General Manager

There will be an enormous selection of vehicles to choose from, including Chevrolet, Pontiac, GMC, Buick, Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Chrysler, Jeep, Ford and more.

Frazier explains, "Interest rates are still very low but are poised to rise in the near future. Most of all, we've got over a million dollars worth of inventory—that's hundreds of new and pre-owned cars, trucks, minivans and sport utility vehicles to choose from. It can't get any better for the serious auto buyer!" For auto shoppers looking for a very low payment and price there will be many choices, including a 2003 Ford Taurus with automatic transmission and A/C for just \$29 down and \$129 per month<sup>2</sup>. Sample payments will be clearly marked on all vehicles. All you'll need to do is obtain credit approval, then pick a vehicle and a payment. It's that simple.

He cites other examples, three 2008 Pontiac G6s fresh off of program and very well equipped with moonroof, power package and alloy wheels for only \$29 down and \$259 per month<sup>2</sup>. For those auto shoppers looking to trade their current vehicle, all trades will be purchased for 100% of their current Kelley Blue Book

value<sup>1</sup>, whether leased or purchased (paid off or not<sup>2</sup>). You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to purchase a pre-owned car, truck, minivan, sport utility, luxury, or economy vehicle with an unbelievably low down payment of just \$29 and monthly payments as low as \$129 per month!

"We are flooded with used vehicles that must be sold or shipped to auctions located throughout the South-west United States, which will cost us thousands in shipping costs that we want to avoid," he says.

Frazier reminds prospective buyers, "We will waive all payments for 90 days with approved credit, plus give buyers free oil changes for one full year. We will make sure that we can complete every deal during store hours. No overnight camping or squatting will be permitted."

Those wishing to beat the rush should shop early and take advantage of our extended sale hours over these four days at Stanley Chevrolet, located at 1211 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Clarendon, Texas. For further info on this sell-off, please call:

(806) 874-3527

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Wednesday 8:00AM - 6:00PM  
Thursday 8:00AM - 6:00PM  
Friday 8:00AM - 6:00PM  
Saturday 9:00AM - 6:00PM

<sup>1</sup>2008 denotes down payment, subject to lender approval and credit worthiness. Exact rate and terms vary by vehicle. All taxes, title, license and fees are extra.

<sup>2</sup>Example: 2003 Ford Taurus, stk# P41025A, \$29 down, \$129 a month for 90 months @ 10% APR. Cash price \$4,400.

<sup>3</sup>Example: 2008 Pontiac G6 (3 available), stk#T2035, \$29 down, \$259 a month for 72 months @ 8% APR. Cash price \$14,900.

<sup>4</sup>Total value of incentive is \$480. Each customer who purchases a pre-owned vehicle from dealer inventory will receive a \$480 gas card OR a dealer check for \$480 at the time of purchase. Incentive offer has no effect on the selling price of the vehicle. Customer will receive \$480 incentive regardless of actual miles they drive per month or MPG they receive with vehicle purchased. \$480 value is based on driving 800 miles per month at an average of 25 miles per gallon at an average price of \$3.00/gal. at time of printing, 800 miles/25MPG = 32 gallons per month, 32 gal. X \$15/mile = 480 gal. \$3.00/gal. = \$1,440. \$1,440 - \$960 = \$480.

<sup>5</sup>Trade-in value not to exceed 100% Kelley Blue Book retail value less any deductions for mileage and reconditioning, see dealer for details.

<sup>6</sup>Any negative equity will be applied to new loan balance. Vehicles subject to prior sale. We reserve the right to correct any typographical errors. ©2008 The Premier Group All Rights Reserved

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

## CRUISING WITH OLD DATE MAY CAUSE FRICTION WITH 'MR. NEW'

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a single woman who dates and is not in a serious relationship right now. I'm enjoying my life, having fun, but have met someone along the way who is becoming important. I'm getting the same vibes from him. Before meeting "Mr. New," I booked a Caribbean vacation with someone I have dated off and one for a few years. Now I'm worried. What if things progress with Mr. New? How will I tell him, and how will he feel about my going on vacation with "Mr. Standby"? I don't think lying is the answer, but I could say I was going with a girlfriend. But what if we become something more and he finds out I lied to him? The trip is coming up soon and I don't know when -- or if -- I should tell Mr. New. Who knows? We could be over by then, although I hope not. Any advice would be appreciated. — **SINGLE GIRL IN PINE HILL, N.J.**

**DEAR SINGLE GIRL:** I'm surprised you would still be enthusiastic about "tripping" with Mr. Standby while you're falling for Mr. New. Do not lie. The truth has a way of coming out, and if you do, it will wreck your credibility and the romance as well. I advise you to level with Standby and let him know you met someone. He needs to find another travel companion ASAP. There will probably be a penalty for assigning your pre-purchased ticket to someone else. If there is, offer to pay it. It's the price of being honorable. P.S. If Mr. New does not turn out to be Mr. Right, you can always take another trip with Mr. Standby next year if he is still willing to date you. (However, if he reads Dear Abby and recognizes that you consider him only "Mr. Standby," he may not be.)

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I are expecting our first child and selected

names some time ago. If it's a boy, we'll name him Ethan; if it's a girl, we'll call her Ardith. My father sent us a nasty e-mail telling us he's praying we have a boy because he couldn't imagine "saddling a child with a name like Ardith." This from a man who named his son "Seymour Herbert" and stuck with a last name that is an insult in two languages. (My brother and I grew so sick of being reminded of it that we changed our last name.) It wasn't even our original family name, but a badly Americanized name-gone-wrong that was laid on our grandfather when he came to this country. My husband and I found my father's remarks extremely hurtful and wrote him to explain why we chose the name Ardith, but Dad persists in saying how much he hates our choice. We know the name is old-fashioned and unusual. But considering what some celebrities name their children these days, Ardith doesn't seem weird to us. If she dislikes her name, we'll help her change it later, but I doubt that will happen. Meanwhile, how do we deal with my father when he keeps bugging us? — **EXPECTING ANY DAY NOW IN CALIFORNIA**

**DEAR EXPECTING:** By standing your ground and refusing to be intimidated. The privilege of choosing a child's name belongs to his or her parents. If Grandpa doesn't like it, suggest that he call your daughter "Darling," or "Honey." Both are endearments and would be his "special" name for her.

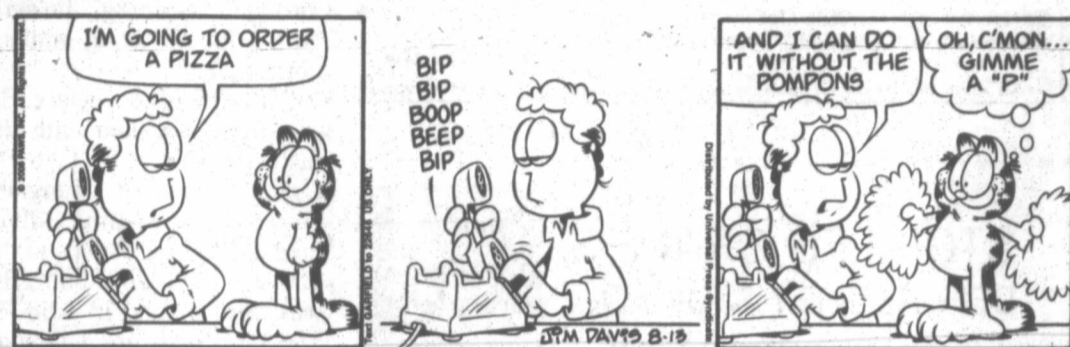
## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

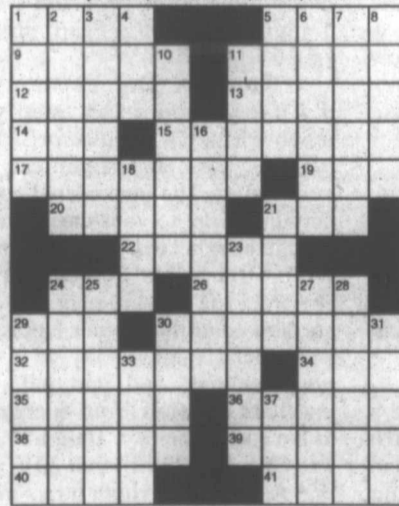
ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Boston orchestra
- 5 Like lemons
- 9 Caper
- 11 Gallantry
- 12 Rome's river
- 13 "You don't say!"
- 14 Not to mention
- 15 Drink cooler
- 17 Agitated
- 19 Checkers side
- 20 Beer mug
- 21 Garden plot
- 22 Stage player
- 24 Lass
- 26 Acropolis sights
- 29 Jo's sister
- 30 Hot cereal
- 32 Doing well
- 34 Complete
- 35 Configuration
- 36 Start of a Dickens title
- 38 Makes smooth
- 39 More broad
- 40 Pert talk
- 41 Knee protectors
- 1 Page of music
- 2 Burger toppers
- 3 Small military vessel
- 4 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
- 5 Powder base
- 6 Charm
- 7 Held up
- 8 Cornered
- 10 Arts writer
- 11 Behold
- 16 Middle vessel
- 18 Ornamental stamp
- 21 Hat part
- 23 Desperado
- 24 Red Cross
- 25 Some head-quarters
- 27 "Bonanza" setting
- 28 Went to sea
- 29 Role for Heston
- 30 "Clumsy me!"
- 31 Lewd looks
- 33 Diamond scores
- 37 Service reward

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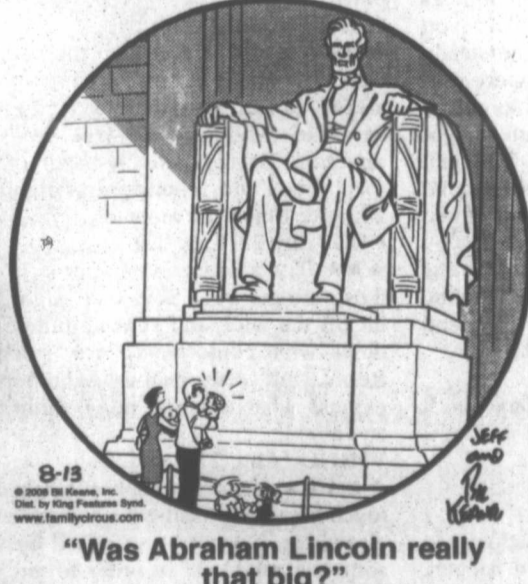


## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

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## Flo & Friends



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# Sports

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## Phelps, Lochte set up showdown in Olympic 200 IM

BEIJING (AP) — Look out, Michael Phelps. Your good friend and teammate is coming after you again.

Having gotten by the rest of the world in winning five Olympic gold medals so far, Phelps next faces a serious challenge from Ryan Lochte in the 200-meter individual medley.

Phelps ended another golden day at the pool by winning his preliminary heat in 1 minute, 58.65 seconds Wednesday night, making him sixth overall.

"I'm just trying to get through everything," he said. "It's a lot of racing and it's not easy."

Swimming one heat earlier, Lochte finished with the fastest time of 1:58.15. Laszlo Cseh of Hungary, already a two-time silver medalist behind Phelps in the 400 IM and 200 butterfly, was third overall in 1:58.79. The semifinals are Thursday morning, followed by Friday's final.

"Michael is a really good swimmer, a big talent and he can beat everyone," Cseh said.

Lochte thinks otherwise. He's one of the few who isn't intimidated by Phelps, even though he's regularly cast as Mr. Runner-up in their ongoing rivalry.

"I was that close at trials," Lochte said. "It's no different. It's just another swim meet. It's just another race I'm going to have."

In the opening event of these games, Phelps won the 400 IM and Lochte finished third while bothered by a stomach virus.

"I feel a lot better," he said. "I feel like I got my strength back."

Earlier in the day, Phelps claimed two more gold medals, making him 5-for-5, with world records each time. Overall, his 11 career gold medals stamped him as the winningest Olympian in history. He's also trying to take down Mark Spitz's record of seven golds in a single games.

"If he gets eight medals, it's amazing," Lochte said. "If he doesn't, it means somewhere along I did something. Hopefully, I can do that."

Phelps won the 200 butterfly in the morning despite being blinded when his goggles filled with water.

"I just got a new pair," he said. "Today I'm trying to put behind me and get ready for tomorrow. Those next three ones are pretty important events."

Lochte pulled double-duty Wednesday night, qualifying for his two biggest individual races in Beijing.

Before the 200 IM prelims, he and Aaron Peirsol set up a rematch in the 200 backstroke, with the teammates qualifying 1-2 for the event in which they share the world record.

Lochte's time of 1:56.29 was just 0.06 seconds ahead of Peirsol, who clocked 1:56.35 in the previous preliminary heat.

Markus Rogan of Austria, the silver medalist behind Peirsol four years ago in Athens, was third-quickest in 1:56.64.

Lochte ended Peirsol's seven-year winning streak in the 200 back at last year's world championships in Australia, where he also took away Peirsol's world record. Rogan was third.

"I stopped holding that grudge a long time ago," Peirsol said. "At that time I felt like I kind of owned that event. Now I realize all those records are just on loan."

They resumed their rivalry at the U.S. trials in July and were stroke for stroke the entire race. But Peirsol lunged to the wall just ahead of Lochte, tying the mark set by Lochte in Australia.

Their shared world mark of 1:54.32 could be in jeopardy in Friday morning's final. Peirsol, the 100 back champion in Beijing, will try to complete a sweep of the backstroke events for the second consecutive Olympics.

"It was wonderful enough to do it in the 100," he said. "If I could do it in the 200, it would be a dream come true. But if I can't, it will in no way be a blemish on my career."

In the women's 200 breaststroke, defending Olympic champion Amanda Beard failed to get out of the prelims. The former Playboy cover girl's time of 2:27.70 was a whopping 2.57 seconds off the time she swam to finish second at the U.S. trials last month.

## Football Booster Club Update

Thursday, Aug. 14 will be the pre-season meal for the Harvester Football team and their families and hot dogs will be served.

Player meals will be free, but there will be a \$2.00 charge for each family member to help defer the cost of the meal. Everyone is invited to attend.

The football players will begin their fund raiser this week. This year the team will be selling cookie dough, so be on the lookout for football players, and order yours.

Coach Cavalier needs some stationary bikes to use for conditioning on the sidelines during practice.

He said that these didn't have to be new, and that any donation of these would be greatly appreciated.

Tuesday, August 19th @ 8:00 p.m. will be "Meet the Harvesters" night. The concession stand will be open, and so will the Harvester Hut. The Hut is stocked with this years Harvester Football t-shirt which is available in short sleeve, long sleeve, sweatshirts, and hoodies. They also have lots of new merchandise available.

The Booster Club will meet next Monday, August 18th at 7:30 in the Ready Room at Valhalla.

## Hidden Hills Results

**Mixed Scramble Hidden Hills Golf Course August 11, 2008**

**1st Place (31)**  
Bill Hammer  
Carlton Cates  
Pat Horvat  
Betty Scarbrough

**2nd Place (31)**  
Steve Williams  
Tommy Parks  
Steve Randall  
Brenda Kelley  
Robert Hunzicker

## ITF adopts new anti-doping code

BEIJING (AP) — A new anti-doping code allowing more flexibility in determining sanctions has been ratified by the International Tennis Federation.

Changes approved Wednesday by the ITF's board of directors will allow the circumstances of a case to be taken into account to a greater extent. During a meeting at the Olympics, the board approved mandatory provisional suspensions, which reduce the time that players accused of doping offenses are in competition.

The changes take effect Jan. 1. Tennis' anti-doping program is managed by the ITF on behalf of the Grand Slams, ATP and WTA Tour.

"Tennis as a sport is fully committed to the fight against doping," ITF president Francesco Ricci Bitti said.

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

**8-13 CRYPTOQUOTE**

FNS VJDF TSGOFCIOH  
PCDWJKSUQ FUOS IUCSMPD  
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EUJL DSAGUGFSHQ LCFNJOF  
E U J L C M E G A G U F  
— S H C Y G T S F N I J H S Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SAVING FOR A RAINY DAY IS SOMEBODY ELSE'S UMBRELLA. — CAROLINE CLARK

# Horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Thursday, Aug. 14, 2008:

Understand that you need to step up to the plate this year. The unanticipated opens doors more often than not. Instinctively, you come out on top, as you are far more grounded than you thought in the past. An even and steady approach draws reactions and more productivity in general. You need to curb a sweet tooth, as you could gain weight more easily than in the past. If single, you meet people with ease in the second half of the year. You could have two exciting suitors at once. If attached, you will grow and evolve to a new level as you work as a team. A shared hobby draws you closer. AQUARIUS is a friend first.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
★★★★ Your high energy helps you focus and make what you need happen. Others look to you for direction and advice. At times, you could feel overwhelmed by all that might occur. Understand what your common goals are. Tonight: Find your friends.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
★★★★ Be willing to do your own research. Take a stand, and read between the lines. What someone is not saying could be far more important than you realize. A creative moment helps push a project across the line. Tonight: Out and about.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
★★★★ Take in what a partner shares. Though the impact of this knowledge

could toss a curveball into your life, you ultimately will be better off with this knowledge. Use your mind to sort through the real problem. Tonight: Check out a new spot, or a site if on the computer.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
★★★★ Others run with the ball, but they now are receptive to what you are asking. In fact, you finally get a grasp on an issue, which points you in a new direction. Think positively about a transformation and change of direction. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
★★★★ Try a more even approach with those around you. Someone might be a bit off the wall, and your attitude calms down what could be a toasty situation. Relax, but also encourage others to express what is going on. Tonight: Out and about.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
★★★★ Your imagination might be a touch haywire, causing your mind to drift elsewhere. Do not be surprised by what someone might do in order to get your attention. He or she feels like anything works. Tonight: Take some long-overdue personal time.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
★★★★ Stick to basics. You must open up to what before seemed impossible. Get ahead of the game, knowing what you want. As the day ends, consider a positive change with your work. Tonight: Fun and games — start the weekend early.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
★★★★ What you thought was the status quo could explode. You cannot control other people. Do not even try. An even and/or steady approach achieves

your long-term desires. A risk might backfire. Ask more questions. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
★★★★ Get a strong hold on your budget, and you will be much happier. Disciplining yourself could take unusual effort, but you will succeed. Curb a tendency to be possessive, and stay secure. Tonight: A heart-to-heart chat with a friend.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
★★★★ If you can, stop and look around. You could be surprised by what you see, especially if you can clear out your issues. The unexpected could add a certain charge to your day. You can handle the unexpected. Tonight: Your treat.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
★★★★ If you want to play it low-key, do so. You could have your hands full with a financial matter. Stay in touch with your feelings, and you will make an excellent decision. Your energy perks up at the end of the day. Tonight: All smiles.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You might suddenly decide to reprioritize your errands and projects. Others might ask questions; answer them. You might get more support by being open. Tonight: Zoom in on what you want.

**BORN TODAY**  
Actor Steve Martin (1945), actress Halle Berry (1966), basketball player Earvin "Magic" Johnson (1959)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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**21 Help Wanted**

LOCAL office has an opening for a receptionist. Mon-Fri. (Hours Vary) Pay based on experience. Send resume & references to Box 71, c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2198.

**MCLEAN CARE CENTER**

has openings for Nurse Aides. Position has benefit of paid vacation after one year of service and 401K program. Call 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, in McLean.

**MCLEAN CARE CENTER**

has full-time position of Laundry / Housekeeping Aide. Position has benefit of paid vacation after one year of service and 401K program. Call 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, McLean.

**EXPERIENCED Painter**

w / light carpentry skills needed full-time for Pampa's largest apartment complex. Salary DOE. Apply in person @ 1601 W. Somerville

**Int-rim Home HealthCare**

Come join our Team. Full time position available for a registered nurse with a fast growing home health agency.

**Employee Health Insurance, Competitive Salary and Benefits 401(k) plan**

Apply in person at our new location 2217 Perryton Parkway Pampa, Texas 79065

online at www.interimhealthcare.com

**SIVALLS Inc.**

is looking for Paint Test Service Technician. Drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

**POSITIONS Available For All Crafts**

For Industrial Construction. Piping, Concrete, Electrical and Earthmoving. Call Personnel Director at (806)274-7187.

**THE PLAZA III**

is now accepting applications for Day Time Servers. Must be 18 & over. Need references

Apply in person at Coronado Center Pampa No phone calls!!

**EQUIPMENT OPERATOR NEEDED FOR GRAVEL PIT IN LEFORS. CONTACT KENNETH @ 806-662-4206**

**TOTAL Oilfield Services**

Total Oilfield Services Needs Mechanics, Kill Truck Driver & Transport Drivers. Competitive Pay, Health Insurance, 401 K, Dental & Vision. Incentive. Paid Vacation.

We prefer you to Apply inside @ Hwy 152 & 30 Sweetwater, OK. 1-580-534-2210, Ask for Judy

**Immediate opening for the following position:**

**Contract Land Leasing Agent**

**Skills Required:**

- ★ Great sales experience.
- ★ Must possess strong negotiating skills.
- ★ Experience sales skills including ability to follow-up and close.
- ★ Excellent verbal and written skills.
- ★ Must be proficient in Word and Excel.
- ★ Able to work well in a team environment.
- ★ Ability to close a lease or contract.
- ★ Willing to travel.

**Experience:**

- ★ Must have 5 years experience in Land Leasing/Sales/Real Estate/Insurance.
- ★ Must have Brokers License or Real Estate License.

**HILLIARD LAND SERVICES**

Send resume to: Human Resource 611 West Missouri Avenue Midland, Texas 79701 Phone: 432.618.1823 Fax: 432.618.9892 E-mail: lmasdor@hmls.com

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

**21 Help Wanted**

D.E. Chase, Inc. is looking for Exp. Drivers for the Pampa & Wheeler Area Please apply in person at 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, TX

**CDL driver-local oil field hauling**

start pay based on veri. exp., must pass drug screen & phy. 1 yr tandem exp. req. Shop hand, mech. ability, pay neg. 665-2451 M-F 9-4.

**ACCOUNTS Receivable, data entry, and invoicing position with established company.**

Computer knowledge required. Full time Mon-Fri, 8-5:00, great benefits. E-mail resume to tmpa@tmcs.com mail to ATTN: Accounting P O Box 2358 Pampa, TX 79066.

**GAS Prices cutting into your budget? Earn extra cash!**

Start your Avon business-only \$10. Call 664-0208.

**TRUCK Drivers needed & hot shot drivers.**

Drug test and references required. Competitive pay! Call 665-0379.

**CORONADO Healthcare**

is seeking a Maintenance Man. Exp. pref. in long-term care but not req. General knowledge of HVAC and elec. Apply in person, 1504 Kentucky.

**WAIT Staff & Kitchen Employees needed.**

Apply in person Dyer's BBQ, Pampa.

**Grandview-Hopkins ISD**

is accepting applications for 2008-2009, for School Bus Driver / Teacher Aide. Call (806)669-3831 for application

**JANITOR- full & part-time job.**

No experience needed, will train. To apply call 662-9775.

**OPEN Positions at Pampa ISD:**

Bright Beginnings Day Care is hiring a part-time Care-Giver. Transportation is hiring full and part-time Bus Drivers and full-time Bus Monitor. Interested applicants can apply in person at 321 W. Albert, Pampa.

**EXPERIENCED fishing tool operator**

to work international 28-28. Must have 5 years verifiable exp. Contact 806-676-8547 between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM Mon. - Fri.

**EXCEL Production**

is accepting resumes and/or application for an Exp. Field Pumper. Individual must have knowledge and exp. in the operations of oil & gas wells, compressors & tank batteries. No Phone Calls will be accepted. Please bring resume or pick up application at 1050 N. Price Rd. or mail resume to: Attn: Personnel Excel Production P.O. Box 1800 Pampa, TX 79066-1800

**DISHWASHER & Exp. Cook**

needed at Granny's Home Cookin. No phone calls! 328 E. Frederic.

**NEED full-time Make Ready Person**

for rental properties. Light carpentry, plumbing, painting. Have own tools & transportation. 665-4274 or apply at 1347 Coffee St.

**PAMCEL Golf Club Pampa, TX.**

is now taking applications for Full-Time Maintenance Personnel. Duties incl. maintenance of mower equip., all mower operations, and all other daily operations that apply. Interested Parties Contact Kenneth Norris Golf Course Superintendent at (806)663-4342 or (806)663-4898 or Terry Gamer (806)663-4306.

**21 Help Wanted**

**OH FIELD HAND**

needed for Water Transfer Company. Will train. Apply in person at 1010 S. Price Rd. Pampa

**OUR Roustabout company**

is looking for experienced roustabouts & a backhoe operator with a CDL. We offer competitive pay. Please call 580-772-5157 for more information.

**50 Building Suppl.**

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

**60 Household**

WASHERS, Dryers, Livingroom & Bedroom Furn. Hutch, many more items, 662-7557.

**\$145 Brand new queen pillowtop mattress-set**

Still in factory plastic, has warranty. 806-341-6233.

**MUST sell brand new queen orthopedic mattress set.**

In plastic with warranty. \$135. 806-341-6233

**NAME brand full mattress & box.**

New factory sealed, \$120. 806-341-6233.

**TWIN Size mattress set, never used.**

Sealed in plastic with warranty. \$100. 806-341-6233.

**A brand new memory foam mattress set.**

Never used. \$375. 806-341-6233.

**69 Misc.**

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

**CEDAR chest, desks, chests, beds, VHS movies \$1.50 ea.**

Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes, Sat. 10-5. 665-2767.

**USED Office! Back From Lease!**

Free Del/Warranty, Transferable. CALL 806-358-9597.

**20 ft. Astro bass boat w/ 150 horse power outboard Mercury motor.**

Good cond. \$8500 firm. Turbo-max AX S3 Golf clubs. Complete set. \$400. 806-874-2427, Leave message

**I buy used drilling bits, gas, water, & oil.**

940-366-1108 940-872-3636.

**LITTLE Tikes Whirely Rocket \$50, Step 2 Roller Coaster ride \$45, pool table (bar side) \$85, washer & dryer \$75 ea, dorm size refrig., \$45, all in good cond.**

486-1017.

**I make blankets & baby blankets.**

Come by 506 N. Nelson or call 664-9604. Ask for Lisa.

**21 Help Wanted**

NEED Registered Male Pit Bull for stud service. Call 669-6052.

**95 Furn. Apts.**

**ALL REAL ESTATE ADVERTISED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING ACT, WHICH MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO ADVERTISE "ANY PREFERENCE, LIMITATION, OR DISCRIMINATION BECAUSE OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, HANDICAP, FAMILIAL STATUS OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR INTENTION TO MAKE ANY SUCH PREFERENCE, LIMITATION, OR DISCRIMINATION."**

State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**96 Unfurn. Apts.**

**CAPROCK APTS.**

Enjoy balconies/patios, on site laundry, beautiful grounds. One brdm starting at \$390. Call for availability. 665-7149.

**LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt.**

Call for availability. References & deposit req. 669-4386

**NUMEROUS Houses, Apts., Dupl. & Comm. properties thru-out Pampa.**

665-1875, 665-4274.

**THE Schneider House, now leasing apts., 1 & 2 bdr., utilities incl.**

120 S. Russell or call 665-0415.

**98 Unfurn. Houses**

714 N. Banks, 2 bdr. 1 ba. \$600 mo. and \$600 dep. Must Have References Call 662-9669

**4 bd., 2 3/4**



# Grazing cattle year-round could pay off

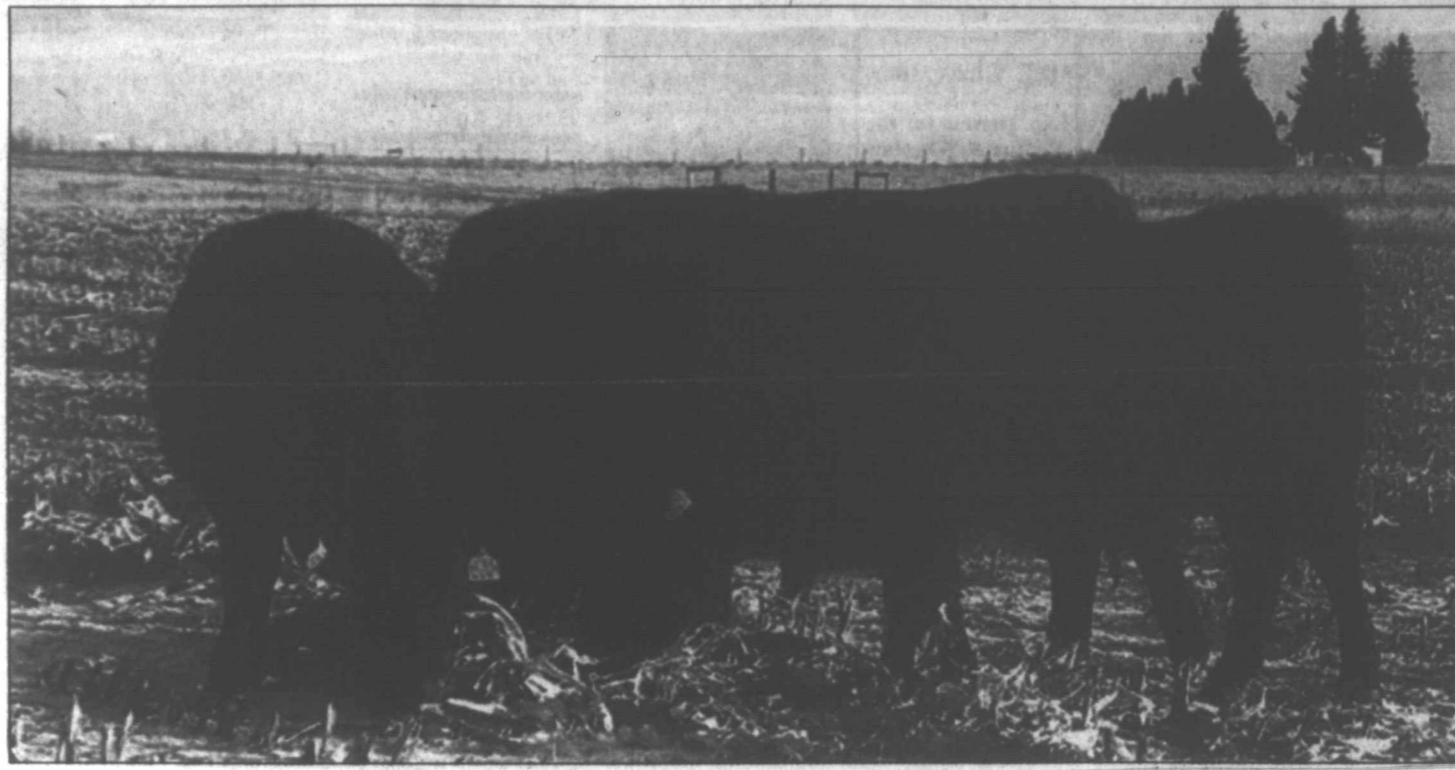
By Don Comis  
ARS News

The good ol' days are coming back to the Northern Plains, with new twists based on recent research findings by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists.

ARS researchers in Mandan, N.D., have shown that a newly designed program of "swath grazing" allows cattle to, once again, graze year-round, even in the middle of a North Dakota winter. The concept involves pushing harvested crop leftovers into row piles up to 16-inches high, to keep them within reach of cows in winter.

Winter grazing, from mid-November through mid-March in North Dakota, can save farmers as much as 24-cents per cow per day, compared to the costs of baling hay for winter corral feeding. With a herd of 200 cows, that would save a farmer more than \$4,000 in feed costs a year.

Soil scientist Don Tanaka



Courtesy photo by Don Tanaka

**Cows grazing on corn swaths in the winter snow in North Dakota. ARS researchers at the Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory have found that Northern Plains farmers can save money by allowing cows to swath graze throughout the winter. Various rotations of forages and legume-grass mixtures, when swath grazed, can provide protein-rich mixtures that can help beef up pregnant cows.**

and colleagues at the ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in

Mandan calculated those savings based on data from a four-year research project. In

each year of the study, the scientists monitored 20 pregnant Hereford beef cows due

to give birth in March. The nutritional needs of pregnant cows increases as pregnancy

advances. This makes the winter feeding of late-pregnant cows one of the most expensive times in beef cattle production.

The researchers compared weight gains from swath-grazing cows on the residue of annual crops — oats/peas, triticale/sweet clover and corn — to gains with perennial western wheatgrass and with bales of hay fed in winter corrals.

Another benefit of swath grazing: The cows in this system also distributed their manure evenly over the landscape, eliminating the chore of removing manure from corrals. The manure also provides fertilizer for crops and improves the soil.

Integrating crops and livestock benefits both enterprises.

Read more about the research in the July 2008 issue of Agricultural Research magazine.

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

## Economy: Retail sales drop for first time in 5-month period

WASHINGTON (AP) — Retail sales fell in July, the weakest performance in five months, as a variety of economic woes combined to blunt the impact of billions of dollars in government stimulus payments to U.S. households.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that retail sales dipped 0.1 percent last month, the first decline since sales had fallen by 0.5 percent in February. It was a worse showing than the flat reading economists had been expecting.

The weakness last month

came after another big slide in auto sales as Detroit faced its worst sales month in 16 years. Automakers have been battered by the weak economy and record gasoline prices which have cut into demand for their once-popular sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks.

Excluding the big drop in autos, retail sales would have posted a 0.4 percent increase. While that was a positive reading, it was still the weakest showing for sales excluding autos in five months.

Much of what little strength there was in July

came from a big jump in sales at gasoline stations, which were up 0.8 percent. That increase reflected surging prices rather than increased demand, however.

Gasoline pump prices hit an all-time high during the month at \$4.11 per gallon. Without the big rise in gasoline station sales, retail sales would have fallen by 0.2 percent in July.

The disappointing performance of retail sales meant that the consumer sector, which accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity, got off to a weak start at the beginning of the

third quarter. The government wrapped up distributing the bulk of the economic stimulus payments for a total of \$92 billion through the end of July.

The Bush administration and Congress rushed a \$168 billion package of stimulus payments to households and tax breaks for businesses through Congress at the beginning of this year. They were hoping to keep the worst slump in housing in decades and a severe credit crunch from pushing the country into a deep recession.

The stimulus payments,

which the government started distributing in late April, have had only a limited impact on consumer spend-

ing. Their benefits have been blunted by a surge in gasoline prices that was occurring at the same time.

Back by Popular Demand thru August 15<sup>th</sup>

### Hotmix Asphalt Paving

Residential \*Commercial \*Ranch Roads  
Parking Lots\* Driveways  
Oil Base Sealers  
No Job Too Big or Too Small  
Reliable State Wide Service  
Serving 40 Mile Radius  
**432-416-6327**

Mention Ad for 10% Discount

Yes, We Have Crushed Asphalt!

# KEYES PHARMACY

928 NORTH HOBART

**Taking care of you in the Past, Present, and Future**

We're proud to be your neighborhood pharmacy since 1962, and we're counting on being here for you for many more years to come! Whatever your health concern, we want to help. And our convenient hours make it easy for you to get what you need, when you need it.

Here are just some of the helpful services we offer:  
Computerized prescription management  
Free mailout service • Medicare billing  
Free Citywide Delivery

LOCAL 806.669.1202  
OUTSIDE PAMPA 800.842.3866  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30-6:00  
SATURDAY 8:30-1:00

### 2008 PROPERTY TAX RATES IN CITY OF PAMPA

This notice concerns 2008 property tax rates for City Of Pampa. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments are required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

<b>Last year's tax rate:</b>	
Last year's operating taxes	\$2,386,522
Last year's debt taxes	\$915,463
Last year's total taxes	\$3,301,985
Last year's tax base	\$478,548,551
Last year's total tax rate	0.690000/\$100
<b>This year's effective tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$3,232,717
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$523,555,674
= This year's effective tax rate	0.617454/\$100
<i>(Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)</i>	
<b>This year's rollback tax rate:</b>	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$3,616,298
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$523,555,674
= This year's effective operating rate	0.690719/\$100
x 1.06 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.745976/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	0.166581/\$100
= This year's total rollback rate	0.912557/\$100
- Sales tax adjustment rate	0.242748/\$100
= Rollback tax rate	0.669809/\$100

**Statement of Increase/Decrease**  
If City of Pampa adopts a 2008 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.617454 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2007 taxes by \$46,584.

**Schedule A: Unencumbered Fund Balances**  
The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

**Schedule B: 2008 Debt Service**  
The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
1999 Certificate of Obligation	\$115,000	\$ 11,928	\$0	\$126,928
2001 Certificate of Obligation	\$290,000	\$ 49,800	\$0	\$339,800
2005 Certificate of Obligation	\$172,579	\$ 37,373	\$0	\$209,952
2005 Certificate of Obligation - Police	\$ 19,608	\$ 18,916	\$0	\$ 38,524
2008 Certificate of Obligation	\$ 31,694	\$ 13,701	\$0	\$ 45,395
2001 Certificate of Obligation	\$111,010	\$ 6,660	\$0	\$117,670
Total Required for 2008 Debt Service				\$878,269
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2008				\$878,269
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2008				\$0
= Total Debt Levy				\$878,269

**Schedule C - Expected Revenue from Additional Sales Tax**  
In calculating its effective and rollback tax rates, the unit estimated that it will receive \$1,279,839 in additional sales and use tax revenues.  
This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell, Pampa, Tx 79065.

Name of person preparing this notice: Gaye Whitehead RTA  
Title: Gray County Tax Assessor - Collector  
Date Prepared: July 29, 2008

B-20 August 13, 2008