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Jim Bruton

# THE PAMPA NEWS

Thursday, August 14, 2008

Volume 104 • No. 425

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staff photos by Julie Ann Thompson  
**Pampa Lion's Club** cooked hamburgers and set up a condiment line for Pampa High School's "Fish Camp" held on August 12. The incoming freshman or "fish" toured the campus and learned about various programs the school offers. Above - John Horst greets the hungry freshmen. Right - Lion's Club member Lance DeFever cooks hamburgers for participants with the help of Brad Pingel (not pictured).



## Amarillo's Ronald McDonald House celebrates 25 years

by Rachel Stennett  
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

The Ronald McDonald House of Amarillo is celebrating its 25th year in operation. As a part of the celebration, the McDonald's Restaurant of Pampa is having a community birthday party for the house, which will include give-aways and guest speakers on Saturday. Owners of the Pampa McDonald's, Marietta and Bill Benda, feel that it is important to throw the party to honor the Ronald McDonald House because they have helped many families in Pampa. "We are grateful that our Pampa friends and customers can take advantage of the services of Amarillo's Ronald McDonald House if they need to," Marietta Benda said, "and we thought

having the party was a great way to celebrate this 25 year milestone." The community party in Pampa will be hosted from 1 to 3 p.m. and will have a family that has benefitted from the house at a table who will be there to answer any questions people may have about the house or their experience. Guests at the party can also register for a bike that will be given away at the end of the party. The Pampa McDonald's will have a bin for anyone who wants to drop off tabs of soda cans for the Ronald McDonald House, which will be an ongoing fundraiser. Marietta Benda, who also serves on the executive board of the Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo, wants to assist the house as much as possible. "The house is very near and

dear to my heart. We want to do anything we can to help support it," she said. The house has helped over more than 450 families from Pampa who have stayed almost 4,300 nights since the Amarillo location opened in 1983. Janna and Klint Ingram of Pampa stayed 117 days at the Amarillo Ronald McDonald House in 2004 when Janna went into early labor with her son Dillon. Dillon was born premature at 25 weeks and weighed one pound eight ounces. "I thought I was just having Braxton Hicks (contractions), but I went to the hospital and was already dilated 10 inches," Ingram said. She was medically evacuated from Pampa to an Amarillo hospital and had

See McDonald's, Page 3

## Free barbecue to kick off rodeo

by Rachel Stennett  
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

The Top O' Texas Rodeo officially begins today with a free barbecue to all ticket holders at 5:30 p.m. The Rodeo has many new and different elements this year, including a new open format, which allows more of the local cowboys and girls to compete. Cindy Kempf, office manager of the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association, said that people have much to antic-

pate for this year's rodeo with a total of 409 contestants, an "unprecedented number." Within the new format, many contestants from Pampa are participating in all events including bull riding, steer wrestling, and barrel racing. Pampa's own QB Cob and Tanner Wrinkler will be participating in the bull riding competition, as well as Hawk Tucker and Logan Helton in the bull riding competition. Rodeo ticket holders can

See Rodeo Page 3

## County tax rate on tomorrow's agenda

by Marilyn Powers  
 mpowers@thepampanews.com

The property tax rate for fiscal year 2009 will be discussed at Gray County Commissioners' 9 a.m. meeting Friday in the second-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell. Commissioners began budget talks for the county's 2009 budget at their Aug. 1 meeting. A 2009 rate of .44673 cents per \$100 valuation of taxable property will be pro-

posed at Friday's meeting. The 2008 tax rate for Gray County was set last year at .47326 cents per \$100 valuation for taxable property. The rate for fiscal year 2007 was .445623 cents per \$100 valuation, and the rate for fiscal 2006 was .488926 cents. Some departments have submitted preliminary budget requests that are less than their 2008 totals, while others have asked for increases, said County Judge Richard Peet at the Aug. 1 commis-

See Agenda, Page 3

## Stennett joins staff

Rachel Stennett has joined the staff at The Pampa News as a reporter.

Stennett is a 2008 graduate of Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Communications.

"Rachel is a welcome addition to our editorial staff," said Editor and Publisher Randall Pribble. "Not only will she be doing some general reporting, but she and Julie Ann Thompson will be covering local sports as well."

For the past year, Stennett was associate editor of the South Coloradoan, the student newspaper at Adams State College. In her junior year, she was the general manager of KASF, the student radio station on campus. Her journalism internship was at the Valley Courier, a daily newspaper in Alamosa.

She also has a Pampa connection in her cousin Miranda Bailey, who will be teaching 7th grade this year and who also writes a weekly column and submits occasional articles to The Pampa News.

"Miranda is my first cousin and she has talked to me about getting a job here for a long time," Stennett said.

Stennett grew up in Colorado Springs and became interested in journalism with the aid of "encouraging teachers."

"I like small towns because of the closeness of the community," she said. "I've been met with friendly faces and kind comments here and I'm getting to know a lot of people."

"It is easier to make a difference (in a small town)," she added, "and that is what my goal is in general."






Rachel Stennett

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**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy

Friday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. Northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. East-northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Saturday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 76.

Saturday Night: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Cloudy, with a low around 58.

Sunday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a high near 73. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

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**Gang member volunteers for execution**

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Michael Rodriguez's downfall began with an infatuation.

If he follows through with his plans to be held accountable, it ends Thursday evening

in the Texas death chamber.

Rodriguez, 45, a key member of the "Texas 7" — a group of seven fugitives who broke out of a South Texas prison in one of the state's most notorious escapes — has dropped all his appeals and is volunteering for execution for his part in the killing of a Dallas-area police officer almost eight years ago.

"Whatever we do, there's restitution to be made," Rodriguez, 45, told The Associated Press in a recent interview outside death row. "But in this situation, the only thing I can do is be held accountable, and express sincere condolences."

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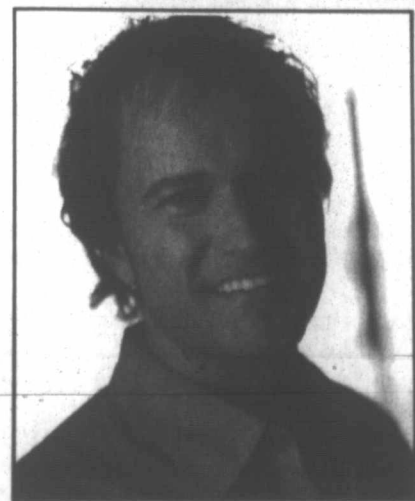
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*Services tomorrow*

**FAIRCHILD, Patsy Elizabeth** —  
 Graveside services, 7 p.m., Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery, Canadian.

*Emergency Services*

**Sheriff**

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

**Wednesday, Aug. 13**  
 Daniel Taylor Clark, 44, of Miami was arrested by the Texas Rangers for burglary of a habitation and theft of a firearm.

Ronald Eugene Miller, 52, of Pampa was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while license is invalid.

**Thursday, Aug. 14**  
 Franklin Don Bliss, 54, of Pampa was arrested in the 2800 block of West Kentucky by Pampa Police Department for no valid driver's license and expired inspection sticker.

**Fire**

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today.

**Saturday, Aug. 9**  
 1:06 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 1200 block of North Hobart on a fire education program.

2:08 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to a structure fire in the 1600 block of North Russell.

10:13 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 900 block of South Dwight on arching power lines.

**Sunday, Aug. 10**  
 4 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of North Faulkner on a call for medical assistance.

8:29 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Varnon on a call for medical assistance.

**Monday, Aug. 11**  
 10:02 a.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to a structure fire in the 1200 block of Duncan.

10:14 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1900 block of Duncan on a call for lifting assistance.

12:32 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Frost on a call for lifting assistance.

5:49 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to

the 1800 block of North Dwight on a call for medical assistance.

**Tuesday, Aug. 12**  
 11:36 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of North Dwight on a medical call.

**Wednesday, Aug. 13**  
 1:31 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2000 block of Duncan on a call for lifting assistance.

9:13 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1500 block of Perryton Parkway on a false alarm.

**Ambulance**

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

**Monday, Aug. 11**  
 7:31 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:08 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Amarillo.

5:50 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Dwight and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

8:51 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of East Browning and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

**Tuesday, Aug. 12**  
 7:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan prison unit and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:34 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Dwight and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of an unspecified street and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1500 block of West

*Obituaries*

**Dwayne Leigh Smith, 67**

Dwayne Leigh Smith, 67, of Pampa, died Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Pampa.

At Mr. Smith's request, his body was donated to Texas Tech School of Medicine.

Memorial services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, 2008, at the First United



Smith

Methodist Church Chapel with the Rev. Jeff Taylor, pastor, officiating.

Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

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

block of Willow.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 1900 block of East Browning.

Calls and stops concerning animals occurred in the 200 block of North Russell, the 400 block of Graham, the 1100 block of Finley, the 900 block of Wilcox, the 1100 block of Prairie Drive and the 1500 block of North Zimmers.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1100 block of North Hobart and the 500 block of Powell.

One attempt to serve papers was made.

Welfare checks were made in the 500 block of Powell and the 1000 block of North Sumner.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of North Sumner.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of East 17th.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2800 block of Charles. A vehicle was keyed.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of South Sumner. The tires on a vehicle were slashed.

An information report was made in the police department lobby concerning a vehicle which was vandalized in the 400 block of East 17th.

A threat was reported in the 900 block of South Faulkner.

One alarm was reported. Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson. A 1990 Chevrolet Suburban was taken.

Burglary was reported in the 400 block of North Doyle. It is unknown if anything was taken.

**Wednesday, Aug. 13**  
 Fourteen traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the 500 block of Lefors, the intersection of Louisiana and Duncan streets, and twice from the 400 block of Hughes.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1100 block of Gwendolen, the 1000 block of West Harvester, the 1500 block of North Hobart and on two occasions in the 2500 block of Evergreen.

Calls and stops concerning animals occurred in the

See **POLICE**, Page 7

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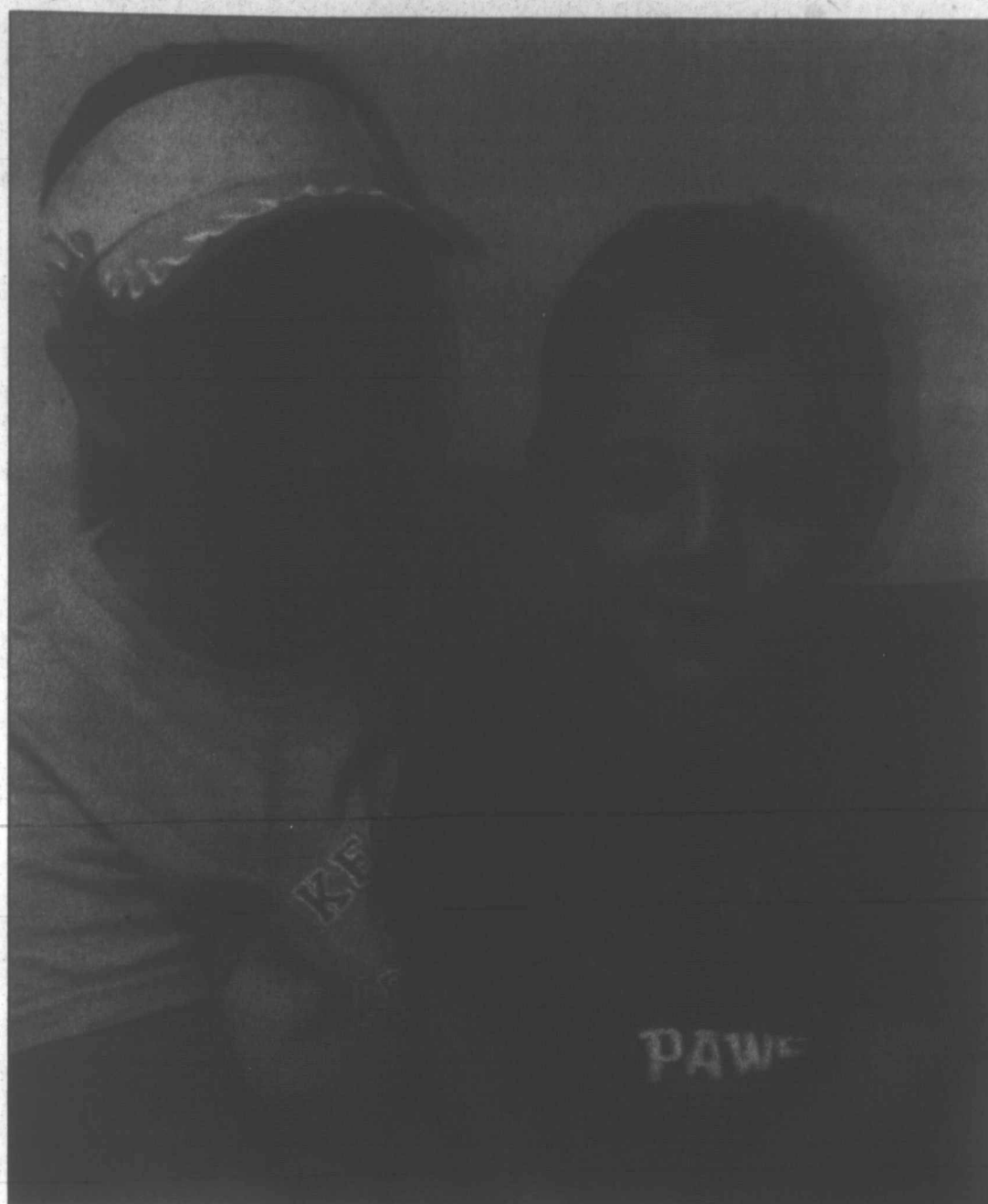
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staff photo by Rachel Stennett  
**Janna Ingram stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo while her son Dillon stayed in the hospital for three months after he was born premature at 25 weeks.**

## McDonald's

**Continued from Front Page**  
 her son in less than 30 minutes. Ingram recovered quickly from labor, but Dillon was in the hospital for nearly three months because he was not fully developed and prone to sickness like pneumonia. While Dillon was at the hospital, Janna stayed at the Ronald McDonald House. "It made things easier and wonderful. Everyone there was very encouraging about our situation. They were the most unbelievable warm, welcoming people I've been around," Ingram said. Janna's husband and stepchildren had to return to work and school in Pampa after Dillon was born, but she stayed at the Ronald McDonald house until he was released from the hospital. At the house, Janna was given a private room, food,

and clothes. "As many people that go through there you may not think it would not be a personal experience, but it was," she said. "It was just like being at home." The house had food catered for Janna from surrounding businesses and when her stepchildren and husband came to visit on the weekends, the workers at the Ronald McDonald House gave them activities and treated them well, she added. When Dillon was released from the hospital, the Ronald McDonald House gave Dillon baby blankets, premature baby clothes, and gift packs to help prepare the family at home. Dillon is now four years old, weighs 35 pounds and is preparing to go to pre-kindergarten in a few weeks.

## Agenda

**Continued from Front Page**  
 sioners' meeting. Decreases in some departments are occurring because the larger amount is no longer needed due to a purchase or service having been completed, such as the purchase in 2008 of a patrol car for a county constable, and roof repairs to Perry LeFors Airport's main hangar. Also on Friday's agenda are the sheriff's and constable's

fees for 2009, a resolution showing the county's 10 percent contribution to the federal off-system bridge program administered by Texas Department of Transportation, a road crossing request concerning County Road 1, an employees completion of NIMS training, the county clerk's and treasurer's reports and payment of bills and salaries.

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## Rodeo

**Continued from Front Page**  
 look forward to two new events, Kempf said including a girls break-away roping competition and ranch bronc riding every night. There will also be mutton busting for the children who have already registered for the Kid Pony Show. Kempf is excited for the range of events this year's rodeo will bring. "We have events for the teeny tiny ones to the real big ones," Kempf said. A Double Muggin' Event will be dedicated to the memory of J.R. Baggett who died unexpectedly this year. Baggett had served nearly 26 years on the board of the Top O' Texas Rodeo. "He was a very active member of our board," Kempf said. The events start after the free barbecue tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. "We will be out there rain or shine."

## Texas gas prices down a dime

AAA-Texas on Thursday reported the average cost per gallon for regular unleaded gasoline slipped to \$3.64, or down 10 cents in the past week. Nationally gas prices also tumbled, by seven cents, to settle at \$3.78. The association reports gas prices in Texas are still 96 cents higher than one year ago. Corpus Christi has the least expensive gasoline this week, at just below \$3.59 a gallon.

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# Viewpoints

## Pastor launches 'stop gossiping' initiative

Some say talk is cheap. If that is true, then gossip most assuredly is NOT. In fact, the toll for gossip can be quite steep for the injured party or parties. An online article posted recently at Christian World News focuses on the efforts of a Michigan pastor to highlight the negative aspects of what people do while thoughtlessly wagging their tongues.

Pastor Kevin Hester of Sanctuary Baptist Church in Coloma, Mich., has been

burned by rumor and is now waging war upon it.

Wow. Hats off to Pastor Hester. Even as I seriously doubt that gossip can ever truly be stamped out (prior to the Second Coming, that is), I applaud any movement that might in any way impede or threaten its practice or progress.

Hester is challenging his church and others to cease gossiping for a period of eight straight days. Hester launched an eight-day initia-

tive at his church and in his community this past Friday. Gossiping, by the way, IS a legitimate word.

"Gossip is very devastating," the article at CWN quotes Hester as saying, "and the Bible says we shouldn't do it, in fact God mentions it right next to murder in the scripture."

**Skyla Bryant**  
City Editor



The power of words to hurt and to shame is shocking. Who among us has not been affected by another's verbal negativity? Gossip, however, is a particularly harmful and insidious form of verbiage that most usually relies on half-truths and lies to distort or subvert the repu-

tation of colleagues, co-workers, friends, associates, etc.

Gossip lures us in like chocolate cake. We breathe in the scent of it. Like a shark smelling blood, we sniff out the details of a juicy tidbit and can't wait to transmit it. Gleeefully, we pass it along. We've all participated in gossip, or at least a vast majority of us have at some point in our lives.

Gossip is misleading because it seems so harmless

while we are receiving and/or spreading it. It is so easy to forget that real, flesh and blood people can be hurt by our "harmless" chatter.

I frequently wish I would give more thought to what I say.

Next, Pastor Hester should target whining and complaining. Although ... I might not survive such a hiatus. Let's all try to go gossip-free for the next eight days.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 14, the 227th day of 2008. There are 139 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on Aug. 14, 1908, rioting erupted in Springfield, Ill., as a white mob, enraged that two black criminal suspects (one later convicted of murder, the other exonerated of rape) had been spirited away from the city jail by authorities, began setting black-owned homes and businesses on fire. At least two blacks and five whites were killed in the violence. (The riot helped inspire the creation of the NAACP the following year.)

On this date:

In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created.

In 1900, international forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.

In 1935, President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law.

In 1945, President Truman announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II.

In 1947, Pakistan became independent of British rule.

*'Nothing is so soothing to our self-esteem as to find our bad traits in our forebears. It seems to absolve us.'*

— Van Wyck Brooks  
American author  
(1886-1963)

In 1948, the summer Olympic games in London ended.

In 1958, Elvis Presley's mother, Gladys Love Smith Presley, died in Memphis, Tenn., at age 46.

In 1969, British troops went to Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

In 1973, the U.S. bombing of Cambodia came to a halt effective at midnight.

In 1980, workers went on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, in a job action that resulted in the creation of the Solidarity labor movement.

Ten years ago: A federal appeals court in Richmond, Va., ruled that the Food and Drug Administration had no authority to regulate tobacco, striking down FDA rules making it harder for minors to buy cigarettes; the Clinton administration said it would appeal. (The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that the government lacked the authority to regulate tobacco as an addictive drug.)

Five years ago: A huge blackout hit the northeastern United States and part of Canada; 50 million people lost power.

The chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, Roy Moore, said he would not remove a Ten Commandments monument from the state judicial building, defying a federal court order to remove the granite monument. Rebels lifted their siege of Liberia's capital.

One year ago: Teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan transformed the space shuttle Endeavour and space station into a classroom for her first educational session from orbit, fulfilling the legacy of Christa McAuliffe, who died in the 1986 Challenger disaster. Toy company Mattel recalled 18.6 million lead-tainted, Chinese-made toys worldwide.



## Tips to make spotting online scams easier

Most of us have heard, "a sucker is born every minute," and most of us don't consider ourselves "that sucker." However, if you're not careful on the Internet, a wily huckster can easily fool you. This week, I'll go over the most popular scams and hoaxes on the Net.

Scams and false offers are nothing new. Criminals have been committing fraud for many years. They started with postal mail, moved to telemarketing, and now are finding new victims in cyberspace. In fact, the schemes they use are exactly the same, just modified for the new communication medium.

Let's start with the most common ploy:

— The Chain Letter Scheme

If you have an e-mail account, it is only a matter of

time before you get one of these messages. It usually arrives with a subject heading of "MAKE MONEY FAST" or "NO RISK WEALTH" or some other driveline. Inside the message they ask you to send \$5 to the guy at the top of the list, add your name to the bottom of the list and forward the message to your ten best friends. Within a couple of weeks, you'll receive millions of dollars. Yeah, right. First off, despite the many promises and statements to the contrary within the message, this is a chain letter and chain letters involving money are ILLEGAL.

— Fake Charities

A very common telephone scam is for a person to pose

as a reputable-sounding charity, like, "The Foundation for Disheveled Children." This same routine has made it to cyberspace.

Check out any organization claiming to be nonprofit at the IRS's Web site, <http://www.irs.gov>. If they aren't listed, they aren't legit.

As a sideline, I've noticed a few hoaxes relating to charities. One of the oldest involves the American Cancer Society (<http://www.cancer.org>). An e-mail message is going around claiming that a little girl is dying of cancer. "Her last wish is that this message be forwarded to as many people as possible. In addition, some major companies

will donate 5-cents for every message you forward to her cause." Remember, only you and your recipients know when you forward a message. The Cancer Society has publicly denounced this story as a hoax.

— Tax-Free Overseas Trusts

Just the other day, I received an offer from someone in the Philippines claiming that I can hide thousands of dollars in a special overseas trust. In addition, the IRS doesn't have to know, shielding my wealth from taxation. While this may sound great to anti-tax enthusiasts, it is very illegal. Most of these so-called trust companies don't exist and are just waiting for your bank draft before they disappear. In addition, the scammers that actually try to follow through on their promises

See SPELL, Page 5

**Eric Spellmann**  
Columnist



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## In the United States, demagoguery works

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following column is being re-printed. It initially appeared in the Wednesday issue of the newspaper, but was incomplete.*

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 cam-

paigning, 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 hard-core partisans 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

See REESE, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist





AMERICA

# Man fired from job kills Ark. Democratic chairman

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Police and neighbors are struggling to explain why a man described as a loner drove more than 30 miles to Arkansas' Democratic Party headquarters and fatally shot its chairman hours after getting fired from his job.

Police said Timothy Dale Johnson, 50, of Searcy, barged into Bill Gwatney's office on Wednesday and shot him multiple times. There were no signs that Gwatney and Johnson, who was later shot dead by officers, knew each other.

A Target retail store in Conway had fired Johnson early Wednesday because he had written graffiti on a wall, police said. Before noon, Johnson was in Gwatney's office in Little Rock with a handgun.

"He said he was interested in volunteering, but that was obviously a lie," said Sam Higginbotham, a 17-year-old volunteer at the party's headquarters.

After the shooting, Johnson sped away in a truck, stopped seven blocks away at the Arkansas State Baptist Convention and pointed a gun at the building's manager, police said. When asked what was wrong, the gunman said "I lost my job," according to Dan Jordan, the church group's business manager.

Officers chased the suspect to Sheridan, 30 miles south of Little Rock. After avoiding spike strips and a roadblock, the suspect emerged

from his truck and began shooting at deputies and state troopers, who returned fire. Johnson later died at a hospital. Police found two guns in the truck.

**After the shooting, Johnson sped away in a truck, stopped seven blocks away at the Arkansas State Baptist Convention and pointed a gun at the building's manager, police said.**

Little Rock police Lt. Terry Hastings didn't say what the men discussed after Johnson entered Gwatney's office but said it was not a heated exchange.

"They introduced themselves, and at that time he pulled out a handgun and shot Chairman Gwatney several times," he said.

Police said they could find no criminal record for Johnson. "If he's got a record, it's minor," Hastings said.

Because of his position in the state party, Gwatney was a superdelegate to the Democratic National Convention this month in Denver. He

declared his support for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton after the Arkansas primary in February but endorsed Barack Obama after Clinton dropped out of the presidential race.

Clinton and her husband, former President and former Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, issued a statement calling Gwatney "not only a strong chairman of Arkansas' Democratic Party, but ... also a cherished friend and confidante."

Obama said: "Michelle and I are heartbroken to hear about the tragic loss of Chairman Bill Gwatney. We're praying for his family and friends and all who worked with him and loved him."

Johnson lived alone and had never been married, said Helen Mowrer, who lived next door to the gunman. Mowrer said both of Johnson's parents had lived at the house, but they died in the past 10 years.

Mowrer said Johnson kept to himself. "I never felt really comfortable with him," Mowrer said. "He was just kind of different."

Another neighbor said investigators visited her home Wednesday to talk about the suspect. Loretta Jones said her only contact with Johnson had been the three or four times she complained to him about his dog.

"It makes you wonder what got into somebody to do something so horrible," Jones said.



Courtesy Photo

Top O' Texas Rodeo Queen and Teen Queen, Markie Oden and Jennifer Huffhines recently entertained during storytime at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. The queens were promoting the Top O' Texas Rodeo slated Aug. 14-16 at Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena in Pampa. During storytime, the queens gave away two rodeo tickets to the Rollins' family. Above, front row, left-right: Jennifer Hampton, Jayton Whittington, Conner Hampton, Paige Perry, Ashley Perry, Hannah Hopkins; (back row) Brant Hill, Rhett Hill, Jenna McDonough, Karannah McDonough, Savannah McDonough; (far side) Rachel Rollins and Lily Mead.

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Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr.  
Dr. Samantha A. Ford

## Spell

Continued from Page 4

es often charge huge commissions. Twelve to 15 thousand dollars is common. A great site to learn the truth behind these scams is the Tax Prophet (<http://www.taxprophet.com>).

— Online Sweepstakes  
Everyone wants to win something. But getting an unsolicited e-mail message announcing you are the winner of some "Grand Prize" is not always what it is cracked up to be. Most legitimate contests will contact you via phone or mail to verify you

as the winner. Also, they won't ask you for your credit card for "processing fees" in order to award you the prize.

— What You Can Do  
First, if the offer is via e-mail, NEVER reply. By replying, even angrily, you are proving that your e-mail address is valid. Chances are, you would then get MORE of this type of trash. The easiest method is simply to delete the message without even reading it. After many years of seeing these kinds of schemes, I can easily go through my new e-mail messages and delete them based on the following criteria: Subject in all uppercase; words "wealth," "rich," or

"free" mentioned; more than one exclamation point: "!!!!"

Many e-mail programs can even be set to automatically delete messages that match the above rules (if only my postal mailbox could do that!). If you feel like being a diligent netizen (Internet citizen), forward the offending message to the owners of the network. For instance, if the message came from scamartist@aol.com, forward the whole message to abuse@aol.com. All major networks have the "abuse" e-mail box for that purpose. They will investigate the matter and cancel the account of the perpetrator if they find credible evidence.

A great Web site with more information about online scams is the National Fraud Information Center at <http://www.fraud.org>. Here, you'll find more than enough information to keep your money where it belongs ... in your wallet.  
See you in Cyberspace!

## Reese

Continued from Page 4

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.

American elections seem to be decided on the basis of emotions fueled by demagoguery, not reason. Look at the last one. George Bush, who spent the war safe in the Texas National Guard, convinced

Americans that he would be a better commander in chief than John Kerry, who had earned medals for bravery in combat. Kerry's anti-war rhetoric after he came home from Vietnam came back to haunt him.

It's quite clear that the Republican strategy for this election is to attack Obama as inexperienced, unpatriotic and possibly dangerous. It might work, provided McCain doesn't go bonkers in public or ramble on about his grandchildren during the debates. Obama may well play Brutus to the Republicans' Antony-like mud machine, proving once again that intellectual explanations can't compete with snappy sound bites.

I disagree with much of what Obama believes, and I'm afraid McCain might wake up gróuchy one morning and start World War III. Like everyone else, though, I'm stuck with the choice our two worn-out, dysfunctional political parties have given us. Ah, well, the Earth is still a beautiful place. Let us all smell the roses while we may. No matter who wins, there's not likely to be any great changes.

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

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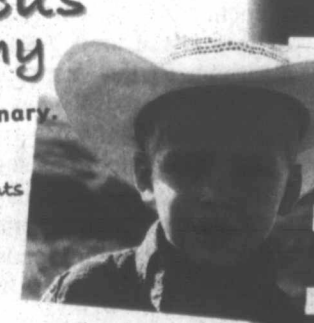
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# Police

Continued from Page 2

1300 block of West Kentucky, the 300 block of Canadian, the 100 block of North Nelson, the 2100 block of North Nelson, the 1700 block of West 18th, the 1100 block of Seneca, the 600 block of North Dwight, the 1900 block of Duncan, the 600 block of Bradley Drive, the 1200 block of Duncan, the 900 block of Varnon Drive, the 2700 block of Rosewood, the 2700 block of Seminole, the 600 block of South Cuyler, the 1400 block of West Kentucky, the intersection of Browning and Lefors streets, and on three occasions in the 500 block of Lefors.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Tignor and Murphy streets.

Welfare checks were made at the intersection of Louisiana and Starkweather streets and the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

A civil matter was reported in the 1800 block of North Banks.

One attempt to serve papers was made.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Alcock and Perry streets, the 300 block of North Wynne, the 300 block of Anne, the 800 block of North Wells, the 800 block of West Foster and the 1000 block of South Sumner.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 800 block of West Kingsmill and the 1800 block of Mary Ellen.

Violation of a city ordinance was

reported in the 2800 block of Charles.

Narcotics violations were reported in the 1200 block of North Wells and the 300 block of Miami.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2100 block of Williston and the 900 block of South Wells.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of North Dwight.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Terry Road.

Harassment was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells.

Assault was reported at Easy's Pop Shop, 729 N. Hobart. Minor injuries were reported.

Assault was reported at Taylor Food Mart, 1342 N. Hobart. No injuries were reported.

One alarm was reported.

One building check was made.

Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby.

Theft was reported in the 400 block of South Cuyler.

**Thursday, Aug. 14**

Two traffic stops were made. A stop at the intersection of Kentucky and Plum streets resulted in at least one arrest.

Runaways were reported in the 1100 block of South Dwight and the 1000 block of Prairie Drive.

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

Prowlers were reported in the 1000 block of South Sumner and the 1800 block of North Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2100 block of Hamilton.

One open door was checked.

## Cast members returning for 30th 'Dallas' reunion

DALLAS (AP) — J.R., Bobby, Sue Ellen and other members of the Ewing clan are getting back together for a "Dallas" reunion party.

Cast members of the popular prime-time soap opera that was a major hit in the late 70s and early 80s will return to the Southfork Ranch north of Dallas on Nov. 8 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the show. Several key actors, including Larry Hagman, Linda Gray and Patrick Duffy, have confirmed they will attend.

Hagman, who played central character J.R. Ewing, a scheming oil baron and cattle rancher, said he is looking forward to the event.

"I may not be able to do the 40th," said Hagman, 76, in an interview with The Dallas Morning News. "Thirty years is pretty good, and the show is still very popular."

The reunion at the ranch in suburban Parker, north of Dallas, is open to the public. Tickets go on sale Aug. 22 and will cost between \$100 and \$1,000. The event will include fireworks, a country music concert, a question-and-answer session with the cast and tours of the mansion.

The show is perhaps best known for the "who shot J.R.?" cliffhanger that concluded the 1979-1980 season

in which Hagman's character was blasted within an inch of his life. (The shooter turned out to be J.R. Ewing's sister-in-law, Kristin.)

"Dallas" featured the antics of a wealthy Texas clan that punched, slapped, drank, cavorted and schemed to gain control of the family fortune. The reunion promises to be tamer.

"Larry and I will have a bowl of Mueslix and a small shot of prune juice and be in bed by 9 o'clock," Duffy, who played Bobby Ewing, told the newspaper. "We'll let people file by the bed and watch us go to sleep. I think we can hang with the best of them until midnight."

## Events calendar

• **SHARE! High School Exchange Program** is currently seeking placements 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 Fort 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.

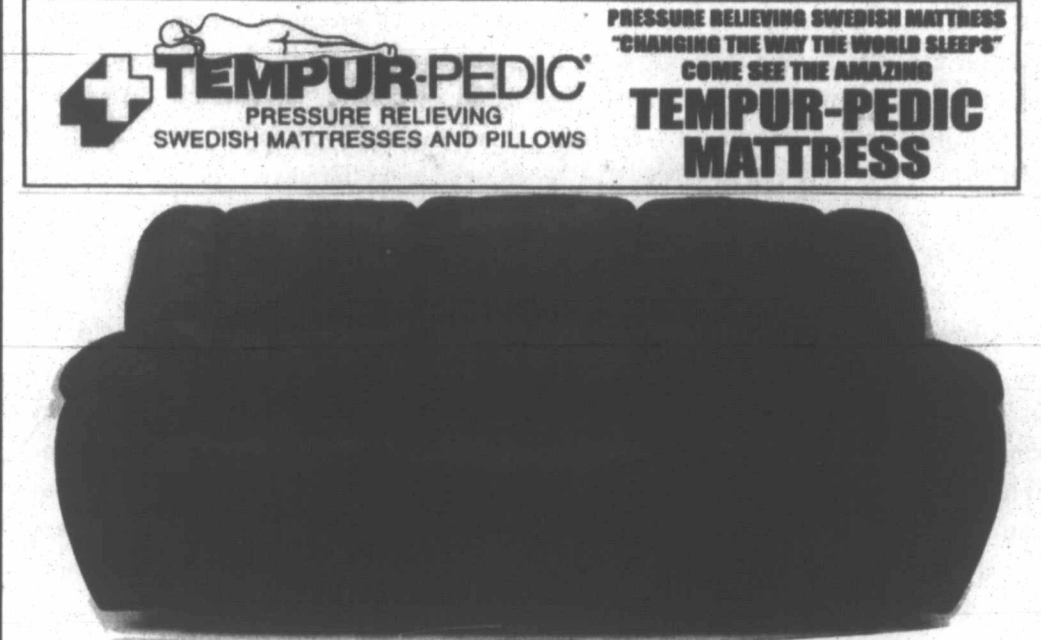
• **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11:30 a.m. Aug. 21 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center for its monthly luncheon and program. For more information, call 669-9916 or 665-3617.

• **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.



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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I wrote you about a year ago regarding my difficulty in finding a single, educated, relationship-minded man. You advised me to lower my high standards and date outside my preconceived notions of who Mr. Right was -- someone younger or without a college degree. I dated several men who matched the description. At best, things were uninteresting. Taking your suggestion to "get off my high horse," I have been involved for six months with a man slightly younger than I, with a high school education and children. He's a good man, a good father, and treats me like a queen. However, we're completely incompatible. Intellectually, we're miles apart. Much as I care for him, I am breaking up with him. I have returned to school to work on my MBA and would rather be single the rest of my life than live a lie for the sake of love. The one thing I have learned from this experience is a newfound fulfillment in being single. -- **STILL LOOKING IN NEW ORLEANS**

**DEAR STILL LOOKING:** I wish you luck in your search. Over the years I have met people from all walks of life and developed affection as well as respect for their street smarts. I hoped it would work for you. Sorry my advice didn't turn out the way it was intended, but I'm glad you got something positive out of it anyway. I'm often asked if I hear back from those whose letters I publish. Curious? Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** You printed my letter July 6. I signed myself "Adrift in Anderson, S.C." I want you to know things have since improved. My husband and I finally talked, and we decided to work things out. I found a better job and we put our house up for sale. He's doing something different now, too. Money is no longer tight and the pressure is off. The main thing is, we talked to each other and realized we need to focus on what made us

want to be together in the first place. I decided to follow your advice and did exactly what you suggested. And I understand what you mean about not being able to "unring the bell." Thank you for caring and for printing my letter. Hopefully there won't be any other people texting for divorces they don't want! Sign me ... **ANCHORED AGAIN IN S.C.**

**DEAR ANCHORED:** Thank you for the update. I'm pleased to know your situation has improved. Texting may be convenient, but nothing replaces eye contact.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm "Sad Dad in Arizona," whose letter appeared May 2 with feedback from your readers on July 2. My wife has a terminal illness and our 15-year-old son didn't want to attend her funeral when the time came. I'd like to thank you and everyone who took the time to write and offer advice. I'd like to update you on my situation. My mother died recently and my son did attend her funeral. He was apprehensive at first, but handled it much better than he thought he would and he was glad he went. My wife and I have been going to the Mayo Clinic, and they have given us some hope. While there's no cure for her, there is a medication that may extend her life at least a few more years. On a side note, she finally located her birth father, who lives in another state. She went to visit him and her newfound family before she starts her treatment, which will make her too sick to travel. The visit went well. A lot can change in a few months. -- **FORMERLY SAD DAD**

**DEAR FORMERLY SAD:** I'll say! Your last sentence says it all. I'm sure my readers will be as pleased as I am to know your wife is doing better for now.

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



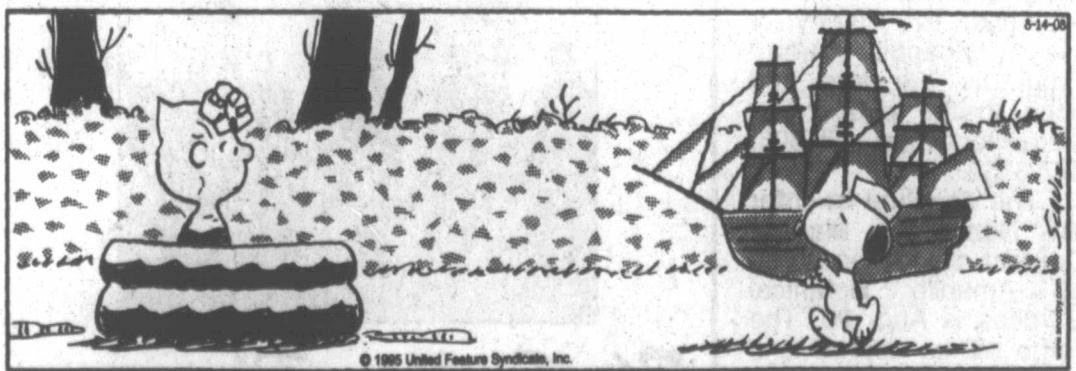
## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- Leg part
  - Hoof sounds
  - Globe area
  - Kind of shower
  - Jazz legend
  - Getz
  - In recent days
  - Studio sprayer
  - Nineties
  - Ropes
  - Mary's boss
  - Bay
  - Hard stuff
  - Hockey's Grimson
  - Finished a hole
  - Building ventilator
  - Military branch
  - Beach outfit
  - "Das Kapital" author
  - History, essentially
  - Writer James
  - Camp sights
  - Anchor's offering
- DOWN**
- Hacienda house
  - Italian wine region
  - Tale teller
  - Entertainer's admirers
  - Market worry
  - Flexible sister
  - Keats poem
  - Buddy
  - Obscure
  - Real hoot
  - Bunches
  - Take a nap
  - Took to court
  - Bart's
  - Opposed to
  - Crafty
  - Obscure paraging remark
  - Physically fit
  - Footrest
  - Louvre setting
  - Boxer Norton
  - Virtuous fellow
  - Pointers
  - Fad
  - Ship staff
  - Alimony payers
  - Wager
  - "— had it!"
  - Boxer Norton

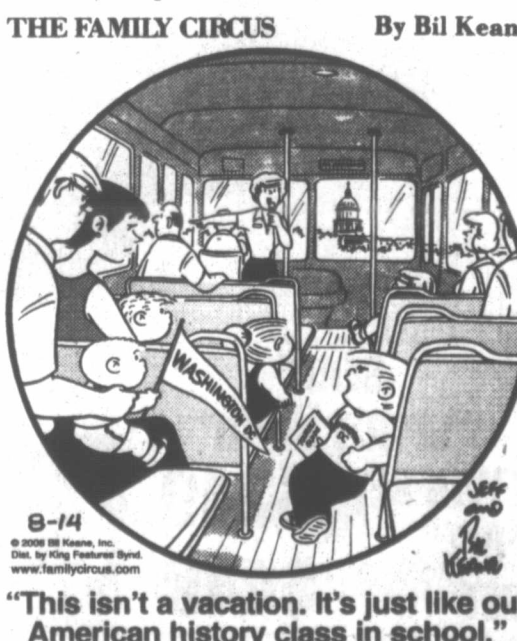
**POPS** TART  
ANTIC VALOR  
TIBER ILLBE  
TOO ICECUBE  
INASTEW RED  
STEIN BED  
ACTOR  
GAL RUINS  
MEG OATMEAL  
ONAROLL VIE  
SETUP ATALE  
EVEN WIDER  
SASS PADS

**Yesterday's answer**

## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus



## Flo & Friends





# Sports

## Tennis: Federer upset by Blake

BEIJING (AP) — Roger Federer directed an angry scream toward his feet. He swatted a stray ball in frustration. He slapped his thigh, hung his head and stomped behind the baseline.

And as a last resort, he questioned calls, something he hates to do. That merely made him madder: He went 0-4 on replay challenges.

For Federer, it was that kind of night. It has been that kind of year.

Federer's bid for his first Olympic singles medal ended Thursday night when he lost to American James Blake. With the sort of lackluster performance once unthinkable for Federer, he was eliminated in the quarterfinals 6-4, 7-6 (2).

In a tournament that had been upset-free through three rounds, Serena Williams also lost. No. 5-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia, who won a silver medal in Sydney in 2000, raced to a 5-0 lead in the final set and held on to beat Williams 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Blake's victory was a stunner in that he had won only a single set in eight previous matches against Federer.

"If you play him enough times, he's bound to have an

off day," Blake said.

But the top-seeded Federer has been battling a yearlong slump that has left him stalled at 12 major titles, two shy of Pete Sampras' record. His Wimbledon reign ended last month, and he came to Beijing knowing he would lose the No. 1 ranking to Rafael Nadal next week after 4 1/2 years on top.

Federer's latest defeat means no rematch in Sunday's final against Nadal, who won in epic fashion when they met for the Wimbledon title.

Federer had been seeking his first Olympic medal after losing in the singles semifinals in Sydney and in the second round in Athens. He was scheduled to play a quarterfinal doubles match later Thursday with Swiss partner Stanislas Wawrinka.

The upset was sweet for the No. 8-seeded Blake, a first-time Olympian at 28 and the lone U.S. male to survive the first round of singles.

"I proved that I played with the best tonight, and it couldn't have happened to me on a better stage," Blake said.

Top-seeded Mike and Bob Bryan of the United States

advanced to the semifinals in doubles by beating Lleyton Hewitt and Chris Guccione of Australia 6-4, 6-3.

The No. 4-seeded Williams struggled with her serve early against Dementieva, then staged a rally in the final set. Williams overcame two match points during an 18-point game to hold for 5-3.

But Dementieva held at love in the next game, sealing the victory when Williams pushed a volley wide. The loss came after the U.S. team had won 12 consecutive matches over the past three days.

"It was what it was," Williams said as she left the court. "It hasn't sunk yet."

Williams remained in contention for a doubles medal and was to play a second-round match later with her sister Venus. They won a gold in doubles in 2000 in Sydney.

Play began after a rain delay of 3 hours, 35 minutes, with Federer on center court first, and he seemed off his game from the start. His forehand — once the sport's most feared — was unreliable, and he repeatedly struggled to hold serve.

Blake earned the first break in the final game of the opening set. On set point, Federer left his feet for a spectacular backhand save that extended the rally, but with his next shot he floated an easy backhand into the net.

His shoulders sagging, he was broken again two games later and fell behind 3-0 in the second set.

Federer finally showed life by breaking back in the fifth game and holding the rest of the way to reach 6-all. But Blake played a flawless tiebreaker, while Federer made two unforced errors and popped up a volley.

When Federer sailed a return long on match point, Blake screamed "Yeah!" Federer ripped off his headband and walked head down to the net.

"In a lot of the other matches, it has been a point here or there," Blake said. "That's why he was No. 1 in the world — he played those points better than everyone. Today I played them well."

## BEIJING BEAT: Softball battles to stay in Olympics

BEIJING (AP) — In rural China, on the outskirts of Moscow, in African school yards, softball's missionaries are working doggedly to plant their sport in places where it has no roots. At stake: a chance to return to the Olympics after an exile that begins after the Beijing games.

Along with baseball, softball has been dropped from the program for 2012 Olympics in London. Both will seek reinstatement for 2016, and softball's challenge is to prove to the International Olympic Committee that it is a genuinely global sport despite the overwhelming domination of the United States at past Olympics and world championships.

The cumulative U.S. record in those events: 130-14.

"We want to see more balance, where everyone has a good chance of winning rather than just being an also-ran," said Don Porter, president of the International Softball Federation.

Softball has many players and strong national teams in Australia, Canada and Japan. The Chinese Olympic team also is solid, though efforts to spread the sport at the grass-roots level across this huge nation face challenges.

But in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, softball remains a marginal sport at best. These are regions which together hold a majority of seats on the IOC, and they are the target zones for the ISF's return-to-the-Olympics campaign, called Back Softball.

A regional training center opened recently near Moscow; another will open soon in Rome. Burkina Faso, Gambia, Jordan, Mali and Sierra Leone are among the latest countries to affiliate with the ISF, which says there are now 131 national softball federations.

But having a governing body doesn't mean the sport is entrenched. Jordan established a softball union earlier this year despite lacking a proper field, coach or players.

"Trying to get any sport into where it's not known at

all, where there's no interest, isn't easy," Porter said Thursday in an interview at the Olympic softball stadium.

And he acknowledged the task could soon be even harder.

"It's easy when you go to a country, and say, 'Hey, we're an Olympic sport.' Right away you get instant credibility," Porter said. "The problem we face now is that we're not an Olympic sport — but we want to be again."

The ISF's outreach program encompasses poor and war-torn countries. It includes donations of equipment, clinics for coaches and umpires, and a vigorous effort to persuade school officials to add softball to their sports programs.

*"If we can't get kids interested at a young age, we have a better opportunity to see our sport develop."*

— Don Porter  
President of International Softball Federation

"If we can get kids interested at a young age, we have a better opportunity to see our sport develop," Porter said.

China is among the nations interested in offering softball at its schools and colleges. But in a nation of 1.3 billion people, there are only about 50,000 or 60,000 softball players, including many who play slow-pitch rather than Olympic-style fast pitch, according to Jiang Xiuyun, a vice president of the Chinese Softball Association.

Jiang said one of the biggest challenges is finding enough playing fields.

"Another challenge is the complicated rules," she said. "A lot of people don't understand now to play it."

Even countries with relatively strong softball programs faces challenges. Australian pitcher Tanya Harding says her team has to travel overseas to find strong

competition because of the thin ranks of top-level players at home.

"We need to get more kids involved in the sport — our numbers have definitely dropped," she said. "Kids are just not playing as many sports as they used to."

In North America, softball has legions of players and fans. But the U.S. national team coach, Mike Candrea, can see the challenges elsewhere.

"The grass-roots is a big issue everywhere," he said. "Outside of the United States, it's very difficult anywhere you go, but that's kind of part of growing the sport."

An argument could be made that Candrea's powerful team hurts the chances for softball's Olympic reinstatement each time it pounds out another lopsided victory. Of course, the U.S. players see no option but to play their best and hope other countries catch up.

"We're not trying to put on a show," Candrea said after an 11-0 victory Tuesday over Venezuela. "We're playing the game the way we want to play it."

The ISF estimates there are about 8.4 million registered softball players in the world — about half outside North America. That figure does not include the many millions of Americans and Canadians who play softball on a casual basis.

Pinning down the numbers is one of the ISF's tasks as it looks ahead to the crucial meeting in October 2009 when the IOC will decide what sports to add in 2016.

"Hopefully by time we get ready to make our presentations, we'll have more accurate figures — so the IOC has something they know we're not just pulling out of the air," Porter said.

For motivation, Porter says he needs look no further than the e-mails arriving by the hundreds from softball-playing girls around the world.

"They tell you how disheartened they are that their Olympic dreams have faded away," Porter said. "I keep those handy, on my desk. Because every day I can come in and look at them and

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## On Vacation with the Pampa News!



Darla Starbuck submitted this snapshot of her family's trip to Branson, MO. "This picture is taken by the sign for the cabins where we stayed while there," Darla wrote. We had a great time. This group is all family. Mom and dad and two daughters with their families. It was our first entire family trip in a long time." Front row, from left - Riley Whitson (on shoulders), David Whitson, Allison Whitson (in front), Mary Denham, Austin Starbuck, Seth Starbuck. Back row, from left - Donna Whitson, Ray Denham, Darla Starbuck, Lonnie Starbuck.



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Take a copy of The Pampa News with you and once you arrive, take a picture of us together. We'll run your photo in the newspaper and you'll have a chance to win a prize at the end of the year. Either bring the photo and information to our office or email a copy of the photo and information to this address: [rpibble@thepampanews.com](mailto:rpibble@thepampanews.com).

# Median home prices fall in most cities in US

WASHINGTON (AP) — Median home prices fell in more than three-quarters of U.S. cities in the second quarter, the latest sign of the breadth of the housing market decline, according to new data Thursday.

Nevertheless, home sales rose in areas where the market is flooded with foreclosures, indicating that borrowers are taking advantage of steep discounts.

Nevada and California, battered by a housing market bust, were the only states to show sales gains in the second quarter compared with a year earlier, according to a report by the National Association of Realtors.

Sales were up 18 percent in Nevada compared with last year, after median prices fell by nearly 24 percent in the Las Vegas area. Sales in California were up 3.7 percent. Prices in Los Angeles, Riverside and Sacramento have plunged by 30 percent or more, according to the NAR's data.

Nationally, sales fell by 16.3 percent in the second quarter compared with the same period a year ago.

In recent months, the biggest home sales gains "have been in some of the 4.5 markets with the steepest and

fastest price drops," said Lawrence Yun, the trade group's chief economist. "Buyers in these areas are responding to deeply discounted home prices."

The Realtors group said median prices for existing single-family homes dropped in 115 of 150 metropolitan areas in the April-June period, while 35 metro areas saw prices increase.

Among the bright spots, prices of homes sold rose by more than 7 percent in Yakima, Wash., Binghamton, N.Y., Amarillo, Texas and Charleston, W.Va.

Nationally, the median home price — the point where half the homes sold for more and half for less — fell to \$206,500 in the second quarter, down by 7.6 percent from the same period a year ago, when the median sales price was \$205,700.

As foreclosures soar, banks and mortgage investors are also facing a pileup of foreclosed properties on their books and are cutting prices dramatically.

Foreclosure listing service RealtyTrac said that it had more than 750,000 foreclosed homes in its database of properties for sale, equal to about 17 percent of the 4.5 million U.S. homes that were

up for sale in June.

Nationwide, more than 272,000 homes received at least one foreclosure-related notice in July, up 55 percent from about 175,000 in the same month last year and up 8 percent from June, RealtyTrac Inc. said. That means one in every 464 U.S. households received a foreclosure filing last month.

## Texan hits \$2.1 million slot jackpot

SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — A guest at the Eldorado Resort Casino in Shreveport won a \$2,158,363 jackpot playing the Wheel of Fortune Penny Progressive Slot Machine.

The guest, who wished to remain anonymous, is from Jacksonville, Texas.

Casino officials say the winner builds air conditioners for a major manufacturer, in Tyler, Texas, and stated she was skipping work Wednesday to play at Eldorado.

She is the fifth guest to win a major jackpot playing Wheel of Fortune at Eldorado since 2007.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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

**21 Help Wanted**  
**POSITIONS** Available For All Crafts for Industrial Construction. Piping, Concrete, Electrical and Earthmoving. Call Personnel Director at (806)274-7187.

**21 Help Wanted**  
**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!!

**21 Help Wanted**  
**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 [tmppa@tuf-ems.com](mailto:tmppa@tuf-ems.com) mail to ATTN: Accounting P O Box 2358 Pampa, TX 79066.

**21 Help Wanted**  
**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.

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**21 Help Wanted**  
**MECHANICS** Eastex Crude Co. is taking applications in Pampa, Tx. Applicants must have knowledge and exp. in servicing of diesel trucks, brakes and general repair. Full Benefit Package  
(903) 856-2401 x 137 or (800) 443-8580 Clint

**21 Help Wanted**  
**MAINTENANCE** Man needed for Gwendolen Apts. Must have own tools & transportation. Apply at 800 N. Nelson.

**21 Help Wanted**  
**COODER'S** Dixie Cafe now hiring for Wait Staff, full-time, 18 yrs. or older. Apply in person, 2537 Perryton Parkway. No phone calls.

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**Delivering energy takes talent**

TransCanada is a leading North American energy infrastructure company — we build and operate the pipelines, power plants, and gas storage facilities that supply energy to major markets. We are growing — in pipelines, power and expansion into new businesses, including oil pipelines and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities.

Consider becoming part of our team and growing with us. We are looking for talented people who have energy for change, can build powerful partnerships, and deliver sustainable results. We offer the challenging work and exciting projects that create boundless possibilities for your career. At TransCanada, our employees are our competitive advantage.

**Controls Technician**

The Mooreland Operating Area of TransCanada's ANR Pipeline Company requires an Electrical, Instrumentation and Controls Technician to work at the EG Hill Compressor Station in Gruver, TX and surrounding area. The successful candidate will work on a team that operates and maintains a high pressure natural gas pipeline system, turbine engine-driven compressor station, gas measurement facilities, and other related facilities. This position is overtime eligible and extended work hours, including nights and weekends, may be required on occasion without advance notice.

**Posting closes September 1, 2008.**

To apply, go to <https://careers.transcanada.com/erc/apply.htm> and enter reference code PRT50089781-01.

To view all of our job postings or to learn more about TransCanada go to: [www.transcanada.com/delivertalent](http://www.transcanada.com/delivertalent)

Only applications submitted through the TransCanada Careers website will be acknowledged.

Thank you for choosing TransCanada in your career options.

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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.

GAS Prices cutting into your budget? Earn extra cash! Start your Avon business-only \$10. Call 664-0208.

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.

JANITOR- full & part-time. 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 Garner (806)663-4306.

SUPER RENTALS now taking applications. 2 positions available. Store Manager & Full-Time Delivery/Sales. Experience is a plus! Must have clean driving record. Apply in person. No Phone Calls. 1304 N. Banks.

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.

Diesel Mechanic Needed Fast Growing Co. looking to hire a Mechanic. Diesel knowledge preferred. Salary based on experience. Send resume to: Blue Ridge Oilfield P.O. Box 644 Canadian, Tx. 79014 or call 806-323-6855

21 Help Wanted

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

ASST. Cook needed at Meals on Wheels. 6:30am-11:30am, \$6.55 per hr. Great working conditions. Call Jeanne Autry 669-1007 or come by 302 E. Foster.

CHEMICAL Delivery Driver, Oil field experience helpful. Mandatory drug test and background check. CDL with hazmat and air brake endorsement will be required during employment. Good benefits, 401k after 1st year of employment. Pampa, Perryton, Canadian area. 1-806-228-3462 for application. 1-888-881-3248 (ask for Roger, Mike or Chris)

USED Office! Back From Lease! Free Del/Warranty, Transferable. CALL 806-358-9597.

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.

MATTRESS- All New KING set Pillowtop. In plastic w/ warranty. \$245. 806-341-6233.

60 Household

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., \$95, all in good cond. 486-1017.

I make blankets & baby blankets. Come by 506 N. Nelson or call 664-9604. Ask for Lisa.

69a Garage Sales TEDDY Bear collectibles, sewing mach., furniture, misc. Fri. Only, 8:30-12:30. 1539 N. Summer

FRI & Sat., 203 W. Brown, 8 til 2hot! Hunting stuff, house stuff, crafts, puzzles, clothes, pet stuff.

LOTS of baby items, little bit of everything. Fri. & Sat. 8am-7 113 N. Frost (old Ford's Body Shop).

69a Garage Sales

FRI. & Sat. 7am-1pm. 2700 Navajo. Crib, 1/2 price Mary Kay, expensive area rug, household items. LOTS OF STUFF!

3 Family Garage Sale. 1812 N. Zimmers, Fri. 8-7, Sat. 8-7. Little Tykes Princess, washer & dryer, clothes, crafts, etc. conversion crib & chg. table.

GARAGE Sale. Everything must go! Furniture, appliances, etc. 225 N. Summer. Fri. & Sat. 8-1.

1209 Williston, Fri. & Sat. 8am-7 Lots of knick knacks, holiday decor, dolls, antiques. No checks

80 Pets & Suppl. NEED Registered Male Pit Bull for stud service. Call 669-6052.

95 Furn. Apts. LARG 3 Bedroom 2 Bathroom Mobile Home for lease 665-8317

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop. OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

SUMMER SPECIAL 5 DAYS FOR 7 DAYS \$19.99 7 DAYS FOR 7 DAYS \$21.99 9 DAYS MUST BE CONSECUTIVE GOOD FOR JULY, AUG AND AUGUST

FOR all your Real Estate needs, call John Goddard, at Century 21! Where knowledge & expertise matter. 806-595-1234.

FSBO 2/1/1 new bthrm, steel siding, updated kitchen, new plmbg, HUD approved. Close to High School. NO OWNER FINANCE. \$35k obo. Appointment only, 440-4443

FSBO 2338 Fir, 3 bdr., 2 ba., office, large dining, living area-cathedral ceiling w/ lrg. rock flp. 806-231-1633, 806-231-1632.

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Aug. 15, 2008: You have a lot to be optimistic about this year. The fruition of many of your dreams becomes a possibility, especially because of better networking and interactions in general. You see what a difference socializing and expanding your universe makes. You could be surprised by the variety of opportunities that spin off from the many good people in your life. If you are single, recognize that it will be your choice to maintain that status. Be realistic about someone who knocks your socks off. If you are attached, the two of you might not see each other clearly. You also may not care. AQUARIUS remains a loyal friend.

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) Others drive a hard bargain — they want you and only you. A meeting might give you great feedback. Confusion surrounds friendship, goals and a romantic or budding relationship. A child also might figure into the picture. Tonight: In the thick of things.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You are on a roll and clearly know where you are going and what needs to happen. Allow greater give and take, while remaining open to the many possibilities in your life. Do not allow someone to drain you. Tonight: A must appearance. You might even like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Reach out to someone at a distance. Your ability to sort through information could be off. As a result, your perceptions could be cloudy. Defer to someone else. You are anchored and direct. Tonight: Hop on the computer or find an expert.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Work with individuals, avoiding meetings if possible. You are able to see situations differently, and imparting that knowledge needs to happen slowly. People might have a hard time "getting it." Tonight: Togetherness works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Touch base with others. You hear a situation from another side. You might find that you have a lot to swallow. Also, you might not be able to view the big picture. Think positively. Tonight: Sort through offers.

VirGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You might feel as if everyone drops his or her work or project on your lap. Getting out of work and starting the weekend could be difficult. Consider skipping lunch and heading out at a normal time. Tonight: Know when enough is enough.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Knowing what to do and when could separate you from many. Someone might be pulling a number on you as this person tries not to give you the scoop, be it personal or about a situation. Commit to taking your time. Make that clear to others as well. Tonight: Ever playful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Pressure builds, and with it, you are less likely to hear the total story. When you are able, close your door or, if possible, work from home. Someone keeps pushing for your time and feedback. Listen more completely. Tonight: Screen calls and relax.

BORN TODAY Actress Ethel Barrymore (1879), jazz pianist Oscar Peterson (1925), Emperor of France Napoleon Bonaparte (1769)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2008 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

96 Unfurn. Apts.

CAPROCK APTS. Enjoy balconies/patios, on site laundry, beautiful grounds. One bdrm 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.

2215 N. Russell. 2/1/1 apr. 1285 sq. ft. Inside completely remodeled. New siding on outside. \$72,000 obo. 595-0234.

2618 Seminole, 3/1.75/2, brick, fireplace, updated, 2 stor. bldg, bay window, great yard, beamed ceiling living room. 665-0309.

501 Horn St., White Deer, \$98,500. 4/2/2, open floor plan, formal dining w/ w/bpr. New kitchen. Great yard! 806-663-0412.

BY Owner 3 bdr., 1 ba., cov. patio, att.-carport. Newly painted outside. Austin Sch. 2717 Navajo. By appt., 662-2366.

COZY FAMILY HOME, 1218 Charles St. 2740 sq. ft., 3/2.5. Remodeled Kitchen, Wood Floors and Great Courtyard. Austin School Dist. \$189,000. View details online at www.1218charles.com

FOR all your Real Estate needs, call John Goddard, at Century 21! Where knowledge & expertise matter. 806-595-1234.

FSBO 2/1/1 new bthrm, steel siding, updated kitchen, new plmbg, HUD approved. Close to High School. NO OWNER FINANCE. \$35k obo. Appointment only, 440-4443

FSBO 2338 Fir, 3 bdr., 2 ba., office, large dining, living area-cathedral ceiling w/ lrg. rock flp. 806-231-1633, 806-231-1632.

103 Homes For Sale HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

102 Bus. Rent. Prop. OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT NBC PLAZA 806-665-4100

103 Homes For Sale Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

1836 Evergreen. 3/1.75/2. Lots of updates! 1716 sq. ft. Great house for \$119,900. Call 669-6843 for more info.

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116 Mobile Homes

600 N. Banks, trailer on 2 lots 3-2-1 1/2, up dated, garage, Owner "Will" Finance with downpayment. Call 662-2190, 486-1017.

WE pay cash for Junk Cars Call Howard Williams 662-9406 or William Ma 886-8658

1997 Chrysler Town & Country LXI Leather Interior \$2900 806-662-4461

2002 Honda Odyssey. 110,000 miles, for sale. Call 806-669-9937.

1981 Chevy Z-28 Camaro, T-tops, 350 engine, 4 speed transmission. \$7500, Cell# 580-467-7406, 669-1258.

PRICE Reduced! 1313 Mary Ellen. 3/1-carport. Newly remodeled master. New paint, flooring & carpet. Austin Sch. District. Call 669-1123 or 440-4564

2006 Montana 5th wheel, 3 slides, no smoking, 440-4072.

FOR Sale: 5th Wheel Camper Starcraft 28'6" 13' Slide. 1995 5th wheel hitch goes with camper. \$9,000. Good shape. Call 665-7115 or 669-3288, leave message.

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

116 Mobile Homes FOR Sale. 14X80 Mobile Home. You move. \$6500 OR Mobile Home plus Beauty Shop on 3 lots, \$12,500. Skellytown. 806-363-6288 or 806-848-2891.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Though you might not be exactly sure of details, confirm what you think is happening. With another person you finally put a face on a project, event or meeting. A boss could be very hard on you. Tonight: Speak your mind ... diplomatically.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Expenses could be adding up. Also, there might be a less-expensive way. Ask questions and get feedback. News from a distance could be more important than you think. Listen well. Tonight: Take off as soon as possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are all smiles. You certainly have on rose-colored glasses. Someone might be trying to break through your walls. Realize your limit with a partner. Don't even try to manipulate this person. It won't work, and could cause more of a problem. Tonight: Start the weekend well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Take your time before you start down a path. You might want to do your own investigating or thinking. You do cover that if you say less, you learn a lot more. Tap into this inevitable source of information. Tonight: Get some extra sleep. You will need the extra rest.

BORN TODAY Actress Ethel Barrymore (1879), jazz pianist Oscar Peterson (1925), Emperor of France Napoleon Bonaparte (1769)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2008 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

120 Autos

1995 Chevy Blazer. Excellent condition. \$2000. Call 835-1433.

2001 F 150 Ford 4 WD - 5.4L Engine. Tool box, bedliner, new tires & windshield. Ext. Cab, 130 K Miles. Good condition. 2425 Christine. 806-663-2112.

96 GMC Ext. Cab. New: paint, wheels, tires, ac compressor & cow hood. \$6000 obo. Call# 580-467-7406 or 669-1258.

2002 HD Road King. OEM parts including metal. Call 440-4072.

GALAXIE Boat with trailer. Walk thru windshield. 120 HP Evinrude Motor. \$1000.00 Call 665-7074.

1997 Chrysler Town & Country LXI Leather Interior \$2900 806-662-4461

2002 Honda Odyssey. 110,000 miles, for sale. Call 806-669-9937.

1981 Chevy Z-28 Camaro, T-tops, 350 engine, 4 speed transmission. \$7500, Cell# 580-467-7406, 669-1258.

PRICE Reduced! 1313 Mary Ellen. 3/1-carport. Newly remodeled master. New paint, flooring & carpet. Austin Sch. District. Call 669-1123 or 440-4564

2006 Montana 5th wheel, 3 slides, no smoking, 440-4072.

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