

LOCAL:
School's back from summer;
classes ready to begin, Page 11

GOOD MORNING
Sunday, August 18, 1996

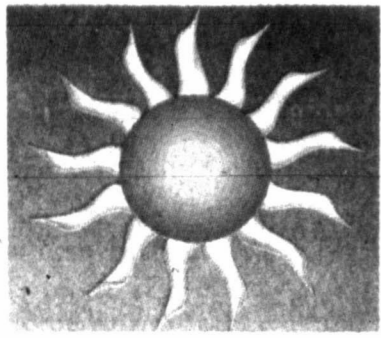
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Cowboys break camp with
question marks, Page 7

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 115

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



High today near 90, low tonight in mid 60s. See Page 2 for weather details.

PAMPA — Barricades were expected to be removed by today from Duncan Street north of Harvester and from Buckler between Sumner and Faulkner in preparation for opening of Pampa High School and Horace Mann Elementary School on Monday. "They're going to be ready," city Director of Public Works Richard Morris said Saturday afternoon. But he warned Duncan will not remain an open through street, since the next phase of street construction for Duncan will begin about 100 feet south of Harvester Avenue down to Georgia Avenue. In other street renovation work, contractors have begun tearing up Kingsmill between Frost and Ward streets for repair work in the downtown area, Morris said.

PAMPA — Victor Morales, Democratic candidate for a U.S. Senate seat, is scheduled to appear with his trademark pickup Monday morning at 116 W. Foster, next to the Coney Island. Morales, who has made national news with his grassroots campaign against Sen. Phil Gramm, will speak at a rally sponsored by the Gray County Democratic Club. The rally is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Morales will travel to other cities in the Panhandle following his Pampa appearance. Plans for the rally are still in development but are expected to include either a band or recorded music. The rally was originally scheduled to take place on the Gray County Courthouse lawn.

PAMPA — Gray County commissioners will conduct 1997 budget discussions at 9 a.m. Monday in the second floor courtroom of the courthouse. "The public is invited to attend the budget workshop on Monday. There will be two scheduled workshop reviews, and each county department will be represented for individual budget recommendations and changes to present to the county commissioners," said Gray County Judge Richard Peet. The workshop is for discussion of proposed budgets only, and is not a public hearing, Peet said.

PAMPA — Pampa city commissioners will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday to discuss the budget for the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1. Commissioners will meet in the third floor conference room of City Hall. The meeting is for discussion purposes only and no action will be taken.

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Worker's compensation overhaul may be a bust

DALLAS (AP) — Since Texas overhauled the state worker's compensation insurance system, it has become a moneymaker for insurance companies, but some injured workers say they're being shortchanged.

Injuries are up, but payoffs to workers are down, industry data show.

Texas has become one of the five most profitable states for compensation underwriters, *The Dallas Morning News* reported in its early Sunday editions. Collective losses of about \$400 million a year have become \$700 million profits. No other line of insurance has a better rate of return in Texas.

Brian Mibus, a division underwriting manager for Liberty Mutual Group, the second-largest worker's compensation insurer in Texas, says the system is working well and attributes declining payouts in the face of rising injuries to the weeding out of unjustified claims.

"There are always going to be a few little rough spots," he said, in response to critics.

Worker's compensation is a three-way deal: Employers buy policies that guarantee reasonable benefits to employees hurt at work. Employees promise

not to sue their bosses unless gross negligence caused the injuries. Insurers make money if benefits don't exceed premiums and in-come earned on premiums.

In the late 1980s, most companies writing compensation policies in Texas were losing money. Some had quit the state and others were threatening to leave.

In 1988, according to industry data, insurers paid out almost \$1.10 for every \$1 in premiums they took in — even though they had raised prices 124 percent in the preceding three years.

Insurers blamed too many phony claims and personal injury lawyers who they said took advantage of the system with needless suits and high-pressure settlements.

Insurance companies and business groups won sweeping reforms. Those changes have "certainly helped the business climate" in Texas, says Bob Kamm, general counsel for the Texas Association of Business and Chambers of Commerce.

Austin neurosurgeon Ed. in Buster, who cheered on lawmakers as they worked to overhaul the system, says while some ele-

ments are better, others are worse.

The new law has "increased the bureaucracy and increased the hassle factor" for many of injury victims, he says. Often, needed treatments are delayed while patients "just sit around hurt."

New laws, which took effect in 1993, included new benefit schedules, tougher screening and appeals rules, and a sharply reduced role for personal injury lawyers.

Insurance companies, business executives and state officials say the idea was to reduce waste, stop fraud and keep cases out of court by getting injury lawyers out of the game.

They also wanted the state to allow insurers to make money so they would continue insuring working Texans. The new rules are doing that, they say. Phony claims are being successfully prosecuted, the threat of lawsuits is way down, and premiums have dropped more than 20 percent.

Insurers say injury victims are getting all the care and benefits they need.

Others say the companies get all the advantages, not the workers.

See BUST, Page 2



(Pampa News photo by Sherry Cromartie)

Megan Glass checks through supplies package Saturday morning to make sure it meets requirements for her third grade class at Baker Elementary School. Helping her are Kristi Coble and Monica Galloway, volunteers with the Trinity Fellowship Church back-to-school program. Megan's mother is Diana Glass, who accompanied Megan and her brother and sister, Jeremy, a second grader, and Heather, a first grader, to pick up their school supplies.

Trinity Fellowship, Lions help students with school supplies

By SHERRY CROMARTIE
Staff Writer

About 600 people jammed inside the Trinity Fellowship gymnasium Saturday morning to enjoy snacks, singing and listening to motivating messages of encouragement for those starting the new school year, as well as for the parents and teachers.

This is the fourth year the church, pastored by Lonny Robins, has sponsored the back-to-school event for children of low income families receiving school supplies for the beginning weeks of school.

Outside the gym, working in coordination with the back-to-school event, members of Pampa Lions Club were ready to hand over a pair of denim pants to the students who found the right sizes.

Mingling among the children were colorful clowns and members of the youth congregation offering friendship and assistance to those waiting in lines for supplies. Each area was designated for certain grade levels, with youngsters helping direct the traffic. There were about 75 adult and youth member volunteers taking turns at various duties.

"It was really exciting to see this many here this morning," said Don Case, administrative pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church at 1215 South Sumner.

There were 371 prepackaged school supplies kits given to school children from age levels of

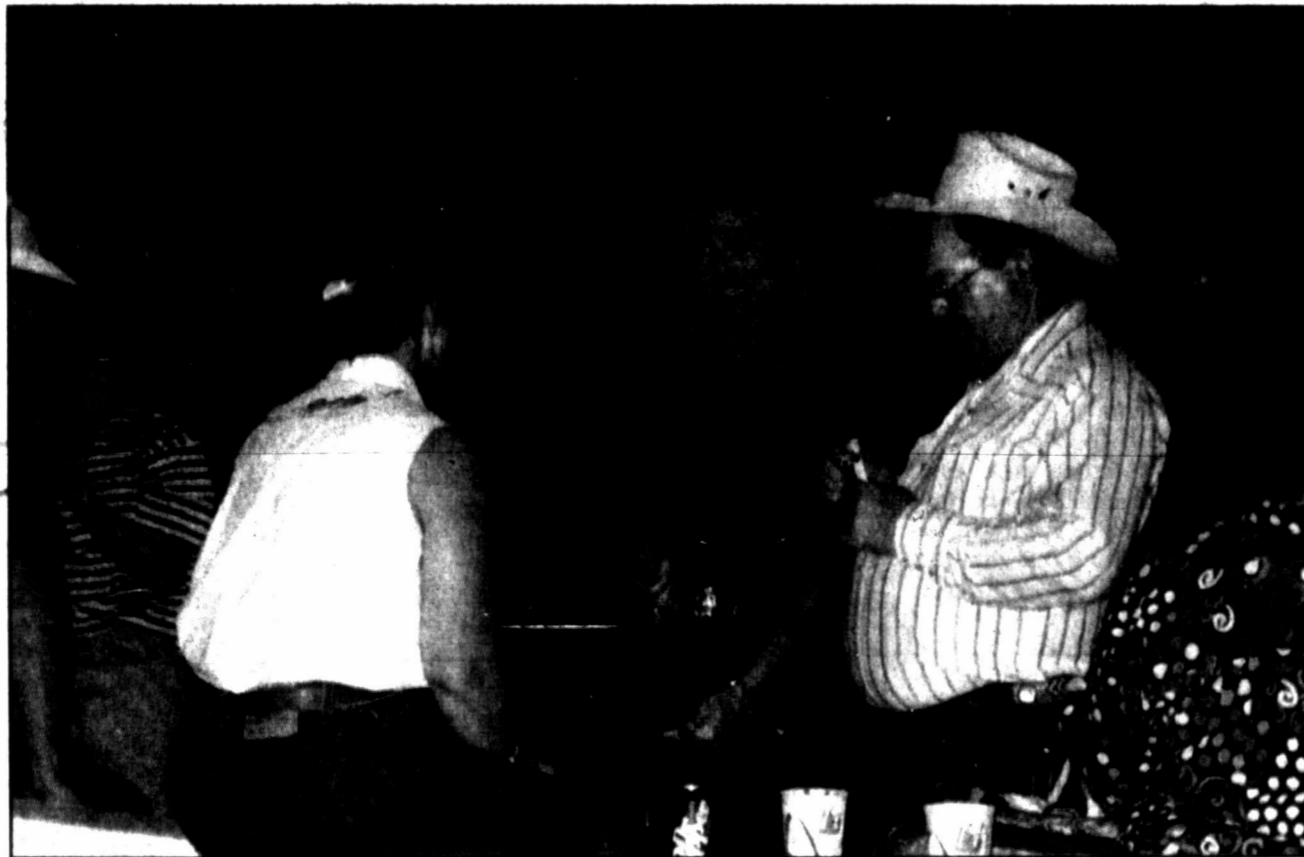
kindergarten through high school, and all were distributed between 10 a.m. and 10:40 a.m.

Each student receiving a supplies package of items had pre-registered for school. The individual packages contained supplies as required by the school system for particular grades. The church coordinated the distribution according to recommendations made by the Pampa Independent School District system, Case said.

Lions Ray White, Kim Powell and several other volunteers, worked on removing labels and tags from over 300 pairs of fake designer jeans, which were provided the Lions Club through U.S. Customs. White said the jeans were copies of clothing similar to Levis and Dockers, made illegally to sell to consumers in the United States.

White said about a year ago, the Amarillo Lions Club received several hundred pairs of jeans and other counterfeit wares that had been confiscated by customs officials from counterfeit dealers. The Pampa club received their supply from the Amarillo members to be distributed to certain qualified families.

"We had about 350 pairs of pants to start with, in all sizes, and within less than an hour there all spoken for," White said, expressing his appreciation to Trinity Fellowship volunteers, on behalf of the Lions, for allowing them to coordinate their jeans give-away with the church event.



(Pampa News photo by Sherry Cromartie)

McLean volunteer workers James Hefley and wife Charlotte help prepare hamburgers at the 4-H youth rodeo concession during the Gray County 4-H Youth Rodeo at Pampa's Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena Friday evening.

Volunteers help with concessions, events for annual Gray County 4-H Youth Rodeo

By SHERRY CROMARTIE
Staff Writer

Flame-cooked hamburgers with all the trimmings were in demand at the concession stands during the 4-H Youth Rodeo Friday and Saturday, manned by volunteers of several clubs from surrounding towns.

Without realizing it, one concessionaire created a hamburger delicacy just because she discovered she was out of tomatoes. Suggestions from curious customers helped put together ingredients for a jalapeno chili-cheese burger.

Proceeds from the concessions help to promote other club activities for the year for Gray County's 4-H youth, and club volunteers were scheduled throughout the two day event to man the food booths.

Members from McLean were slaving over a hot grill. James Hefley and his wife, Charlotte, recommended a hamburger supper from the booth across the way.

"I know these are really good burgers because I made them," said Hefley, as he took a bite

from a well stuffed bun.

Families working in 4-H club projects find themselves involved with life in a fast lane of youth activities. Young people, animals and many projects are covered over months and years with 4-H families.

"It is a wonderful thing ..." said Lindi Jackson, club manager and 4-H mother from Lefors. Her husband, Barry, was busy cooking meat patties over a portable grill. It was also Lefors' shift time at the concessions.

"We are just one family of several volunteer families helping to run the concessions during the rodeo weekend," Mr. Jackson said.

He pointed to his wife behind the counter, and then down the way toward the cold drink booth where their young son, Cory, was waiting on a customer.

"Our family has been doing 4-H work since three years ago when Cory, age 11, first joined, and we do everything together. We are very proud to be in this club," said Mrs. Jackson.

The Jackson family includes two more children, Drake, age

eight, who will join his Lefors youth ag-club in September, and Emily, age five, who helps in all activities already, but must wait until she is in third grade before she can belong, her mother said.

Jackson's co-worker, Shari Davenport, a Lefors' club manager, agrees that families working together in the youth programs enjoy a good life and a full life. She's a volunteer member for the last 10 years, she said.

"Our Lefors organization is called Lefors 5-H, because we added a fifth dimension," Davenport said.

She and Jackson said their leader membership decided to add a fifth dimension to the 4-H group in their hometown several years ago, to give more strength in what the club represents for families and community leadership.

The 4-H club motto represents the head for clearer thinking, the heart to greater loyalty, the hands to better serve, health to better living, and the fifth H is for honor, representing what the club is all about, explained Davenport.

Pampa, Grandview-Hopkins schools among state's best

By CHIP CHANDLER
Staff Writer

Of the 3.7 million public school students in the state, only seven percent attend school in a district named exemplary or recognized by the Texas Education Agency.

Twenty-nine of those districts are in the Panhandle area, including Pampa and Grandview-Hopkins.

Those figures, provided by Pampa Independent School District, show Region XVI Education Service Center in Amarillo as having the greatest number of recognized districts within its region than any other ESC in the state. The region also claims the second largest amount of exemplary districts with four; Lubbock's Region XVII ESC has six within its boundaries.

Accreditation ratings are determined through a fairly arcane system using Texas Assessment of Academic Skills test scores and dropout numbers.

Grandview-Hopkins ISD received exemplary accreditation status in large part because of what Superintendent Solomon Kepley called its students' "excellent" scores on the TAAS test.

In spring 1996, 93.3 percent, or 14 of the school's 15 students, passed the TAAS reading portion. Another 93.3 percent passed the mathematics portion, and 100 percent of students passed the writing portion.

Pampa ISD raised two full accreditation rankings, from low performing to recognized.

"This represents a great effort on [the teachers'] part," Superintendent Dr. Dawson Orr told the school board earlier this month.

The district's low-performance rating last year placed them on an accreditation warned status. But with this year's ranking alleviates those worries, Orr said.

In addition, Austin and Travis elementary schools were named exemplary. Pampa Middle School moved from acceptable to recognized level, and Wilson and Lamar elementaries remained on the acceptable list.

Baker and Horace Mann elementaries dropped back one level from recognized to acceptable.

Of the 1,044 school districts in the state, only 37, or one percent, were named exemplary. Also, only 208 districts, or 54 percent, were named recognized.

Prices go up for those bits of rocks from planet Mars

HOUSTON (AP) — Private collectors holding chunks of Martian meteorites have seen prices skyrocket after a claim that one hints at primitive life on the Red Planet. One collector is Houston businessman John Styles Jr., who counts two pieces from a 1962 meteorite find in Zagami, Nigeria, as part of his meteorite collection. The 40 pounds of debris found in Zagami is one of only a dozen finds recognized by experts as having Martian origins.

On Aug. 7, a NASA-funded science team claimed that fossil evidence of primitive life is present in a potato-sized Martian meteorite recovered from Antarctica. "It's like having stock in Coca-Cola after it announces it's going to buy Pepsi and everything else," Styles told the *Houston Chronicle* for Saturday's editions. Darryl Pitt, a New York music management company executive, is curator of a large, privately owned collection of meteorites. He agrees with Styles.

"It was possible prior to this whole thing to buy a gram of Zagami, say a month ago, for anywhere between \$200 and \$500 a gram," said Pitt, who counsels other collectors. "Since this whole life on Mars news, I've heard prices of \$2,000 a gram, but one can get it for less." According to NASA, the total weight of all known Martian meteorites is just 170 pounds. Some pieces are in private collections, although many are in museums and science laboratories.

As one of the largest Martian finds, pieces of Zagami are considered the most reasonably priced. They are gray on the inside with a rough, black crust. Styles, 34, bought his Zagami pieces before the NASA announcement. One is about the size of a fist and weighs just over 450 grams; his smaller piece is a little more than 56 grams. He would not reveal his purchase price but now keeps the nuggets in a bank vault. He is considering cutting his Mars rock into smaller pieces and selling those.

Robert Haag, the self-proclaimed Meteor Man of Tucson, Ariz., has about 6 pounds of Zagami in his collection, which includes some moon rock. "I can tell you one thing, this has sure made the price and popularity of meteorites go up, up, up," Haag said. "Proof of life in space, that has been the biggest Holy Grail of all time." So pervasive is Haag in the buying, selling and trading of Martian rocks that other collectors say his assessments can influence the market price. Last week, Haag no longer spoke of price by the gram but by the carat, a measure used by gemologists. Five carats are in a gram.

Back-to-school shopping



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Jana Perez, left, watches as her daughter Janee Perez, center, and Janee's best friend Danita Holguin check out some items at Alco Discount Store during a back-to-school shopping excursion Friday. Both girls will be sixth graders at Pampa Middle School. Pampa public schools reopen Monday as summer draws to a close for students.

Officials close South Texas lake to boaters after threat

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A South Texas lake has been closed through the weekend after officials learned that someone had threatened to bomb the dam. All boat ramps to Choke Canyon Lake were barricaded on Wednesday, cutting off vehicle traffic to the Three Rivers Dam, about 70 miles northwest of Corpus Christi.

Some day-use areas around the 26,000-acre lake, away from the dam, will remain open. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials said they took the action after officials "learned of a remark made by an individual threatening to bomb the Choke Canyon dam."

The City of Corpus Christi and TPWD officials decided during a Friday meeting to continue security precautions through the weekend. The threat followed the Corpus Christi City Council's tentative vote Tuesday to curtail releases of water from Choke Canyon Lake to Lake Corpus Christi as a water conservation measure during the ongoing drought. The council vote has angered

some people with property on Lake Corpus Christi, Assistant City Manager Carl Crull said. "A city staff person came to me (Wednesday) and said I got this from somebody else who got it from somebody else, but it sounded serious enough," Crull said. Crull said the FBI was contacted about the threat. "Our staff inspected the dam and didn't find anything. We took heightened security measures," Crull said. The dam is being patrolled at night, he said. Choke Canyon Lake is surrounded by the Choke Canyon State Park and a state wildlife management area. "We're bringing various people in as consultants and advisers," said Laird Fowler, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife Region V director.

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Letters to the editor

Wasted time?

To the editor: Time and circumstances have come once again for me to write another letter.

In talking to many friends about the Citizens Police Academy and Citizens Blue Patrol, the most common reply is that "there is no way that I can waste three hours a week for twelve weeks — just no way."

Think about it. Three hours a week wasted when someone teaches a person how to recognize a crime in progress that would otherwise go unnoticed. "Wasted time?"

Think about it. If one of these learned persons (having attended the Citizens Police Academy) was in your neighborhood and saw something suspicious around your house, then maybe, just maybe the things that you could have lost would pay for your time.

Once a week to learn how to recognize certain drugs on sight. Maybe someone you know — someone you would never suspect — is involved in drugs. You can make a difference.

Once a week to learn the proper way to handle the situation if you happen to be a victim and aid in the quick capture of the criminal who is guilty. In the 12-week period, once a week three hours a night, officers of the court (justice of the peace) and officers of the law (city police) and many others give up their time to teach you.

Ask yourself this question: What if their jobs were just a payday? Where would we, the citizens of Pampa, be??

Everyone knows someone that works his or her job just for payday. Answer this: Is this their best? The next Police Academy is scheduled at 7 p.m. Sept. 3 at the M.K. Brown Auditorium. Think about it. Citizens wonder — COPS LEARN!! Johnny L. Belt Pampa

Be cautious of ads

To the editor: I recently called and inquired to a classified ad that was listed in this newspaper and has been for some time: Help wanted, "Mystery Shoppers needed, \$9.75 per Hr."

Being eight months pregnant, I thought this could possibly be an opportunity to set my own hours. After calling the number listed with the ad and listening for approximately five minutes, I hung up because the recording was going nowhere.

The recording never mentioned a per minute charge, but upon receiving my phone I had a \$20 charge. I called the phone company to inquire and was told that that number was a party line set up somewhat the same way a 1-900 number is.

I would like to warn curious minds that the "mystery shoppers wanted" is a scam. BEWARE! Lesa M. Hall Pampa

Editor's Note: The Pampa News tries to verify submissions for classified ads carefully to avoid such situations, but sometimes one manages to slip by.

Big Brothers Big Sisters' Barn Dance called success as fund-raising event

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Texas Panhandle Inc. (BBBS) recently held the third annual Barn Dance to support the Pampa BBBS Satellite office, with officials pleased with the fund raiser's success.

"After not having the event last year during our transition period, we were extremely pleased with the turnout and the continued support from the community," said Nancy Shaffer, chairman of the Pampa Advisory Council. "We can never thank Bebo and Dana Terry enough for allowing us to use their barn and their cow to make this event such a success," Shaffer added.

This year's Barn Dance included the first annual "Cow Chip Checker" event. The steer was released from the trailer and quick to release, making Royce Waldrip recipient of the grand prize.

North Fork Band provided the music for the evening, playing everything from country to oldies, Shaffer noted. Gerald Rasco manned the grill, cooking

steaks and beans for those who attended the event.

Pamela Green, Pampa BBBS officer manager, expressed the organization's gratitude for those who helped to make this event such a success.

"We cannot do this event without the help of our community businesses and individuals," Green said. "We would like to thank Duncan and Boyd Jewelers in Amarillo, Dunlaps, the Knights of Columbus, the Masonic Lodge and National Bank of Commerce for their generous contributions."

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a volunteer-driven organization dedicated to placing children ages six to 14 from single-parent homes in relationships with qualified mentors for the development of positive life skills and social values.

The staff at BBBS encourages those in a single-parent family with children, boys and girls, in this age range to call the BBBS office and find out how a Big Brother or Big Sister can add to the life of the child.

"BBBS does not provide a surrogate parent, but a 'friend' for our littles," Green explained. "We want to see these children have a positive role model in their lives to help them grow into successful adults."

Those having two to four hours per week to share with a child who just needs a friend and interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister can call the BBBS office at 665-1211 or come by the office at 200 N. Ballard (in the Pampa Community Building) to find out more information, Green said.

Dorothy Anderson's Family
would like to say how grateful we are for all your thoughts and prayers.
They were very comforting in our time of need.
God Bless You All

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Business

Minding your own Business

By Don Taylor



Who woke the giant?

Once upon a time in nearly every major trade area in the United States, a giant lived peacefully among the people. The giant was a merchant and provided folks lots of stuff. Most folks considered the giant friendly enough, but a few citizens got their feathers ruffled now and then. When they did, they found someone else to provide the things they formerly bought from the giant.

The giant's name was nearly as big as the giant itself. The giant had a first name, a last name and three middle names. Its first name was "Shurinuf," pronounced "Sure enough." The middle names were "Everybody's Average Retail," and its last name was "Store." All the folks called the giant "SEARS" for the sake of simplicity.

You could often find the giant on main street in smaller towns, and it usually hung out at the mall in larger trade areas. The giant had been the biggest kid on the block since 1964. However, sometime in the 1980s the giant went to sleep.

Two new kids who were unrelated, but shared the same last name, noticed the giant was dozing off. Wally Mart and Kay Mart had been taking their vitamins and they were growing like crazy. By 1990 both of the Mart kids had become even bigger than the giant. Wally, whose friends called him "Wal" for short, continued to grow. While the giant slept, he nearly doubled in size.

If this were a fairy tale, everyone would live happily ever after. It isn't, and they don't. This is a true story, and I believe the Sears giant is wide awake.

The giant wakes

Sears, once America's largest retail chain, is on the comeback trail. While this may not spell immediate trouble for the world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, it will have some effect on lots of other folks.

In 1992, Arthur Martinez took over the reins at the Sears Merchandise Group, and he immediately shook the giant awake. In a few short months Martinez stopped production of the "big catalog," closed more than 100 locations and reduced Sears' work force by nearly 50,000 employees. He began a campaign to upgrade existing stores and is plowing an estimated \$4 billion into that effort. It appears to be working, as sales are increasing and profit hit \$1.8 billion in FY1995.

Think big, act small

To me, the most fascinating part of the apparent Sears' revival is the new corporate philosophy. Sears is a big retailer with nearly \$35 billion in FY1995 sales. However, it is acting more like a small independent. Retailing big, acting small.

Sears is adding hot brands to its merchandising mix and getting more focused with its target marketing. They have built more than 100 small-format hardware stores which they call "Neighborhood Stores."

Customer service training is back in style at Sears and the focus really is back on the customer. In rural markets, Sears is getting closer to the customer with a concept called "Dealer Stores." These independently-owned stores are joint-ventures between Sears and local merchants.

I visited one of these dealer stores in Florida recently, and the owners — hometown folks — were expanding. They love the concept and apparently they are pleasing their customers as well. The average dealer store tops \$1 million in sales. Think big, act small.

My guess is that Sears will occupy the number two spot in retail sales in the U.S. at the end of FY1996. While Wal-Mart is a virtually impossible-to-catch leader in retail today, Sears can continue to put pressure on other retail chains and independents. One thing is certain, the giant is awake right now. Keep reading this column, we'll keep you updated.



Carole Keeton Rylander Desk & Derrick to host banquet; Rylander to be guest speaker

The Desk and Derrick Club of Pampa will host petroleum industry leaders' annual Industry Appreciation Night on Wednesday, Aug. 21, at the Pampa Country Club. Social hour is set to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Carole Keeton Rylander, chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, will speak on "New Oil and Gas Regulations." Rylander currently serves as co-chairman of the Public Outreach Committee of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and is also the Railroad Commission's representative to the Texas Commission on Energy Policy. As a two-term appointee of President George Bush to the National Petroleum Council, she understands the national and international implications of energy issues.

Association of Desk and Derrick Clubs International president, Doris Odom, Elk City, Okla., will be an honored guest.

"History Revisited" is the theme for recognition of the industry leaders of the 1950's when the club received its charter and recognition of those who currently support the club as employers, speakers and outstanding members.

For reservations, call Carol Cofer (806) 669-3108 or Martha Sublett (806) 669-7691 by Monday, Aug. 19. Dinner cost is \$12 per person.

Quentin Williams Realtors honored



(Special photo)

Top sales agents at Quentin Williams Realtors were presented with bonus checks during a recent luncheon at Pampa Country Club. Honored were third place winner, Heidi Chronister, left; Bill Stephens, second place; and Roberta Babb, first place. Quentin Williams agents were involved in 55 sales totaling over \$3.3 million or 57 percent of the volume sold through the Pampa Multiple Listing Service for the first six months of 1996. The agency is owned by Mike Keagy and Judi Edwards.

Analysts see many reasons for stable peso strengthening economy despite recession

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Despite a lingering recession, Mexico's peso has stabilized and probably will strengthen through this fall, analysts said.

In recent months, the Mexican currency regained its footing, due in part to confidence over U.S.-Mexican relations, an improved earnings outlook for Mexican companies and normal summertime economic activity.

"The message that investors are getting is that nothing can be wrong in the cozy Mexico-Washington relationship before the inauguration of the U.S. president," said economist Rogelio Ramirez de la O. "So the peso is likely to strengthen through the election and through the inauguration."

The peso, after losing about half its value in 1995, has been holding against the dollar. Inflation has eased, thanks to a government austerity program. Interest rates have fallen to their lowest levels since the abrupt peso devaluation sparked financial panic at the end of 1994.

Analysts expect the peso during the coming months to maintain the legs that have helped it appreciate 2.79 percent since the beginning of the year, when it stood at 7.6950 pesos to the dollar. By the end of the week, it took less than 7.5 pesos to buy \$1.

"We're probably living the least awful moment since the crisis that followed the December 1994 peso devaluation," said Roberto Salinas Leon, director of the Center for Free Market Studies, a Mexico City consulting firm.

While short-term trends appear to point toward a stronger peso, it remains

unclear whether Mexico's economy is headed for long-term growth that would maintain the peso's value in years to come, analysts said.

Private economists estimated that second-quarter gross domestic product figures to be released during the next few days will show five percent to seven percent annualized growth, better than earlier forecast.

The GDP — the sum total of goods and services produced by Mexico — fell an inflation-adjusted 1 percent during the first quarter from the prior year period, following a decline of 6.9 percent for all of 1995.

Chamber Communique

Welcome new Chamber member, Ron's Mr. Muffler. This auto repair shop, owned by Ron Arnold, is located at 125 N. Somerville.

Tuesday, Aug. 20. Hoechst Colanese will be sponsoring this month's Chamber luncheon. Peggy's Place will begin serving at 11:45 a.m. in the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building at 200 N. Ballard. Reservations will be accepted until 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. We welcome your attendance — bring a friend!

Early voting for the Pampa Independent School District's bond election will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning Aug. 21 and continuing until Sept. 6, at the Carver Center. The Pampa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted unanimously to

endorse this bond election during a recent board meeting.

- Meetings:
 - Monday — Noon, Top O' Texas, Nona Payne Room, Pampa Community Building.
 - Tuesday — 11:45 a.m., Chamber Luncheon, M.K. Brown Room, Pampa Community Building.
 - Thursday — Noon, Country Fair Steering Committee, Nona Payne Room, Pampa Community Building.

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Sports

Notebook

BASEBALL

CINCINNATI (AP) — Thomas Howard had his fourth consecutive three-hit game and Hal Morris singled with the bases loaded as the Cincinnati Reds beat the Colorado Rockies 5-3 Saturday in the first game of a double-header.

Howard had two doubles and an RBI triple, scored three runs and started the go-ahead rally in the seventh inning against reliever Mike Munoz (0-2).

With the score tied at 3, Howard doubled with one out and Barry Larkin was intentionally walked with two outs. Reliever Darren Holmes walked Kevin Mitchell to load the bases, and Morris fouled off three two-strike pitches before hitting a two-run single to center for a 5-3 lead.

John Smiley (11-10) gave up six hits in seven innings, including homers by Dante Bichette and Ellis Burks that accounted for Colorado's three runs. Hector Carrasco pitched a perfect eighth, and Jeff Brantley got the last three outs for his National League-leading 33rd save.

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez's long two-run homer in the first inning set the tone Saturday and the Seattle Mariners went on to a 10-3 rout of the New York Yankees.

The Mariners Jay Buhner added a three-run homer, his 35th, and Ken Griffey Jr. had a two-run shot, his 37th home run, in building a 9-0 lead in four innings.

Jamie Moyer (9-2) limited the Yankees to eight hits in 7 1-3 innings. The 33-year-old left-hander, acquired for the stretch in a July 30 trade with Boston, is 2-1 with the Mariners. Kenny Rogers (10-6) took the loss.

Alex Rodriguez connected on a 416-foot shot into the center-field bleachers for his 28th home run.

Wade Boggs hit a two-run double in the fifth, and Bernie Williams hit his 23rd homer in the sixth for New York.

FOOTBALL

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Tshimanga Biakabutuka has made peace with the Carolina Panthers. He knows it may not be as easy to do with their fans.

"I'm going to work hard and try to change those boos into cheers," Biakabutuka, the Panthers' first-round draft choice, said Friday after ending his 28-day holdout.

"That's all I can do right now. I can't sit down and talk with every fan and try to make them change their opinion about me," he said.

"All I can do is perform on the field, and that's what I'm intending to do. And hopefully they'll accept me after all this is done with."

He signed a seven-year, \$12.7 million contract, bringing to a close an impasse that was marked by several heated exchanges between negotiators and prompted many fans to target their anger at Biakabutuka.

PARALYMPICS

ATLANTA (AP) — Less than a month after an Iraqi weightlifter defected during the Olympics, Paralympic officials are looking for the Iraqi Paralympic team.

"They had not arrived in the Paralympic Village as of 4 p.m. Friday," said Steve Goldberg, spokesman for the Atlanta Paralympic Organizing Committee. "We are working to determine their whereabouts."

He did not know the number of Iraqi athletes scheduled to compete in the Paralympics. The Iraqi men's wheelchair basketball team, the country's first scheduled competition, forfeited a game when they failed to appear, Goldberg said.

Organizers of the international disabled games, which started Friday and end Aug. 25, aren't sure if the team even arrived in Atlanta. The team did not attend Thursday night's opening ceremony and organizers could not reach anyone from the country Friday, Goldberg said.

"Iraqis are not really known as defectors, so we haven't had any concerns about that," he said.

Cowboys break camp with question marks

AUSTIN (AP) — Training camp is over for the Dallas Cowboys, but not their concerns over team personnel losses to injuries and suspensions.

The defending Super Bowl champions broke camp on Friday after a summer that was light on discussion of the upcoming season and heavy on questions about the lack of depth that, with alarming suddenness, had become a compelling concern.

"Right now, we can't worry about the 49ers or Green Bay," safety Darren Woodson said. "We just have to worry about the Cowboys."

The Cowboys have 11 starters who missed practices during training camp due to injuries, six of whom are recovering from off-season surgery.

Key backups at receiver (Orande Gadsden), tight end (Eric Bjornson), linebacker (Godfrey Myles), defensive line (Darren

Benson) and safety (Charlie Williams and Roger Harper) are also injured.

But Dallas coach Barry Switzer says the questionable status of tight end Jay Novacek, who missed all of camp with chronic back problems, coupled with the five-game suspension of receiver Michael Irvin hurts the team the most.

"Michael and Jay are so much of the passing game," Switzer said. "It affects us being able to get into base formations as part of our playbook. It changes a little bit of our offensive philosophy."

Troy Aikman said a travel schedule that had the team in two countries and four cities last week for two exhibition games and a scrimmage in El Paso prevented the team from getting much-needed repetitions in practice.

"This has probably been the least amount of work that we've gotten done at training camp," Aikman said. "The travel schedule has been tough for us. Last week, we got no work done really to speak of."

Even Switzer criticized a schedule that seemed only to benefit the billfold of owner Jerry Jones.

"When you get to bed at 3 o'clock and 6 o'clock in the morning after flying in an airplane all night and play three games in one week, that's too much for a team to do," Switzer said.

The offense and defense never had a day at camp when all of the starters from each unit were able to practice together. Mostly inconsistent backups filled in the holes on a team that had 10 Pro Bowlers last year.

"We haven't had Michael. We haven't had Jay, and now we don't have Tuinei," said offensive guard Nate Newton. "People say you've got to play with what you've got. But that isn't the true picture. And

if you don't ever get a chance to look at the true picture, you lose a little hope and begin to fade."

With all the injuries, Switzer struggled to find positives about the monthlong camp.

"We are not the same team right now, physically, that we were when we started camp," Switzer said. "You anticipate injuries, but not ones that keep you from performing during the season and that's what happened to us with Darren Benson, (tight end) Kendall Watkins, Novacek, Bjornson and Tuinei."

"Training camp hasn't been a waste," Switzer added. "But when you're not practicing with who is going to be playing, you can get average in a hurry."

Still, Aikman remains positive.

"Guys on this team have proven that they can come out and play at a very high level early in the season with very little work at training camp," Aikman said. "That's

kind of the approach that we have taken this year and we hope it prevails again for us."

Aikman said Dallas' preseason game against Denver Saturday night will be key for the team to start coming together. Dallas (1-2) has been uninspired in losing its last two exhibition games by a combined score of 63-13.

"We realize we have to perform better than what we have over the past two ballgames," Aikman said. "This is an important game for us because the starters will play at least for the first half and possibly into the second half."

Switzer said Deion Sanders would likely start at cornerback against Denver and that Emmitt Smith and Charles Haley (injured back) probably wouldn't play. Switzer said Sanders is still expected to start the season at receiver, but wanted the defensive work.

McLean has holes to fill

McLEAN — McLean enters the 1996 football season with only a few players with varsity experience. Head coach Jerry Miller is counting on hard work plus some quickness to make up for the inexperience factor.

"We've got 25 boys out, but 11 of them are freshmen. Practice, however, has been going good," said McLean head coach Jerry Miller. "The players are working hard and I'm just tickled to death with the way they're coming along."

Miller will be looking to running back Chris Flores, back-defensive end Derek Glass and back Sy Brown to carry much of the load.

"These three are the only ones who played very much last year," Miller added. "We've got more quickness than we've had in quite awhile, but it's mostly among the younger players."

Top prospects include quarterback Gary Bolton and center Jonathan Bailey.

The Tigers have scrimmages scheduled Aug. 22 at Guthrie and Aug. 30 at home against

AREA FOOTBALL

Lefors. McLean opens the season Sept. 6 here against Amherst.

McLean, which finished 4-6 a year ago, returns five lettermen while losing seven to graduation.

Wheeler didn't crack the top 10 in the Associated Press preseason Class A high school football poll, but the Mustangs did collect nine votes from the panel of sports writers across the state.

Wheeler failed to make the playoffs last year after winning the district championship in 1994.

Shamrock and Gruver, Wheeler's opposition in District 1-A, also picked up some votes. Gruver received seven votes and Shamrock, four.

Wheeler's 1996 opener is Sept. 6 at Stratford.

Granger is picked as the No. 1 team in Class A, followed by Windthorst in second and Celeste, third.



Pampa fullback Ronnie Proby catches a pass before being tackled in an intrasquad scrimmage Friday night. The Harvesters open the season Sept. 6 at home against Lubbock Estacado.

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Report: Alcohol frequent factor in pedestrian deaths in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — One in four pedestrians who die in Texas has been drinking, according to an analysis of accident data.

An Austin American-Statesman computer analysis of Texas Department of Public Safety records for 1994 and 1995 also showed that, of adults who were killed and were later tested for alcohol, more than half were drunk.

There were 889 pedestrian deaths statewide over the two-year period, according to the American-Statesman's Saturday editions.

Of those, 231 of the victims, or 26 percent, had been drinking. In the other cases, the victims had not been drinking or investigators did not know.

Of the 328 victims who were over 15 and were tested for alcohol, 180 — or 55 percent — had a blood alcohol content of 0.10 or higher. Smaller amounts of alcohol were detected in another 13,

or 4 percent, of the victims.

Drunken pedestrians killed by sober drivers far outnumbered sober pedestrians killed by drunken drivers.

During the two years, 87 sober pedestrians were run over and killed by drunken drivers and 186 drunken pedestrians were fatally injured by sober drivers. In 45 deaths, both the pedestrian and the driver had been drinking.

A study by the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University found a similar relationship between alcohol and pedestrian fatalities in a study of 1993 traffic deaths in major Texas counties.

"We're always saying, 'Don't drink and drive,'" said Becky Davies, an assistant research scientist at the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University. "Maybe we should add, 'Don't drink and walk.'"

Allen Justice, for example, had a blood alcohol content of 0.38 percent when he was hit by a truck on Lamar Boulevard in North Austin on Feb. 6, 1995. Justice, who had been standing in the center lane, died of head injuries, the accident report said.

"A high percentage of fatally injured pedestrians were intoxicated, and many of them were very intoxicated," Ms. Davies said. "My guess is that a lot of these people fell down unconscious in the middle of the road and then got hit by passing motorists."

Like many intoxicated pedestrians who die in traffic accidents, Justice, 38, was a homeless man.

Hunter Morris, executive director of Helping Our Brothers Out, an agency that helps homeless people find jobs and social services, said drunken pedestrians may get run over on busy roads because they misjudge traffic or black out.

"There might also be an element of self-destruction. Some people are in such a pit of despair that they may feel life just isn't worth living anymore," he said.

Austin police Lt. Howard Williams, who is in charge of the department's traffic investigations, wasn't surprised by the analysis.

"A lot of the pedestrians who are killed trying to cross major highways are intoxicated," Williams said. Of the seven drunk-walking fatalities in Austin in 1994-95, four happened along Interstate 35, DPS data showed.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has compiled nationwide statistics on fatalities involving drunken pedestrians.

"More than one-third of all pedestrians 16 years of age or older killed in traffic crashes in 1995 were intoxicated," the agency said in a recent report.

Councilman seeks to ban trees causing allergy attacks

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — As City Councilor Alan Armijo sees it, an allergy-triggering tree is like a smog-spewing car.

Armijo wants to fine people \$500 and/or jail them for three months for planting, growing, importing or selling various trees that cause allergy attacks. However, he stopped short of seeking a law to fell existing trees.

The trees in question would include cypress, male junipers, mulberries, elms and poplars. Exceptions are the Rio Grande cottonwood, quaking aspen, mountain cottonwood, some mulberries and some ash species.

"The best way to look at it is in comparison to the auto emissions problem. We are never going to eliminate it, but through education and the ordinance we can help reduce it," he said.

His legislation says: "There is sufficient information to believe that certain trees and shrubs produce allergens that adversely impact the health and well-being of many of (Albuquerque's) residents and that actions to reduce the production of these harmful allergens are therefore appropriate."

Armijo said he plans to introduce the legislation Monday. The bill would then be referred to committee.

Dr. Richard Field, president of the New Mexico Allergy Society, has said that 50,000 to 100,000 people in the Albuquerque area suffer allergic reactions to airborne pollen.

Quentin Doherty, president of the New Mexico Association of Nursery Industries and vice president of Rowland Nurseries, expressed concern that such a broad limitation could cut back on the number of available shade trees in the area. And he doubted the ability of authorities to enforce it.

Residents could buy banned trees outside the city limits, he said.

El Paso, Texas; Las Vegas, Nev.; Tucson, Ariz., and Phoenix have laws restricting the planting of certain allergenic trees.



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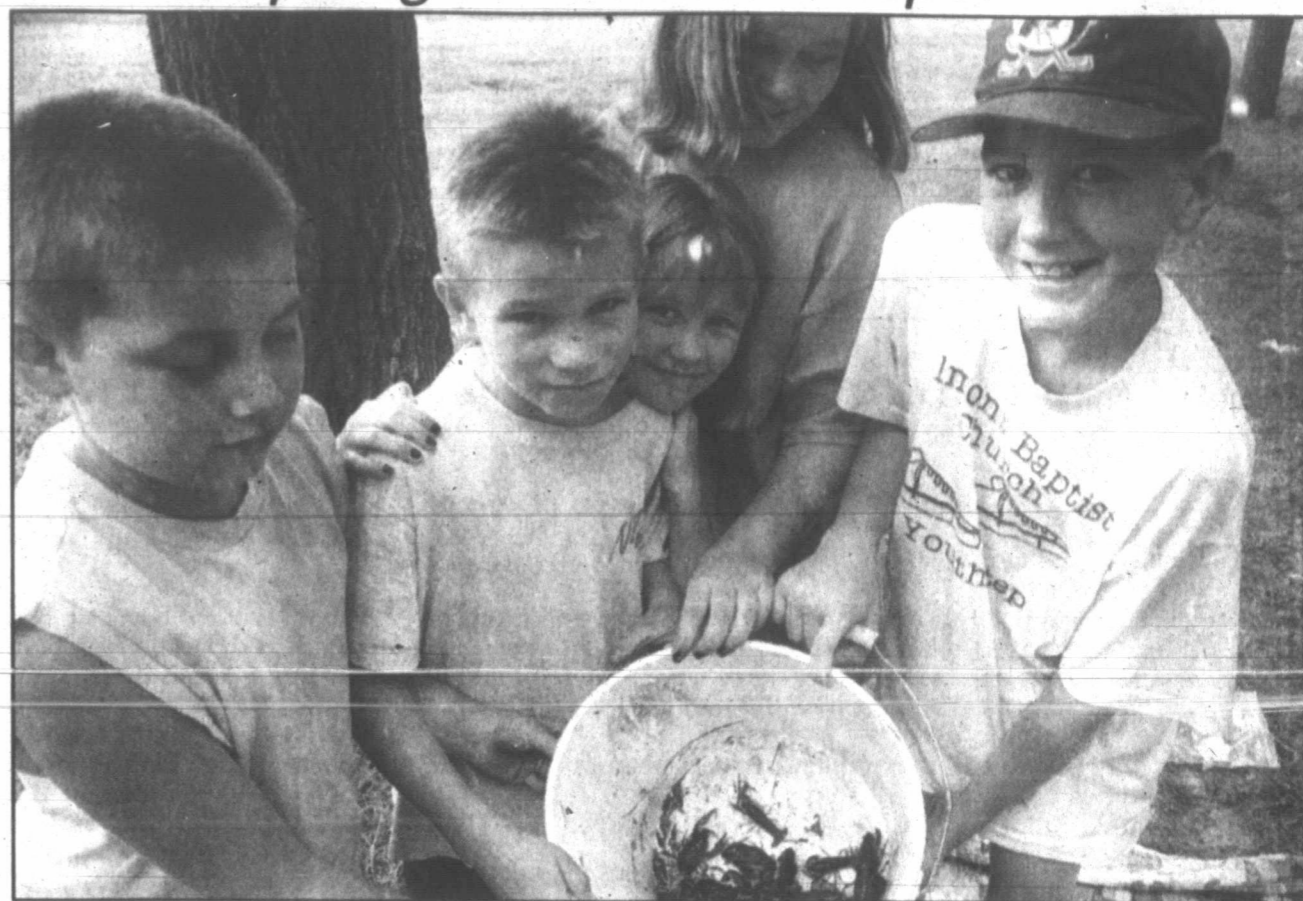
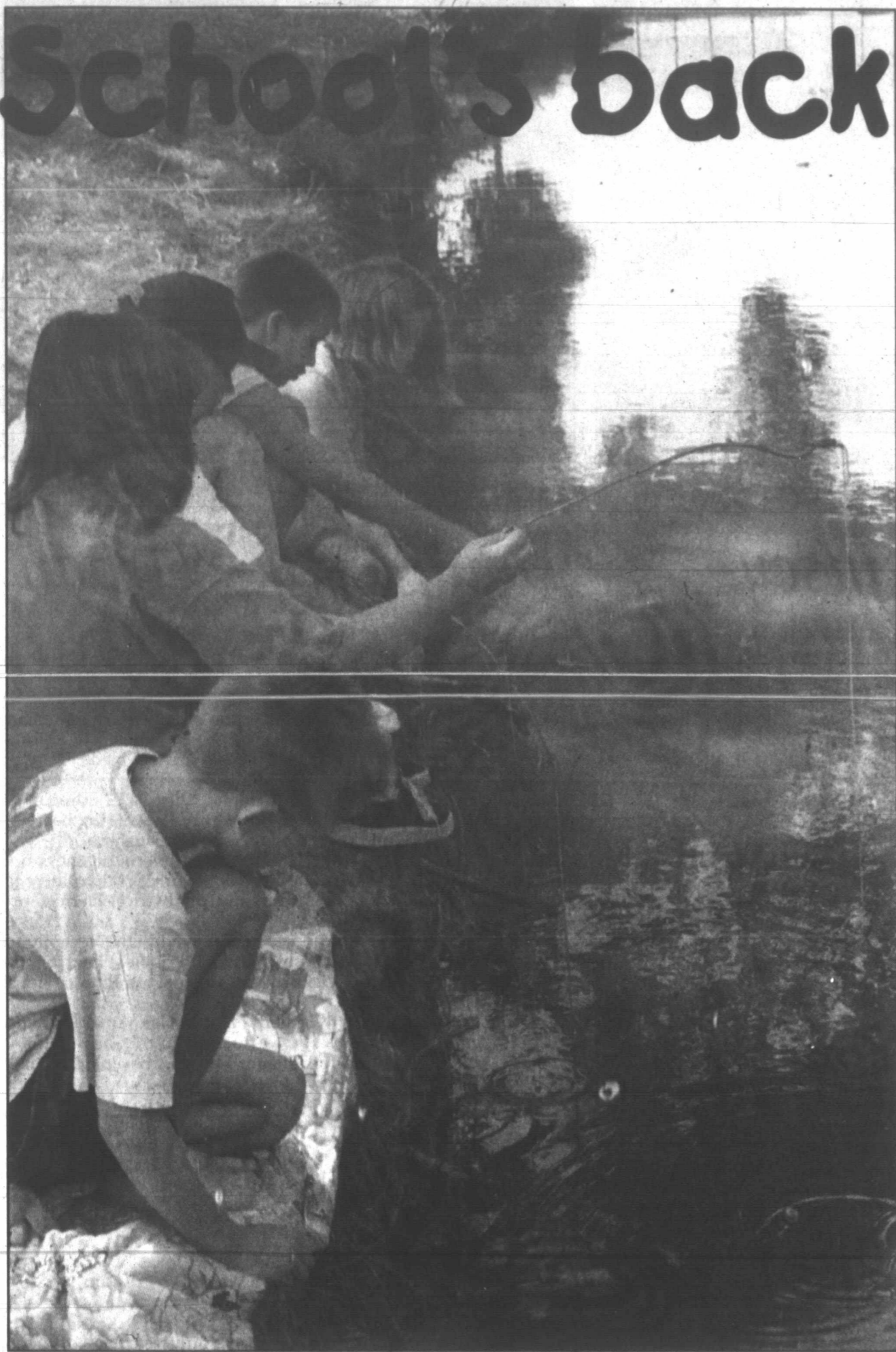
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Lifestyles

Schools back from summer*

* with apologies to Alice Cooper



Left: Brandon Boyd, Tiffany Boyd, Jared Dunham, Chris Dunham and Stephanie Boyd take advantage of a beautiful summer day to go crawdad fishing, their last summer outing before the start of school. Brandon and Stephanie Boyd and the Dunham brothers attend Horace Mann Elementary School; Tiffany Boyd is an eighth grader at Pampa Middle School.

Above: The crawdad fishers show off about half of their catch. The quintet spent almost an hour catching the shellfish and less than two minutes dumping them back into the creek at Central Park.

Below: Stephanie Furgason, third grade teacher at Wilson Elementary, hangs up a numbers chart while setting up her room last week. The first-year teachers says she is "scared to death" of the first day of school, but excited as well.

Bottom: Nitza Roman confers with fellow Lamar kindergarten teacher Lorine Cash during an inservice session for kindergarten teachers. The workshop, held last week at Austin Elementary, allowed the teachers time for hands-on development of classroom materials. Roman will teach Lamar's pilot bilingual kindergarten class in this, her first year of teaching.

Facing a new world: First day jitters affect teachers too

Fear. Trepidation. Excitement. A nervous stomach.

The above could describe pretty much any student the week before school starts, especially students entering the transition grades: kindergarten, sixth grade or ninth grade.

What might surprise some students, though, is that those emotions and conditions could describe how their teacher feels as well.

Take, for example, Stephanie Furgason and Nitza Roman.

Each is a first-year teacher, but the similarities stop there.

she joked.

Most of Roman's apprehension comes from her position: bilingual kindergarten teacher at Lamar Elementary in a pilot program.

"It's hard to describe, but I feel a bit apprehensive. I was hired in June and [Lamar principal] Pat Farmer and [Personnel Director] Jack Bailey have been so supportive and really enthusiastic about the whole program that any of those fears just faded away," Roman said.

"That feeling, that camaraderie, takes away the fear. I know I'll have help," she continued.

The two women come to the profession from fairly different backgrounds.

Furgason was raised in White Deer, Roman in Brooklyn, N.Y. Furgason married while in college, Roman raised her family before getting her teacher's license.

"Oh, I'm so excited because this is what I've gone to college for. I've always known I want to be a teacher ... and this is a chance to prove myself," Furgason said.

"Ever since I was in grade school [when] I had a teacher that was so wonderful, I've wanted a child to look up to me like I did to her," she continued.

Roman originally majored in accounting and business administration when she began college. She began volunteering at her children's school in California and was eventually offered a paid position.

"I felt that I could be just as good a teacher as they could. Being an assistant was wonderful, but limited. If you want to stay in education, you get a degree," Roman said, taking a break from an inservice session last week.

One thing the women do have in common is their experience as teacher's aides.

Furgason was an aide in the Grandview-Hopkins school district following graduating college in 1995. She also worked as a

"It's hard to describe, but I feel a bit apprehensive. I was hired in June and [Lamar principal] Pat Farmer and [Personnel Director] Jack Bailey have been so supportive and really enthusiastic about the whole program that any of those fears just faded away."

— Nitza Roman

substitute teacher in area schools, including at Wilson.

Roman spent a total of eight year as a teacher's assistant, including five in California and three in Texas.

Another similarity: both women will commute from out of town. Furgason and her husband live in White Deer, while Roman's family lives in Miami where her husband is the new minister at the First Christian Church of Miami.

"I'm scared because this is the first time I've had a class that I'm in charge of. I've been a substitute and an aide, but this is the first time I've had a class on my own. It frightens me, but I'm read."

— Stephanie Furgason

Furgason, a third grade teacher at Wilson Elementary, readily admits she's "scared to death" about the first day of school.

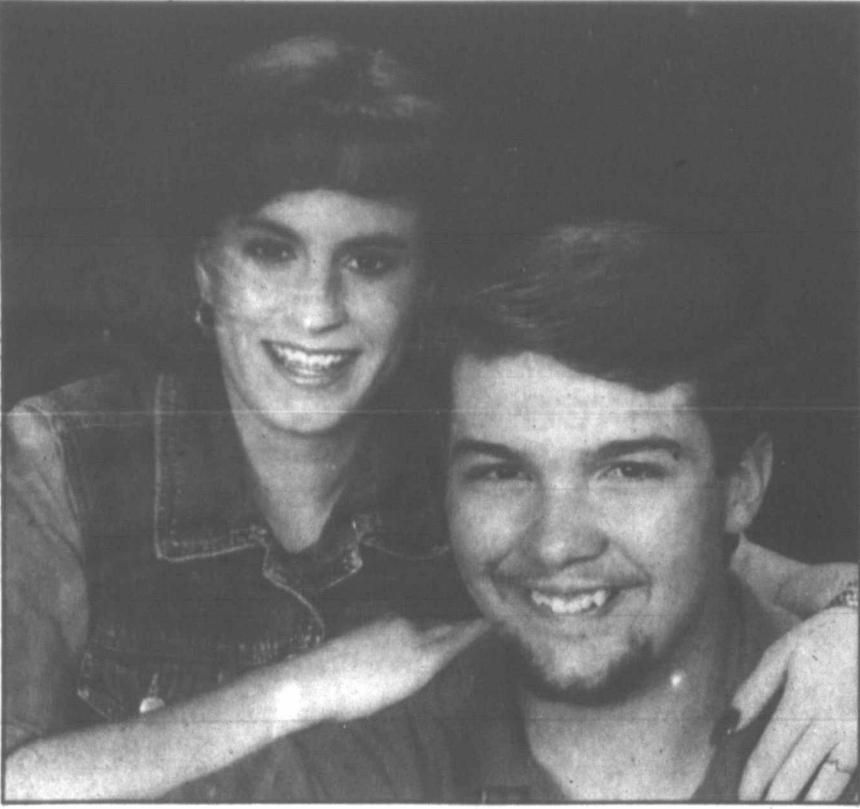
"I'm scared because this is the first time I've had a class that I'm in charge of. I've been a substitute and an aide, but this is the first time I've had a class on my own. It frightens me, but I'm ready," Furgason said last week while setting her room up.

"I probably won't get a wink of sleep Sunday. The kids and I will probably both be terrified, but we'll make it through together," she said.

On the other hand, Roman, a bilingual kindergarten teacher at Lamar Elementary, admits only to some apprehension.

"At this point," she said last week, "I'm excited. Monday I'm not so sure about,"





Robi D'Ann Franklin and Christopher Earl Thompson

Franklin - Thompson

Robi D'Ann Franklin and Christopher Earl Thompson, both of Pampa, plan to marry October 4 at Trinity Fellowship Church. The bride-elect is the daughter of Jerry and Robyn Franklin, Pampa. The groom-to-be is the son of Bill and Geneva Thompson, Pampa. She is a May graduate of Clarendon College secretarial course. He attended Clarendon College and is employed by Titan Specialties Inc.



Betsy Jayne Miller and Bryan Kinsey

Miller - Kinsey

Betsy Jayne Miller and Bryan Kinsey, both of Canyon, plan to marry Sept. 28 at the First Baptist Church of White Deer. The bride-elect is the daughter of Jimmy and Vicky Miller, Canyon. The groom-to-be is the son of Edward and Betty Kinsey, White Deer. She is a 1993 graduate of New Covenant School in Canyon, and works at Golden Plains Care Center. He is a 1993 graduate of White Deer High School, attended Texas State Technical College and Amarillo College, and works at Golden Plains Care Center.



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Urban
Melissa Dougherty

Dougherty - Urban

Melissa Dougherty of Amarillo and Larry Urban, Dumas, were married Saturday, Aug. 3 at First Baptist Church of Dumas with the Rev. Scott Willingham officiating. The bride is the daughter of Barbara Dougherty, Pampa, and the late S.W. Dougherty. The groom is the son of James Urban, Dumas, and the late Dorothy Urban. Maid of honor was Kay Hagar, cousin of the bride, Canyon. Lauren Urban, niece of the groom, Morse, was flower girl. Standing as best man was Bo DeArmond, Dumas. Children of the groom Christopher and Landon Urban, Dumas, were ring bearers. Mike Carlisle and Jim Bethel, Dumas, served as ushers. Candles were lit by Jennifer Dougherty, niece of the bride, Amarillo, and Tiffany Dougherty, niece of the bride, Amarillo, registered guests. Chris and Dalea Tatum and Brad Grice, Dumas, provided music for the wedding. Following the service, the couple was honored with a reception at Dumas Inn. Guests were served by Marnell Pribble, Omaha, Neb.; Kelly Dougherty, Amarillo; Vicki Urban, Morse; Patti Plunk, Pampa; and Pat Beach, Dumas. The bride is employed by Northern Natural Gas, Amarillo region office. The groom is employed by Northern Natural Gas in Sunray. Following a honeymoon to Cancun, Mexico, they plan to make their home in Dumas.

Breakfast is learning opportunity for children

It's a typical school day - get up, get dressed, grab your book-bag and off to school. Whoa! One important thing is missing - breakfast! Studies have shown time and again that breakfast is an important part of the day. Yet every morning millions of children start school with empty stomachs. Nutritionists know that an adequate breakfast is essential for a healthy diet. Several studies have confirmed that children who do not eat breakfast do not do as well in school as their peers who do eat breakfast. Breakfast is important because it has been about twelve hours since the evening meal. The body has used up the food energy from supper. If a person does not eat again until lunch, it will be nearly six more hours before any new food energy gets into the system. It is no wonder that children who skip or skimp on breakfast often feel run down during the morning and do not perform as well in school and on the playground as those who eat a good breakfast. Breakfast can be a bonanza of flavor and nutrition. The most important factor concerning breakfast is that you "eat something." Certainly there are many wonderful "made-for-breakfast" foods. But who says you can't have leftover pizza or spaghetti from the night before, a sandwich and soup, or even a crisp, green salad. Eat a combination of foods. Try to include as many of the groups from the Food Guide Pyramid in the breakfast meal. Remember -

Homemakers' News
Donna Brauchi



breakfast is a good time to get your vitamin C for the day. Citrus fruits and fruit juices are all good choices. If you are short on time, prepare foods in advance or take advantage of convenience breakfast foods. Learning the "do it yourself" approach to breakfast is an important step for children in helping them develop good breakfast habits. More and more children are responsible for preparing their own breakfast. The "do-it-yourself" breakfast approach can be accomplished in three stages. Stage One: The Basics. Make the first step easy and natural, as well as safe for the child. Set the scene to help avoid accidents, which could be discouraging. The night before, or earlier in the morning, get out the makings for breakfast. According to the Food Guide Pyramid, we need 6-11 servings from the bread, cereal, grain and pasta group daily. Cereal is a natural for breakfast. It is fast to prepare; there is a

big variety of flavors and grains; and it does supply a major source of complex carbohydrates to start the day off right. In addition, cereal is a breakfast favorite among kids. Take a cereal package down from a shelf or put it on low shelves within easy reach of the child. Get out a bowl and pour the right amount of milk into an easy to handle plastic pitcher and leave it on a low shelf in the refrigerator. You might leave a cup of juice or piece of fruit alongside. Let the child set his own place at the table with placemat, spoon and napkin. Then, when it is time for breakfast, the child can quickly prepare a quick nutritious meal of cereal and fruit or fruit juice. Stage Two: Introduce Fruit. Eating and enjoying different kinds of fruit should be a healthy lifelong habit that a child develops early. According to the Food Guide Pyramid, we need two to four servings from the fruit group daily. Since fruit is a natural partner with cereal, breakfast is the perfect time to introduce fruit preparation how-tos. Learning to

slice a banana, using a not-too-sharp knife will help the child develop tool-handling skills. Show the child how to wash fruit before using. Rinse berries - just the amount to be used immediately - gently under cold running water in a strainer or colander; let them drain well. Fruit is fun for children to slice or put whole in cereal or just to eat along with cereal or toast. Stage Three: Appliance Expertise. As a child grows older, he will want to start using kitchen appliances on his own. Instruct a child early on the proper use of them, so there will be no dangerous experimentation. Show how to plug and unplug an appliance into an electrical outlet. Explain the importance of unplugging the appliance before cleaning it. The toaster or toaster oven is a natural start at appliance-education for the young breakfast cook who wants to prepare his own toast, biscuits, muffins or toaster waffles. The blender, too, might be used by more sophisticated junior chefs to whip up fruit and milk beverages. Explain how the cover must go on tightly, how the buttons work and how to rinse out the blender once the mixture is made and poured out. With Stage Three accomplished, your child is now a breakfast pro, ready to tackle lunch and snacks. And look what you have accomplished. You have a child making his own nourishing breakfast, without supervision, and loving it.

Lifestyles policies

- 1. The Pampa News will not be responsible for photographs used in announcing weddings, engagements, or anniversaries. We reserve the right to refuse publication of photographs of poor quality. Photographs cannot be returned unless they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. They may be picked up in the office after appearing in the paper. 2. All information must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday, prior to Sunday insertion. 3. Engagement, wedding, and anniversary news only will be printed on Sunday. 4. Engagement announcements will be published if the announcement is submitted at least one month before the wedding, but not more than three months before the wedding. 5. Bridal photos and information will not be accepted in The Pampa News office later than one month past the date of the wedding. 6. Anniversary announcements will be published for celebrations only of 25 years or more, and will not be published more than four weeks after the anniversary date. 7. Information that appears on engagement, wedding and anniversary forms will be used at the discretion of the editor. Forms are available from the office 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by sending a SASE to The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Club news

Altrusa International Inc. Altrusa International Inc. of Pampa met Aug. 12 in the Crown and Shield Room of the Biarritz. President Dorla McAndrew called the meeting to order. Guests Carla Davis, Dr. Dawson Orr and Ray Thornton were introduced. Rogena Rice, recipient of the Geraldine Ramey Vocational Award, was introduced by Mayda King. Rice is married to Darrin Rice and is the mother of two. She plans to use the \$500 award to finish her education at West Texas A&M where she is studying elementary education and plans to teach. Mary Wilson received the Spotlight Award for 32 years of service to Altrusa. Chleo Worley read a list of accomplishments for which Wilson has been responsible. King was appointed to the board to fill the position of recording secretary due to the six month leave of absence granted to Connie Lockridge. Progress reports for the style show were given by Judy Rutledge, chairperson, Susan Winborne, food chair, Brenda Tucker, decorations; and Sherry Diggs, door prizes. JoAnn Shackelford announced the Baker Star Reader project will begin Sept. 19. All members were invited to attend the kick off for the project.

Diggs gave the accent on marketing Altrusa. Orr, superintendent of Pampa Independent School District, discussed elementary campus consolidation plans approved by the board of trustees. Orr explained the necessity of a bond election to finance the plans. The election is set for Sept. 10 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The next Altrusa meeting is set for 7 p.m. Aug. 26 in the Starlight Room of Coronado Inn.

Aug. 6 in at the Biarritz Club with Dorenda Begett, president, presiding. Nadyne Williams reported 13 stores will show fashions at the Top O'Texas Style Show at Pampa Country Club at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 7. Two dinners to the Outback Steakhouse, Amarillo, and 15 lottery scratch off tickets will be given plus other door prizes. Sally Youngblood, member of the international marketing committee representing Texas CattleWomen, gave a board report.

President Vallie Futch called the meeting to order. Guest Mildred Thrasher of Pampa was present. Members voted to make a donation to the Senior Citizens as part of the 1996 donation project which includes ongoing construction of "Heart Pillows" for the American Cancer Society. Project ideas involving specialized use of color and/or "mystery" quilts were also debated. Members are asked to bring Christmas applique patterns for exchange to the next meeting.

Top O'Texas CattleWomen Top O'Texas CattleWomen met

Piecemakers Quilt Guild Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild met July 25 in the Community Building.

The next meeting of the Quilt Guild will be at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 22 in the Community Building. Guests are welcome.

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Amy Houseman-Derek Patton
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Menus

Aug. 19-24

<p>Lefors Mounds MONDAY Breakfast: Cereal, toast, fruit or juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic toast, salad, fruit, cottage cheese, choice of milk. TUESDAY Breakfast: Sausage on a stick, cereal, juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Steak fingers, whipped potatoes, spinach, rolls, peach crisp, choice of milk. WEDNESDAY Breakfast: Cinnamon rolls, cereal, juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Burrito/chili/cheese, salad, crackers, cantaloupe, applesauce, choice of milk. THURSDAY Breakfast: Biscuits, jelly, fruit or juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Fish, salad, green beans, slice of bread, cheese chunks, peanut butter bars, choice of milk. FRIDAY Breakfast: French toast, cereal, juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Ham and cheese sandwich, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, beans, spice cake, choice of milk.</p>	<p>Meals on Wheels MONDAY Steak fingers with gravy, broccoli and rice, carrots, cherry cobbler. TUESDAY Oven fried chicken, blackeyed peas, whole potato with cheese sauce, pineapple. WEDNESDAY Chopped sirloin with mushroom gravy, rice pilaf, green beans, jello or fruit. THURSDAY Chicken patties, peas and carrots, squash casserole, pudding. FRIDAY Salmon loaf, macaroni and cheese, Harvard beets, peaches. Senior Citizens MONDAY Chicken fried steak or spaghetti and meat sauce; mashed potatoes, beets, squash casserole, beans; slaw, tossed or jello salad; Watergate cake or butterscotch pie; hot rolls or cornbread. TUESDAY Sweet and sour chicken or ham croquettes; onion potatoes, green beans, turnip greens,</p>	<p>beans; slaw, tossed or jello salad; strawberry cake or chocolate crusted pie; hot rolls or cornbread. WEDNESDAY Roast beef brisket with brown gravy or cook's choice; mashed potatoes, spinach broccoli casserole, carrots, beans; slaw, tossed or jello salad; pineapple delight cake or Hershey pie; hot rolls or cornbread. THURSDAY Beef stroganoff or burritos and chili; parsley potatoes, peas, winter mix, beans; slaw, tossed or jello salad; pea picking cake or dream pie; hot rolls or cornbread. FRIDAY Fish or impossible taco pie; potato wedges, broccoli, beans; slaw, tossed or jello salad; ambrosia cake or crazy peach pie; hot rolls, cornbread or garlic toast. Pampa Schools MONDAY Breakfast: Pancake and sausage on a stick, fruit or</p>	<p>juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Steak fingers, whipped potatoes, green beans, applesauce, hot roll, choice of milk. TUESDAY Breakfast: Oatmeal muffin squares, fruit or juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Sweet and sour chicken nuggets over rice, broccoli blend, pineapple, hot roll, choice of milk. WEDNESDAY Breakfast: Biscuits, margarine, fruit or juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Chef salad, baked potato, peaches, break sticks, choice of milk. THURSDAY Breakfast: Cinnamon toast, fruit or juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Pig in a blanket, English peas, watermelon slice, choice of milk. FRIDAY Breakfast: Cereal, toast, fruit or juice, choice of milk. Lunch: Hamburger, burger salad, oven fries, pickle slices, cookie, choice or milk.</p>
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Business women



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)
The Magic Plains Chapter of American Business Women's Association selected an executive board for 1996-1997. Officers are Eltha Hensley, treasurer; JanAllen, president; Estelle Malone, vice president; and Frances Guthrie, secretary.



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)
Jan Allen, president, Magic Plains Chapter of American Business Women's Association, presents a \$500 scholarship to Jennifer Rushing, Rushing, a 1996 Pampa High School graduate, plans to attend Eastern New Mexico University.

4-H Futures & Features

Dates
18 - 4-H Rodeo clean-up, 2 p.m., rodeo grounds
24 & 24 - Officer/leader retreat, Ceta Canyon

4-H Rodeo Clean-up
The 4-H rodeo is history for another year. Special thanks to all 4-H'ers, parents, leaders, volunteers, contestants and rodeo fans for making the Gray County 4-H Rodeo fund raiser such a success. All 4-H members are reminded to come to the rodeo grounds at 2 p.m. today to help clean up the grounds. It will take about one hour if we have lots of help.

Officer/leader retreat
All 1996-97 4-H club and council officers and club managers and adult leader council officers are urged to make plans to attend the 4-H officer/leader retreat Aug. 24-25 at Ceta Canyon. We will leave at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 and return home around 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 25. This activity will be conducted with Carson, Potter, Armstrong, Briscoe and Roberts Counties. Angela Burkham, Extension 4-H and youth development specialist, will conduct sessions with youth and adults. Activities will include swimming, a celebrity costume party, a dance and workshops on recreation, recruitment, 4-H promotion, 4-H opportunities and officer responsibilities. Cost will be \$15 per 4-H'er and \$30 per adult. Check with your 4-H Club - some clubs pay the fee for officers and leaders to attend. Please register for the retreat in the County Extension office by Monday, Aug. 19.

4-H enrollment party
Make your plans now to attend the 4-H enrollment party Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Recreation Park. Cookies, ice cream and fun will be available for all who attend. All youth planning to participate in the Gray County 4-H youth development program and their parents are encouraged to attend.

Fall 4-H district volunteer leader training
All 4-H parents, leaders, and volunteers are encouraged to make plans to attend the fall volunteer leader training on Saturday, Sept. 7, in Amarillo. Workshop sessions will include: ME, Inc. (workforce preparation); I'm A Club Manager, and I'm Still Sane; series (recycling); fashion and fabric design; Shooting Sports; and horse bowl. Cost is \$10 per person which includes lunch, facilities, refreshments and workshops. Registration is due in the Gray County Extension Office by Aug. 28.

Hospice to offer 30-hour course

Enrollment for "Hospice Approach to Living and Dying," a 30-hour course sponsored by Clarendon College - Pampa Center and Hospice of the Panhandle, is now open. Classes begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26, at the Hospice of the Panhandle Conference Room, 800 N. Sumner, in Pampa. Classes will continue to meet on Mondays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. for the next 10 weeks through Oct. 28. Facilitator will be Janet McCracken, volunteer coordinator for Hospice of the Panhandle.

"Hospice Approach to Living and Dying" is a study of the effects of a terminal illness on the patient and family. The dynamics of death, dying, grief and loss are identified to fit those dynamics within the hospice concept of care. Those who complete the class are qualified, but not required, to become a hospice volunteer. Topics covered in the class include hospice philosophy, concepts of death and dying, care and comfort measures, communication skills, psychosocial and spiritual aspects, the hospice team, grief and bereavement, legal issues and family dynamics. Anyone 18 or older who has not recently experienced the death of a loved one may enroll: by calling (806) 665-8801. Cost of the course is \$30 for 30 classroom hours. Three continuing education units will be awarded to those who complete the course. For more information concerning the course or about hospice care in general, contact Sherry McCavit, executive director, or Janet McCracken at (806) 665-6677.

Octoberfest planned for Lake Brownwood

Experience fall and nature at its best this year "Deep in the Heart of Texas." That's what people 55 and over will be doing at the Texas 4-H Center on Lake Brownwood when several hundred will enjoy the annual Octoberfest during October, says Donna Brauchi, Gray County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences. Sponsored by the Texas Agriculture Extension Service, two weeks are offered from which people may choose: Octoberfest I - October 8 - 15 - 18. Opportunities include "hands on" learning centers where one can learn leather working, oil painting, wood-working, stained glass and other projects. Educational Programs on topics such as horticulture, photography, nutrition, finances and other interests are a highlight. Boat rides, weather permitting, and fishing on Lake Brownwood add popularity to the stay. Lighted tennis courts, horseshoes, billiards, volleyball, shuffleboard, dominoes and card and table games are all popular activities. A special "Movies - Movies - Movies" theme featuring a costume contest on Thursday during lunch will provide a festive atmosphere to the event. Thursday's theme party will feature some exciting activities and entertainment. Each week is limited to 165 participants at a nominal fee. Call the county extension office at 669-8033.



Dell Gray
Gray guest of OES
Dell Gray, humanitarian committee District 2 chair of the Grand Chapter of Texas, Order of the Eastern Star, will be guest of Chapter No. 65 on Tuesday. Gray of Floydada, will be honored at a covered dish dinner at 6:30 p.m. and at the stated meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Pampa Masonic Hall, 420 W. Kingsmill. She will present a Rob Morris program, honoring the birthday of Dr. Rob Morris, Master Builder of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was born Aug. 31, 1818 and became a Master Mason on March 5, 1846. He began working on a ritual for the Eastern Star in 1849 and died July 31, 1888. For more information call 665-2665.

Girl Scouts seek nominations

Texas Plains Girl Scout Council is looking for policy makers and people interested in governing the council as members of its board of directors. Paulette Scott, chair of the nominating committee, said, "We need women and men interested in fund raising, human resources, property management, child development, strategic planning and financial management," she said. Those interested in serving on the board may contact Texas Plains Girl Scout Council, 6011 W. 45th Ave., Amarillo, 79109, or call 1-800-687-4475.

Jeanne Willingham
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Entertainment

All shook up



(Associated Press file photo) Elvis Presley performs on the *Ed Sullivan Show* Sept. 9, 1956, in this file photo, his first of several appearances on the CBS show. A retrospective of Presley's television work is at New York's Museum of Television and Radio until January.

Review: 'Fan' breaks down in the end

By DAVID GOODMAN
Associated Press Writer

San Francisco knife salesman Gil Renard (Robert De Niro) lives for baseball in *The Fan*.

With an ex-wife who despises him and a career in freefall, the hallowed confines of Candlestick Park are a happy, green haven. For Renard, it's a place where time stands still, where he can connect with his idealized boyhood.

"Baseball is better than life," he says. "It's fair."

Fourteen years ago, Renard began following the career of high school center fielder Bobby Rayburn (Wesley Snipes). Now a swaggering superstar, Rayburn has been leashed back to the San Francisco Giants in a controversial deal worth \$40 million.

When the beleaguered Rayburn falls into a no-hitting slump, the salesman casts himself as the white knight who will defend Rayburn from his critics and earn his undying friendship.

Renard only "knows" Rayburn through the newspapers and a brief exchange on a sports talk radio show hosted by Jewel Stern (Ellen Barkin). But he's just crazy and desperate enough to picture Rayburn and himself as comrades in victimhood.

And when he thinks Rayburn's terrible form may be due to teammate Juan Primo (Benecio Del Toro), Renard's obsession turns to thoughts of murder to restore his idol's reputation.

The movie's virtues are centered in its first two-thirds, where De Niro and Snipes get the space to unreel their subtle, mixed characters.

Another big plus from director Tony Scott (*Crimson Tide*, *Top Gun*) are the right-there-at-the-plate baseball sequences, which include an appearance from ex-major league infielder John Kruk and technical advice from baseball legend Cal Ripken Jr.

There's also a superb, thumping soundtrack featuring *The Rolling Stones*, *Nine Inch Nails* and *Santana*, among others.

Considering the amount of action, the latter part of the 120-minute movie is strangely plodding as De Niro's character, so shaded at the beginning, is allowed to turn into the standard, cardboard stalker.

The movie reaches a peak in a scene where Renard gets to hang out with Rayburn at his beachhouse after rescuing Rayburn's son from drowning.

The carefully cherished, idealized image of his hero is blown to pieces when the straight-talking Rayburn dismisses die-hard fans as "losers." The fan's fragile adoration switches all too eas-

ily into the hate of a spurned lover, and Renard kidnaps Rayburn's son.

With a plot line that manages to be both clichéd and unlikely, the movie's final 20 minutes start to resemble an expensively filmed but vacant made-for-TV movie.

Until that moment, the screenplay by Phoebe Sutton does a nice job giving Rayburn some dimension. We see him struggling to conquer a crippling neurosis — the belief that he can't play without the number 11 on his shirt — and working through his simmering dislike for Primo.

De Niro's Renard initially seems normal enough but Scott keeps introducing little clues to show that everything's not as it seems.

At the opening day Giants' game with his young son, for example, Renard treads on the boy while clambering to catch a ball that's flown into the stands. Later, he tries to make amends by buying the kid a pizza, but seems unaware that

his son hates mushrooms.

The movie has Renard a peddler of knives — which creates an air of menace around his character and provides excuses for such ghouliness later on.

De Niro seems to have perfected his routine from *Taxi Driver* and *Cape Fear*. The now predictable repertoire of psycho moves are all here — the twitches, the cold stare, the curled-down lip, the crazy smile where the eyes crinkle sinisterly.

The overly familiar performance is also lessened by some annoying, intrusive camera work. There are a few too many jump-cuts and extreme close-ups used to create tension. It's like the camera is the star here.

Considering the film's collection of talent, that's an odd choice.

The TriStar pictures release is rated R. *The Fan* is produced by Wendy Finerman. The screenplay is based on a book by Peter Abrahams.

Entertainment briefs

NEW YORK (AP) — Some domestic violence activists don't feel good about James Brown performing at a charity concert.

The Retreat, a support group for victims of domestic violence, said it will not accept money from the event because of accusations Brown beat his wife. In fact, the organization wants to disassociate itself from *The Back at the Ranch* Concert in Montauk on Monday.

"His reputation as a batterer is well known in the domestic violence community," Retreat executive director Jeri Woodhouse said. "It's an awkward position — we would have received about \$10,000 — but we feel his performing would be totally inappropriate given our goals."

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Wesley Snipes is tired of playing muscular supercops and athletes. What he really wants is to play a psycho.

Robert De Niro gets all the good psycho roles.

In *The Fan*, which opened Friday, De Niro plays a fan obsessed with Snipes' character, a baseball star.

"Maybe I haven't been presented with these kinds of straight-up psycho roles because of my age," said Snipes, 34.

"I know I am perceived as being young, so maybe I need to get a little older so audiences will believe that I can play a man who has been through the trials and tribulations of life," he said in

Thursday's *Orange County Register*.

NEW YORK (AP) — Ellen Burstyn set out to prove that audiences still enjoy movies without graphic violence and sex.

The result: *The Spitfire Grill*, winner of the Audience Award as the most popular film at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

"We have to send a message to Hollywood that we want gentle, intelligent films," said Burstyn, who won a best actress Oscar for the 1974 film *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*.

The Spitfire Grill was made "in reaction to the trend of violence and exploitation," she said in Sunday's *Parade* magazine.

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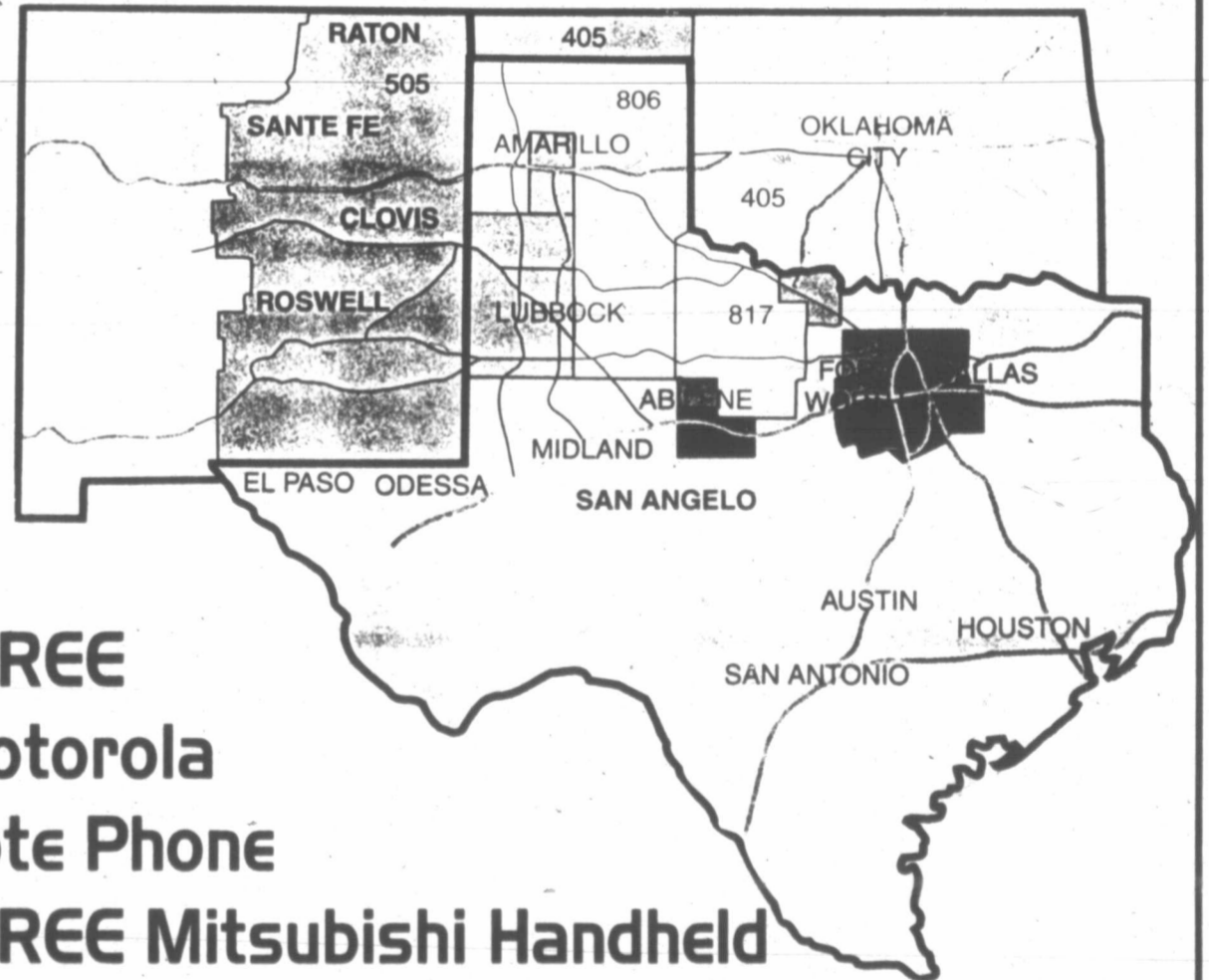
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50+	50+	30-39	30-39
		40-49	40-49
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Taking cyberspace school? Check credentials, anyway

By The Associated Press

If you're taking courses through cyberspace, it's still important to check out the school's credentials the old-fashioned way, experts say.

Dubbed "distance education," on-line classes have attracted more than 300,000 students, estimates the National Continuing Education Association. Some educators say that in the future, most students will take at least some of their course work on-line.

"It's a buyer's market, so picking the right school is a critical choice," says Dr. Lynne D. Ballard, director of the continuing education division at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt. She recommends checking whether the school is accredited. And you might want to learn what the business world thinks about the school you're considering.

"Think carefully before investing time and money in a school that isn't accredited," she cautions. "Ask your employer or other employers in the marketplace about how they would view a degree or certificate from that school."

Ballard's school offers SuccessNet, an on-line distance learning program that offers "virtual classrooms" to students who can earn a range of professional certificates and degrees entirely by computer.

Her advice is echoed by Dr. Elizabeth A. McDaniel, executive

provost and vice president of academic affairs at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., another school that offers on-line classes.

She adds that potential students should also find out if there are opportunities to chat electronically with other students — an advantage because many of your classmates likely will be people with real world experience. "In the best classrooms, students learn from other students as well as from the professor," she says. "It's the same on-line."

In fact, you should expect to participate more in classroom discussion than you would in a normal lecture hall setting, she says. And the teacher should be able to reply to your electronically mailed questions in 36 hours or less.

"If not, you may not be getting the personalized attention you deserve," says McDaniel. "A 24-hour response time should be the goal."

Distance learning methods include audio cassettes, on-line by computer, interactive audio-video, and satellite networks.

Broadcast television or one-way video may be frustrating if you like exchanges with classmates, the administrators say. But if your reading and writing skills are weak, you may have trouble with on-line courses, which rely heavily on those skills and are the basis of interaction among students and teachers.

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How to Register: FAX or mail the coupon here, or call The Pampa News at 806-669-2525

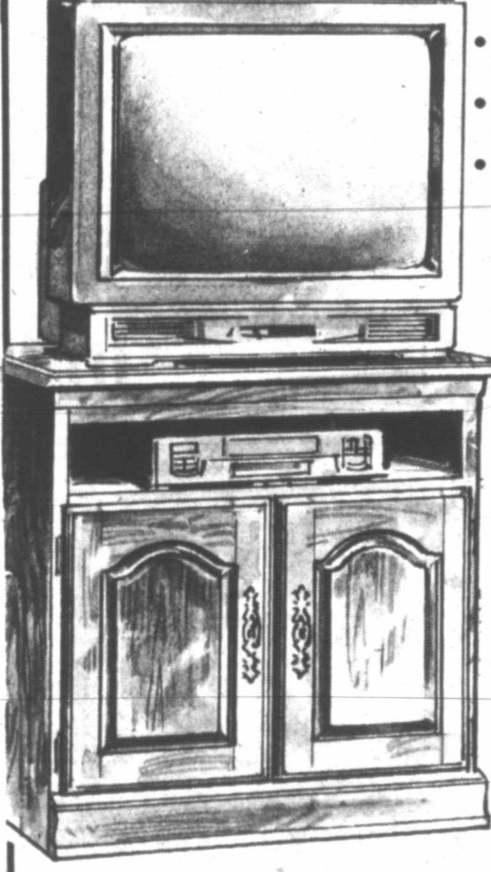
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Yes, please register me to attend the TOMA Seminar.

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No, I won't be able to make the TOMA Seminar but please have an associate contact me for a presentation.



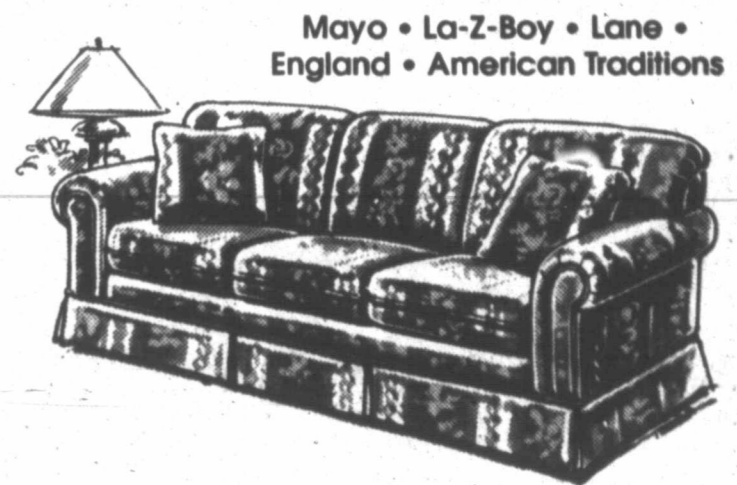
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Women Who Don't Drive Shouldn't Get Free Ride

DEAR READERS: I'll be on vacation between Aug. 18 and Aug. 31. Don't panic — I've selected some of my favorite letters from past years to fill the gap. I hope you enjoy them!



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR ABBY: You seem willing to let readers air their gripes, so here I am with mine: It's women who get free taxi service because they don't drive. "Mrs. I-Don't-Drive" has been bumming rides for years. All her friends are conditioned to pick her up and take her home, and they don't think a thing of it.

who panics in traffic, is freaked out by freeways and lacks the patience, courage or coordination to drive would do the rest of society a favor by not driving.

When you ask how come they don't drive, they'll tell you they don't have the patience, or the coordination, or the nerve to drive a car. Or else they say they panic in traffic, or that freeways freak them out.

It's my theory that these women never bothered to learn because it was easier to bum rides. And cheaper, too.

Abby, there are driving schools galore for anyone who wants to learn. And there's no age limit, either. My neighbor learned how to drive at 62! I've had it with these lazy freeloaders. Thanks for letting me get this off my chest. I feel better now.

EDITH

DEAR EDITH: Glad you feel better, but for my part, anyone

What do you think?

WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: Why should he dictate the terms of a possible reconciliation? Don't take him back unless you find out what went wrong with your marriage in the first place. Before allowing him to come back, see a family counselor, and insist that he get counseling, too. It's available through your Family Service Association. (It's in the phone book.) The organization offers excellent, confidential help, and fees are based on the ability to pay.

DEAR READERS: If you would like your letter published, please include your name, area code and telephone number.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Monday, Aug. 19, 1996

Your chart indicates greater public exposure in the year ahead. Your new position could also provide you with some terrific perks you never anticipated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Do not resurrect issues that angered you previously involving a person who is important to the success of a current project. Try not to shatter this fragile alliance. Major changes are ahead for Leo in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Make sure

to state your zodiac sign.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This could be a mixed day for you financially. Wise management of your resources will be essential in this cycle if you hope to remain effective.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Instead of listening to the constructive advice of a close friend today, you might do something that does not serve your best interests.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Although you might be tempted to do otherwise, manage a critical career situation from behind the scenes today, even if another person takes the credit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Use caution today if you get into a philosophical discussion with a close friend. You can make your points, but you may not be able to keep your friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You might not have an associate's full support today, but you should still have the ability to achieve an important objective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Good intentions could backfire today if you do not assert yourself properly. If you try to

pit one person against another, both will turn against you.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Today, you might be inclined to be possessive, and this could cause problems if you do not use tactful measures to modify your feelings.

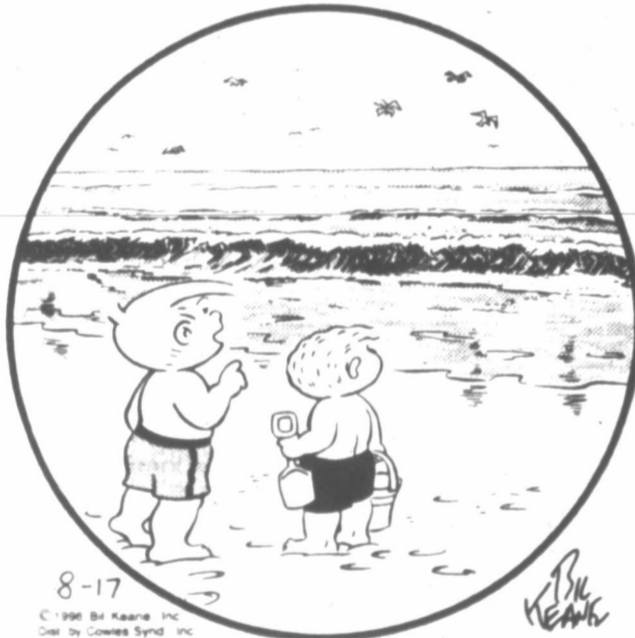
ARIES (March 21-April 19) Decisions that affect your family should not be made independently today. Try to be democratic and let every member of the household participate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In order to be productive today, you must also be methodical and persistent. Do not attack jobs or assignments without having a feasible game plan first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today, you might waver between extravagance and prudence. If you are undisciplined, you might lose valuable resources.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A material issue could be responsible for generating a family dispute today, especially if in-laws are involved. Try not to provoke a fight.

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"Sea gulls are good at hang-gliding."



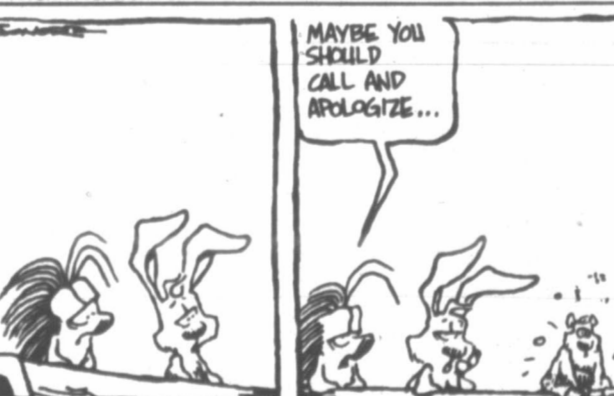
"No, no! I'll take your picture."

The Family Circus

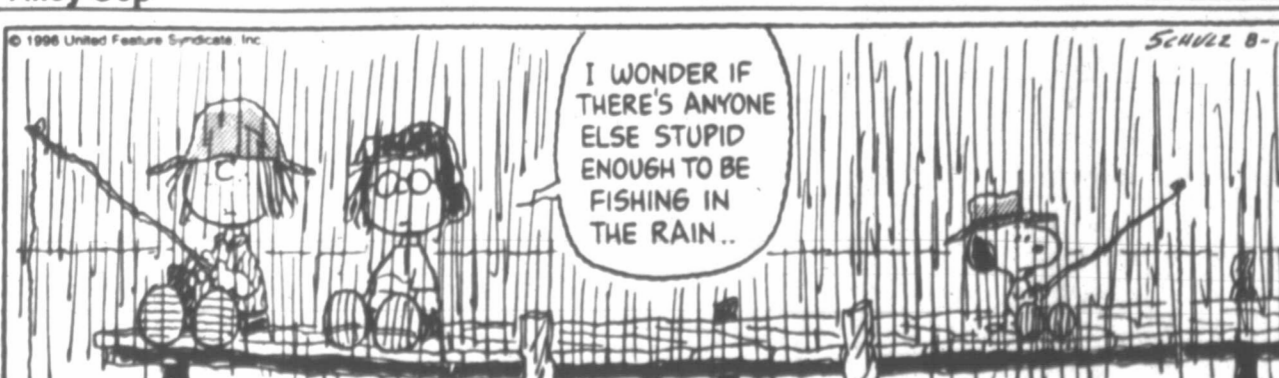


Grizzwells

Marmaduke



Alley Oop



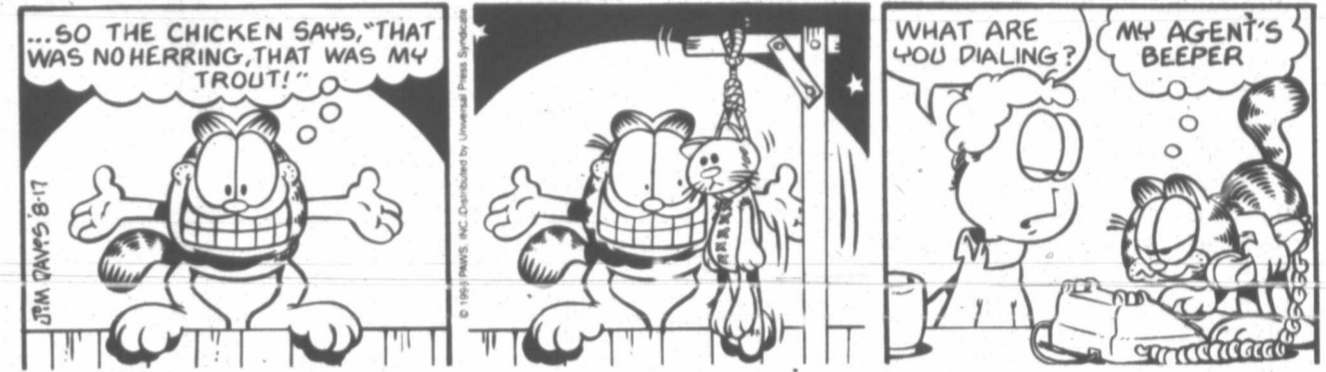
Peanuts



For Better or For Worse



Arlo & Janis



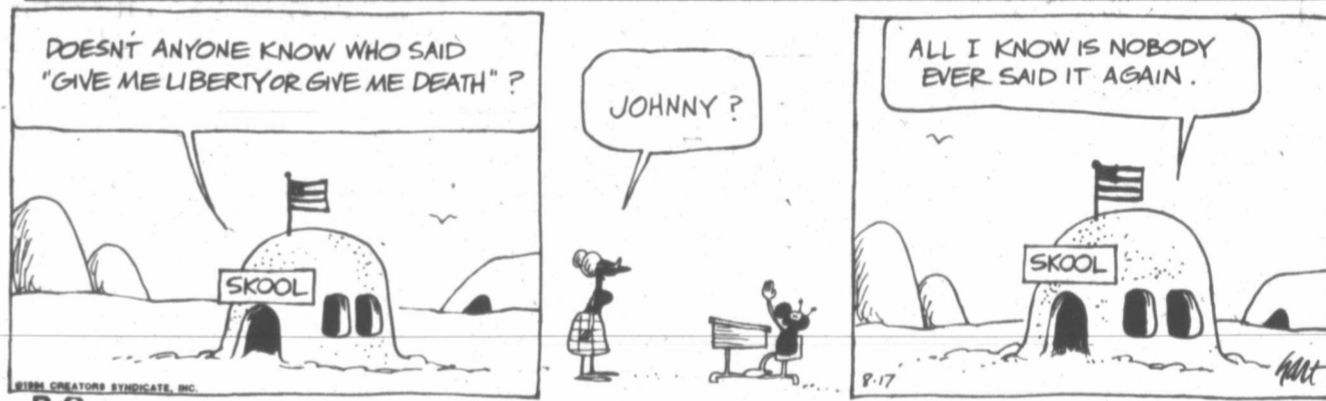
Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



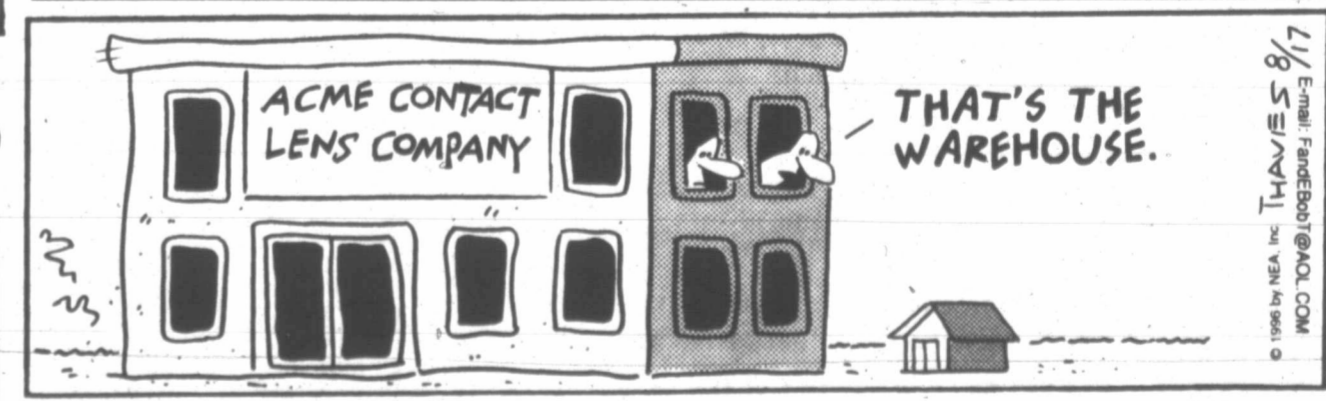
B.C.



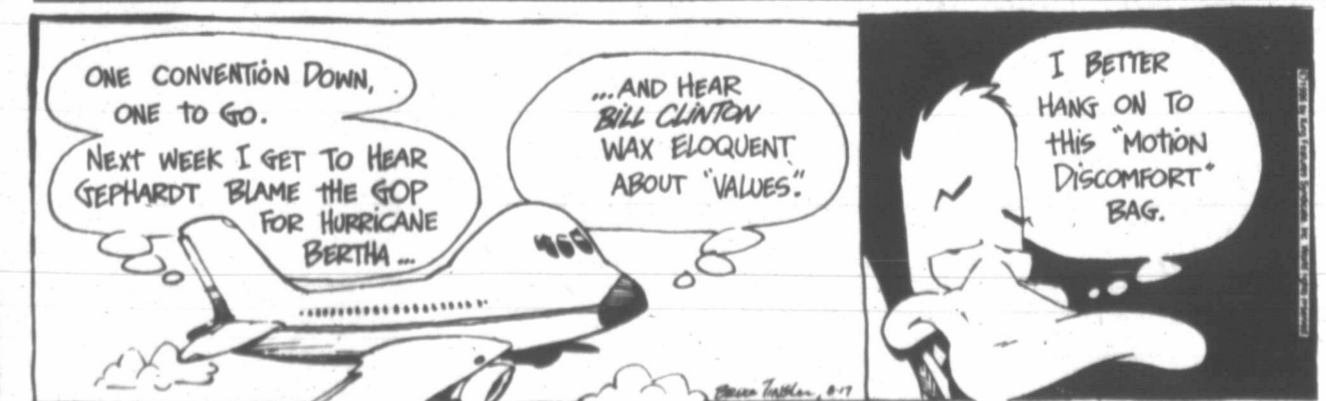
Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank & Ernest



Mallard Filmore

In addition to textbooks, other books can help students in school

By The Associated Press

There are books to help you pass your tests. There are books to help you find your college. There are books for learning, and books for fun. Here are some:

— Do you know how architects establish symmetry in a beautiful building? Or how scientists (or gamblers) estimate probabilities? How engineers make airplanes fly? Or what's behind riddles and puzzles? *How Math Works* (Reader's Digest Books, \$24 hardcover), by Carol Vorderman, illustrates the relevance of mathematics with her descriptions of its history and uses. The book outlines experiments that youngsters can carry out to make this subject seem less abstract.

— If you consider language a game as well as a tool, you'll enjoy the quizzes in *The Reader's Digest Word Power Quiz Book* (\$9.95 paperback), based on and celebrating the magazine's long-running (50 years) feature.

— *Big Words for Little Scientists* (Workman Publishing, \$9.95 paperback, published in October), by Sarah Albee with illustrations by Bruce McNally, uses some largish words ("bioluminescence," "carnivore," "entomology," "trilobite") as departure points to cover basics in various branches of science.

— Author C.L. Brantley populates her instruction with characters named Bridget, Babette, Barnaby, and a fat cat named Beauregard to demonstrate that writing is fun in *Writing Smart Junior* (Princeton Review-Random House, \$12 paperback). She

promises her young readers they can write better book reports, poems, stories, and letters and learn to use the library — and actually enjoy doing these things.

— *Culturescope* (Princeton Review-Random House, \$18 paperback) is out in a grade school edition, compiled by Liz Buffa. She outlines the level of knowledge a student should have at each of the first six grade levels, using a variety of quizzes, exercises and information boxes.

— Splashed throughout with colorful illustrations, *The Scholastic Children's Dictionary* (Scholastic, \$16.95 hardcover) invites browsing as well as reference. Aimed at students 8 and older, the book also has a reference section showing the Braille and American Sign Language alphabets, maps, international flags, and the U.S. presidents.

— Small enough to carry in a backpack but big enough to be useful, *The Kingfisher Illustrated Pocket Thesaurus* and *The Kingfisher Illustrated Pocket Dictionary* (Kingfisher, each \$8.95 paperback), are aimed at the 9- to 13-year-old crowd.

— Those plastic-coated maps used by travelers are now ready for the schoolroom in a series from American Map. Besides the *GeoSlicker United States & World Map*, there are *AstroSlicker* guides to *The Stars* and *The Solar System* (each \$4.95). There also are three-hole-punch versions for the *AstroSlicker* guides (\$2.95).

— Advice for students about to begin college careers abounds in Princeton Review titles from Random House: *Help Yourself:*

Advice for College-Bound Students With Learning Disabilities (\$20 paperback), by Erica-lee Lewis; *International Students' Guide to the U.S.A.* (\$15 paperback), by Ian Jacobs and Ellen Shatswell; *Visiting College Campuses - 1997 Edition* (\$19.95 paperback, published in January), by Janet Spencer and Sandra Maleson; and

Paying for College (\$18 paperback, published in October), by Kalman A. Chany with Geoff Martz.

— *The Scholarship Book* (Prentice Hall, \$25 paperback), by Daniel J. Cassidy, tells the student how to find private-sector scholarships, grants and loans, then advises them how to apply successfully.

— Here come the tests, and the

Princeton Review series from Random House offers help: *Cracking the SAT* (\$29.95 paperback, with CD-ROM), by Adam Robinson and John Katzman; *Cracking the ACT* (\$17 paperback), by Geoff Martz, Kim Magloire, and

Theodore Silver, edited by Alicia Ernst; *Cracking the SAT II: English* (\$17 paperback), by Liz Buffa and Adam Robinson; *SAT Verbal Workout* (\$15 paperback), by Geoff Martz; and *SAT Math Workout* (\$12 paperback), by Cornelia Cocke.

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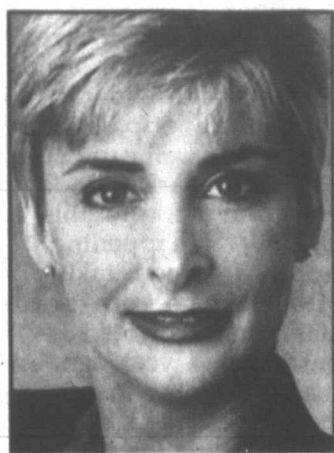
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"THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"

"Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; how know we the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:5-6.) Jesus, disciples were troubled in that Jesus had told him that He was going to leave them (Jn. 13:36-14:5.) They seemed not to understand that He was going back to heaven from whence He had come. And so, Jesus was speaking of the "way" to eternal life in heaven.

To say that He is "the way, the truth, and the life" is equal to saying that He provides and directs the way to eternal life through the revelation of the truth. In His last conversations with His disciples, He reminded them that after He went back to His Father in heaven, the Holy Spirit would be sent to them to guide them. In Jn. 14:26, we read, "But the Comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name. He shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you." Jn. 16:7-13 reveals the same thing. It was the work of the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all the

truth. The apostle Peter writes of "the way of the truth" (2 Pet. 2:2.)

But, as Jesus says, there is no way to come to the Father except through Him. He has made the way by His sacrifice of Himself. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by the way He dedicated for us, a new and living way, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; and having a great priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from and evil conscience; and having our body washed with pure water." (Heb. 10:19-22.) By His sacrifice, He makes the way possible. By the truth we know what that way is. The end result is the life which we desire.

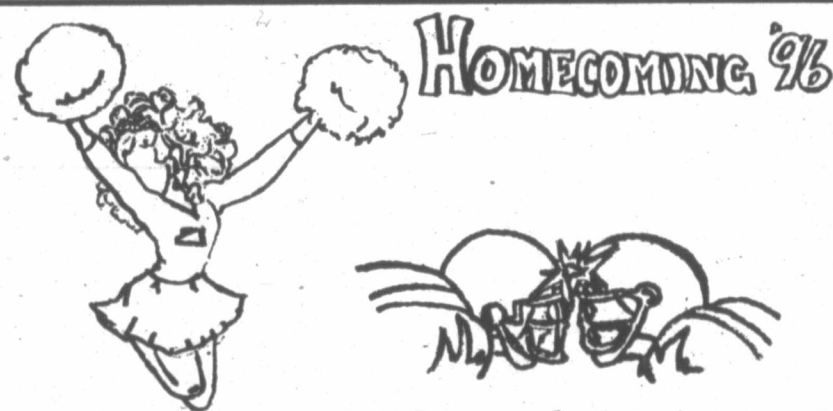
We can only know of the "way" through the revealed word of God. The ways of men are not the ways of God (Isa. 55:8-11.) except the Holy Spirit had revealed the way to the apostles, they never would have known the way. Through their record, we, today, can know the way. It is the way of truth.

-Billy T. Jones

Address all comments or questions to:
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Agriculture

The Market Forecaster

By George Kleinman

WHEAT - (BULL/BEAR)

Outlook: Wheat does have some good things going for it, but as we get closer to the spring wheat harvest, the market will most likely focus on the negative. Scouts report a pretty decent crop coming on in the Dakotas and Canada. Yields could be higher by a few bushels versus last year, but this has to be taken in consideration with the highest acreage in 50 years. This crop could be a big one.

Harvest selling pressure from this section of the country and our northern neighbor could tend to keep a lid on rallies. However, I would be surprised to see a free-fall to under \$4 on the futures as some analysts predict. Demand is just too good. Other than the China cancellations, export demand is robust. Additionally, wheat is a cheaper feed alternative to corn in many locations.

Look for the wheat market to remain choppy, with a near term negative bias, but a more positive longer term outlook.

Strategy: **Hedgers:** We urge wheat farmers to consider the advantages of our sell cash wheat/buy call options strategy. This is an alternative to storage which will still allow you to profit from higher future wheat prices. However, unlike storage it will place a price floor on your potential losses. The most you could lose would be the cost of your options, so you effectively place a floor under the market.

Additionally, you free the cash stored in your wheat which is an asset in itself and can be used more effectively.

Last week new hedgers should have been able to buy the December 440 Chicago wheat call options close to 20 cents. Spring wheat farmers, who did some hedging based on our previous recommendation to buy the September \$6 puts, should continue to hold them.

Traders: Look to go short December above 480, or buy below 420. If either parameter is hit, risk no more than 15 cents for a 25 cent profit objective.

Outlook: (BEAR) At press time, we do not yet have the results of the important August crop report which could change our outlook and affect future price trends. However, barring a spectacular surprise on this report, the outlook remains bearish at this time.

The weather has just been too good, and the crop is generally looking fine. Combine this with the increase in acreage [which I suspect is even higher than what the USDA tells us], and you have the makings of a huge supply increase versus this year's record tightness.

The one risk the marketplace still has is the potential for an early killing frost. Since this crop is behind, this would change the fundamentals considerably. But barring an event like that, I look for the corn market to fade even more as we approach harvest.

Strategy: **Hedgers:** We are 75 percent hedged in the December with an average price above \$3.36. No stops or calls are recommended at this time.

Traders: We remain short December futures just under \$3.50 and own December 360 calls in lieu of a stop. The profit objective is \$3.05.

Outlook: (BULL) Last week, we predicted the packers, who have been in firm control of this market for months now, would be losing their grip. Nobody, no matter how well capitalized, can fight major market fundamentals forever. It appears this is just what's happening as supply/demand is taking over.

Due to high corn prices, the total numbers on feed are 15 percent below a year ago, and the smallest number in many years. The cold storage beef supplies are at 10 year lows. Prices have worked higher over the past few months, and look to me to have quite a bit of room left on the upside!

Strategy: **Feeders:** Our only current hedge recommendation is the previous purchase of the October 69 puts. Put options act as price insurance, and effectively place a price floor under the market, but will never limit your upside price potential when prices go up.

Cow/calf operators: Last week, due to the bullish fundamentals, we suggested "true" hedgers cover any outstanding short futures positions and instead hedge using put options. Puts will give a modicum of price protection, without limiting your upside potential. Selective hedgers remain on the sidelines and are enjoying the benefit of improving prices.

Traders: We still own the February futures under 64. We anticipate this will be longer term trade and suggest leaving the upside open at this time. Risk to a close under 6200.

Aquaculture operations lure more farmers

LOVETTSVILLE, Va. (AP) — When John Lender heads into his poultry barn to feed his 70,000 animals, he needs only a bag of soybean pellets and a net.

That's because he raises fish. He is one of about 650 fish farmers in Virginia and Maryland, many of whom have abandoned traditional crops and livestock in favor of aquaculture.

Their products are mostly shellfish, freshwater and ornamental fish raised in tanks, trays and man-made ponds, and they have proved profitable, grossing nearly \$40 million in sales last year. Nationally, aquaculture receipts totaled more than \$1 billion.

Although most of the fish-farming operations are small,

averaging about 5,000 pounds of fish each year, they have attracted the attention of consumers across the region who want pollutant-free, locally grown products in their restaurants and supermarkets.

"People who pay \$20 for a fish dinner feel good about seeing 'grown in Lovettsville, Va.' on the menu," said Lender's partner, Suzanne Wilcox. "It gives them a comfortable feeling."

While fishermen must cope with occasional schools of sick or undersize fish, farmers can breed and monitor their fish as they grow, feed them a healthy diet and deliver them live or fresh to merchants.

And if a restaurant wants to

sell a half-pound fish fillet that can be cooked in a nine-inch saute pan, the farmer can grow fish to that size.

"We're coming fairly close to producing the perfect fish," said Dr. Brian Nerrie, an aquaculture specialist at Virginia State University. "From a consumer's point of view, it is the perfect fish."

J.P. Bowling's family raised tobacco for 90 years in Charles County, Md., before falling profits prompted them to switch to catfish farming.

"We didn't know anything about raising fish. But I like to catch 'em and cook 'em and clean 'em, so it just seemed natural," Bowling said.

The information and recommendations presented herein are believed to be reliable; however, changing market variables can change price outlooks. Neither Pampa News nor George Kleinman assume liability for their use. Use this section as a guide only. Futures and options trading can involve risk of loss. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Follow the recommendations if they make sense to you and for your operation.

George Kleinman is president of Commodity Resource Corporation (CRC), a licensed brokerage firm which specializes in marketing strategies using agricultural futures and options. CRC welcomes questions — they can be reached at 1-800-233-4445.

Ag briefs

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas cattle farmers are trying to organize their own cooperative to compete with the nation's largest beef packing companies.

The farmers, going under the name U.S. Premium Beef, intend to market at least 1 million head of cattle a year. They already have commitments for 700,000 cattle a year, said Steve Hunt, a Winfield farmer and chief executive officer of U.S. Premium Beef.

Beef cattle are the No. 1 source of farm income in Kansas, accounting for 40 percent of all revenue for farmers and ranchers. Most cattle raised in Kansas are eventually processed by packing plants owned by three companies that control roughly 80 percent of the slaughter of feedlot cattle.

The issue of packer control has heated up over the last two years as an oversupply of beef has pushed cattle prices below profitable levels for most farmers.

Cattle farmers in Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and the Dakotas are also talking about opening their own packing plant. Quad States, a group of several dozen farmers from Iowa and surrounding states, is working on a plan to open a plant with Northern Plains Premium Beef, a cooperative based in Mandan, N.D., with 2,800 members in seven states and two Canadian provinces.

GILBERT, S.C. (AP) — C.F. "Speedy" Fulmer is all ears when it comes to talking crops.

His towering 16-foot cornstalks, in fact, are the talk of Gilbert, where he lives and farms on about 32 acres.

Fulmer, 56, ordered seeds through a newsletter for \$1.50 last winter. He planted them in the spring, and the rest is Jack-and-the-beanstalk history.

"It's weird stuff," Fulmer said. "The stalks are as big as an arm, and the corn comes all the way out of the shucks. They don't know when to quit."

Fulmer said he might need a power saw to break the corn.

He says he didn't do anything special to the corn and used the same fertilizer as on the rest of his crops.

"There was no special potion," he said.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The interest rate on pre-1996 loans from the Commodity Credit

Corp. is 5 7/8 percent this month, up from 5 3/4 percent in July.

The Agriculture Department says the rate for 1996 crop-year loans disbursed this month is 6 7/8 percent, compared with 6 3/4 percent in July.

JEROME, Idaho (AP) — An infestation of voles in south-central Idaho has prompted the state to authorize farmers to use a pesticide on the stubby-tailed rodent.

Grain treated with zinc phosphide is permitted for use on rangelands to control mice and voles, but is not registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for crops.

If an infestation is serious enough, however, the state can allow an emergency exemption as long as it does not threaten human health. The vole population has soared recently, destroying vegetation by gnawing at the roots.

The exemption is good for 15 days and only on potato and sugar beet fields in Jerome, Lincoln, Gooding and Minidoka counties.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma farmers planted 85,000 acres of peanuts this

spring, the lowest acreage total since 1939.

The Oklahoma Agricultural Statistics Service said the total compares with 100,000 acres planted last year. In 1939, 71,000 acres were planted.

Mike Kubicek, executive director of the Oklahoma Peanut Commission, said farmers are finding better profit potential in other crops, including corn, cotton and grain sorghums.

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 600,000 acres have been withdrawn from the government's conservation reserve program under a provision of the new farm law.

The Agriculture Department said even more land will take an early release from the program because of contracts accepted before 1995.

There is no deadline for requesting early termination, but there are restrictions on what types of acreage are eligible.

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\$50.00 WORTH OF GASOLINE FREE !!!

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