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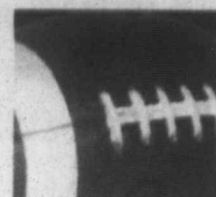
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Ready for Fantastic Five?

Football
predictions
to start Thursday
SEE PAGE 6



THE PAMPA

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Wednesday, August 31, 2005

Volume 101 • No. 1353

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Gasoline prices continue to rise

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gasoline prices in Pampa jumped again overnight, with regular unleaded selling for as high as \$2.98.9 per gallon as of 9 a.m. today, up 29 cents from an average of \$2.69.9 per gallon on Tuesday.

"We were at \$2.59 all day yesterday," said Cindy Powell of Lentz Conoco. "We went up yesterday afternoon to \$2.78. We went up to \$2.98 this morning."

"We go up when our cost goes up," she said.

Other prices displayed on signs around Pampa at 9 a.m. today included

\$2.79.9 at the Taylor Mart on Frederic Street, \$2.81.9 at Utility Oil, \$2.84.9 at the Taylor Mart on West Highway 60, \$2.89.9 at Murphy USA, and \$2.95.9 at Allsup's stores.

United Supermarket's sign showed a price of \$2.79.9 for regular unleaded, but signs taped to the pumps this morning stated, "Sorry, we are temporarily out of unleaded gas."

"I did not know that we were out up there," said Eddie Owens, director of communications for United Supermarkets in Lubbock.

"We raise our prices when we have to buy gasoline at a higher price to us," Owens said.

Hurricane Katrina's effects, not only in the Gulf Coast states she hit but across the nation, will continue to be felt, Owens said.

"Given the volatility in the Gulf and what's going on in New Orleans, I can't imagine it's going to stabilize any time soon," he said.

"Katrina shut down about 633,000 barrels of crude oil production a day when she hit. That amount is 42 percent of the average daily output of the Gulf Coast."

"New Orleans is lost as a seaport city as well, until further notice," he said.

"This is a pretty significant event for all of us," Owens said.

PHILLIPS 66	
ConocoPhillips	
Regular	295 ⁹
Plus	305 ⁹
Premium	315 ⁹

A Pampa Allsup's sign this morning shows how much gas prices have increased.

Ready to Go



Courtesy Photo

The First United Methodist Church praise band, Through the Veil, will perform during Chautauqua at 11 a.m. Monday. Band members are Kelley Dewey, left, Danny Hendricks, Daniel Heare and Mark Wood.

Pampa commission approves budget

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The four Pampa City Commissioners present voted unanimously Tuesday to approve the city's operating budget for 2005-2006.

Commissioner Brad Pingel, serving as mayor pro tem in Mayor Lonny Robbins' absence, brought down the gavel on the first reading of the ordinance needed to approve the budget at a special meeting of the commission Tuesday afternoon following a public hearing on the budget. No one spoke for or against the budget during the hearing.

The proposed budget still has to pass a second and final reading at the commis-

sion's next meeting.

The general fund budget calls for expenditures of \$10 million and projects \$9 million in revenues.

"We're coming into the new fiscal year in really good shape," said Pampa City Manager John Horst. "We're over budget this year on our sales tax revenue. That will give us a little bit more money to take care of some capital needs."

Horst said an expected surplus this year will make up the difference.

"The major change to this year's budget is an increase of \$625,000 in general fund revenues," Horst said.

See CITY, Page 3

Red Cross taking monetary donations for relief

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The Eastern Texas Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross, headquartered at 108 N. Russell in Pampa, is accepting monetary donations for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"Donations will be earmarked for Katrina victims," said Lill Thomason, a Pampa

Red Cross volunteer.

The local Red Cross chapter has a team ready to go to the disaster area if needed, said Jana Gregory, executive director.

"I have people on standby only at this time," she said.

Donations of goods such as food and clothing are not being accepted at this time, due to the problems associ-

ated with getting the items shipped to the Gulf Coast, Thomason said.

The American Red Cross has launched the largest mobilization in its history of resources for a single natural disaster as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

More than 200 Red Cross shelters have housed thousands of residents who evac-

uated their homes in the path of the storm. Over 200 emergency response vehicles were sent to the affected Gulf Coast area to provide hot meals, snacks, bottled water and other relief supplies.

In coordination with the Southern Baptists, preparations have been made to provide more than 500,000 hot

meals daily to residents of the affected area.

Donations to the Hurricane Katrina victims may be made to the local Red Cross office or to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. Internet users may make a secure online contribution by visiting www.redcross.org.

County commission to vote on budget, tax rate

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Commissioners will vote on the 2006 county budget and the county's 2006 tax rate at their 9 a.m. meeting Thursday in the second-floor courtroom of Gray County Courthouse.

The proposed 2006 county budget is \$8,164,534, according to County Auditor Elaine Morris. The county's general fund will receive \$6,495,065 of that total. The road and bridge fund will get \$1,553,840, and the remaining \$120,429 will go toward debt service.

The proposed tax rate for 2006 is

.488926 cents per \$100 valuation. At that rate, a house valued at \$31,206, the median value of a home in Gray County, would owe county taxes of \$156.51 for the year. The proposed rate would be apportioned among the general, road and bridge, and debt service funds to provide the proposed amounts for each fund.

No citizens spoke at either of two public hearings on the proposed tax rate.

The hearings were held Aug. 23 and 26, and were scheduled because although the rate is the same as last year, it will result in more tax revenues collected than last year.

In 2005, \$5,486,273 in property

No citizens spoke at either of two public hearings on the proposed tax rate.

taxes was collected. For 2006, \$5,750,990 will be collected, for an increase of \$264,717.

If the effective rate were to be used for 2006, the county taxes levied against the median Gray County home would be \$149.09, or

\$7.42 less than the amount to be collected at the proposed rate.

Possible changes to the fees, rates and usage policy for Clyde Carruth Pavilion will be discussed.

Commissioners will decide whether to participate in the second regional water plan for Panhandle Water Planning Area.

An engagement letter from Doshier, Pickens and Francis for the 2005 county audit will be presented for consideration.

Other agenda items for Thursday include tax bids for 601-W, Foster and 720 Sloan, and commissioners' meeting dates for fiscal year 2006.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CHAUTAUQUA
LABOR DAY • MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH • CENTRAL PARK
"WE'LL SEE YOU THERE"

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

HILL, Clarine — 4 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

HOLT, Betty J. — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.

PRICE, Ella Faye — 2 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Pampa.

Clarine Hill, 89

Clarine Hill, 89, of Pampa, Texas, died Aug. 30, 2005, at Pampa.

Services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, 2005, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Jeff Taylor, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Hill was born Feb. 25, 1916, in Roberts County, Texas. She married Thomas J. Hill on July 26, 1939, in Shamrock. He preceded her in death on Aug. 18, 2000. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1939, moving from Miami.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church. She was a member of the Pampa Knife & Fork Club, the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, the Pampa Senior Friends, and the Bridge Club.

She was preceded in death by two sons, James Phillip Hill in 1944, and Tommy Hill on May 13, 2002; a great-granddaughter,

Krista Patton in 1987; and a great-great-granddaughter, Mickala Miller in 2003.

Survivors include one daughter-in-law, Nita Hill of Pampa; two sisters, Frances Block of Hereford, and Betty Woods of Tulsa, Okla.; one brother, E.R. "Buddy" Finch of Amarillo; three grandchildren, Rory Hill and wife Margaret, Beth Rice and husband Clay, and Jana Patton and husband Rick, all of Pampa; seven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; special friends, Mary McCrary, Kent, Donna, Matthew and Mitchell Crow; and caregivers, Donna Gordy, Paula Burns, Stacey Wells, Lorena Reeves and Janet Stone.

The family requests memorials be to Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065; or the First United Methodist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981.

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



Hill

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northeast.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. North-northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 83. North-northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-southeast.

Thursday Night: A 20 per-

cent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 64. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 91. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 90. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly

cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 89. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 64.

Labor Day: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 85.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat 3.10
Milo 3.08
Corn 3.96
Soybeans 5.06

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

OXY 82.26 +1.43
BP PLC ADR 67.96 +1.16
Cabot Corp 32.96 -0.11

Celanese 18.30 -0.11
Cabot Oil Gas 42.90 +0.54
Coca Cola 43.38 -0.01
VLO 101.69 +4.90
HAL 60.44 +0.72
TRI 47.08 -0.68
KMI 94.97 +0.86
XCEL 19.01 -0.12
Kerr McGee 87.53 +0.52
XOM 58.98 +0.37
Limited 21.39 NC
Williams 22.02 +0.33
MCD 32.35 -0.05
Atmos 29.01 +0.13
Pioneer Nat 49.15 +0.82

JCP 48.73 +0.07
COP 65.79 +1.38
SLB 85.33 +1.49
Tenneco 17.70 -0.17
CVX 61.35 +0.81
Wal-Mart 44.86 -0.33
OKE 33.56 +0.20
NS Grp 41.37 +0.92s

New York Gold 431.40
Silver 6.74
West Texas Crude 69.81

Betty J. Holt, 82

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Betty J. Holt, 82, died Aug. 28, 2005, at Englewood.

Graveside services are set at 10 a.m. Thursday in Fairview Cemetery in Pampa with the Rev. Carl Novian, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating.

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

Mrs. Holt was born June 3, 1923, at Breckenridge, Texas, and graduated from Pampa High School in 1940. She married Howard Holt on May 12, 1941, at Guymon, Okla., he died on Jan. 2, 1991.

Mrs. Holt, a longtime Pampa resident,

relocated to Sparks, Nev., in 1962 and to Englewood in 1999.

She was employed by the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1988 as assistant postmaster after 24 years of service, and formerly belonged to First Baptist Church in Pampa.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Clinton Davis in 1935.

Survivors include two sons, James Holt of Vienna, Va., and Jerry Holt of Centennial, Colo.; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

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

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents today.

Tuesday, Aug. 30

Nine traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were received from the 1100 block of East Francis and the intersection of Alcock and Price streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Kentucky and Charles streets, the 100 block of East Harvester, the 900 block of West Wilks and the 600 block of North Hobart.

Motorist assistance was rendered in the 1800 block of North Hobart.

Emergency medical services assistance was rendered in the 600 block of North Hobart and the 800 block of Barnes.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 900 block of North Hobart.

Animal complaints were received from the 1200 block of South Nelson and the police department lobby.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Browning and Cuyler streets, the intersection of Rham and Faulkner streets, the 1100 block of Alcock, the 1200 block of North Wells, the 800 block of Duncan, the intersection of 19th and Sumner streets and the 500 block of South Russell.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 1100 block of South Dwight.

Warrant service was attempted on two occasions.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

A missing person call was received from the 1300 block of Christine.

A 17-year-old runaway was reported in the 800 block of Brunow.

Sexual assault was reported in the police department lobby.

An offense against family was reported in the police department lobby.

One suicide attempt was reported.

Criminal mischief was reported at Doug Boyd Motors, 701 W. Brown. Windows were broken out of 15 vehicles. Estimated value of damage is unknown.

A call concerning a gas drive-off was received from Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Twiford.

Burglary of a building was reported at Beauty 2000, 329 N. Hobart. Damage to two windows totaled approximately \$150. A cash register was broken into, and an unknown amount of change was taken.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported at Fenton Motor Co., 123 N. Hobart. Estimated value of the vehicle is unknown.

Information concerning unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was given in the police department lobby.

A forgery call was received from the 100 block of North Cuyler.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Saturday, Aug. 27

7:21 a.m. — A 2004 Jeep Liberty, driven by Vicki Sheryl Durso, 57, 12017 White Acre Road, collided with two dumpsters in the 600 block of West 23rd Avenue.

The second dumpster then rolled toward a building and broke through the outside layer of the building's wall. No injuries were reported. Durso was cited for hit and run involving a fixed object.

Monday, Aug. 29

7:30 a.m. — A 1998 Ford F-150, driven by Mark Luther Elms, 53, 1542 N. Williston, and a 2004 Schwinn S350 electric scooter, driven by an 11-year-old female, collided at the intersection of Duncan and Worrell streets. The scooter driver and a 6-year-old passenger on the back of the scooter reported possible injury; treatment/transport by Guardian EMS ambulance was refused. No citations were issued.

Tuesday, Aug. 30

8:52 a.m. — A 1989 Chrysler New Yorker, driven by Herman R. Jeter, 93, 420 Magnolia, and a 1984 Peterbilt 359, driven by Lesley D. Price, 37, Rowlett, collided in the 200 block of West Kentucky. No injuries were reported. Jeter was cited for following too closely.

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, Aug. 30

Richard Lee McCuin, 29, Phoenix, Ariz., was arrested on a bond surrender for possession of marijuana, and a grand jury indictment.

Michael Heath Honeycutt, 30, 1831 Faulkner, was arrested on a warrant for unlawful carrying of a weapon.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following call during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Aug. 30

5:12 p.m. — One unit and five firefighters responded to a call in the 600 block of North Hobart on a medical assist.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, Aug. 30

7:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2000 block of Duncan and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

3:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 900 block of South Nelson. No transport.

5:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 600 block of Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of Barnes and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:25 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

Wednesday, Aug. 31

5:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Foster and transported a patient to PRMC.

MEDICAL

Canada drug law put on hold

AUSTIN (AP) — A new state law that would help Texans buy less expensive prescription drugs from Canada has been halted pending review of a complaint that the provision violates a federal drug import law.

The provision requires the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to inspect up to 10 Canadian pharmacies to ensure they meet Canadian and U.S. safety standards, and post the information on a Web site to help consumers order drugs. The law goes into effect Thursday.

But the board doesn't plan to act on the regulations it has drafted until Attorney General Greg Abbott rules on the legality of the law, said Gay Dodson, the board's executive director/secretary.

The review stems from a letter written by Randall W. Lutter, an acting associate commissioner with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, expressing concerns about potential health and safety risks with the legislation. He said the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act would override

the state law.

The State Board of Pharmacy responded to the FDA by seeking Abbott's opinion, which may come late this year, Dodson said.

The inspection of Canadian pharmacies, as outlined in the new state law, "is not equivalent to licensure," Dodson said in a letter to Abbott. "However, the procedure prescribed by the Legislature would be equivalent to the board condoning, if not promoting, these Canadian pharmacies shipping prescription drugs into Texas."

The sponsor of the new state requirement, Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, said the provision doesn't violate federal law and would help promote health and safety standards.

"States clearly have the right and responsibility to protect the health and safety of their residents, and Texas has a compelling interest to inspect Canadian pharmacies as long as they continue to solicit drug sales to Texans," Hochberg said in a letter to the attorney general.

CITY BRIEFS

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

TEMPORARY HOME LOST PET. Male, mini needed for 1 loveable dog, while owner is hospitalized. Presently chained in fenceless back yard. Food will be furnished. 665-2826.

SALE, THURS. 12-6. Baby bedding, strollers, swing, log holder, lake toys, hope chest. 1800 N. Price Rd., (north off of Kentucky) 1st house on right, in brown barn.

CLASSES BEGIN Tues., Sept. 6th, Beaux Arts Dance Studio. Jeanne Willingham, 669-6361 or 669-7293.

TOBACCO AWARENESS Classes for Adolescents. Genesis House- now enrolling for Sept. 6, 8, 13, 15th, 665-7123.

Nine state parks targeted for closure, transfer

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will close or transfer nine state parks unless it finds about \$2 million more annually in state funding, according to a letter sent to state leaders.

About 40 jobs are at stake, said the letter sent Tuesday from Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Robert L. Cook to Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and Speaker Tom Craddick.

In the letter Cook asks for more money from the Legislative Budget Board to

save the park jobs.

The request follows the proposed sale of 46,000 acres of Big Bend State Park, which was defeated.

The 10-member board meets Sept. 14 to consider tapping \$500 million in available funds that were vetoed from the state budget in June by Gov. Rick Perry.

Perry is asking for \$295 million to go for public school textbooks.

"While funding limitations are driving the reduction in force in the state

parks division, it is important to note that the department has identified nine state park sites which could be transferred to another entity for operation or closed without having a significant constituent impact," Cook wrote.

State park officials would not name the nine parks, saying it would be unfair to employees facing layoffs.

However, the Parks and Wildlife Commission decided to transfer two parks last week. Bright Leaf State Park will go to the Austin

Community Foundation. And Matagorda Island State Park will become a state wildlife management area, meaning its access will be limited, said Walt Dabney, state parks director.

The \$2 million request includes \$1.37 million for jobs and more than \$625,000 for operating costs.

Information from: Houston Chronicle, <http://www.houstonchronicle.com>

'Stepping out'



Lori Boyd, Linda Dittmore, Sherry Walker, Tammy Rodriguez, Julie Beck and Cheryl Shuck, all Lamar Elementary School staff members, show off their shoes in preparation for Lamar's recent "Stepping Out on the Road to Success" fall open house. The school's theme for the year is "The Road to Success." Traffic signals and rally pennants are being used to decorate the halls and display case. This fall Lamar has 432 children in its enrollment.

Bush frees oil from petroleum reserve

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration will release oil from federal petroleum reserves to help refiners affected by Hurricane Katrina, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said today.

The move, which was expected later in the day, is designed to give refiners a temporary supply of crude oil to take the place of interrupted shipments from tankers or offshore oil platforms affected by the storm.

The U.S. Minerals Management Service said Tuesday that 95 percent of

the Gulf of Mexico's oil output was out of service. Oil prices surged back above \$70 in European markets on Wednesday but slipped quickly to \$69.56 after disclosure of the decision involving the release of supplies from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Eight refineries were shut down due to Katrina — half of them producing gasoline.

The government's emergency petroleum stockpile — nearly 700 million barrels of oil stored in underground salt caverns along the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast —

was established to cushion oil markets during energy disruptions.

The production and distribution of oil and gas remained severely disrupted by the shutdown of a key oil import terminal off the coast of Louisiana and by the Gulf region's widespread loss of electricity, which is needed to power pipelines and refineries.

The Environmental Protection Agency, seeking to avert a severe supply crunch, announced it would temporarily allow the sale of higher-polluting gasoline in

Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi because those states can't provide enough fuel to consumers that meets Clean Air Act requirements.

The agency also said those states will be allowed to use motor vehicle diesel fuel with a sulfur content higher than the 500 parts per million standard for the next two weeks through ozone season.

President Bush, meanwhile, was returning to Washington today to oversee the federal response to Katrina.

Astrodome to take refugees fleeing from Superdome

HOUSTON (AP) — At least 25,000 of Hurricane Katrina's refugees, a majority of them at the New Orleans Superdome, will travel in a bus convoy to Houston starting today and will be sheltered at the 40-year-old Astrodome, which hasn't been used for professional sporting events in years.

Rusty Cornelius, administrative coordinator for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, told The Associated Press that initial plans were being made early today.

"We are planning on being able to do a full shelter operation for 25,000 people," he said.

Cornelius said the refugees would be bused to Houston, but all would not necessarily be on the road at the same time. He said specifics of the transport and housing for the refugees were still being worked out with Red Cross and state government officials.

"We want to accommodate those people as quickly as possible for the simple reason they have been

through a horrible ordeal," he said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry talked to Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco early today and agreed to the plan, Perry

'We are planning on being able to do a full shelter operation for 25,000 people'

— Rusty Cornelius
Harris County official

spokeswoman Kathy Walt said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will provide 475 buses for the transfer, and the Astrodome's schedule has been cleared through December for housing evacuees, Walt said.

Texas also is looking at the possibility of using the Ford Center in Beaumont for

some long-term housing for other evacuees from Louisiana who may be staying in hotels, motels and campgrounds.

"Obviously from Gov. Perry's standpoint, Texas is going to lend a helping hand and take care of those who have been devastated," Walt said.

Blanco has said she wanted the Superdome — which had become a shelter of last resort for about 20,000 people — evacuated within two days, along with other gathering points for storm refugees.

The situation inside the dank and sweltering Superdome was becoming desperate: The water was rising, the air conditioning was out, toilets were broken, and tempers were rising.

The Astrodome is the famed landmark that helped put Houston on the map four decades ago.

It still stands but is dwarfed by Reliant Stadium, the Houston Texans newly constructed home.

The Astrodome opened in 1965, 10 years before the Superdome in New Orleans.

Red Cross has large task

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Hurricane Katrina victims in Red Cross shelters is up to 45,000 and growing, the rescue organization reported today.

Some 250 shelters were open in the storm damaged area and the Red Cross had set up 15 emergency kitchens capable of feeding 350,000 people, spokeswoman Deborah Daley said.

"This is our largest mobilization in the history of the organization," she said.

"We are focused on providing the most elemental essentials ... food, shelter and water," she added.

Emergency response vehicles are also in the area providing food but they are operating from fixed bases since they cannot yet get into neighborhoods because of the damage, Daley said.

She said that it has been a major undertaking to get people and materials into the region and that it's going to take time.

Meanwhile, the Navy is sending four ships carrying water and other supplies to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina, while medical disaster teams and Red Cross workers from across the country converged on the devastated Gulf Coast region.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency urged people who evacuated before the storm to stay where they are.

City

Continued from Page 1

About \$500,000 of that is expected to come from an increase in sales tax revenues. The remainder is a federal grant for a fire truck that the city has already received.

Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said she is awaiting word on the new fire truck, but it's being built about 45 miles from New Orleans. She said that she had tried to call the factory earlier Tuesday, but couldn't get through. She cautioned delivery of the truck might be delayed because of Hurricane Katrina.

Horst said the operating and maintenance budget is being expanded by \$807,000 for next year. About \$603,000 of that is for the new personnel pay plan, which will go into effect in October.

He said that \$75,000 had been budgeted to pay the county for jail services, up from \$50,000 this year. Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner termed the fee as fair, although he said that he and the city manager were looking other alternatives.

Horst said that changes to the pro shop at Hidden Hills Golf Club were not in the budget. The commission approved a proposal earlier

this month to sell beer at the golf course. The city manager said he and the police chief are to meet with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission next month to see what needs to be done to sell beer at the golf course.

"We're looking at \$1.1 million more in total expenditures than we had this year, \$300,000 of that is capital expenditures," Horst said.

Those include the new fire truck, phone system and computer software for the police department.

"We've added two additional employees," Horst said. "One in streets and one in animal control."

The landfill's budget will remain about the same for next year, but this year, Horst said, the city is buying a compactor.

"We won't have that capital expenditure next year," he said.

Horst said that the city has a few more water connections now than last year.

"We're hoping we get enough customers that we'll be able to break even there," he said.

The city manager said the library's budget is close to what it was last year.

"There's not any big change," Horst said.

There will be public hearings on the tax rate at 4 p.m. Tuesday and again at 4 p.m. on Sept. 9 in the city commission chambers.

One day

you have urine loss.
The next day you don't.
End of story.



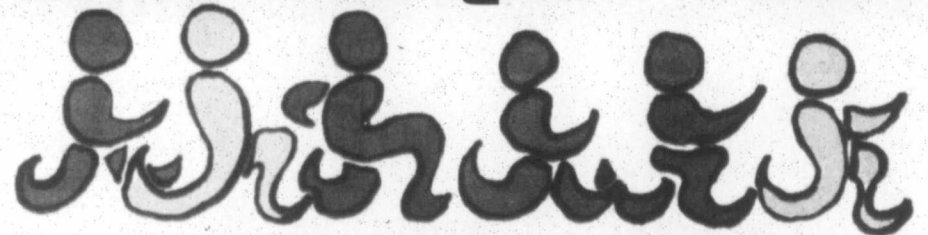
One treatment and it's done.

GYNECARE TVT® Tension-free Support for incontinence can stop that "can't laugh, can't sneeze" urine loss with just one 30-minute outpatient treatment. And it's clinically proven. 98% of women treated seven years ago are still dry, or report significantly less leakage. Although all medical procedures involve risks, GYNECARE TVT has a long safety record. It's not for everyone, including women who are pregnant or plan to be. Ask us how to stop that urine loss now.

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CHAUTAUQUA 2005



Fun Run / Walk • 5K Run

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

When: September 5, 2005

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

Entry Fees: Register Day Of Race

•Fun Run/Walk \$5.00 & 5K \$10.00

ENTRY FORM

Last Name
First Name
Age ☐ Male ☐ Female
City & State

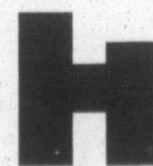
Check One ☐ 5K ☐ Fun Run

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

☐ Adult/Medium ☐ Adult/Large ☐ Adult/X-Large

All Entry Fees Donated To Pampa United Way

Sponsored By



PAMPA
REGIONAL
MEDICAL
CENTER

5-K MALE	5-K FEMALE	FUN RUN MALE	FUN RUN FEMALE
19 & UNDER	19 & UNDER	8 & UNDER	8 & UNDER
20-29	20-29	9-11	20-29
30-39	30-39	12-15	30-39
40-49	40-49	16-19	40-49
50+	50+	50+	50+

Viewpoints

It could be said bologna makes life more interesting

Make way for another goofy press release. This one may even make my top 10 most ludicrous list of facsimiles — e-mail is in another category. Lest you think me too harsh, let me now say that I firmly believe that it's just this type of bologna that makes the world so interesting.

That said, a facsimile from Goldstein Communications worries consumers may not be adequately prepared for "the impending fall chill" which it declares, and rightfully so, "is around the corner."

These media architects (my favorite title next to FDIC which, in case you

didn't know, stands for funeral director in charge as well as Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) write such delightful and irreverent hokey it's hard to believe they want anyone — much less the consumers I assume they are targeting — to take them seriously.

At the bottom of the first paragraph, the release points out that "(T)hree distinctive fall trends leading the pack for the upcoming season can best be described as 'Printed Matter', 'Cape Crusader', and 'Full Frontal Fur'."

Do fashions require a patent? Do designers, like perfume makers, compete for never heard of before

titles not already taken by some other "fashionista?"

Because then I can kind of, sort of, see why the names would be so flamboyant, but can you imagine decking yourself out for a fancy dress party in an elaborate creation topped by an item referred to as "Cape Crusader"?

Oh, yeah, maybe if you belong to the same family as "The Incredibles." And, "leading the pack?" Makes you wonder if these furs are

fully dead or if, say, "Full Frontal Fur" might not suddenly begin trying to gnaw on your neck (or other parts.)

OK, that was gross. In case you're interested, 'Printed Matter' "is

the epitome of boldness and definitely not for the introverted," the press release says.

"As seen in the latest fall collections," the article continues, "from designers like Andre & Lisa Bisang, Feraud for Natural Furs, and

Helen Yarmak, bold and proud is in! Meant to be worn with a strut in your step, these in-your-face pieces definitely capture the attention of everyone in their path."

The release explains "Cape Crusaders" as a line trending towards "short bolero and caplet styles for minimal coverage and maximum exposure."

Isn't that a contradiction? For what other purpose, pray tell, do you purchase a fur if not for its "coverage?"

A "fashionista" I am not, I confess.

I digress. "Reminiscent of old school Hollywood glam, these 'shrug inspired' fur

styles (read "Cape Crusaders") are highly functional and extremely user friendly. Not just for warmth, these tiny but mighty fur jackets accentuate a favorite pair of jeans or ball gown to their fullest."

We go from tiny to mighty, which is it? I know, I know. It's not meant to be taken literally.

As for "Full Frontal Furs," they are a "wardrobe staple," according to the facsimile.

"Transcending seasons," it says, "these coats are lush and luxurious and universally flattering."

I am not going to write another word.

Skyla Bryant

News Editor



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 31, the 243rd day of 2005. There are 122 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 31, 1886, an earthquake rocked Charleston, S.C., killing up to 110 people.

On this date:

In 1887, Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his "Kinetoscope," a device which produced moving pictures.

'Fashion can be bought. Style one must possess.'

— Edna Woolman Chase
American fashion editor (1877-1957)

In 1954, Hurricane Carol hit the northeastern Atlantic states. Connecticut, Rhode Island and part of Massachusetts bore the brunt of the storm, which resulted in nearly 70 deaths.

In 1962, the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago became independent within the British Commonwealth.

In 1969, boxer Rocky Marciano died in a light airplane crash in Iowa, a day before his 46th birthday.

In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk that ended a 17-day-old strike.

In 1985, Richard Ramirez, later convicted of California's "Night Stalker" killings, was captured by residents of an East Los Angeles neighborhood.

In 1986, 82 people were killed when an Aeromexico jetliner and a small private plane collided over Cerritos, Calif.

In 1988, 14 people were killed when a Delta Boeing 727 crashed during takeoff from Dallas-Fort Worth Airport.

Ten years ago: At the O.J. Simpson trial in Los Angeles, Judge Lance Ito ruled the defense could play only two examples of police detective Mark Fuhrman's racist comments from taped conversations with a screenwriter.

Five years ago: President Clinton vetoed a bill that would have gradually repealed inheritance taxes, saying it would have benefited the wealthiest Americans while threatening the nation's financial well-being.

One year ago: At the Republican National Convention in New York, first lady Laura Bush and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger praised President Bush as a man of strength and compassion. Palestinian suicide bombers blew up two buses in Beersheba, Israel, killing 16 passengers. A woman strapped with explosives blew herself up outside a busy Moscow subway station, killing at least 10 people.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcast journalist Daniel Schorr is 89. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Frank Robinson is 70. Actor Warren Berlinger is 68.



Journalists: The 'powerless experts'

I was flipping about on C-SPAN recently and observed a most strange phenomenon. It was a conference hosted by the editor of a magazine, and it featured a panel of journalists who write for his magazine. They were going to discuss the nuclear issues in Korea and Iran, the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq.

I thought to myself, this is the dumbest thing I've ever seen. Who cares what four journalists think about these issues? One, they are not experts; two, they have no power.

This might come as a shock, but journalists really do have no power, and a journalist who is a true expert on anything is about as rare as a teenage rock singer who can translate Homer from the original Greek. Television has made some journalist celebrities, and, being celebrities, they pretend to be experts and influential. They are neither.

We journalists are mere observers. Like the fans in

the bleachers, we watch the game, and some of us report it and some of us comment on it. But we don't affect it. Furthermore, no matter what our salary is or what our pretensions are, we are in truth blue-collar workers in information factories. We don't own the factory; we don't manage the factory; we don't set policy for the factory. So not only do we not have the power to change the world outside, we don't even have the power to change the factory we work in.

The significance of that is that being blue-collar employees, we don't move in the same social circles as the people who do have power. If the power elite want us to know something, they will tell us; otherwise, we won't have a clue. For example, journalists perform

the charade of covering meetings of heads of state, even though they are not admitted to the meetings.

Thus, they don't really know what was said or agreed upon. They are reduced to rewriting the press release the power brokers hand out or reporting what the big shots say at press conferences.

The best of the journalistic breed are the true reporters. Seymour Hersh, for example, is my ideal journalist. He has an insatiable curiosity, and he digs out facts that the public would otherwise never know existed. He finds and reports the facts without regard for political correctness or ideology or politics. Yet, I think even he would admit that he has no power to change anything. Breaking the story

about the abuses in the Iraqi prison resulted in what we all knew would happen: Low-level enlisted people were dumped on, and higher-ups went scot-free.

Putting facts before the public becomes meaningless if the public and public officials choose not to act on them. Every politician in the country who is smart enough to hire a public-relations adviser is told that the best way to handle unpleasant facts is to ignore them. Truth that is ignored eventually fades out of consciousness, while lies that are repeated become, in the minds of many, truth. Human beings do not act on the basis of truth; they act on the basis of their perception of the truth, and two people can look at the same set of facts and draw entirely different conclusions about their meanings.

As for "experts," true experts are few and far

See MEDIA, Page 5

Charley Reese

Columnist



TSA chief's overall reasoning seems sound

The Transportation Security Administration has been bedeviled by an image of hapless grandmothers getting the full treatment in airports because their metal hips set off alarms. And by reports of mindless watch-list blunders, like repeated refusals to let Sen. Edward Kennedy buy tickets and board flights. And by studies that show the new, expanded, federalized screening force is no better at finding hidden weapons than the private services at work before 9-11.

So it comes as welcome news that the new TSA chief

is urging a "smarter and better," more flexible system of screening for threats to aviation safety. The flying public no doubt applauds the idea of shooing obvious non-threats through security airline pilots, those with top-secret clearance and certain state and federal officials, such as Mr. Kennedy.

The overall idea is sound: to allow TSA's screeners to think and act more strategically and toss out the rigid

playbook that discourages discretion. The new proposals, for example, would allow screeners to decide when to do a patdown after a passenger sets off the metal detector.

Now, it's everyone — the mom with toddlers, grandpa leaning on his cane, etc. — a requirement that defies common sense and potentially distracts screeners from actual threats. One proposed change is bound to shake,

not improve, public confidence; trimming the list of banned carry-on items to allow knives less than 5 inches long, ice picks, razor blades and bows and arrows.

TSA's recommendation came after risk analysis that considered today's safer airplanes, with their reinforced pilot doors and armed air marshals on many flights.

The TSA is now taking public comments. Here's one: Continue to tell passengers to leave their ice picks, blades and bows and arrows at home.

Most people will find the skies friendlier that way.

Texas Thoughts

The Dallas Morning News

THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

email: editor@thepampanews.com

Publisher: Sean Smith

Editor: Dennis Spies

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Census report: Poverty rate rises, incomes flat

WASHINGTON (AP) — A strong economy that was adding jobs wasn't enough to keep more Americans from falling into poverty last year, according to the latest Census Bureau figures. They show 37 million people living under the poverty line, up 1.1 million from 2003.

The report, released Tuesday, marks the fourth consecutive increase in the government's annual poverty measure. It also found that household income remained flat, and that the number of people without health insurance edged up by about 800,000 to 45.8 million people.

Advocacy groups said the numbers were

disappointing, given recent economic growth.

"If the prosperity that some people are experiencing was shared throughout this country, we should have had a decline in poverty," said Deborah Weinstein, executive director of the Washington-based Coalition on Human Needs. "That we've had an increase of more than a million is shocking."

The Bush administration — which has not seen a decline in the poverty numbers since the president took office — said it was not surprised by the new statistics.

Commerce Department spokeswoman E.R. Anderson said they mirror a trend in the

1980s and '90s in which unemployment peaks were followed by peaks in poverty and then by a decline in the poverty numbers the next year.

"We hope this is it, that this is the last gasp of indicators for the recession," she said.

Democrats, however, said the report shows the nation is headed in the wrong direction.

"America should be showing true leadership on the great moral issues of our time — like poverty — instead of allowing these situations to get worse," said John Edwards, the former North Carolina senator and Democratic vice presidential candidate. He

has started a poverty center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Overall, the nation's poverty rate rose to 12.7 percent of the population last year. Of the 37 million living below the poverty level, close to one-third were children.

The last decline in overall poverty was in 2000, during the Clinton administration, when 31.1 million people lived under the threshold. Since then, the number of people in poverty has increased steadily from 32.9 million in 2001, when the economy slipped into recession, to 35.9 million in 2003.

The poverty threshold differs by the size and makeup of a household.

Cop Corner

Well, I hope everyone has gotten off to a great school year. We have finished holding training for our school crossing guards, and I thought you would like to have some information about the school guards and crossings.

There will be four crossing guards, one for each elementary school. The guards at Austin, Travis and Wilson will be right next to each of the schools. The crossing guard for Lamar is positioned at the school zone at Hobart and Crawford.

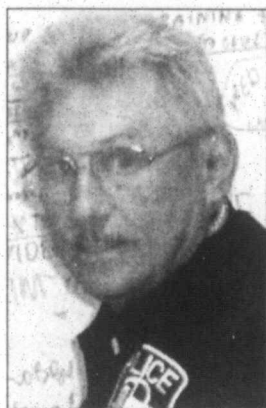
Just a word about the people who help protect your kids at school.

These persons are nearly volunteers. Don't get me wrong, they are paid, but it isn't a lot of money. These folks care about the kids and don't want anything to happen to them. Please take a few minutes when you take or pick up your children to make sure you help the crossing guards do their job.

Some suggestions are: Don't stop in the crosswalk; be sure a crosswalk is clear before proceeding across the intersection; slow way down in the zone; don't double park or stop in the middle of the street to drop off your kids; and talk to your kids about being safe when crossing the street.

If everyone works together, then we will have a safe school year.

Cop Corner provided by Pampa Police Department.



Fred Courtney

STATE

RRC posts monthly oil, gas stats

AUSTIN — The Commission issued a total of 1,313 original drilling permits in July 2005 compared to 1,228 in July 2004. The July total included 1,077 permits to drill new oil and gas wells, 46 to re-enter existing well bores, and 190 for re-completions. Permits issued in July 2005 included 223 oil, 369 gas, 678 oil and gas, 25 injection, zero service and 18 other permits.

Texas preliminary June 2005 crude oil production averaged 894,253 barrels daily, down from the 914,949 barrels daily average of June 2004. The preliminary Texas crude oil production figure for June 2005 is 26,845,369 barrels, a decrease from 27,528,836 barrels reported during June 2004.

In July 2005, operators reported 208 oil, 433 gas, 10 injection and one other completion compared to 290 oil, 830 gas, 27 injection and two completions during July 2004. Total well completions for 2005 year to date are 5,841, down from 6,329 recorded during the same period in 2004. Operators reported 531 holes plugged and zero dry holes in July 2005 compared to 670 holes plugged and 46 dry holes in July 2004.

Texas oil and gas wells produced 428,538,346 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas based upon preliminary production figures for June 2005, down from the June

2004 preliminary gas production total of 449,484,135 Mcf. Texas came from 134,965 oil and 67,589 gas wells.

Table 1 - July Texas oil and gas drilling permits and completions by district

RAILROAD COMMISSION DISTRICT	PERMITS TO DRILL OIL/GAS HOLES	OIL COMPLETIONS	GAS COMPLETIONS
(1) SAN ANTONIO AREA	41	9	11
(2) REFUGIO AREA	76	12	39
(3) SOUTHEAST TEXAS	87	23	35
(4) DEEP SOUTH TEXAS	150	6	98
(5) EAST CENTRAL TX	63	3	23
(6) EAST TEXAS	163	6	75
(7B) WEST CENTRAL TX	59	36	28
(7C) SAN ANGELO AREA	134	31	38
(8) MIDLAND	172	43	21
(8A) LUBBOCK AREA	84	15	1
(9) NORTH TEXAS	196	21	18
(10) PANHANDLE	88	3	46

Table 2 - June Texas top 10 oil and gas producing counties ranked by preliminary production

COUNTY	CRUDE OIL (BBLs)	COUNTY	TOTAL GAS (MCF)
1. GAINES	2,229,843	1. ZAPATA	21,146,429
2. YOAKUM	2,045,213	2. PANOLA	18,971,342
3. ANDREWS	1,926,530	3. FREESTONE	18,489,596
4. HOCKLEY	1,643,281	4. WEBB	16,268,176
5. ECTOR	1,498,193	5. HIDALGO	15,356,730
6. SCURRY	1,273,655	6. PECOS	14,704,557
7. PECOS	894,462	7. WISE	14,236,312
8. CRANE	795,993	8. DENTON	11,670,382
9. MIDLAND	790,304	9. STARR	9,621,577
10. UPTON	723,793	10. CROCKETT	8,918,726

Media

Continued from Page 4

between. As the old joke goes, an expert is somebody from out of town with a briefcase or somebody who the emcee will call an expert. A true expert is someone who knows all there is to know about his subject and, more

importantly, knows what he doesn't know. An expert on Iran, for example, would be someone who reads and speaks Farsi, the language of the country, and had studied in-depth the country's history, culture, art, politics, geography and religion. You don't acquire that depth of knowledge with a few short trips and interviews with English-speaking Iranians.

What would help American journalism at the present would be a big dose

of humility that washes away ego and pretense. Digging out facts and reporting them accurately is a perfectly honorable trade. Whether the public chooses to act on those facts should not be our concern. We are reporters, not reformers, not politicians, not policy-makers, not experts, not prosecutors. We are just plain reporters whose job is to keep our mouths shut and observe and listen and then tell our readers what we saw and heard.

Events calendar

• **Pampa Community Concert Association** Presents "Live on Stage" 2005-06 concert series includes the following programs: Edgar Cruz, guitarist, Oct. 23; Susan Egan, Broadway vocalist, Feb. 18, 2006; St. Petersburg Classic Ballet, March 4, 2006; and The Coats, vocal harmonic band, April 30, 2006. Additional concerts, featuring with other performers, have been scheduled in area towns. For more information on any of these events or a complete area concert schedule, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 665-2631. PCCA memberships are available.

• **The registration deadline for a weekend retreat** in Canyon for writers will be Sept. 6. The retreat, to be led by Jodi Thomas, is sponsored by Writers' League of Texas. The limit is 16 persons. Participants may bring up to 10 pages of manuscript to read. Sessions will be held at Hudspeth House and at the Cornette Library. Participants will also tour Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. For more information, call (512) 499-8914 or e-mail wlt@writersleague.org. Cost will be \$199 for members and \$244 for nonmembers.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influen-

zae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Sept. 7 and 21, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 19, Wheeler School, Wheeler; and 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Sept. 22, Groom Elementary School, Groom.

• **Pants Mandolin will perform from 6-9 p.m.** at Amarillo Museum of Art on Sept. 15. The group was formed about two years ago and consists of five West Texas A&M University students and a Canyon High School senior.

• The local Girl Scout council is seeking adult volunteers to help out with the program. To find out more, call (806) 8740-3372 or 1-800-687-8740.

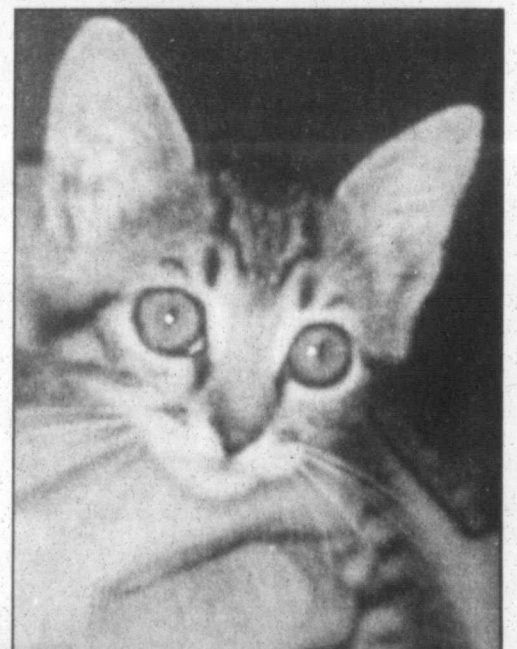
• **Just Between Friends in Amarillo** will be supporting the Eveline Rivers Christmas Project by collecting donations of gently used winter coats or stuffed animals. For more information or to make a donation, call (806) 355-4256.

• **Terra Lingua, a non-profit foreign exchange organization**, is seeking host families for students 15-18 years of age from France. Students have their own spending money and health insurance. For more information, call (866) 540-4029.

Pet of the Week

Sandels...

This little cutie is a female gray tabby kitten. Sandels enjoys having fun and very playful. Come by for her or check out the other tenants available inside animal control!



If You Would Like To Help The Animals Donations Can Be Sent To... City Of Pampa Fund 12 PO Box 2499 • Pampa, Texas 79066

sponsored by... The Pampa News

For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.

NEW HOURS Monday-Saturday 9-6, Office Open To The Public 5-6pm, Closed Sundays & Holidays.

FOUND A PET? Let us know ... we might be able to help them find their home. LOST YOUR PET? Come by the shelter every 2-3 days to check for your animal. We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

Sports Day

Police arrest three

GLENDAL, Calif. (AP) — Police arrested three men in what they say was a sophisticated burglary-robbery gang that stole more than \$1 million in sports memorabilia and jewelry.

A fourth man was being sought.

Confiscated memorabilia included framed and autographed jerseys of basketball greats Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Bill Walton, as well as baseball bats and cards, hockey and golf equipment, and football helmets, police said.

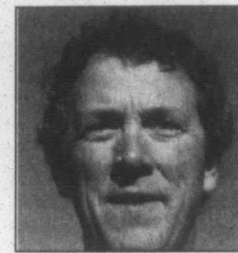
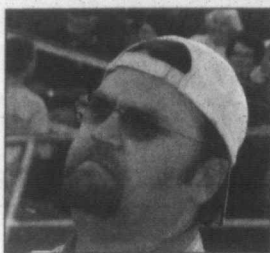
The thieves targeted homes and businesses in Encino, Beverly Hills, Rolling Hills and Glendale,

police said. Authorities believe they cased the targets months in advance by posing as prospective buyers of the properties.

"We think there are probably many more homes and crimes and we hope the owners of the stolen sports stuff will lead us there," Glendale police Sgt. Bob Breckenridge said.

Billy Joe Spencer, 38, Cole Dexter, 28, and Gregory Webster, 33, were indicted on robbery charges, police said. A fourth suspect, Timothy Galloway, 34, was wanted on a warrant charging him with robbery and possession of stolen property, police said.

Sports Day to begin weekly football predictions Thursday



The Fantastic Five are (from left to right), Michael J. Stevens, Sean Smith, Donny Hooper, Ray Boring and Shane Stokes.

Beginning Thursday, and every Thursday through the football season, The Pampa News will bring you the Sports Day Fantastic Five Football Picks.

Sports Editor Michael J. Stevens and Publisher Sean Smith, along with Donny Hooper, Ray Boring and Shane Stokes, will go head-to-head with weekly predictions on

select pro, college and high school games.

To put these pontificators to the test, the Fantastic Five Football Picks will kickoff with 20 games.

Follow along and see how well your predictions compare to that of those of the Fantastic Five.

PAMPA IN ACTION

Volleyball teams on road this afternoon

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Coach Sonia VanGilder and her Lady Harvester volleyball teams will be in Childress this afternoon where they will face the host Lady Bobcats and Vernon. Games are scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

The varsity Harvester squad enters today's meeting coming off an outstanding performance in Graham over the weekend, taking first place in the in Division II of the Silver bracket.

Both the varsity and junior varsity teams will be competing in Childress today.

Correction

In Tuesday's edition of The Pampa News, Sports Day incorrectly listed the Pampa High School base-

ball/softball booster club meeting. That meeting is to be held tonight at 7:30 in the PHS library.

Benson gets first practice, says he's ready to start

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — Cedric Benson's first practice with the Chicago Bears after ending a 36-day holdout was just the opening chapter of a refresher course for the rookie first-round pick who already has bigger things on his mind.

"I definitely want to be a starter. I have no desire to sit with the coaches on the sidelines. So I'm going to be working toward making that happen," Benson said Tuesday, two days after he became the final first-round pick to reach a contract agreement, a five-year deal. Benson spent much of his time in the early session Tuesday away from the rest of the team, working on handoffs and catching short passes.

He'd participated in off-season drills with the Bears

before sitting out training camp and had a basic play-book with him while keeping in shape at the University of Texas.

Benson, the No. 4 overall pick, won't play Thursday in the Bears' exhibition finale and might not be ready to go Sept. 11 in the regular-season opener at Washington.

But asked when he could see himself starting, Benson was bold.

"Realistically, probably Week 2," he said.

What about Thomas Jones, the Bears' current starter who rushed for 948 yards last season in 14 games?

Weighing his answer with a big smile, Benson was diplomatic.

"Um," he said. "I would give him a run for his money."

Olsen to start Monday

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) — Miami coach Larry Coker typically chooses his words carefully, rarely dipping into hyperbole when it's time to talk about a player or an upcoming opponent.

Yet when the subject is Hurricanes tight end Greg Olsen, Coker lets the emotions fly.

"I think he's going to be as good as any tight end that we've had," Coker said.

And that's exceptionally high praise considering Miami's recent track record of producing tight ends, with Bubba Franks, Jeremy Shockey and Kellen Winslow Jr. all having starred for the Hurricanes.

So it begs the question: Should the school long known as 'Quarterback U' now carry a different moniker?

Olsen respectfully thinks so.

"I think it should be known as 'Tight End U,'" he said. "There's no team out there in the country that has put out more guys, first rounders, top-five picks. I don't know how many other schools put out guys like that."

Olsen will start Monday night for the ninth-ranked Hurricanes when they open their season at No. 14 Florida State in an annual Sunshine State showdown. It's a game that's been hyped for months, and both teams are beyond eager to start their year in the national spotlight.

"That's why you come play major college football. That's why you come to schools like Miami or Florida State," Olsen said. "You're not going to be able to find a better environment all season than that Monday night, and it's going to be exciting."

Rangers split pair with White Sox

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — After losses by aces Mark Buehrle and Jon Garland gave the Chicago White Sox 11 defeats in 16 games, it was up to rookie Brandon McCarthy to get the team back on track.

McCarthy delivered, throwing two-hit ball over 7 2-3 innings for his first major league win as the White Sox beat the Texas Rangers 8-0 Tuesday night for a double-header split.

"Right when we needed it," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "This was a big game for the team. I don't know what it means to him, his first major league win, but for the team, that's a big win, huge."

Jermaine Dye had two homers and six RBIs for the White Sox, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

McCarthy (1-1) was called up from Triple-A Charlotte earlier in the day to make his sixth major league start. He held the Rangers hitless over the first 4 1-3 innings until Alfonso Soriano's double.

"After the first game, I felt like it was about time I came in and contributed my part, and did well," McCarthy said.

In the first game, rookie left-hander C.J. Wilson allowed one run and two hits in five innings of relief for his first major league win, Mark Teixeira drove in six runs and hit a pair of two-run homers off Garland, and the Rangers won 8-6.

McCarthy struck out two and walked one, allowing only two runners as far as second. Bobby Jenks pitched 1 1-3 innings

to finish the White Sox's eighth shutout of the season.

Dye had the 10th multihomer game of his career and first of the season while matching his career high for RBIs.

"We came out and swung the bats good in both games," Dye said. "We had some tough luck in the first game but we bounced back in the second game."

Chicago built a 3-0 lead after two innings against Edison Volquez (0-1) in his first major league start.

Carl Everett drove in the first run with a first-inning sacrifice fly and Dye made it 3-0 in the second with a two-run homer.

Volquez's debut ended with two outs in the fifth after Aaron Rowand's run-scoring single extended Chicago's lead to 4-0. Dye had an RBI single off John Wasdin in the fifth for a 5-0 advantage.

Scott Podsednik had three hits in the second game and Rowand went 5-for-8 with four RBIs in the doubleheader.

Volquez allowed five runs and six hits in 4 2-3 innings.

"I was nervous in the first inning, but in the second inning I was just throwing," Volquez said. "I felt good that they gave me an opportunity to pitch. I feel a little bad because I wanted to win my first game in the big leagues."

Dye added his 25th homer, a three-run drive off Wasdin in the seventh, to make it 8-0.

Ensberg HR leads to 5-2 Astro win over Reds

HOUSTON (AP) — Wandy Rodriguez has been a pleasant surprise for the Houston Astros.

Rodriguez pitched five strong innings and Morgan Ensberg hit a three-run homer to help the Astros rally past the Cincinnati Reds 5-2 Tuesday night and close within a half-game of the NL wild-card lead.

Rodriguez (9-6) won for the fifth time in his last seven decisions, allowing one run and four hits and dropping his ERA from a team-high 6.16 to 5.94.

"Nine wins, that's pretty good for a guy who didn't figure in your rotation at the start of the year," Houston manager Phil Garner said. "He pitched a nice, crisp game. He was only in trouble in that one inning. That kind of performance gives the team a

lift, especially when we needed one."

Ensberg's 34th home run highlighted a five-run fifth inning for the Astros.

Houston (69-62) is tied with the New York Mets in the wild-card race, just behind Philadelphia and Florida (70-62).

"The key to the game was Wandy threw five great innings," Ensberg said. "Tonight Wandy was just outstanding. If we score five runs every night, I'm convinced we'll go to the playoffs. We've done such a poor job of scoring for a bunch of guys who are pitching their tails off."

The Astros have backed Rodriguez with an average of 7.78 runs a game, more than double the team-low 3.61 given Roger Clemens. Rodriguez started the season at Triple-A Round Rock.

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You have a way of smiling and voicing your thoughts that melts any resistance. Use this gift this year, and you will succeed at nearly anything you do. Often, you don't see partners and friends clearly, and you become disappointed. Whose fault is this? Toss your rose-colored glasses, and you will be less disappointed. Still, you need time alone to relax and not become overreactive. If you are single, you draw others like honey does a bee. Date several people for a while before committing. If you are attached, you'll enjoy each other's company even more. Do more together. LEO understands you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Any risk-taking with money might have you going "ouch" for a long time. Still, you are lucky. Where a partner could have been ambivalent, he or she now flows with love and caring. Enjoy and don't question. Tonight: Heat up the night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Others remark about the quality of your life. You have worked long and hard to achieve these results. Your willingness to put extra work and time into a project will pay off. A partner or associate chips in. Tonight: Order in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Though you feel outlandishly flirtatious, save this behavior until later. Charge some of your libido energy into your work. Your ideas flow like an end-

less stream. Share a joke or two to lighten others up. Tonight: Now you can flirt. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might be on the verge of a major domestic change or expenditure. What you need to know and evaluate is if this purchase will make you happier. Be cost-conscious. The same item can have many different prices. Your job: find the lowest. Tonight: Are you ready to buy yet?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others clearly approve of and appreciate what you are doing. You seem to choose the right words and the right time to express yourself. Someone might have deeper feelings for you than he or she is revealing. Be especially sensitive if you don't feel the same way. Tonight: Wish upon a star.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You have strong instincts with finances. You are capable of tremendous gains, though at the same time you could spend too much. Know when to put a halt to crazy spending. A gift needs to be thoughtful, not expensive. Tonight: Don't overspend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You seem to do no wrong. Others respond positively to whatever you do. Success comes through groups rather than individuals. Still, know that your charm isn't limitless; there needs to be something behind it. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You know what is going on, but you might not share your opinions and facts. A secret of yours or one shared with you by someone close needs to be kept hush-hush. Others might wonder why you have such a big smile on your

face. Tonight: A force to be dealt with. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You have the ability to visualize and create. You might want to back up ideas with facts and different plans. Prepare to break out of the box in your thinking patterns. Associates are enthusiastic. Suggestions come from left and right. Tonight: Look past the obvious.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Deal with a partner, and you'll find that everyone responds positively. Others simply are in a good mood and see life positively. Open up to possibilities. You might be up for a pay raise or promotion. Tonight: Dinner for two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Others seem to take the high road, which might be a relief. How you see someone you care about could change dramatically. Let others share more of themselves. Don't key into any issues. Tonight: Be willing to try something new.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Dive into work; be willing to work with another's suggestions. Together you make quite a team. You accomplish a lot and even get to understand each other better. Examine a new idea that heads your way. Tonight: Stroll on home.

BORN TODAY

Actress Lily Tomlin (1939), singer Conway Twitty (1933), singer Gloria Estefan (1957)

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

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AXYDLBAAXR is **LONGFELLOW**

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

8-31 CRYPTOQUOTE

OKCY V FKWYD WG JUYC.

WF'G JUYC. JUY'F XUUB

HVLB. XUUB EUQOVQJ FU

MUTQ YCPF UHZCLFWNC.

— DCY. DCUQDC L. SVQGVXX

Yesterday's Cryptquote: WE ARE WHAT WE PRETEND TO BE; SO WE MUST BE CAREFUL WHAT WE PRETEND TO BE. — KURT VONNEGUT JR.

Moove on in!

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BRAUM'S ICE CREAM AND DAIRY STORES

EOE

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 15-year-old girl. My childhood was not a normal one. I was molested by a man that I called Dad. Last summer he was sentenced to 15 years to life -- which is a severe punishment for him.

Abby, his family lives right across the street from me. Many times when I see them, I want to go over and say I'm sorry for what I have put them through. But I wanted it to stop -- so I told. Do you think I should apologize to them? -- **FEELING GUILTY IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: If anyone is owed an apology, it is you -- not the family of the man who sexually abused you. YOU are the victim in this situation, not the molester, who is where he belongs for his criminal act, and not his relatives. You did the right thing by telling what he did. It's common for victims of sexual crimes to feel guilt. Too often they blame themselves and wonder if they did something to deserve it. It doesn't help that abusers reinforce this notion by saying, "See what you made me do?" Of course, that is the big lie. Adults are supposed to control their impulses. Counseling could help you understand this, and I hope your mother or guardian will see that you get some through a victim's assistance program or the Department of Mental Health in your community.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Duncan" for five years. It's my second marriage. I thought we were getting along well, but now I'm wondering if he's having an affair.

There is this woman, "Lucy," he claims is only a friend, who lives about 70 miles from us. I started getting suspicious when she called him one night when the two of us were in bed. (He immediately hung up

the phone.) He gets up after I go to sleep to talk to her via the Internet.

I caught them once doing things they shouldn't have been doing. When I confronted them and threatened to leave, Duncan begged me not to go and said their friendship was "harmless." I forgave him, but now Lucy calls him at 3:30 every morning, and he gets out of bed to talk. I heard him tell her that he'd be taking a business trip in a few days and would call her back.

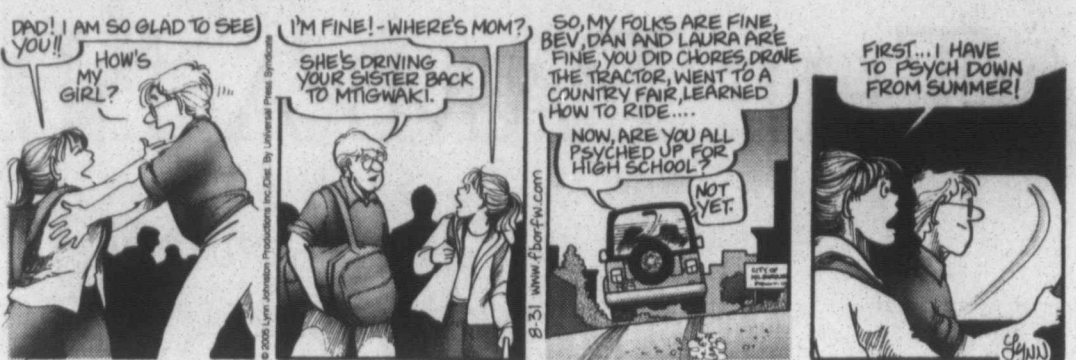
Now, Abby, I warned my husband I would leave if I found out they had any more contact. He doesn't know I know about her calling and that he's going to contact her. Should I listen to my intuition? How should I handle this? -- **SMELLS A RAT IN VIRGINIA**

DEAR SMELLS A RAT: Tell your husband the cat is out of the bag. You know what's going on and will not tolerate it. Offer him the option of marriage counseling. Cybersex IS cheating, and the daily 3:30 a.m. phone calls are, at the least, an emotional affair. This isn't "harmless fun"; it's a threat to your marriage. And if your husband doesn't end it, follow through on your word and leave.

DEAR ABBY: I am 77 years old. My darling husband of 54 years died three years ago. I am still wearing my wedding rings. Is this proper? I have always enjoyed wearing my wedding rings. -- **PUZZLED IN KENTUCKY**

DEAR PUZZLED: You are entitled to wear your wedding rings as long as you wish. Many widows and widowers continue to wear their wedding ring(s) on their left hands until they feel they are ready to date again. Then they switch the ring(s) to their right hand, or remove them.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

1 State

game

6 Scrooge

cries

10 Studio

sign

11 Bo of "10"

12 Tubular

pasta

13 National

symbol

14 Drunken

party

15 King of

song

16 Opponent

17 Pop

18 Undoing

word

19 Pleat

22 Night

light?

23 Close

26 Defer

29 Stick up

32 Owns

33 Rink

surface

34 Early

hominid

36 Melting

watch

painter

37 "Not in a

million

years!"

38 Mass

language

39 Coffee

add-in

40 Be

penitent

41 Sentry's

order

42 Kitchen

PAGES WASTE
ATOLL ASTIN
COOKIESHEET
END CAP AGE
SESTETS MAR
TIR FUME
NESTS MOPED
EXPO HIP
MAL HOLSTER
EMU EEL ELI
SPREADSHEET
ELGAR OUNCE
SEERS PESTS

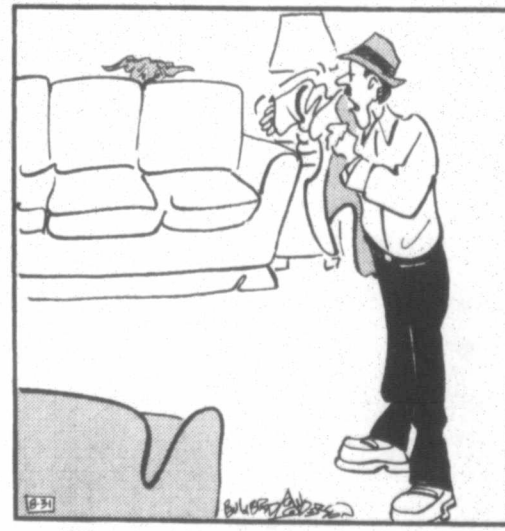
Yesterday's answer

20 Cry from
Homer
21 Old
place
24 Ace, e.g.
auto
25 Lie back
27 Office
computer
network:
Abbr.
28 "Stand
By Me"
director
29 Cow-
hand's
place
30 Sung
drama
31 Angled
edge
35 Ham or
lamb
36 Almanac
fill
38 Napkin
setting

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10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

Marmaduke



"When I said it was time to go to the vet, I was talking to you."

The Family Circus

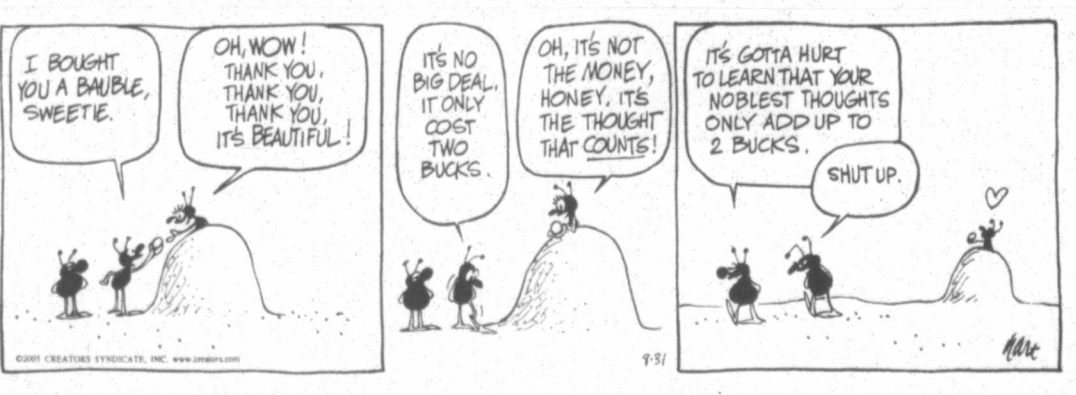
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Mommy, Mrs. Bumstead wants to know if we got the invitation to their party."

B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends

