

*O say can you see, by the
dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at
the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright
stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched,
were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night
that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the
home of the brave?*

*-Francis Scott Key,
The Star-Spangled Banner*



Publication of The Pampa News July 2024

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4th

of JULY



happy
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Terry Davis and Dustin Miller
 (Submitted photo)

Pampa's Independence Day Celebration

By GENEVA WILDCAT
 Tomorrow, Thursday, July 4th, America will be collectively celebrating 248 years of independence, nearly every town and city hosting their own celebration event during this revered holiday.

Citizens will come together on this hot summer day to socialize, have a hot dog or two, enjoy a fireworks show and just have fun in one big community event, as will be the case during Pampa's 3rd annual Independence Day Celebration.

Every year on the 4th of July, the residents of Gray County would make their way to Recreational Park to watch the fireworks show the city would put on during the evening hours when bright, color-

ful flashes of light would fill the night sky.

Cars would fill up the park, line the highways and neighboring dirt roads by those wanting to get the best view.

The show would last a couple of hours and then everyone would head home to pop a few fireworks of their own.

Realizing that some of the residents would head out of town to enjoy all-day celebrations, officials from the City of Pampa and the Chamber of Commerce decided they needed to do something more.

So in 2022, the City of Pampa held their first all-day Independence Day celebration and the reception was overwhelmingly positive.

PARK cont. on page 7A

Happy 4th of July

HUNTING

America's Christian Roots The Sounds Of Freedom

By MIKE SUBLETT

Many people these days question the Christian faith of our founding fathers. So I thought I'd share these quotes of some of the men who either signed the Declaration of Independence (SDOI) or signed the Constitution of the United States of America (SCUSA). Most of these quotes are from their official wills.

Samuel Adams- I . . . recommend my Soul to that Almighty Being who gave it, and my body I commit to the dust, relying upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins. (SDOI)

Charles Carroll- On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits; not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts. (letter to friend) (SDOI)

John Hancock- I John Hancock, . . . being advanced in years and being of perfect mind and memory-thanks be given to God-therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die [Hebrews 9:27], do make and ordain this my last will and testament. . . Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it: and my body I recommend to the earth . . . nothing doubting but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mercy and power of God. (SDOI)

John Dickinson- Rendering thanks to my Creator for my existence and station among His works, for my birth in a country enlightened by the Gospel

and enjoying freedom, and for all His other kindnesses, to Him I resign myself, humbly confiding in His goodness and in His mercy through Jesus Christ for the events of eternity. (SCUSA)

Daniel St. Thomas Jenifer- In the name of God, Amen. I, Daniel of Saint Thomas Jenifer . . . of sound mind and memory, commend my soul to my blessed Redeemer. (SCUSA)

John Langdon- In the name of God, Amen. I, John Langdon, . . . considering the uncertainty of life and that it is appointed unto all men once to die [Hebrews 9:27], do make, ordain and publish this my last will and testament in manner following, that is to say-First: I commend my soul to the infinite mercies of God in Christ Jesus, the beloved Son of the Father, who died and rose again that He might be the Lord of the dead and of the living . . . professing to believe and hope in the joyful Scripture doctrine of a resurrection to eternal life. (SCUSA)

Richard Stockton- I think it proper here to subscribe to the entire belief of the great and leading doctrines of the Christian religion, such as: the Being of God, . . . the divinity of the person and the completeness of the redemption purchased by the blessed Savior, the necessity of the operations of the Divine Spirit, of Divine Faith, accompanied with an habitual virtuous life, and the universality of the divine Providence, . . . that the fear of God is

the beginning of wisdom; that the way of life held up in the Christian system is calculated for the most complete happiness that can be enjoyed in this mortal state; . . . (SDOI)

John Morton- With an awful reverence to the great Almighty God, Creator of all mankind, I, John Morton . . . being sick and weak in body but of sound mind and memory-thanks be given to Almighty God for the same, for all His mercies and favors-and considering the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the times thereof, do, for the settling of such temporal estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life . . . (SDOI)

Robert Treat Paine- I desire to bless and praise the name of God most high for appointing me my birth in a land of Gospel Light where the glorious tidings of a Savior and of pardon and salvation through Him have been continually sounding in mine ears. When I consider that this instrument contemplates my departure from this life and all earthly enjoyments and my entrance on another state of existence, I am constrained to express my adoration of the Supreme Being, the Author of my existence, in full belief of his providential goodness and his forgiving mercy revealed to the world through Jesus Christ, through whom I hope for never ending happiness in a future state, acknowledging with grateful remembrance the happiness I have enjoyed

ROOTS cont. on page 6A

By VAN YANDELL

Galatians 5: 1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of bondage."

Out for my morning hike, I passed by an office building. There was a sloped area along the road and it was grown up with grass and small trees. Realizing I was hearing a sound that was unusual, I stopped and looked into the brushy area but saw no sign of life.

It sounded small; possibly like a chipmunk or maybe even an armadillo; but nothing! Starting up my walk, the sound started again. What could that whopping sound possibly be?

Finally, realizing there was a flagpole in the yard of the building, the sound was obviously the American flag blowing in the breeze. My heart almost exploded; what a beautiful sound the flag was making and I did not recognize it! The sounds of freedom at times fall on deaf ears.

We fail to stop and say "Thank you Lord for this great country and allowing me to be here, a citizen of the great United States of America." Freedom and being an American are among our greatest blessings. Opportunities offered are unknown to much of the world's population.

Those sounds of freedom are all around us and we rarely notice. The sound of cars and trucks on our many highways

is a sound of freedom. People in many parts of the world must have government permits to travel, even within their own country, and those are often denied. Americans have the freedom to come and go, when and where we please. Travel is restricted in many communist countries.

Even at the current cost of gasoline, we have the freedom to buy the product and travel as we please. In most European countries, gas is now over ten U.S. dollars per gallon. With a passport we can travel to most any country with few restrictions. Many countries will not allow their citizens to leave without extreme vetting and investigating into their purpose.

Close akin to the travel restrictions are right of assembly freedoms. Communist governments are so oppressive of their citizens, to assemble is banned. The governments live in constant fear of a revolt. They know they have to intimidate citizens to "keep them in line."

An example of oppression is the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989 in Beijing, China. The student led protests demanding democracy and an end to communism resulted in numerous deaths. Numbers of casualties were estimated from in the hundreds to the thousands.

The military was called to suppress the protestors and that they did. When people experience com-

munist first hand, they quickly decide they don't want it. Everything is for the government hierarchy and citizens are considered less than human and valued only for the work they do.

A saying we have heard in the last few years is, "You can vote your way into socialism but you have to fight your way out." The purveyors make it sound good for the masses but people that live under such systems do not verify that.

Printing presses running are a sound of freedom. Freedom of the press is precious and must be preserved even though it has been perverted by the politically corrupt. A free press is essential to a democracy in that the people have a "right to know." Freedom of the press is not freedom to mislead, lie and advance the publisher's political

opinion. Opinions are not news and neither is speculation. "What if" constitutes nothing newsworthy and certainly is not worth our time to evaluate.

A young person going into a bank to open his or her first checking account is a sound of freedom. A college or vocational technical school opening its doors to new students is a sound of freedom. A teacher enlightening students about career opportunities is a sound of freedom.

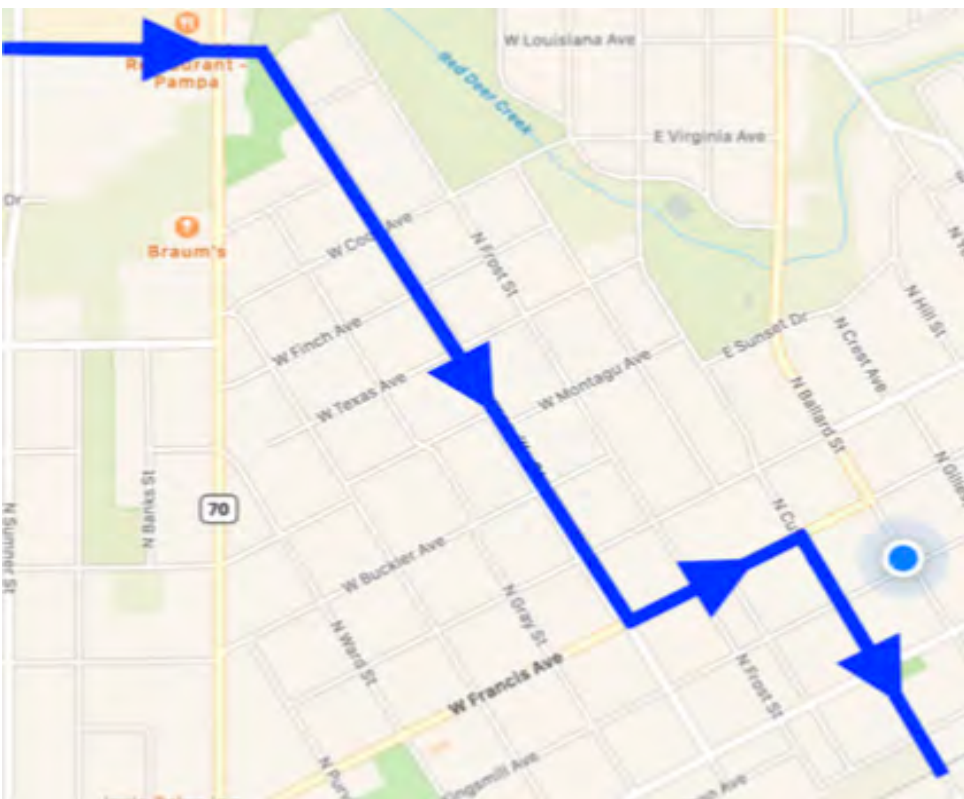
The sound of children pledging allegiance to the flag is a sound of **SOUNDS** cont. on page 6A



TATTERED OR WORN FLAG?

The Pampa News is now a drop-off location for flags that need to be retired. Worn flags can be brought to the Pampa News office. Flags will be given to the local VFW for proper care.

The
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Mon-Thu 8a-12p Fri 8a-12p



Independence Day Parade Route



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Fantastic Facts About Fireworks



Cities and towns across the country commemorate special days with various festivities, particularly when warm weather beckons people outdoors. Fireworks long have been a popular way to cap off parades, concerts, sporting events, and national days of celebration. Entire communities come together to watch spectacular shows in which blazing pops of color light up the night sky.

Smithsonian magazine reports that pyrotechnics displays have been astounding audiences all over the world for centuries. As early as 200 B.C. fireworks were developed in China to first scare off mountain men and later evil spirits. However, soon the Chinese incorporated "fire drug," essentially saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal (a recipe for gunpowder), into their cultural celebrations. Early Chinese fireworks consisted of the gunpowder mixture stuffed in bamboo tubes.

Fireworks have evolved since then, but by and large they're still comprised of the same main parts: an oxidizer, fuel and chemical mixture to produce desired colors. Fireworks are

a wonder to behold when they are part of professional displays, and their history can be interesting as well.

While the Chinese invented fireworks, Italians helped fine-tune them. Italians are credited with designing aerial shells and figuring out that certain metallic powders could create specific colors.

The largest consistent fireworks show in the United States is the Macy's show in New York over the Hudson River on July 4th. More than three million people view the show, which includes more than 40,000 shells.

The Walt Disney Company is the largest consumer of fireworks in the world, according to Business Insider. It also is the second largest purchaser of explosive devices, behind only the U.S. Department of Defense.

High-energy metal compounds like copper chloride emit colors like violet and blue in fireworks. Low-energy compounds like strontium chloride produce orange and red.

The pattern fireworks will produce in the sky is determined by how stars

are arranged inside of the shell. Stars are the cubes or spheres that contain the chemicals needed

for the firework reaction. Mental Floss notes that "daytime fireworks" are made up of colored smoke and can be seen during the day.

Individuals who are employed in the manufacture of fireworks must wear cotton clothing, including undergarments, as synthetic clothing can create sparks capable of detonating fireworks, according to Alamo Fireworks.

Various fireworks shapes have their own names. They may be called willows, palms, crossettes, horsetails, rings, cakes, and more.

New Castle, PA is known as the "Fireworks Capital of America" because Zambelli Fireworks Internationale and Pyrotecnico both got their start there in the mid-nineteenth century.

Scientists are currently working to create more eco-friendly fireworks.

Fireworks will soon be booming in towns and cities all over, and their history is as interesting as their displays are awe-inspiring.

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History of Independence Day

By HISTORY CHANNEL EDITORS

abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 “will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival” and that the celebration should include “Pomp and Parade... Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other.”



On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

Fourth of July Fireworks

The first fireworks were used as early as 200 BC. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4 of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, during the first organized celebration of Independence Day. Ship’s cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The Pennsylvania Evening Post reported: “at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated.” That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common.

Fourth of July Becomes a

Federal Holiday

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities

and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the national anthem of the United States.

Early Fourth of July Celebrations and Traditions

In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king’s birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the

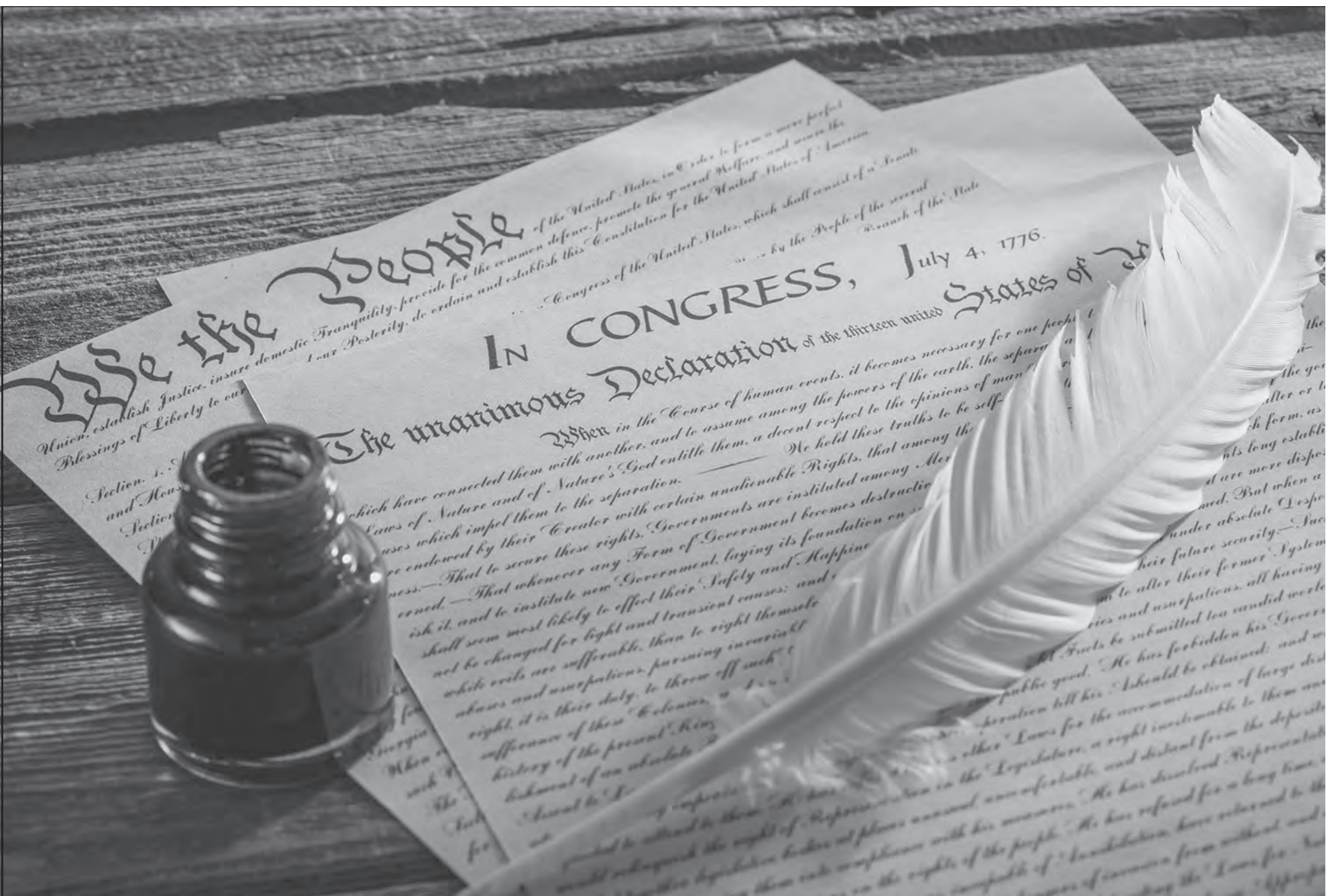
birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy’s hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778,

and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation’s emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.



Have a safe and Happy Independence Day.

The Pampa News

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Sounds

Continued From Page 3A

freedom. The sounds of a high school football game or the academic team competing with other schools teams are sounds of freedom. The clip-clop of an Amish buggy is a sound of freedom.

The sound of the Star Spangled Banner playing at a veteran activity is a sound of freedom. The veterans have paid a very high price for our freedoms of speech, the press, assembly, and many others. They deserve the best of everything this country has to offer; without them, there would be no country.

There are 172 national cemeteries with an undetermined number of graves because the number changes daily. In Arlington National Cemetery alone there are over 400,000 graves. The sound of silence in these is a sound of freedom that is deafening.

The sound of a handgun being racked or a rifle being bolted by a hunter is a sound of freedom. Many countries around the world have taken the freedom of owning a gun away from their citizens. In that action, citizens have limited methods of self-defense from the increasing criminal element this entire world is experiencing. The criminally insane and the violent must be denied the possession of deadly weapons. That denial is a sound of freedom for the normal population. Freedom of fear is a precious

possession.

The sounds of hymns coming from a church on a mountain or in a valley are sounds of freedom. Many in the world have no freedom of religion. America was founded and established based on freedom of religion.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free." This statement by the Apostle Paul in Galatians 1, tells us of a purpose of Christ's crucifixion. By His sacrificial death, mankind has freedom from the "yoke of sin" the world had previously experienced.

From the writing of the Ten Commandments until Christ's resurrection, the Jewish people had lived under the burden of being human but being expected to adhere to those commandments of God. Their atonement/redemption came by offering a blood sacrifice on the altar (Hebrews 9: 22). The laws for offering the sacrifice are stated in Leviticus and Deuteronomy in the Old Testament.

For a period of a little over 1500 years, they were trapped in this bondage of sin. Being human, the same as we are, there was no way they could ever offer enough blood sacrifices to atone for their human sinful nature.

Then came Christ Jesus! The sounds of the Roman soldier's hammer driving the nails into our Jesus' hands and feet were sounds of the freedom He offered us by bleeding, suffering and dying for our sins. The sound of the stone being rolled away to allow Him to exit the tomb, resur-

rected and alive, was a sound of freedom.

Have we as a people, both Americans and Christians, tuned out those sounds and taken what we have for granted? Well, it was not granted easily. The prices paid were enormous. We think of the dead military men and women but they had families; mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers that also suffered immeasurably at their loss.

Their sacrifice set us free from an oppressive government. It is for freedom from sin that Christ has set us free.

Only by forgiveness of sin based on His cleansing blood (1 John 1: 9) may we be saved. The suffering of Jesus is unimaginable in today's world of medicines/painkillers.

Are there words to express how precious freedom is? If there are, I do not know them. These great treasures of being an American and salvation through a crucified and resurrected Christ Jesus are priceless. Don't take them lightly.

As you go through the day, the week and the year, listen for the sounds. The flapping of the flag on a breezy morning really got my attention and I pray those sounds will get yours.

Abraham Lincoln said "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves". The church is built on Christ the Solid Rock of freedom and our steadfastness to the Gospel will keep that freedom alive.

Roots

Continued From Page 3A

in my passage through a long life. (SDOI)

Charles Cotesworth Pinckney- To the eternal, immutable, and only true God be all honor and glory, now and forever, Amen! (SCUSA)

Benjamin Rush- My only hope of salvation is in the infinite, transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly! (SDOI)

Roger Sherman- I believe that there is one only living and true God, existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Ghost. ... that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are a revelation from God. ... that God did send His own Son to become man, die in the room and stead of sinners, and thus to lay a foundation for the offer of pardon and salvation to all mankind so as all may be saved who are willing to accept the Gospel offer. (SDOI)

John Witherspoon- I entreat you in the most earnest manner to believe in Jesus Christ, for there is no salvation in any other [Acts 4:12]. . . . If you are not reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, if you are not clothed with the spotless robe of His righteousness, you must forever perish. (SDOI)

So what do you think of their faith now? Were they some kind of generic deists? Were they wishy-

washy, half-hearted believers? NO! NO! These men were brave, bold followers of Father God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Never doubt that the foundation of our country was largely Christian. Don't shy away from standing on that piece of Christian ground.

Independence Day is just 2 days away. Don't let the day pass by without celebrating the truth that God and His Son are critical part of the foundation that America was built on. And one more thing: America will only stand as long as our God and His Son choose to smile on us.

So fill this July 4 th with numerous loud declarations aimed toward heaven: "THANK YOU" "THANK YOU" "THANK YOU"

Happy 4TH OF JULY

Let's all celebrate the spirit of independence today.

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Park

Continued From Page 2A

With the Covid pandemic in the rearview mirror, the citizens of Pampa were ready to get back out and participate in large social events, and the Independence Day Celebration was the perfect opportunity. And to top it all off, it was and still remains an entirely free event.

“We try to make it as free as possible,” Assistant City Manager Dustin Miller said. “We want it to be a fun, family-oriented Americana-type day. When you think of something growing up, this is what we wanted that to be. It’s just a family day where they can come to the park and have fun.”

Last year’s Independence Day Celebration was a huge success when special guest Terry Davis from the Back it Up, Terry! video that went viral in 2017 came to Pampa, bringing in hundreds of visitors from all over the Texas Panhandle.

Folks had the opportunity to meet the man behind the meme and purchase merchandise signed by him in an effort to raise money to help with the expense of a new wheelchair-accessible van.

“They had about \$2,000 raised before they came to Pampa and they had \$85,000 when they left. It caught national attention and there were a lot of people from outside of Pampa that came to see him,” Dustin said.

The idea to bring Terry and his family to Pampa was Dustin’s idea and is proud to say that he and Terry communicate quite often and have a good friendship.

“What’s more patriotic for the 4th of July than

Back it Up, Terry,” he laughed. “Some people thought I was crazy when I first presented it, but it caught on really quick. Terry wants to come back to Pampa and we’re actually planning to take a trip to visit him in Memphis—they’re like family at this point.”

Schedule of Events
The full-day event features a ton of games such as the classic three-legged race and egg toss, a gut-busting hot dog and pie eating contest, live entertainment and the infamous 8-foot pizza provided by Hall’s Heating & Air, Lonestar Home and Land Realty and Dirt Road Cookers.

The park will also be full of local vendors and food trucks where folks will have the opportunity to do a little patriotic shopping and have some good grub while enjoying the festivities.

Citizens can enjoy live entertainment throughout the event and cold bottles of water and slices of fresh watermelon will be available during the heat of the day.

The celebration will begin at 8 AM with the 5K run where participants can dress in their most patriotic gear and begin their run from the Freedom Museum on Hobart Street where the route will take them through Downtown Pampa and back to the museum.

At 10 AM, the Independence Day Parade will begin and take its regular route starting at the MK Brown Auditorium, head down Somerville and then through downtown.

At 11 AM, Recreation Park will have a fishing derby where participants will have the opportunity to compete and win awards in categories such as biggest, smallest and most unique fish.

“It’s just good to see grandpas and their grandkids or dads and their children sitting around the lake just spending time together,” Dustin said.

At 12 PM, the park’s festivities will begin with a hot dog eating contest sponsored and provided by the Coney Island Cafe.

With the many games and contests the event will have, none is as popular as the duck derby where last year more than 200 rubber ducks were entered into the race.

The duck derby contest started earlier this week when several participating businesses hid a customized rubber duck somewhere in their establishment and for anyone who happened to find one can come to the park on Thursday and receive a prize donated by a local business.

At the end of the contest once prizes are awarded, participants will enter their duck in a race and the winner will receive a free family party pass to the waterpark.

At 9 PM, the park will wind down and take a moment to honor all the veterans for which this day wouldn’t have been possible.

“Our veterans are a big part of this day for us—we wouldn’t have this without them,” Dustin said. “If anyone that is in any branch of the military, we’ll have them come out and we recognize and honor them.”

Once night falls, the fireworks show will begin where citizens can relax from the busy day and look up at the sky to watch the magnificent spectacle and reflect on what it means to truly be free.



Back it Up Terry star, Antario Davis, riding in the Independence Day Parade
(Submitted photo)



Spectators lined the streets of downtown to watch the Independence Day Parade
(Submitted photo)

Happy July 4th
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INDEPENDENCE DAY FUN AT RECREATION PARK



Fun in the Sun-and Suds
(Submitted photo)



Hot Dog Eating Contest
(Submitted photo)



Dunking Booth
(Submitted photo)



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Veterans Float in the Independence Day Parade
(Submitted photo)



Back it Up, Terry setting off fireworks
(Submitted photo)

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Jumbo's Fireworks

By GENEVA WILDCAT

For more than 40 years, the Jumbo's Fireworks stand has provided the best, top-of-the-line fireworks that money can buy to those wanting to celebrate Independence Day with a bang.

Ron Kotara has been in the fireworks business for more than 60 years, starting out as a youngster running a stand that was located on Highway 60 in Pampa.

Kotara taught in the Pampa School District for 40 years until his retirement where he turned his focus to the fireworks stand as well as raising horses.

Randy Milligan who was also an educator for many years helps run the stand as well as several high school students.

Because fireworks stands are only allowed to begin selling fireworks on the 24th of June and run through the 4th of July, Jumbo's sale's kicks into high gear every year for people stocking up not only for Independence Day, but for other major holidays such as New Year's as well. But this year is a little different.

"This year, we can tell that everyone is kind of running into a problem because the 4th is on Thursday, which makes the 5th like another holiday-it's like an extended weekend," Kotara said. "But the fireworks can't be sold past midnight on Thursday so if you're planning on doing something over the weekend, you better get them now."

Jumbo's Fireworks draws in many people from the surrounding counties, and being conveniently placed right there on the highway, many folks from even out of state have the opportunity to stop and see what Jumbo's has to offer.

The most popular, highest selling item that Jumbo's carries is the Excalibur artillery kit with shells that launch up to 250 feet in the air and break 200 feet across the sky with vibrant colors and effects.

To see all specials and stock of Jumbo's, visit their Facebook page. To purchase your last minute fireworks, visit them on the corner of Highway 60 and Price Road. Give them a call for all your firework needs at (903)203-7203.



Randy Milligan with the Excalibur
(Submitted photo)



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