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THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, October 9, 2006

Volume 102 • No. 159

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Coincidence leads to same charges on different men

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Coincidence led to two Pampa men being arrested a little over an hour apart Friday afternoon for the same type of criminal charge on different criminal cases.

Mark Channing Melton, 42, was arrested by Gray County Sheriff's office and booked into Gray County Jail at 2:01 p.m. Friday on a charge of fraudulent use of identifying information, a state jail felony. A bond surrender for a charge of theft under \$50 was added later.

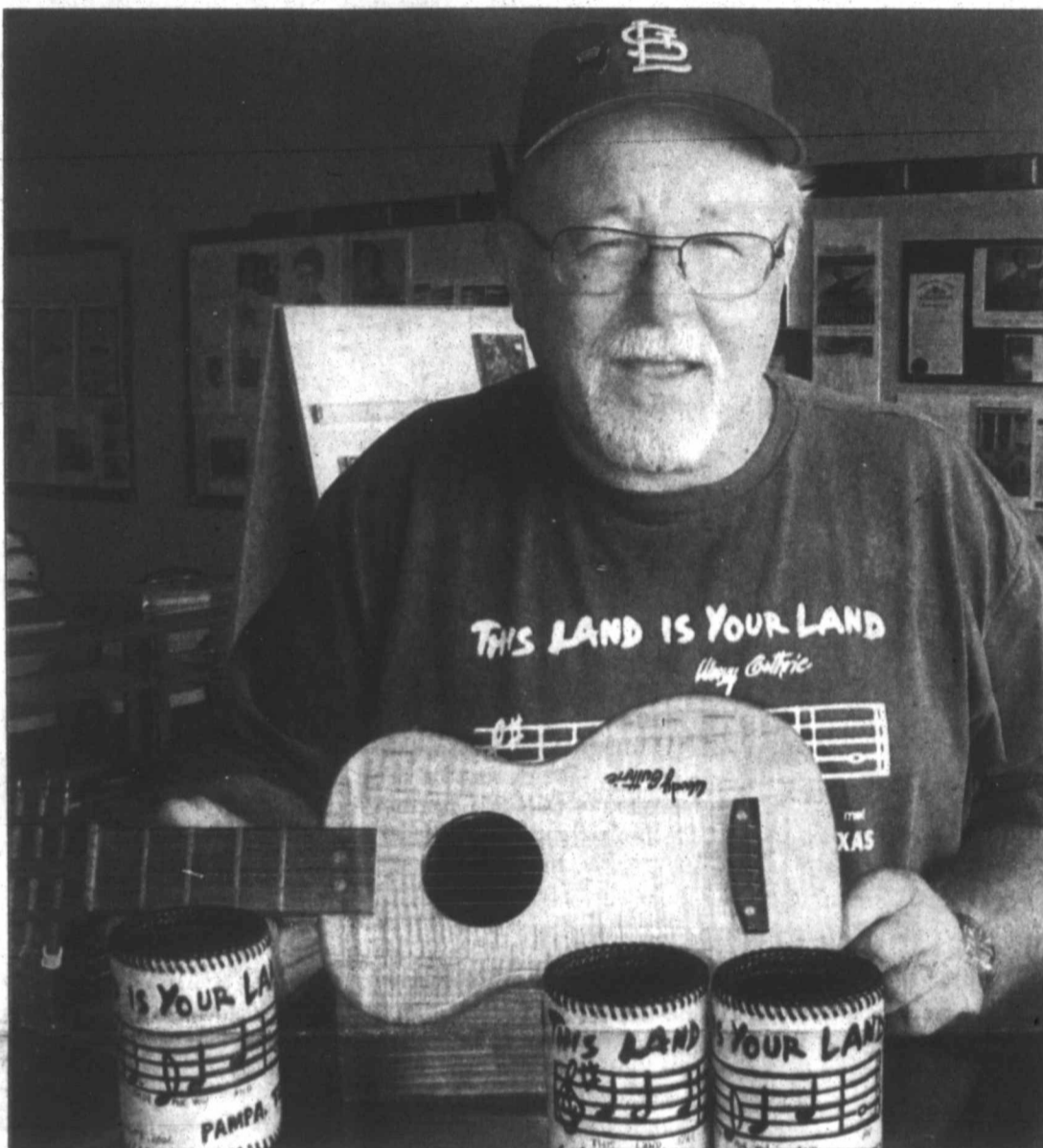
At 3:15 p.m., sheriff's deputies arrested Alejandro Puentes, 28, and booked him into the jail, also for fraudulent use of identifying information.

Puentes allegedly had attempted to use information on the victim's credit union account to obtain merchandise illegally, according to Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing.

"It began in April and developed over a period of time," Rushing said of the fraud.

Puentes allegedly obtained some merchandise initially, but when he reported—See CHARGES, Page 3

Harmonica man



Pat Stewart of St. Louis, Mo., examines items at the Woody Guthrie Center, 320 S. Cuyler, Saturday afternoon during the annual Pampa's Tribute to Woody Guthrie. Stewart, known as "The Harmonica Man," taught Lamar Elementary School students how to play the harmonica all day Friday at the school. Harmonicas received by the students were donated by Tarpley Music Company, M & H Leasing, and an individual donor.

Korea N-test angers Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush today denounced a reported North Korean nuclear test as provocative, "unacceptable" and a threat to global peace and security.

He said the action deserves "an immediate response by the United Nations Security Council."

Bush said he had called the leaders of South Korea, China, Russia and Japan and all had reaffirmed a commitment to a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. China and Russia are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, along with Britain, France and the United States.

In a brief statement in the diplomatic reception room of the White House, Bush said that North Korea already was "one of the world's leading proliferators" of missile technology, including transfers to Iran and Syria.

See KOREA, Page 3

Missouri student in custody after shots fired in school

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP) — A 13-year-old student fired an AK-47 into the ceiling at his middle school this morning after confronting a pair of students and administrators, telling them, "please don't make me do this," officials said.

No one was injured, and the boy was taken into custody.

The student was wearing a mask and pointed the assault rifle at Principal Steve Gilbreth and Assistant Superintendent Steve Doerr, Superintendent Jim Simpson said.

Simpson said the teen told them "not to make me do this," then fired a shot into the ceiling, breaking a water pipe, and said again: "Please don't make me do this."

"It was a very close call," Simpson said.

Doerr and Gilbreth persuaded the student to leave the building, where he was confronted by two police officers with weapons

drawn, Simpson said. He said the student dropped the rifle and was taken into custody.

Joplin police Officer Curt Farmer said officers also found a note in the student's backpack indicating that he had placed an explosive in the school, which has about 700 students. The other students were moved to nearby Joplin Memorial Hall, and the school was closed while officers searched the building.

The armed student, whose identity wasn't released, apparently had been planning an attack for a "long time," Simpson said. He didn't elaborate and said authorities did not know whether others were involved.

It wasn't immediately clear how the boy got access to the assault rifle.

The shooting happened about 7:45 a.m., 10 minutes before the start of classes.

Bargain books



Liz Wilson scans the titles of paperback books at the Friends of the Library's paperback book sale which was held Saturday and Sunday at Lovett Memorial Library. Profits from the sale go toward the organization's projects at the library. A volunteer manning the checkout table Saturday afternoon said business had been steady at the sale. "They've been keeping us busy," she said.



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Obituaries

Audie Myatt Ragsdale, 90

Audie Myatt Ragsdale, 90, formerly of Pampa, died Friday, Oct. 6, 2006, in Cushing, Oklahoma.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006, in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Rev. Carl Novian, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

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

Mrs. Ragsdale was born Dec. 28, 1915, in Baxter, Tennessee, and she came to Pampa at the age of 10 from the Tulsa, Oklahoma, area. She was a 1935 graduate of Pampa High School. She married R. B. Ragsdale on Jan. 17, 1941, in Pampa. He preceded her in death on Nov. 18, 1976. She worked at City Drug, Cretney's, Wilson Drug, and Anthony's for



Ragsdale

many years, retiring in 1991. Mrs. Ragsdale was a member of First Baptist Church. She was an artist and was a member of the Pampa Art Club. She enjoyed traveling overseas and painting scenes of places she visited.

Survivors include a daughter, Beth Dutton and husband Guy of Cushing, Oklahoma; a son, Van Ragsdale and wife Jean of Garland; a sister-in-law: Pat Myatt of New Jersey; four grandchildren, Amy Gorman of Cushing, Oklahoma, Vicki Ragsdale of Salem, Massachusetts; Ty Dutton and wife Jessica of Coweta, Oklahoma; and Jim Ragsdale and wife Lauren of San Antonio; three great-grandchildren, Alexis Marmion and Chloe Dutton, both of Coweta, Oklahoma, and Avery Ragsdale of San Antonio; and a great-granddaughter due next January, Paizley Clatt.

Memorials may be made top Cook Children's Medical Center, 801 Seventh Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76104.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Blake O. Laramore, 82

Blake O. Laramore, 82, of Pampa, died Friday, Oct. 6, 2006, in Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 9, 2006, at the First Baptist Church with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites courtesy of Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 and 'Top O' Texas Masonic Lodge #1381. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Laramore was born June 30, 1924, in New Hope, Ark., and had been a resident of Pampa since 1939.

He married Billee Kitchens on Dec. 30, 1942, in Pampa. He served in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was discharged in 1946 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Mr. Laramore was in the meat business until 1980, owning B&L Food Market, Blake's Country Store, Blake's Food Market, and B&B Packing. In 1980, he went to work for World's Finest Chocolates for 12 years in the fund-raising business.

In 1992, he formed Blake's Fund Services which he operated until his death.

He was a member and past master of Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM, past

district deputy grandmaster, and was past worthy patron of Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star.

Mr. Laramore was a member of the Lubbock Scottish Rite Consistory, the York Rite Bodies of Borger, Khiva Shrine Temple of Amarillo, Pampa Shrine Club, and he was a 33rd degree York Rite Mason. Blake performed over 375 Masonic graveside rites at area funerals while he was active in Masonry.

In 1995 Mr. Laramore was named Pampa "Citizen of the Year" by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. He was secretary of the Pampa Army Airfield Reunion for several years and was treasurer of the Freedom Museum for about 15 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Billee Laramore, of the home; a son, Gary Laramore and wife Jerilyn of Panhandle; a daughter, Karan Cross and husband James "Wink" Cross of Pampa; three grandchildren, Preston Blake Cross and wife Emily of Surprise, Ariz., Kerri Harris and husband Scott of Pampa, and Gary Laramore, Jr. and wife Stacie of Texline; and five great-grandchildren, Adam, Chris, Carter, Mackenzie, and Andrew.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by a brother, Lloyd Laramore, in 2001.

MEMORIALS: Freedom Museum, 600 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065 or First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



Laramore

Services tomorrow

TICE, Zella E. — Graveside services 10 a.m. Memory Gardens Cemetery.
RAGSDALE, Audie Myatt — 2 p.m. Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel.

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Gray County Weather

Columbus Day: Showers and thunderstorms likely before 1pm, then a chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Tonight: Periods of showers and thunderstorms. Low around 48. North northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent. New rainfall amounts between three quarters and one inch possible.

Tuesday: A 40 percent chance of showers, mainly before 1pm. Cloudy, with a high near 57. North northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 62. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. North northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. North northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 64. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 71.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

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E.J. (Ezra Jackson) Windom, 82

McLEAN — E. J. (Ezra Jackson) Windom Jr., 83, died Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006, in Shamrock.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9, 2006, at First Methodist Church, McLean, Texas, with Rev. Thacker Haynes officiating.

Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery, McLean, Texas, under the direction of Bailey-Ware Funeral Home.

Jr. Windom was born June 12, 1923, in Springfield, Colorado, to E. J. Windom, Sr. and Grace Hotchkiss Windom. He married Dorris Nell Wilson on January 31, 1940.

He was stationed in England while serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II.



Windom

Jr. owned his own auto repair and parts business for over 50 years. He was inducted into the Route 66 Hall of Fame. Jr. was a man of integrity who loved his family, enjoyed his friends, gospel music, reading and sports. He served on the Board of McLean Schools, City Council and Golf Association. Jr. was a member of the First Methodist Church, and McLean VFW.

Survivors include his wife, Dorris Windom, of McLean; three sons, Clyde Windom and wife Ann of Richardson, Texas, Eddy Windom and wife Barbara of Grapevine, Texas, and Pat Windom and wife Trisha of Boerne, Texas; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a sister, Marsalee Windom Hastings of Idalou, Texas.

Memorials may be made to First Methodist Church, P.O. Box 125, McLean, Texas 79057.

Ida Mavis 'Pat' Myers, 92

Ida Mavis "Pat" Myers, 92, of Clarendon, formerly of Pampa, died Friday, Oct. 6, 2006 in the McLean Care Center.

Graveside services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9, 2006, at Memory Gardens in Pampa. Arrangements are by Myers-Chancellor Funeral Home of Turkey, Texas.

Mrs. Myers was born in Hopkins County, Texas, on Sept. 22, 1914, to George and Janie Patterson. She married Dewey Myers in Hall County in 1929. She was preceded in

death by Dewey in 1980, her daughter, Barbara Jane in 1995, and her son, Bobby Joe in 2005. She was a Methodist.

Survivors include here daughter-in-law, Nadine Myers of Clarendon; three grandchildren, Lucinda Myers-Long of Clarendon, Dewey Bob Myers of Dallas, and Joni Myers-Chancellor of McKinney; and three great-grandchildren, Doshia Chaison-Holt of Clarendon, John Preston Myers of Clarendon and Kathryn Myers of Dallas.

Zella E. Tice, 73

Zella E. Tice, 73, died Friday, Oct. 6, 2006, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006, at Memory Gardens Cemetery with Rev. Albert Maggard, pastor of First Pentecostal Holiness Church, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Tice was born Dec. 9, 1932, in Harmon, Oklahoma. She married Woodrow Tice on May 12, 1956, in Clovis, New Mexico. He preceded her in death on Jan. 5, 2004. She had been a resident of Pampa

since 1953. She retired in 1987 from home health care as a nurses' aide. She was a member of First Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Survivors include a sister-in-law, Louise Roshe of Wichita, Kansas; 2 nieces; and 3 nephews.

Memorials may be made to First Pentecostal Holiness Church, P. O. Box 1451, Pampa, Texas 79066-1451.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Diana Pickett, 57

Diana Pickett, 57, died Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006 in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Pickett was born September 24, 1949, in Tyler. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1981. She was a former employee of OMI, leaving in 1998. She was

currently employed by Wal-Mart as an associate. She was a Baptist.

Survivors include a son, Eddy Pickett of Pampa and one granddaughter, Brianna Pickett of Pampa.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

CITY BRIEFS

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

ALL MALE Revue at OCB, Oct. 15, 7 pm. Buy Tickets now, \$10. 2302 Alcock.

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TNW ADULT Tae Kwon Do & Martial Arts classes, 665-8554.

Dog earns Hall of Fame honor

BENTON, Ky. (AP) — A 15-pound pooch that fended off an intruder to defend its owner has earned a spot in the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Hall of Fame.

Teddy Bear, a 4-year-old Pomeranian owned by Leslie Ferguson, 24, bit an armed robber in April and created enough of a distraction that Ferguson could escape to a neighbor's house. The dog was inducted into the association's Hall of Fame on Saturday.

"My husband was out of town," Ferguson said. "He was on active duty in the

military, and I had a guy break into my house with a gun. He tried to force me into another room. We ended up wrestling for the gun, and Teddy bit him and latched onto his hand. I was able to get the gun from the guy. He ended up getting the gun back, but Teddy distracted him long enough where I could get out of the house."

Ferguson said Teddy Bear never hesitated, even though he had never been vicious toward anyone.

"I guess he realized that I was in danger, and he just took action," Ferguson said. "He did great."

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Fifty traffic stops were made, resulting in at least two arrests.

Traffic complaints were received from the 700 block of East Murphy and the 100 block of West 30th.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of McCullough and Hobart streets and from an unreported location.

Lost property was reported in the 700 block of North Wells.

Found property was reported in the 100 block of West Foster, the 2300 block of Navajo, and the 900 block of East Barnard.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 900 block of South Nelson.

Civil matters were reported in the 2300 block of Navajo.

Welfare checks were made in the 1300 block of North Hobart, the 1000 block of North Sumner, on two occasions in the 900 block of South Faulkner, and the 700 block of North Roberta, where an unattended death was reported.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 300 block of North Cuyler, the 2300 block of Perryton Parkway, the intersection of Foster and West streets, the 400 block of West Brown, the 1400 block of East Francis, the intersection of Rose and Francis streets, and the 900 block of East Francis.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the intersection of Oklahoma and Sumner streets and from Highway 60 East.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of West Harvester, the 1300 block of Mary Ellen, the 100 block of East Randy

Matson, the 700 block of North West, the intersection of Terrace and Starkweather streets, the 700 block of North Frost, the 800 block of East Murphy, the 600 block of Lowry, the 700 block of South Barnes, the 700 block of East Browning, and the 300 block of North Cuyler, where an arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Disruption of class was reported at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from an unreported location and from the 800 block of West Kingsmill.

A narcotics violation was reported on Highway 60 East.

Driving while intoxicated, third or more offense, was reported in the 700 block of West Wilks. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Resisting arrest and disorderly conduct/language were reported in the 1400 block of Duncan.

Public intoxication and disorderly conduct/language were reported in the 300 block of North Cuyler.

Harassment was reported in the 2200 block of Hamilton and the police department lobby.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of East Browning. The windshield of a vehicle was damaged. Estimated cost of damage was not reported.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Frost.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton.

Assault was reported in the police department lobby and the 100 block of East Randy Matson, where no injuries were reported.

Aggravated assault was reported in the 200 block of North Sumner.

No injuries were reported.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 900 block of South Dwight and the 1900 block of North Zimmers.

Assault/domestic violence was reported in the 900 block of Varnon Drive. No injuries were reported.

Forgery was reported in the 300 block of East Brown. The incident involved a check.

Theft was reported at Dobson Cellular, 2131 Perryton Parkway. A Nokia cell phone valued at \$99.99 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of East Browning. Cash valued at \$150 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of North Nelson.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Burglary was reported in the 1000 block of North Wells and the 1500 block of Hamilton, where a garage door, television/DVD combo, two speakers, a microwave, a stereo and two amplifiers were taken, for an estimated loss valued at \$1,477.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of Mary Ellen. Two subwoofers valued at \$300 were taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 200 block of North Nelson. An SAE and metric socket set and a small safe were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$130.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported by Rainbo Bread at PJHS.

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

Saturday, Oct. 7
Michael Honeycutt, 31, of

Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of East Browning by Pampa Police Department on warrants for no driver's license and failure to appear/bail jumping.

Ricardo DeLeon, 40, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a motion to revoke probation for assault causing bodily injury.

Sunday, Oct. 8
Jeannetta Kaye Adamson, 33, of Pampa was arrested in the 1900 block of Coffee by PPD for theft by check and three counts of issuing a bad check.

Terry Lee Bourque, 30, of Farmerville, La., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Douglas Randal Waldrop, 53, of Monroe, La., was arrested by GCSO for public intoxication.

Tyson Ray Parks, 23, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of North Cuyler by PPD for public intoxication.

James Glenn Ferretti, 31, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of North Cuyler by PPD for public intoxication and disorderly conduct/language.

Lance Herr, 44, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a motion to revoke probation for hindering apprehension.

James Dennis Golleher, 39, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Ronald Eric Hill, 47, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for disorderly conduct/language.

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Friday, Sept. 29
8:15 a.m. — A 2003 Dodge

Neon, driven by Dorothy Elizabeth Douglas, 54, of 912 E. Brunow, collided with a legally parked 1998 Dodge Ram 1500, owned by Martin Perez, 445 Pitts, in the 100 block of West 21st Street. No injuries were reported. Luis Perez was cited for no proof of insurance. Douglas was cited for driver inattention.

Monday, Oct. 2
10:40 a.m. — A 1982 Ford F-150, driven by Thomas Short, 43, 1008 Crane, collided with a legally parked 1995 Ford F-250, owned by Parsley's Sheet Metal, in the 900 block of Schneider. No injuries were reported, and no citations were issued.

Sunday, Oct. 8
8:12 p.m. — A 1999 GMC Sierra, driven by Charles Albert Clardy, 25, of 2116 N. Wells, and a 1996 Buick Regal, driven by Paul Thomas Gerik, 49, of 1602 Christine, collided in the 600 block of West Kentucky. No injuries were reported. Clardy was cited for backing without safety.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, Oct. 8
1:27 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and McCullough on a vehicle accident.

3:01 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 2300 block of Evergreen on a Dumpster fire.

Monday, Oct. 9
1:53 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1200 block of South Finley on an electrical short.

Charges

Continued from Page 1

edly tried to use the same information again at a later date to buy more items, the credit union knew to block the transaction, Rushing said.

Information printed on the victim's check was used

to commit the fraudulent acts, he said. The value of the illegally obtained merchandise was not available as of press time today.

Melton allegedly went to a local merchant and used a charge account belonging to his former employer to buy merchandise. Approximately \$900 worth of merchandise was charged by Melton to his former employer's account on Sept.

28, Rushing said. "We're working with Pampa Police Department to investigate if there were more incidents from this same person," he said.

Bond for each of the two was set at \$2,000. Both were released on bond on Saturday. Puentes was released at 3 p.m., followed by Melton at 3:20 p.m. Both were released through the same bail bond company.

Korea

Continued from Page 1

"The transfer of nuclear weapons or material by North Korea to states or non-state entities would be considered a grave threat to the United States," Bush said. "And we would hold North Korea fully accountable for the consequences of such action."

Bush said the United

States was still attempting to confirm that a nuclear explosion had actually taken place.

Still, he said, "such a claim itself constitutes a threat to international peace and security. The United States condemns this provocative act."

Bush, speaking somberly, said that in his discussion with other world leaders, "All of us agreed that the proclaimed actions taken by North Korea are unacceptable and deserve an immediate response by the United Nations Security Council."

Added the president:

"Threats will not lead to a brighter future for the North Korean people."

Among those watching Bush from the back of the room were his wife Laura Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley.

The reported nuclear test was denounced by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Fall Open House Tuesday October 10th 2006

October is the month of the Pumpkins

Week 1: Guess the weight on prize winning pumpkin

(Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place)

Week 2: "Guess how many seeds are in me?"

(Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place)

Week 3: Pumpkin Decorating Contest

(Prizes for Scariest, Funniest, & Most Unique)

Week 4: Pumpkin Coloring Contest

(Pick up your coloring page from us. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place)

For Contest Details Please Come By (No Phone Calls Please)

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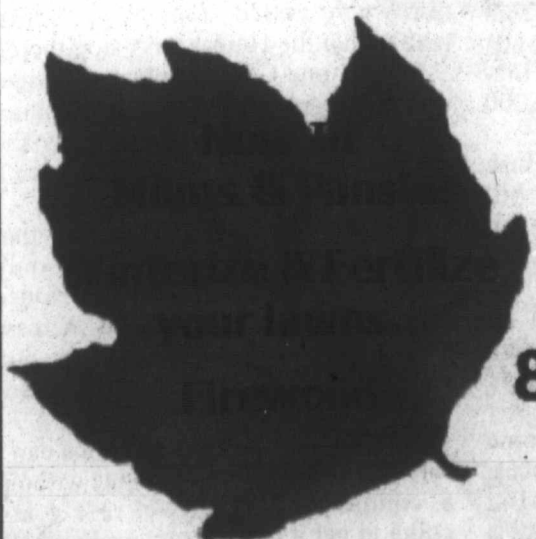
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Balloon Bouquets, Gift Baskets, Jewelry, Candles,
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Viewpoints

Home buyers should know the facts about exotic mortgages

The Texas real estate market has been booming in recent years. Over the past two decades millions of people have moved to the Lone Star State and, along with this growth, we have seen a steady rise in housing prices. Many home buyers trying to keep up with an ever-changing market are turning to what at first appear to be attractive loans with very low monthly payments. Virtually anyone who surfs the Internet has seen banner and pop-up ads touting enticing offers, such as "\$350,000 mortgage for \$750 a month."

These offers, also known as "exotic" mortgages, might be the solution for some consumers, such as those who want the convenience of low payments initially and can

afford substantially higher ones in the long run. But for those who are not fully aware of the terms, they could quickly find themselves in a bind. Most of these low-ball offers are for interest-only loans. In the example above, the \$750 a month payment will likely serve to simply pay off the interest that is accumulating, and that's assuming that the loan was extended with a very low interest rate (exotic mortgages sometimes have starting rates as low as one percent). However, consumers can rest assured that the low rates are for a limited amount of time. After a few payments, they rise to prevailing market offerings, based on the consumer's credit score and other fac-

tors. If interest rises then the \$750 monthly payment will serve to pay off only part of the interest, and still does not touch the principal of the loan. The unpaid interest usually becomes part of the mortgage itself. In time, the mortgage grows, and it is likely that after a couple of years of making low payments, these will be adjusted to reflect the rising interest and the growing mortgage. That rise could be substantial, doubling or even tripling payments. Unless the consumer begins to make payments that cover the accumulating interest

and pay off the principal, they can find themselves in a cycle of accumulating debt. This also means that they will likely not build equity, the difference between the value of the home and how much is still owed on the mortgage, which will make it very difficult for them to sell the home. To put it in perspective, for most 30 year mortgages with a reasonable interest rate, the monthly payments, including insurance and property taxes, equal about one percent of the value of the home. That means that for a \$350,000 home, that payment would

be somewhere around \$3,500 a month. So it underscores that offering that size loan for only \$750 a month is simply unsustainable in the long run. Consumers need to be well aware of these facts before they sign a mortgage. The terms of mortgages vary greatly, and consumers owe it to themselves and their families to research all options available to them and to do a realistic self-assessment about what they can afford. Offers for very low mortgage payments simply last for a short time. As with any loan, lenders will want to recoup the loan and make a profit. By careful research and planning, consumers can make a choice they can afford in the long run.

Buyers should not be distracted by fabulous sounding offers of low monthly payments. The consumer should know up front the total cost of the loan, the interest rate (and whether it will be variable or fixed), the potential rise in future payments, the length of the loan, how much principal they can expect to pay down each month, and similar factors. Purchase contracts are often complex and there are many variables to consider. If you are in the market for a home, you would do well to consult with an independent professional, such as an attorney or licensed real estate expert, to guide you through the process and explain, in detail, the terms you are being offered and their long-term impact.

Greg Abbott
Attorney General



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 9, the 282nd day of 2006. There are 83 days left in the year. This is Columbus Day, as well as Thanksgiving Day in Canada. Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 9, 1888, the public was first admitted to the Washington Monument. On this date: In 1635, religious dissident Roger Williams was ordered banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1701, the Collegiate School of Connecticut — later Yale University — was chartered.

'If we would only give, just once, the same amount of reflection to what we want to get out of life that we give to the question of what to do with a two weeks' vacation, we would be startled at our false standards and the aimless procession of our busy days.'

— Dorothy Canfield Fisher
American author and essayist (1879-1958)

In 1776, a group of Spanish missionaries settled in present-day San Francisco. In 1930, Laura Ingalls became the first woman to fly across the United States as she completed a nine-stop journey from Roosevelt Field, N.Y., to Glendale, Calif. In 1936, the first generator at Boulder (later Hoover) Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles. In 1946, the Eugene O'Neill drama "The Iceman Cometh" opened at the Martin Beck Theater in New York. In 1958, Pope Pius XII died. (He was succeeded by Pope John XXIII.) In 1967, Latin American guerrilla leader Che Guevara was executed while attempting to incite revolution in Bolivia. In 1975, Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1985, the hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise liner surrendered after the ship arrived in Port Said, Egypt. Ten years ago: Vice President Al Gore and Jack Kemp debated in St. Petersburg, Fla. Two Americans, Robert F. Curl Jr. and Richard E. Smalley, and a Briton, Harold W. Kroto, shared the Nobel Prize in chemistry while three Americans, David M. Lee, Robert C. Richardson and Douglas C. Osheroff, won the physics prize. In the opening game of the American League Championship series, 12-year-old Jeffrey Maier turned a probable fly out into a game-tying home run by reaching over the right-field wall at Yankee Stadium and sweeping the ball into the stands with his baseball glove (the Yankees defeated the Baltimore Orioles 5-4, in 11 innings).



A simple dose of common sense helpful

A deluge of experts, attracted by government money, is drowning Washington. So many elected and appointed officials know even less than the phony experts that it's like a gold-rush town for the briefcase-toting fast-talkers. You, however, don't need to be an expert — phony or genuine — to figure out the broad outlines of the problems in the world. A simple dose of common sense will do the job. Let's take Iraq, for example. This is a country artificially created by the British in the heyday of their colonial empire. Arbitrarily included were Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites. The British put the Sunnis in charge under various dictators who kept a lid on the aspirations of the majority Shiites and the independence-craving Kurds. The lid was kept on by brute force through a succession of dictators, ending

with Saddam Hussein. It was like a jack-in-the-box, and when the Bush administration took the lid off, out popped the factions. Are the Kurds going to give up their aspirations for independence? Not likely. Are the Sunnis going to go quietly into the sunset with nothing? Not likely. Are the Shiites, after decades of repression, going to come forth with kindness and forgiveness for their former oppressors? Not likely. The conflict we see playing out has been there for decades. Didn't anybody in Washington ever wonder why Saddam Hussein killed so many people? He was always a thug and a killer, but even killers don't waste bullets and poison gas unless they have a reason to do so.

Saddam, like his predecessors, was constantly trying to prevent the Kurds and Shiites from overthrowing him. Now, with no dictator to suppress them, they are killing each other. I would say that when more than 6,000 people are killed in two months, it's about as close to a civil war as you can get. I cannot think of any logical reason why anyone in Washington thought that we could remove a dictatorship that had been in place in one form or another since the founding of the country and that a parliamentary democracy would bloom instantly like a lotus in a pond. To further complicate matters, there are Kurds in eastern Syria, eastern Turkey

and northwestern Iran. Do you think Syria or Iran, and most especially Turkey, will tolerate an independent Kurdistan on its borders? Not likely. Discussion in Washington is usually carried on at the level of college freshmen after several rounds of beers. The Republican answer to its own fiasco is to say: "OK, you don't like the way the president is handling it. What's your solution?" The proper answer to that is: "In the first place, bro, I didn't break it. You did, and the only solution is to recognize that there is no solution. Not everything that breaks can be repaired. Our choice is to leave now, with 2,700 dead and 20,000 wounded, or linger on until there are 5,000 dead and 35,000 wounded and then leave." Eventually, after we leave, a new dictatorship will

Charley Reese
Columnist



See REESE, Page 5

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas: **Sept. 29** The Dallas Morning News on congressional commitment on immigration: Before President Bush agrees to the border security measures Congress is rushing to put on his desk, he should make sure of one thing — that House and Senate leaders are committed to taking up the other critical parts of the immigration solution after the November elections. Without that agreement, which can be struck in private if that's the only

way conservative Republicans will sign it, Americans won't get a better answer to what to do about the 12 million illegal immigrants lying here and 400,000 coming annually. To his enduring credit, Mr. Bush keeps insisting an immigration bill should include a guest worker program and a pathway to citizenship for some illegal immigrants. Otherwise, Congress can build all the fences in the world and place agents on top of agent, and still not stop illegal immigration. Most House Republicans and some Senate conservatives believe fences, agents and the like fix the problem. But some House Republicans, including a

few we've polled from North Texas, realize that the House can't stop there. In fact, one GOP member suggested that the president needs a memorandum of understanding. If he approves the security plans, Congress must debate a way to create more legal workers. That's a fair deal. And minus that commitment, the "border-security-only caucus," with which GOP House Speaker Dennis Hastert seems increasingly comfortable, will walk away and say, "Fine, we've dealt with immigration, next subject." The president is right: America can't solve its immigration challenge without a comprehensive answer. He's not going to get it unless he plays hardball.

Arts and Crafts Festival



Pampa Fine Arts Association annual Arts and Crafts Festival will be staged Saturday and Sunday at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Sena Brainard, left, PFAA Gourmet Booth chair, and Suzie Wilkinson are busy making plans for the upcoming festival. The festival will open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Children need more playtime

CHICAGO (AP) — Here's some soothing medicine for stressed-out parents and overscheduled kids: The American Academy of Pediatrics says what children really need for healthy development is more good, old-fashioned playtime.

Many parents load their children's schedules with get-smart videos, enrichment activities and lots of classes in a drive to help them excel. The efforts often begin as early as infancy.

Spontaneous, free play — whether it's chasing butterflies, playing with "true toys" like blocks and dolls, or just romping on the floor with mom and dad — often is sacrificed in the shuffle, a new academy report says.

Jennifer Gervasio has a 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter involved in preschool three mornings weekly, plus T-ball and ballet for each one day a week. That's a light schedule compared to her kids' friends, and Gervasio said her son in particular has trouble finding buddies who are free to come over and just play.

"There's just such a huge variety of things you can do for your kids if you have the resources, you almost feel why not," said Gervasio, of Wilmette, Ill. "There is a

part of me that would worry if I don't sign my son up for some of these things, will he not be on par with the other kids."

For now, she says, she

resists the pressure, instead allowing her kids plenty of time for looking for bugs, romping at the beach and other play activities they love to do.



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

NEW YORK (AP) — Those people wearing "Stewart/Colbert '08" T-shirts can stop hoping — Comedy Central's fake news stars have no intention of making a run for the White House.

Jon Stewart said the T-shirts promoting him and Stephen Colbert "are a real sign of how sad people are" with the state of affairs in the country.

"Nothing says 'I am ashamed of you my government' more than 'Stewart/Colbert '08,'" Stewart told an audience Sunday at the New Yorker Festival. He was interviewed by the magazine's editor, David Remnick.

Stewart, who recently hosted Pakistan's president,

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, on "The Daily Show," said he's been trying to get top Bush administration officials to appear. "We have requests in there to everyone including Barney," Stewart said. "Only Barney replies." Barney is the president's Scottish terrier.

Stewart scoffed at suggestions that some people actually get their news from "The Daily Show."

"There's no way you could get the news from us," he said. "I've seen the show. It couldn't happen."

DETROIT (AP) — Bill Cosby returned to the city for an empowerment workshop, saying there are serious problems facing blacks in Detroit that can be resolved if the community puts forth the effort.

About 600 people attended the Saturday event at Wayne County Community College District's downtown campus. The workshop was co-hosted by Cosby and Barbara Reed, a social worker.

"You're about to listen, absorb and to challenge yourself to move in a positive direction," the comedian told the audience. "Strength, that's what we're after."

Detroit, with its majority black population, was listed as No. 2 in the U.S. Census Bureau's ranking of poorest big cities released in August,

with 31.4 percent of its residents living in poverty.

Cosby visited Detroit in October 2005 as part of a tour to encourage community involvement and self-improvement. He also visited the city in January 2005, asking blacks to be more responsible for the future of their children.

"When I come back and come back and come back," Cosby said, "I'm making a statement that this is for real."

NEW YORK (AP) — Pedro Almodovar says he would like to make a movie in English but is scared of losing his independence in Hollywood.

"Part of my career I would like to make a movie in English," the Oscar-winning Spanish director said Saturday at a New Yorker Festival event, adding that he had been approached several times to make a film in the United States.

But he said he feared the Hollywood production system. "I was always scared of losing my independence and freedom."

"My experience, talking with other directors here, even Scorsese, I said, 'Oh my God, this is incredible. I feel more lucky than you, I mean I work in much better conditions than you.' It was Scorsese."

Almodovar said in the

past he had been interested in making films based on several novels in English, such as "The Silence of the Lambs," "The Hours," "The Accidental Tourist" and "The Human Stain." But he found out their film rights had already been sold. He would do a film in English, but with European money, he said.

Almodovar's latest film "Volver" — a comic drama starring Penelope Cruz about women making do without men — has been chosen to represent Spain among movies vying to be candidates for the best foreign film Oscar. It opens in the United States in November.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will announce its five candidates for best foreign film Jan. 23. The Oscar ceremony will be held Feb. 25.

Almodovar's "All About My Mother" won the 2000 Oscar for best foreign film and "Talk to Her" won the 2003 Oscar for best original screenplay.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

emerge, probably a Shiite version. The Shiites might keep the trappings of democracy like Egypt, but there will be no question about who runs the show. They will have a strong secret police and an army to shut down the dissidents.

Hopefully by then we will have elected some people who know the difference between con artists and real experts whose expertise is grounded on personal experience and a knowledge of the language, culture and history of the areas for which they claim knowledge.

Then, when we find a basket from which are coming the sounds of snakes, we won't be so foolish as to take the lid off and then be surprised when the snakes don't magically turn into bunny rabbits.

In the meantime, use your common sense. Ask yourself just what it is that America's young men and women are dying for. To make Iraq a happy place? To make Israel feel safer? To help corporations with insider connections get richer? Not one of those reasons is worth the life of a camel, much less a human being.

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

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and we will take a picture of the ghost or goblin.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

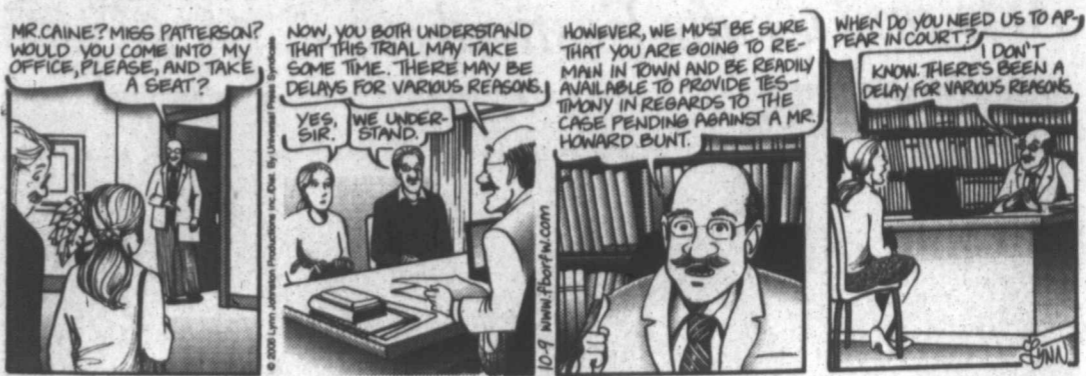
DEAR ABBY: What has become of social skills in this country? I have been planning my daughter's wedding for eight months, and mailed invitations with self-addressed, stamped response cards six weeks ahead of my deadline with the caterers and rental companies. The wedding will be at a large city zoo with a buffet dinner at the reception. Some people don't respond at all, some plan to bring dates when no guest was invited, and I'm still getting response cards a full week after the deadline. Do people not understand what "Respond by" means? Can I call them and say, "Sorry, it's too late," or must I just let them come and ruin our special event by causing us to run short of food and chairs? The RSVP situation has been the most stressful aspect of the entire event. We are well past the standard 10 percent extra. Please let your readers know that their rudeness, disorganization or lack of social skills ruins the enjoyment of planning a special event. Maybe some other mother of the bride can benefit if you explain what the response card is for. — **TIRED IN KENTUCKY**

DEAR TIRED: You have voiced a frustration that has appeared in this column before. "Response cards" are included with invitations so that the hosts will know how many people to plan on and the quantity of food and beverages that will be needed. When an invitation is sent, it is meant only for the person (or persons) whose names are on the envelope. This means no extra guests, and that includes children or dates. If you feel you cannot abide by that, then send your regrets. I'm sad to say that "social graces" have diminished over the last decades. Many hostesses attempt to compensate for the lack of response to their RSVP cards by calling prospective guests and asking if they will attend — and how many. This also gives them an opportunity to inform the person(s) that they cannot accommodate "extras" or that the occasion is "adults only."

DEAR ABBY: I am a newlywed. This is the second marriage for both of us. "Bart" and I are empty-nesters who both work full time. We did not live together before we were married and are now adjusting to our different ways of doing things. A major issue we have is that the rule in my household has always been no phone calls after 10 p.m., while Bart has no problem with his parents and children calling late at night — sometimes as late as 11:30. I function well with eight to nine hours of sleep and try to be in bed by 10 or 10:15. Bart's alarm goes off at either 5:20 a.m. or 6:20 a.m., depending on his schedule during the week, and I can't always fall back to sleep. (I don't need to be up until 7:15.) Obviously, we can't change what time he has to get up, but he is "happy" to speak with his family whatever time they call, even though it wakes me up. Neither of us wants to sleep in separate bedrooms. I love Bart and his family, but I have become a walking zombie. Any suggestions? — **SLEEP-DEPRIVED IN CLEVELAND**

DEAR SLEEP-DEPRIVED: Just this. When people marry, their lives do not go on just as before. Your husband, his children and his parents are ignoring that fact. It is extremely important that people get an adequate amount of sleep in order for their minds and bodies to function properly. Therefore, your husband needs to establish some ground rules with his side of the family before their lack of consideration harms your health. Sleep deprivation can adversely affect a person's efficiency at work, one's safety behind the wheel, and compromise the immune system. If your husband has a cell phone, perhaps he should consider setting it on "vibrate" so that if his family needs to talk to him late at night, they can reach him without waking you.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Sailing hazards
- 6 Trattoria fare
- 11 Dancer Ailey
- 12 Principle
- 13 Small crown
- 14 Literary category
- 15 Pennsylvania port
- 17 Family contest
- 18 Diner entree
- 22 "Sesame Street" regular
- 23 As one
- 27 Decelerates
- 29 Stash of valuables
- 30 Venus Williams' sister
- 32 "— Brockovich"
- 33 Plump
- 35 Crunch targets
- 38 Bread spread
- 39 Yellow gem
- 41 Not dozing
- 45 In reserve
- 46 Common dice roll
- 47 Districts
- 48 Market direction

DOWN

- 1 Fink
- 2 Actor Wallach
- 3 Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"
- 4 State park sight
- 5 Mongrel's warning
- 19 Model
- 6 Beauty contest
- 7 Chopping tool
- 8 Go under
- 9 Spelling on TV
- 10 Hymn closer
- 16 Debtor's letters
- 18 Disarray
- 19 Model desire
- 20 Love, Latin-style
- 21 Force
- 24 Bull-fight
- 25 Demonic beast
- 26 Disavow
- 28 Naps
- 31 Greedy
- 34 Baker's need
- 35 Full range
- 36 U2 singer
- 37 Quick drive
- 40 High card
- 42 Blvd.'s kin
- 43 Boxer Norton
- 44 Conclude

Saturday's answer

11 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 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 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

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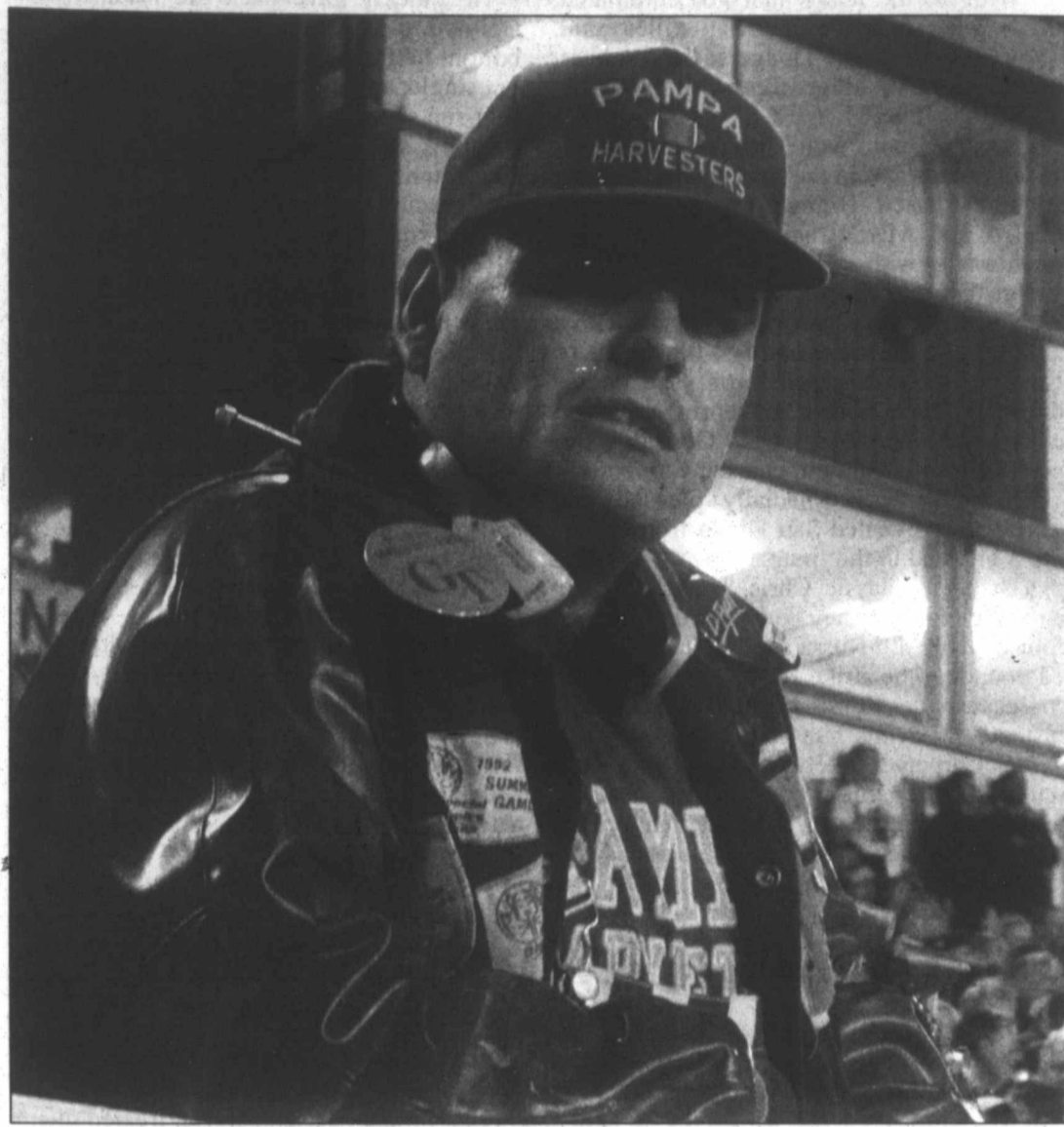
Flo & Friends



Blondie



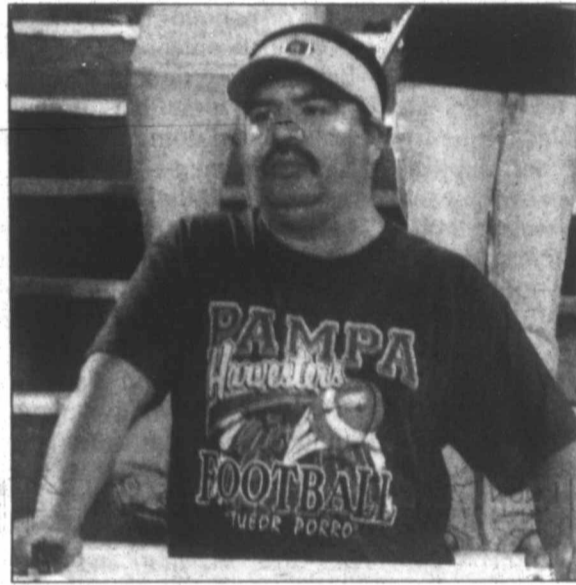
Sports Day



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

▲ A fixture at many Pampa High School sporting events, Hector Estrada takes in the close game between the Harvesters and Plainview Bulldogs Friday night.

► Raul Soriano watches the Pampa Harvester football team warm up prior to the start of the second half at the Sept. 1 season opener in Perryton.



Special fans make PHS sports a real experience

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

shouting those three words.
"Come on Pampa!"

For those wanting to know when the 'Dateline' special featuring the Pampa Harvester football team is going to air, I received an e-mail from producer Matt Fields last week in which he said it could air anytime between now and December. It just depends on the network production and programming schedule.

For those still wondering why the network chose Pampa, there were a couple of reasons.

One is the emotional connection involving current head coach Andy Cavalier and his late father, Dennis, the former head coach and athletic director many credit with establishing the concept most Harvester sports operate under today.

However, there was something else that caught NBC's eye during their scouting visit. A man named Trent Loter. I never really got around to learning what it was about Trent that captured their attention, but why wouldn't he? Trent is one of those special fans that adds to the sporting experience that seems to be uniquely Pampa.

He's fiery. I love listening to him walk the sideline, shouting out instructions, praise and even a few suggestions for the referees.

Of course, there is the 'Trent Loter' half-time snack - a soda and a box of popcorn (just ask for a 'Trent Loter' or two at the concession stand).

Trent knows his stuff. Give him the name of almost any Texas High School and he will fire off the team name/mascot without so much as a blink.

I still have to look in my research books or Google to make sure I have them right.

This guy is Pampa. Trent Loter is all Harvester.

How many Harvester football or basketball games have you attended and heard "Come on Pampa!" shouted in irregular bursts from the Pampa bleachers?

Meet Hector Estrada.

I first "heard" of Hector during my first Pampa home basketball game. I recall taking pictures and wondering who that was

Over the past few years, I have overheard some say they find him obtrusive, even annoying. While at a basketball game in 2004, I caught a group of visiting kids speaking out of school about this man. I didn't know enough about Hector at the time to do anything then. I do now.

I'm told Donny Hooper tells a great story concerning Dennis Cavalier and Hector. I would like to hear it.

Until then, I have no problem hearing Hector. Neither should you.

Raul Soriano can also be found at most Pampa games. He too is somewhat voiceiferous. Ask and he will tell you how proud he is of the Harvesters. He will also let you know he's got a great job at United Supermarket. He will tell you about his day, good or bad. He is a great conversationalist.

Listen to all three. Listen as they cheer for their team. What you will hear is pure and without prejudice. Not once will you hear them bemoan a coach for not playing their kid enough, or hint - even if under their breath - they could do a better job if they were coaching. I've never seen one of these men leave just because Pampa was not winning. I have only seen them stand and cheer from start to finish.

Each one is always dressed up in his Harvester green and gold. They wear it with great pride and shout their support to the top of their lungs.

If "Come on Pampa" were the only three words they could utter, it would be enough.

I see - or hear - nothing wrong with being the level of fan these wonderful people are.

Feeling "Harvester Good" is more than an answer to a passing question to these three. It is a true emotion.

So let them yell. Let them mumble. Any offense is obviously unintended and based only on the opinion of the offended.

Let them be Harvester fans. The kind many of us wish we were. The kind some ought to try to be.

Here's to you Trent, Hector and Raul. For being a part of the wonderful and unique tapestry that is Pampa High School sports.

T.O. MIA in Eagles' 38-24 win

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - With Terrell Owens watching from the sideline, Donovan McNabb turned ordinary receivers into big-time playmakers.

As for T.O., the most overhyped homecoming in recent memory was totally ordinary: three catches, 45 yards, 0 drama.

McNabb threw touchdown passes of 40 yards to Reggie Brown and 87 yards to Hank Baskett, and Lito Sheppard returned an interception 102 yards in the final minute to seal the Eagles' 38-24 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

Owens' return to Philadelphia dominated the headlines this week, with Philly fans planning a hostile welcome. But Owens was merely a decoy for most of the game, and those fans were too dazzled by McNabb to fixate much on the erstwhile Eagles receiver who helped them reach the Super Bowl in 2004 before last year's bitter departure.

"It's frustrating," Owens said. "Opportunities were there and we didn't make them. I'm a competitor. I do not like to lose. Maybe I need to work harder."

Not only did Owens not score, he didn't catch a pass until the third quarter - then dropped the next one thrown to him, much to the delight of a frenzied crowd that showered Owens with derisive chants, insults and boos.

"I was surprised Terrell didn't have more catches. That was not our plan," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said after chatting with Owens in the locker room.

The Eagles (4-1) took the lead for good when McNabb connected with Brown on a flea-flicker pass with 9:13 left that made it 31-24. Brown, a second-year pro who replaced a suspended Owens in the starting lineup last year, beat rookie safety Patrick Watkins and caught the ball deep in the end zone.

The Cowboys (2-2) drove to the Eagles 33 on the ensuing drive. But Sheppard intercepted Drew Bledsoe's badly underthrown pass - intended for an open Owens.

Owens angrily snapped at his chin strap, walked off the field and took his

usual spot at the end of the bench.

The Cowboys had one more chance after a pass interference penalty on Michael Lewis allowed them to convert a fourth-and-18 from their 37.

But from the Eagles 6, Sheppard stepped in front of Bledsoe's pass and raced the other way to put the game away. Bledsoe threw three interceptions and was sacked seven times.



For a while, the Cowboys were doing just fine without getting Owens involved. DeMarcus Ware scored on a 69-yard fumble return and Bledsoe ran in from the 7 to give Dallas a 21-17 halftime lead.

But Philadelphia's struggling offense turned it around with one big play.

McNabb took a deep drop, eluded a sack, stepped up and heaved a pass downfield. Baskett ran past Watkins, caught the ball in stride, broke a tackle near the 30 and streaked into the end zone for his first career touchdown.

Baskett, acquired in a trade after he was signed by Minnesota as a rookie free agent, was starting for the injured Donte Stallworth. He finished with three catches for 112 yards.

Dallas tied it at 24 on a 39-yard field goal by Mike Vanderjagt early in the fourth quarter. Then McNabb took over.

"This is a total team game," said McNabb, who was 18-of-33 for 354 yards and two TDs. "It's not T.O. vs. Donovan. All of us play together."

Owens was a non-factor in the first half as the Cowboys relied on their running game. Bledsoe finally looked Owens' way on the Cowboys' 17th

offensive play, but he was hit on the throw and Brian Dawkins intercepted.

Owens' first catch - on Dallas' 41st play - was a short pass that he turned into a 9-yard gain. He then looked toward the Eagles' sideline and spun the ball on the ground in their direction while gesturing.

Perhaps distracted by the Owens' hoopla, both teams were sloppy at the start.

Eagles running back Brian Westbrook, who didn't practice all week because of a knee injury, looked fine on a 24-yard screen pass on the first play from scrimmage. But he fumbled on the next play, giving Dallas the ball at its 38.

Cowboys punter Mat McBriar later fumbled a snap and Shawn Barber recovered at the 12. Westbrook ran in from the 5.

Darwin Walker sacked Bledsoe on Dallas' first play on the ensuing possession, forcing a fumble Trent Cole recovered at the Cowboys 14. But the Eagles settled for David Akers' 27-yard field goal that made it 10-0.

Marion Barber's 2-yard TD run made it 10-7.

In the second quarter, Greg Ellis hit McNabb and the ball popped. Ware caught it and, with no one in front of him, raced 69 yards for a touchdown.

The Eagles answered quickly, taking a 17-14 lead on McNabb's sneak from the 1. McNabb connected with L.J. Smith on a 60-yard pass to set up the score.

Bledsoe, not known for his scrambling, scored on a 7-yard run to give the Cowboys a 21-17 lead.

"We came out in the second half, showed a lot of character," said linebacker Jeremiah Trotter. "I think we really took a great step forward."

Notes: Stallworth (hamstring) and CB Rod Hood (heel) missed their second straight game for the Eagles. ... The Eagles snapped a seven-game losing streak against NFC East opponents, including a 30-24 overtime loss in Week 2 to the Giants after they wasted a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter.

Wreck gives Vickers first Cup win

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) - Brian Vickers isn't allowed to attend Hendrick Motorsports team meetings.

Now he might not even be allowed in the building.

Vickers stole his first Nextel Cup victory Sunday by nudging teammate Jimmie Johnson into race leader Dale Earnhardt Jr., then skirting by the two spinning cars on the last lap at Talladega Superspeedway.

It robbed what looked to be a victory for Earnhardt and a solid chance for Johnson to resurrect his fading Nextel Cup title hopes. And it certainly spoiled what should have been a crowning moment for Vickers, who has just six races left in his Hendrick ride before his impending defection to a Toyota team.

"I got into Jimmie and I hate it," Vickers said. "The last thing I wanted to do was wreck either one of those guys, but what happened, happened. It wasn't intentional."

"It's definitely mixed emotions for me, being my first win, but also what happened with Jimmie because he is my friend and also a teammate, as well."

But a rift has apparently been brewing since Vickers asked out of his Hendrick contract in June, and was locked out of team meetings shortly after.

Johnson, who wasn't going to finish lower than second, wound up 24th and struggled to understand why the accident happened.

"I just can't believe it. Here we go all day long, I had a great chance to make up some points, and I end up getting wrecked by a teammate," he said.

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Cardinals beat Padres to round out CLS finalists

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Frustrated by the St. Louis Cardinals' failure to sweep the San Diego Padres for a second straight year, Albert Pujols banned luggage at Busch Stadium.

He wanted teammates to feel urgency. Forget about contingencies for a deciding Game 5 on the road.

"I told the guys, 'Hey, don't pack,'" Pujols said after the Cardinals eliminated the Padres 6-2 in Game 4 of the National League division series on Sunday night. "I don't want to see any suitcases because we're going to win this game."

"It's not disrespecting the Padres, but that's the attitude that it takes."

After making it to the NLCS for the third straight year, the Cardinals were to head for the airport on Monday afternoon instead. Their destination: New York for the start of the best-of-seven series against the Mets that starts Wednesday.

The Mets were 4-2 against the Cardinals in the regular season.

"Hopefully we'll bring a World Series back to St. Louis," Pujols said. "I'm pretty sure we're going to be the underdog facing New York."

"But you know anything can happen in the playoffs."

Pujols presided over the postgame celebration, standing on a folding chair in a raucous clubhouse while spraying champagne in every direction.

The tension from Chris Carpenter's shaky beginning, the angst of the team's late-season swoon, all had evaporated.

"From Day 1, I kept saying this team's got what it takes to get to the World Series," Scott Spiezio said. "We're a step closer."

Carpenter needed 35 pitches to escape the first inning, then recovered nicely to gain his second victory of the series. Juan Encarnacion's tiebreaking triple was the big hit in a four-run sixth.

St. Louis nearly wasted a seven-game lead in the final two weeks of the regular season but rebounded against the Padres, a team the Cardinals swept in the first round last year.

Escaping trouble in each of the last two innings with a bullpen that threw 13 1-3 scoreless innings, the Cardinals sealed the win when Adam Wainwright got Dave Roberts on a groundout with two on. Pujols stepped on the first-base bag for the final out to set off the celebration at new Busch Stadium.

Manager Tony La Russa improved to 20-5 in division series play, including 9-1 against the Padres.

"We've popped champagne twice," La Russa said. "The goal is to pop it four times."

The Padres totaled six runs in the series,

going 2-for-32 (.063) with runners in scoring position.

"With all the teams that got eliminated, that's what happened," Brian Giles said. "You look at us, the Dodgers, the Yankees, the Twins — we all scuffled with runners in scoring position."

Carpenter, who won Tuesday's opener 5-1, fell behind 2-0 in the first inning when he walked Russell Branyan with the bases loaded and Mike Cameron followed two pitches later with an RBI grounder.

But that was all the NL West champions would get off Carpenter, who was 2-0 with a 2.02 ERA in the series and is 4-0 with a 2.10 ERA in five postseason starts. The Padres didn't another runner in scoring position until Brian Giles and Adrian Gonzalez singled to open the eighth, chasing Carpenter.

La Russa was especially pleased that Carpenter prevented San Diego from building a big lead in the first.

"That was classic Chris, because at the end of the inning they had two runs and not four or five," La Russa said. "Then he started pounding the strike zone."

Because La Russa pitched him Sunday instead of saving him for a possible fifth game, Carpenter likely won't be available until the third game of the NLCS.

San Diego held back ace Jake Peavy for a possible Game 5. Woody Williams, who

took the loss, allowed four runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

He quickly gave back the lead. Ronnie Belliard, 6-for-13 in the series, tied it in the bottom half of the first with a two-run, two-out single, and the score stayed tied until the fourth run sixth.

Pujols started off the bottom half with a five-pitch walk and, one out later, Encarnacion drove a hanging breaking ball deep to right as Pujols lumbered around the bases for a 3-2 lead.

"I left a curveball up," Williams said. "I guess he was looking to go the other way."

Spiezio added an RBI single and David Eckstein had a squeeze bunt in the rally. Another run scored when Branyan's throw to the plate from third was wide for an error on Carpenter's tapper.

The Padres had two men on in the eighth and ninth but came up empty against a St. Louis bullpen featuring three rookies.

"We didn't know much about these guys," Roberts said. "They've got great stuff. To their credit, they made pitches when they had to."

Notes: Nikko Smith, son of Cardinals Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith and a former "American Idol" finalist, sang the national anthem. ... Hall of Famer Red Schoendienst, a former Cardinals manager, threw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Steinbrenner should stop and think before firing Torre

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Dear George:

Nobody tells a guy who spent \$200 million on the hired help what he can or cannot do. So go ahead, fire Joe Torre if it makes you feel better. Just ask yourself something first. What would Lou Piniella or any other manager have done differently?

Scream more? Hit and run less? Use the hook on one pitcher a little earlier or another a little later? Because even if Torre — or Piniella, or the ghost of Connie Mack, for that matter — had done any or all of those things, the result would have been the same.

So at least be honest. If you're compiling a list of the people who let you down the past half-dozen seasons, his name doesn't even make the top 10.

This doesn't mean you have to stand pat. Just the opposite. The best thing about your stewardship is that the Yankees' glass never looks half-full, that if you're not happy — which is just about always — then nobody else in the organization is going to be, either. Sure, it's a miserable, nerve-rack-

ing way to run one of the greatest franchises in sports. But no one is ever going to utter your name and the word "complacent" in the same sentence.

So get general manager Brian Cashman on the phone, tell him to pull out a copy of the roster and a red pen. Start by having him draw a line through the third baseman's name, because everybody in New York already has.

Adding Alex Rodriguez was wonderful in theory, but, like communism, not so wonderful in practice. He's tried adapting, agreeing to move from shortstop, where he's a first-ballot Hall of Famer, to the far side of diamond to give Derek Jeter plenty of space.

He tried being cocky, because A-Rod thought that's what the town wanted, then humbled himself when pity seemed like the quickest way back into its heart. He's always the first ballplayer to show up for extra practice, and often the last to leave. That might have endeared him to the coaching staff, but A-Rod will forever be dragging his price tag behind him like a ball and chain. Cut him loose, cut your losses while you still can, and ship

him to the Angels, Dodgers or Cubs for one of those young arms that have been so effective against your lineup the last few post-seasons.

And while we're on the subject of pitchers, it's time to stop thinking of your staff as a way station for AARP millionaires. Grabbing Roger Clemens a few years ago was a stroke of genius, but he was the exception and not the rule. Remember Kevin Brown, whose name rhymes with broken down? Well, Randy Johnson is already 43 and Mike Mussina turns 38 in December and they're eating up \$35 million annually.

The good news is that Mussina is in his option year, the better news is that Gary Sheffield is, too. Package them and get yourself another young arm in the bargain. It seems like ancient history now, especially because a lineup card glittering with All-Stars is hard to see past, but the bedrock of those four World Series titles in five years at the start of Torre tenure was strength up the middle and pitching.

Take out the contributions of Derek Jeter and Jorge Posada, both

of whom hit .500 against Detroit, and the rest of the batting order went 18-for-104. That's a .173 average. Everybody else in baseball understands your hitters were geeked once they fell behind early and responded by trying to hit every ball out of the park. That's because they figured it was only a matter of time before the other team started doing the same to the Yankee pitchers.

Torre, on the other hand, has been consistent, maybe the best thing that ever happened to you. He was the buffer all these years between expectations and reality, and every year he got your team close enough to win it all.

He kept everybody happy when dividing playing time among a bunch of midlevel talents like Tino Martinez and Paul O'Neill was touchy, and he kept the spare parts like Jose Vizcaino and Luis Sojo sharp, made room and time for budding superstars like Alfonso Soriano and Robinson Cano to develop and he usually had all the issues sorted out when the playoffs rolled around.

Now he's got a roster full of guys who — at least on paper —

should be penciled in every day, and less flexibility than ever to make decisions. He treated them like the professionals they're supposed to be, moving pieces around to account for age and injury, and tried to stay out of their way.

Remember how well that worked for the 2000 team, the one that Torre insisted prepared so well on its own that managing was almost too easy? "I'd have meetings sometime," he said then, "for my own sake." Well, this is not that kind of team.

But whatever team you turn over to whomever has the manager's job next season, keep in mind that the Big Apple is no place for the meek. Torre has shown more patience than the job merited, sought less credit than he deserved, won as often as he should have and never once complained.

If that adds up to a pink slip now, you'd better have a pad of pink slips handy. You won't find anybody that good at covering your back for twice the price.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

Texas QB McCoy has a good start by beating Oklahoma

DALLAS (AP) — Colt McCoy picked up where Vince Young left off in one very important area: Beating Oklahoma.

After a lousy second quarter that left Longhorns fans pining for their departed leader, McCoy rallied with two perfect passes for touchdowns in the third quarter and cornerback Aaron Ross made game-changing plays

in the fourth, carrying No. 7 Texas past the No. 14 Sooners 28-10 Saturday.

McCoy, a redshirt freshman who watched Young beat OU and everyone else en route to the national championship last year, failed his first big test last month against No. 1 Ohio State. While that loss ended a 21-game winning streak, this victory kept alive two

other important streaks for the Longhorns: 17 straight conference wins ... and two in a row against Oklahoma.

Texas (5-1, 2-0 Big 12) trailed 10-7 at halftime and was in a big rut after gaining a single yard in the second quarter. The defense stopped the Sooners (3-2, 0-1) on the opening drive of the second half, then McCoy took over.

He threw a 17-yarder on

the first play, then two snaps later lofted a blitz-beating 33-yard touchdown pass to Limas Sweed. He moved the Longhorns 79 yards on the next drive, running three times for 23 yards and capping it with a 7-yard pass to Jordan Shipley near the back of the end zone with a defender charging at McCoy.

Adrian Peterson ran 25 times for 109 yards, includ-

ing a 29-yard touchdown, for Oklahoma but it's what the former Heisman runner-up didn't do on a lateral in the fourth quarter that broke the game open for Texas.

Down 21-10, the Sooners reached the Texas 15 on a pass to Jaquain Iglesias, but he fumbled and the Longhorns recovered.

McCoy wasn't able to get any points out of it, but a

punt left Oklahoma at its 17.

After missing on a deep pass, quarterback Paul Thompson turned right and threw a pass to Peterson. It bounced off his hands and he gave up on it, but Ross didn't, scooping it at the 4-yard line and walking in for a touchdown.

McCoy wasn't able to get any points out of it, but a

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006:

A partnership weighs in as a key priority. You will want to work with this person, as you both will profit. Sometimes you see eye to eye on money and other such ventures. You find that an element of unpredictability races through your life, especially your routine, daily life. Learn to flex, and you will be far more content and mellow. If you are single, you will meet people with ease. How fast you snuggle in might surprise you. Be sure you want this bond, because getting out of it could take a lot of work. If you are attached, your bond needs more personal time than in the past. Consider a long-talked-about trip together. GEMINI can be provocative.

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)

★★★★ What you hear could put bells on your toes you are so happy. Still, a sudden insight might have you regrouping. Use this information to empower yourself and others. Communication involves finances. Tonight: Out and about.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Indulge, but also know that there are ramifications. Someone says the right words, but does this person have the follow-through? Only you can answer this question. Be honest about what is going on around you. Tonight: Watch rather than become involved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ The Moon slides into your sign, highlighting your adventures and choices. Still, a boss or someone you put on a pedestal who might usually express

good ideas and understanding could act up out of the blue. Tonight: Your mood will determine your plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take your time making a decision. Though at one point you might feel 100 percent sure of yourself, different news and/or information heads your way. Take your time, as if moving slowly is your friend. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Take time out for yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You might want to attempt to communicate on a different level. You could be shocked when you see what is happening or what someone is up to. Your lesson might be to be more discriminating. Tonight: Walk a new path leading to where you want to go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might want to revise your thinking as to what needs to be done. Others look up to you. Still, you might discover that someone who appears to be a supporter could actually be maligning your interests. If you want to do something, you might have to forge your own path. Listen well to someone who counts. Tonight: Don't count on this being an early night.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ When taking an overview, you might be overwhelmed by what is going on. Truth be told, someone might be causing more problems than you would like or need to deal with. Decide how you want to handle this problem. Tonight: Listen to good music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A key person acts on what he or she knows or feels. Your instincts tell you to follow through on what is suggested. Careful — if some detail sticks in your craw, it is for good reason. Don't kid yourself or debunk your feelings.

Tonight: A long-overdue chat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Tension builds because you might not want to play follow the leader — you being the follower. Though someone might be easygoing as long as this person has it his or her way, once there is any sense of uproar on your part, you'll pay the piper. Careful. Tonight: Choose what works for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Good intentions could easily fall to the wayside. You find at some point that though communication flourishes, suddenly you have uproar, whether you like it or not. You could be taken aback by an associate's hypocrisy — for good reason. Tonight: Curb wildness early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ What seemed like a great idea could cost you more than you'd anticipated. Knowing when to say no could make all the difference. There is no time like the present to start practicing. Use care with money in general. You are vulnerable. Tonight: Let your hair down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You do add a bit more unpredictability than you realize. If someone is having a problem with you, you are going to hear about it. Emphasize the quality of your personal life and greater stability. Tonight: Head home to your castle.

BORN TODAY

Playwright Harold Pinter (1930), actor Charles Dance (1946), singer David Lee Roth (1954)

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

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Jaramillo content to remain Rangers hitting coach

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Rudy Jaramillo won't be a candidate to become the next manager of the Texas Rangers, telling general manager Jon Daniels that he prefers to remain the team's hitting coach.

"Rudy told me ... that's where his heart

is," Daniels said Monday. "As such, he won't be interviewed in our search."

Daniels is looking for a replacement to Buck Showalter, who was fired last week. Daniels is in the early stages of his hunt, with several potential candidates still involved

in the postseason and another, Trey Hillman, involved in the playoffs in Japan. Jaramillo and bench coach Don Wakamatsu were considered the top internal candidates.

Jaramillo has interviewed for manager jobs previously, including the New York Mets when Willie Randolph got it. Jaramillo is widely considered one of baseball's

top hitting coaches, having worked with several MVPs.

"I think Rudy's capable of managing someday, but I'm happy he's on our side regardless of which position it's in," Daniels said. "He's as well thought of as it gets in this business."

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.

10-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

UXPXZ E OLW LV DTZPX B

MLKR WELU KREK DEU'K YX

ALVVXB LUKI VQLOXV EFELU.

— YZ X K RE Z K X
Saturday's Cryptoquote: A WEAK MIND IS LIKE A MICROSCOPE, WHICH MAGNIFIES TRIFLING THINGS YET CANNOT RECEIVE GIANT ONES.
— LORD CHESTERFIELD

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THE STATE OF TEXAS:
BELVA JUNE THACKER VS LEFORS OIL AND ROYALTY CORPORATION AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN STOCKHOLDERS BURNHAM-MUNGER ROOT DRY GOODS COMPANY AND ALL UNKNOWN STOCKHOLDERS
Case No: 34484
IN THE 223RD DISTRICT COURT OF GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS
 TO: LEFORS OIL AND ROYALTY CORPORATION AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN STOCKHOLDERS Defendant-GREETING
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."
 You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 A.M. of the Monday next after the

expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday, the 13th Day of November, 2006, before the Honorable 223RD DISTRICT COURT OF GRAY County, at the Courthouse in said County in Pampa, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said court on the 27th day of September, 2006 in the above entitled cause.
 A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: **TITLE-PASS TO TRY TITLE.** All of Lot Numbers sixteen (16) and seventeen (17), in Block Number Fourteen (14), That Heights Addition in the City of Lefors, Gray County, Texas, according to the duly recorded map or plat thereof on file in the office of the County Clerk of Gray County, Texas, known as 511 East 2nd Street, Lefors, Texas as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.
ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF SAID COURT AT Pampa, Tx 79066-1139, ON THIS THE 28th day of September, 2006.
ATTORNEY REQUESTING:
 Rick J. Harris
 P.O. Box 776
 Pampa, Texas
 79066-077
 Gaye Honderich,
 District Clerk

1 Public Notice
THE STATE OF TEXAS:
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 FOR Sale by Owner, 1009 Kiowa, 3 bd, 1 3/4 bath, 2 car garage, builtin appliances, central h/a, Austin area, 806-935-4578, 806-898-0485

REAL ESTATE AUCTION & SHOP EQUIPMENT & TOOL AUCTION SAT. OCT. 14, 9:43 a.m.
 Loc. Panhandle, TX, 112 Elsie St. From Junction of Hwy. 60 & Elsie St. (TX. Hwy. Dept.) take Elsie St., north 1 1/2 Blks. crossing Railroad Track, Sale Sight on east side of street.
McKIERNAN SHOP & OTHERS
 REAL ESTATE sells at 12:00 Noon, 112 Elsie, Panhandle, TX, MAIN BLDG. Steel frame, tin covered, 40x75 ft. More or Less. It is insulated throughout, has a small office & restroom. There are 2 walk-in doors & 3 overhead doors: 12x12 ft., 24x12 ft., 16x12 ft. The Building has a cement floor that is in excellent condition. SECOND BLDG. Is a shed type that is also steel frame & tin covered on 3 sides, 20X100 ft., more or less with dirt floor. These buildings sit on approx. 140x190 ft. Lots. Main Bldg, has 3 phase electrical power and all city utilities. LEGALS: East 15 ft. of Lot 3 & All of Lot 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 in Blk. 14 in Old Town Addition, Panhandle, TX, in Carson Co.
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5 Special Notices
ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.
10 Lost/Found
 LOST: female English Setter, 1 yr., orange color. "Reward \$100!" 440-3105 or 669-7036
 Gaye Honderich, District Clerk
 223RD DISTRICT COURT
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 P.O. Box 1139
 205 N. Russell Street
 Pampa, Tx 79066-1139
 By Phyllis Carroll, Deputy
 F-38 Oct.29,16,23, 2006
 LARRY BAKER Plumbing Heating/Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392
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SPECIAL SPEAKER

Archeologist to give talk at White Deer Land Museum

By DARLENE BIRKES
Special to The News

Alibates flint quarries, the National Monument near Fritch, is a focal point during October, Texas Archeology Month, sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission. Dr. Paul Katz with his wife were the first professional archeologists to excavate at the flint quarries and catalogue findings. The study was funded by a grant from the Western National Parks Assoc.

Dr. Katz will speak in at 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 15 at the White Deer Land Museum, 116 S. Cuyler, on the excavations and techniques that prehistoric people used to obtain the raw material to make their stone tools. The power point presentation sponsored by the Gray County Historical Commission is open to the public.

Also on Saturdays during October, beginning at 2 p.m., the National Park Service is offering tours, a rare opportunity, of the Alibates quarries. Tours



KATZ

are by reservations only, and can be made by calling 806-857-3151.

In 1998 a grass fire swept across 4,000 acres at Lake Meredith, which included the Alibates. Normally the depressions are covered with grass and brush, and little ground could be seen. Through a grant from the Western National Park Association, Dr. Katz and wife studied the depressions using ground positioning satellite (GPS) technology. They believed that most of

the activity was probably during the Antelope Creek Age, about 1250 to 1450 A.D.

These settled buffalo hunters who did some farming in the area hardly needed the flint for barter, so did they use it for barter? How many pits are there, and what are their shapes? Has flint like the Alibates flint been found any where else? These are some of the points of interest.

Dr. Katz has three graduate degrees in anthropology, has taught in college and conducted fieldwork. He has directed museums in Kansas, Washington, Illinois and Texas for 40 years, including serving as curator of the Carson County Museum.

He is currently curator of the Texas Tech School of Pharmacy Museum. He and his wife designed and fabricated the large exhibit about playa lakes for the Northwest Texas Museum Association that is in its fourth of a six-year tour of the High Plains and the Panhandle.

Colleague confronted Foley in 2000

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., confronted then-Rep. Mark Foley about his Internet communications with teenagers as early as 2000, according to a newspaper report.

The Washington Post reported Sunday night that a former page showed Kolbe some Internet messages from Foley that had made the page uncomfortable. Kolbe's press secretary, Korenna Cline, told the Post that a Kolbe staff member advised the page last week to discuss the matter with the clerk of the House.

Cline denied the messages were sexually explicit, telling the Post only that they had made the former page uncomfortable. She said "corrective action" was taken, although she did not know whether that went beyond Kolbe's confrontation with Foley.

Rank-and-file Republicans, meanwhile, sought to mount a public defense of Speaker Dennis Hastert over the scandal, which is threatening their congressional control one month before the elections.

But a House GOP leader under fire for his handling of the scandal involving former Rep. Mark Foley canceled a national broadcast appearance and one Republican lawmaker said those who participated in a cover-up would have to resign.

"Anybody that hindered this in any kind of way, tried to step in the way of hiding this, covering it up, is going to have to step down. Whoever that is," said Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va.

The House ethics committee is investigating the matter. If it finds evidence of a cover-up, the punishment could range from a mild rebuke in a committee report to a House vote of censure or expulsion.

Rep. Thomas Reynolds, who heads the House Republicans' re-election effort, would have been the chamber's top GOP official on the Sunday talk shows. Booked weeks ago for ABC's "This Week," he confirmed his appearance on Wednesday. By Saturday, his office canceled without explanation and arranged for a substitute guest, Rep. Adam Putnam, R-Fla., a net-

work spokeswoman said.

A Reynolds spokesman said the New York congressman had flu-like symptoms. Reynolds, whose district covers a stretch of New York between the suburbs of Buffalo and Rochester, is now trailing his Democratic opponent, Jack Davis, by a 48-33 percent margin, according to a poll conducted by Zogby International for The Buffalo News.

Reynolds has been criticized by Democrats who say he did too little to protect a page from Foley, the Florida Republican who resigned Sept. 29 after the disclosure of his sexually explicit electronic messages to teenage former male pages. Foley is now under investigation by federal and Florida authorities.

The scandal has ignited what has become a political firestorm before the Nov. 7 elections, with the Republican majority in the House and Senate in jeopardy.

Putnam, who heads the Republican Policy Committee, sought to make the case that Hastert's office "acted proactively, they acted aggressively, and within hours of the explicit e-mails coming to light, they demanded Foley's resignation."

"The dirty laundry in our conference is gone," he said.

Rep. Patrick McHenry, R-N.C., said Democrats should be investigated to see whether they leaked the explicit e-mails to gain a political advantage before the elections, although the lawmaker acknowledged he had no evidence indicating that was the case.

Responded Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.: "I think it's ridiculous. But if I was in a bind, as the Republicans are now, I guess I would be reaching for straws. But it's sad."

Hastert, R-Ill., last week accepted responsibility but resisted pressure to resign over his handling of the scandal.

"There's been a lot of ducking and dodging and diving and weaving," said Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill. "There is a lot of finger-pointing that had gone on earlier in the week, but I do think people are behind the speaker now."

Putnam insisted that Democrats will not be able to pick up the 15 seats on Election Day they need to take control of the 435-member House. LaHood was less certain.

"This is going to be the most difficult 30 days in the last 12 years that we've been the majority party," LaHood said.

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