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Thursday, January 29, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 284

Rutherford to lead Republican Women



Evelyn Rutherford (center) is the newly elected president of the Top O' Texas Republican Women organization. Leigh Anne Poole (left) is the treasurer and Gaye Whitehead (right) is the secretary for the organization.

by Rachel Stennett
rstennett@thepampanews.com
Evelyn Rutherford was elected president of the Top O' Texas Republican Women organization, local Pampa Chapter last week. As newly elected president, Rutherford hopes to see an increase community involvement.

"I want to make the public aware of our existence," Rutherford explained. The organization exists both state and nationwide and has been in Pampa since before 1969.

Other significant goals for the organization this year will be increased fundraisers and expanded membership.

According to Rutherford, the group aims to "be supportive of local republican office holders and individuals seeking republican position." Rutherford said she is optimistic and looking forward to the upcoming year.

The group has 15-20 members as of now, but Rutherford hopes the community will play a stronger role in the organization, including any spouses of members that might be interested in involvement. Current members include Leigh Anne Poole, elected treasurer, Gaye Whitehead, secretary, and Jade Martin

Women— cont. on page 5

Filing for city offices opens Feb. 9

The mayor's job and those of two city commissioners will be up for election on May 9.

Feb. 9 is the first day of filing for the positions. The final day to file will be March 9.

City Secretary Karen Price has filing packets that include the application and rules governing the election procedures.

Price said that the packets contain such information as the rules governing campaign signs on street and highway right-of-ways and political advertising. Generally, she said that when candidates file for office they name their campaign treasurer so they can begin fund raising.

Early voting will begin in the Gray County Courthouse on April 27 and run through May 5.

Up for election this May will be Mayor, Commissioner Ward 1 and Commissioner Ward 3.

The incumbent Mayor is Lonny Robbins. Brad Pingel is the incumbent for Ward 1. Robert Dixon is the incumbent for Ward 2.

High bids put prison chapel project on hold

by Rachel Stennett
rstennett@thepampanews.com

A project to build a chapel in the Jordan Unit prison, which was begun with the help of community donations in the late 1990's, has been stalled again.

According to Jack Reeve, a board member of Jordan Chapel Builders, the building project has been delayed because of unexpected high bids delivered for construction costs. The organization originally estimated building bids to be around \$100 to \$120 per square foot. At this cost, the 7,800 square foot chapel could have been built with the money already raised or identified through the community.

When only two bids for the project were returned in December, the organization received quotes indicating the building cost was going to be \$180 per square foot.

The bids raised the cost of building the chapel nearly half a million dollars.

"We were shocked and disappointed with our quotes," Reeve said. As a result of the high bids, the scheduled ground breaking ceremony was canceled and the committee had to re-trench the project. "We're definitely going to continue our efforts and look for ways to lower the cost."

Through the years, the community has already

helped the building fund reach nearly a million dollars, but Reeve said that they now need to have renewed efforts to increase financing.

Along with increased efforts in financing, Reeve also asked that everyone in the community interested in this project include the successful completion of the chapel in their prayers.

Jordan Chapel Builders was formed by Pampa residents to build a chapel in the prison. "It is our firm belief that having a chapel instead of a gym or education room would give the inmates something to anchor on." Reeve explained.

Chapel— cont. on page 5

Highlights from the Texas Legislature

AUSTIN (AP) — Lance Armstrong is taking a brief detour from his cycling comeback and getting back into the rough-and-tumble world of Texas politics.

On Thursday, the seven-time Tour de France champion returns to the Texas Capitol to put his celebrity and expertise behind an anti-smoking bill in the Legislature. He is scheduled to appear at a news conference to release public polling data showing widespread support for a ban on smoking in public places.

It won't be the first time Armstrong, one of the world's most famous athletes, has ventured into the political arena. In 2007, he was instrumental in helping pass a multibillion dollar bond initiative to pay for cancer research and he has hosted televised cancer forums with candidates for president.

Supporters of the smoking ban, which failed two years ago, are counting on him to put the same kind of

pizzazz into their cause.

"The comeback is as much about bringing awareness to this fight against cancer as it is about winning the Tour de France," Armstrong told The Associated Press on

Wednesday, three days after finishing 29th at the Tour of Australia. "It all ties in and these are all key parts."

According to the Smoke-Free Texas coalition, which includes the

American Cancer Society and Armstrong's foundation, second-hand smoke kills 53,000 nonsmoking Americans every year and is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, low birth weight and chronic lung ailments.

NEW RULES

The newly harmonious Texas House is trying to avoid the nastiness that roiled the chamber two years ago.

The chamber is debating new operating rules, including a provision to institute guidelines over the parliamentary process for overthrowing the speaker. Then-Speaker Tom Craddick refused in 2007 to recognize a lawmaker to make the motion to "vacate the chair," or overthrow Craddick. Chaos ensued.

The new rules proposal, which was approved Wednesday evening, allows a majority of House members to appeal a speaker's refusal to recog-

nize such a motion with a written motion.

"The appeal is to be considered as a special order 24 hours after the written motion is submitted," the proposal states.

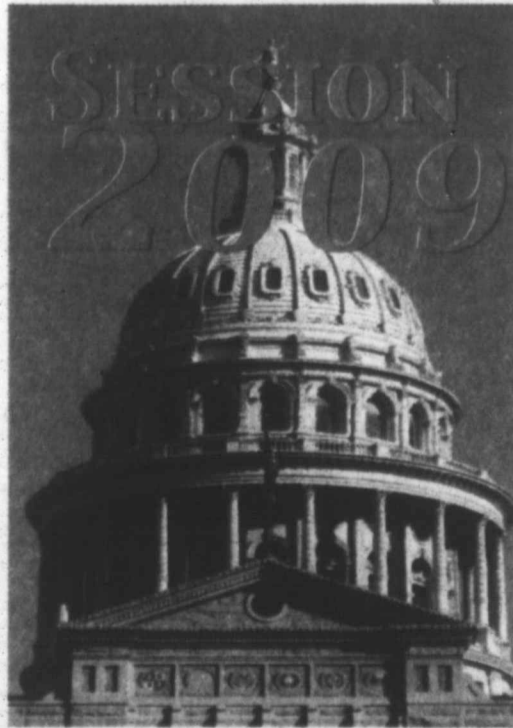
By refusing to acknowledge the motion, Craddick maintained his power.

Craddick's term expired earlier this month and he took his name out of the race when it became clear that he did not have the support to win another term.

PLAY BALL

Some current and former Houston Astros paid a visit to the Texas Capitol on Wednesday as the team that used to play on the fake grass of the old Houston Astrodome participated in a tree-planting ceremony for the "Play Green" initiative.

Former first baseman Jeff Bagwell and current Astros pitcher Mike Hampton and infielder Mark Saccomanno all were in the House gallery.



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Contact the Chamber Office @ 669-3241 for ticket information.

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 58 Low 33	High 64 Low 29	High 45 Low 21

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. Wind chill values between 19 and 29 early. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north-west.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 64. Windy, with a south southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. South wind 15 to 20 mph becoming north northwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 21.

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Cash Five Texas results

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 30-33-16-28-11. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$24,512. Winning ticket purchased in: Dallas. Matching four of five: 85. Prize: \$130. Matching three of five: 2,270. Prize: \$12. Matching two of five: 24,363. Prize: \$2. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Winning Lotto Texas numbers

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 45-7-47-21-46-19. Number matching six of six: 0. Number matching five of six: 14. Prize: \$2,726. Number matching four of six: 989. Prize: \$57. Number matching three of six: 22,589. Prize: \$3. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$14 million.

Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer for the close of the last open market day.

Wheat.....	5.21
Milo.....	4.99
Corn.....	6.69

Emergency Services

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday, Jan. 27

7:19 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of North Cuyler and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7:28 a.m. -- A mobile CU responded to the 400 block of Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:33 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 2300 block of Chestnut and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:37 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Love. No patients were transported.

10:47 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital.

7:02 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:48 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of West Harvester and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:24 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to Hilton road and transported a patient to PRMC.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

7:22 a.m. -- A mobile

ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton road and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:26 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Carr and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:11 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to NWTH.

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

10:11 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of East Foster and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:56 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:14 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to Odyssey Healthcare in Amarillo and transported a patient to the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

12:43 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to Wheeler Nursing Home and transported a patient to the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

2:08 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of East Browning and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:50 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to NWTH and transported a patient to

For the Record

Obituaries

Joe Dudley Anderson, 62

Pampa, Texas — Joe Dudley Anderson, 62, died January 28, 2009 in Amarillo, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mr. Anderson was born June 23, 1946 in Clarendon. He married Olivia P. Jewell on September 10, 1975 in Houston. Joe had been a resident of Pampa since 1985. He was a pipefitter, associated with the Steamfitters Union in Amarillo. He attended the Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship. Survivors include his wife Olivia P. Anderson of the home; one daughter, Olivia J. Anderson of Pampa; his father, Dudley Anderson of Hedley; and one sister, Claudine Trahan of Cleveland, Texas.

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MEMORIALS: Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship, 1733 N. Banks, Pampa, Texas 79065. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Bernard H. Shield, 82

Bernard H. Shield died peacefully at the Methodist Hospital January 28, 2009 at the age of 82. Bernard was born in Miami, Texas, December 13, 1926. He left high school to enter the U.S. Navy at the end of WWII. Following his military service, he studied at West Texas State University and the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation, he taught engineering briefly at UT before embarking on a career as a civil engineer, working first for the Texas Geological Survey, then for many years with Celenese Corporation. He entered consulting engineering field with Turner, Collie and Braden before launching his own civil engineering consulting firm. He was a specialist in concrete, hydraulics and construction, and was a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ and active in the United Methodist Church. He offered himself in service to many ministries in the various congregations to which he belonged. Faithfulness and integrity were hallmarks of his life. Bernard was deeply devoted to his family. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Gloria Mae, in 1980 and a granddaughter, Lindsay Ann Ray, in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Brenda Shield of Bay City; daughter, Linda Shield Ray and husband Kenny of Burnet, Texas; sons, David Bernard Shield and wife Debra of Bay City and Robert C Shield and wife Carla of Beaumont; sister Ardena Fehr of Greeley, CO; grandchildren Bryan K. Riley, Cecily Shield, Cara Shield, Matthew Murray, Joshua Shield and great-grandchildren Karsyn Murray, Kolbe Murray and Kaleb Murray. A memorial was held in

his honor Monday, January 12, 2009 at the First United Methodist Church in Bay City with the Rev. Chris Harrison officiating. Memorial may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Bay City Building Fund, 2300 Ave. H, Bay City, TX 77414, or the First United Methodist Church of Miami TX scholarship fund, 201 South MAIN Street, Miami, TX 79059. Online condolences may be shared with the family by visiting www.taylorbros.net.

Joe Wilburn Miller, 72

Joe Wilburn Miller went to be with the Lord January 24, 2009 at age 72. Joe was born in McLean. He was a Texas cowboy who also served his country in the US Navy and retired from Motorola in Phoenix. Because of his love for God and riding motorcycles he was one of the founding members of the Christian Motorcycle Association. He was preceded in death by his mother, Annie Pugh Miller and daughters Jack Fowler and DL Miller. Joe is survived by his beloved wife Julia B. Miller; sister, Mauree Moore; daughters Audrey MacFadyen and Pam Miller; sons Dale Miller, Gerard and Rick Krebs; grandchildren Kaden MacFadyen, Breanna Krebs, Kyle and Kyanda Miller; niece Mika Potts; nephew Cody Moore. Services were held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29 at Cross-Connection International Fellowship,

3901 W. Dunlap Ave, Phoenix and immediately following he was laid to rest at The National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona with military honors. In lieu of flowers, Joe requested donations to be sent in his name to Cross-Connection International Fellowship to be divided between his loved missions. Menke Funeral Home handled arrangements (623) 979-6451.

Emergency Services

PRMC.

9:17 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Baptist St. Anthony's.

11:18 p.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

Thursday, Jan. 29

1:05 a.m. -- A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to NWTH.

SHERIFF

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

Thursday, Jan. 29

Ramon Rodrigo Para, 31, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for driving while intoxicated, no valid driver's license, and no insurance.

Miles Crawford, 41, of Levelland was arrested by the PPD for possession of marijuana.

2:09 p.m. -- One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of Mary Ellen on a CO investigation.

7:39 p.m. -- Four units and eight personnel responded to the 700 block of North Christy on a smoke scare.

11:04 p.m. -- One unit and three personnel responded to PRMC on LifeStar standby.

FIRE

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

Wednesday, Jan. 28

7:24 a.m. -- One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of Carr on a code three holding.

10:08 a.m. -- One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of East Foster on a med assist.

were received from the 400 block of Harlem, and the 900 block of East Frederic.

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 140 South Starkweather, where two cases of beer were reportedly stolen valued at \$32.

PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Officers conducted one traffic stop.

Nine calls or stops concerning animals were made.

Found property was reported in the 1100 block of South Dwight. A bicycle valued at \$80.00 was found.

Accidents were reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart, and the 1300 block of North Hobart.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of South Dwight.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

A suspicious person call was received from the intersection of Russell and

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Match the faces and businesses and win \$150!

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Telephone Number _____

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Heather Sanders _____

Culberson Stowers

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Hector Leal _____
Jim Hall Jr. _____
Rick Clark _____
Jay Holmes _____

Keyes Pharmacy

Merlin Rose _____

Franks Hardware

Callens George _____
Judy Morris _____
Joe Stevens _____
Zane Hall _____
Kerri Harris _____
Ty Payne _____

NBC Bank

Jenna _____
Heather _____
Jean _____
Samantha _____

One Stop Flooring

Jason Bagwell _____
Stephanie Brooks _____
Jody Clendennen _____

RHEAMS

Ken Rheams _____
Crystal Lewis _____

SEARS

Gene Impiccini _____
Michael Lewis _____
Benny Horton _____

THOMAS AUTOMOTIVE

Ben Richman _____
Sean Hon _____

Bring this entry to the office of The Pampa News at 403 W. Atchison St. or
Mail to P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066

It's Easy – Just identify your friends and neighbors who own, manage or are employed at local businesses with ads in this newspaper.

Just follow these simple rules:

1. The faces below are numbered. Search the ads for blank photo spots and match the faces below to their names and the businesses with which they are associated.
2. Then fill out the form at left. Use the form in the paper - no photo copies will be accepted. (The easiest way to succeed at this game is to visit the stores and see for yourself. However, be aware that some of the businesses may not be accessible to the general public. Please respect the safety concerns of private businesses and rely on family and friends to help solve those not accessible.)
3. The Who's Who Contest will appear in the Jan. 21st, Jan. 27th and Feb. 3rd issues of The Pampa News. Bring or mail your entry to The Pampa News office at 403 Atchison Street (P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066). All entries must be received in our office by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. All correct entries will be placed into a drawing to be held Feb. 13 to determine the winner.
4. Employees of The Pampa News, and their immediate families, are not eligible to win.
5. All of the photos will be identified in the Feb. 16 issue of The Pampa News.

PLAY



WHO'S WHO



Remember to return your completed entry form to The Pampa News. GOOD LUCK!

Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2009. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 29, 1820, Britain's King George III died at Windsor Castle, ending a reign that had seen both the American and French revolutions.

On this date:
In 1843, the 25th president of the United States, William McKinley, was born in Niles, Ohio.

In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven" was first published, in the New York Evening Mirror.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1929, The Seeing Eye, a New Jersey-based school which trains guide dogs to assist the blind, was incorporated by Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank.

In 1936, the first members of baseball's Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In 1939, Irish poet-dramatist William Butler Yeats died in Menton, France.

In 1963, the first members of pro football's Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter formally welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the White House, following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Ala., killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring Emily Lyons, a nurse. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

Ten years ago: The Senate delivered subpoenas for Monica Lewinsky and two of President Bill Clinton's advisers, summoning them for private, videotaped testimony in the impeachment trial. Attorney General Janet Reno rejected a special prosecutor investigation of former White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes.

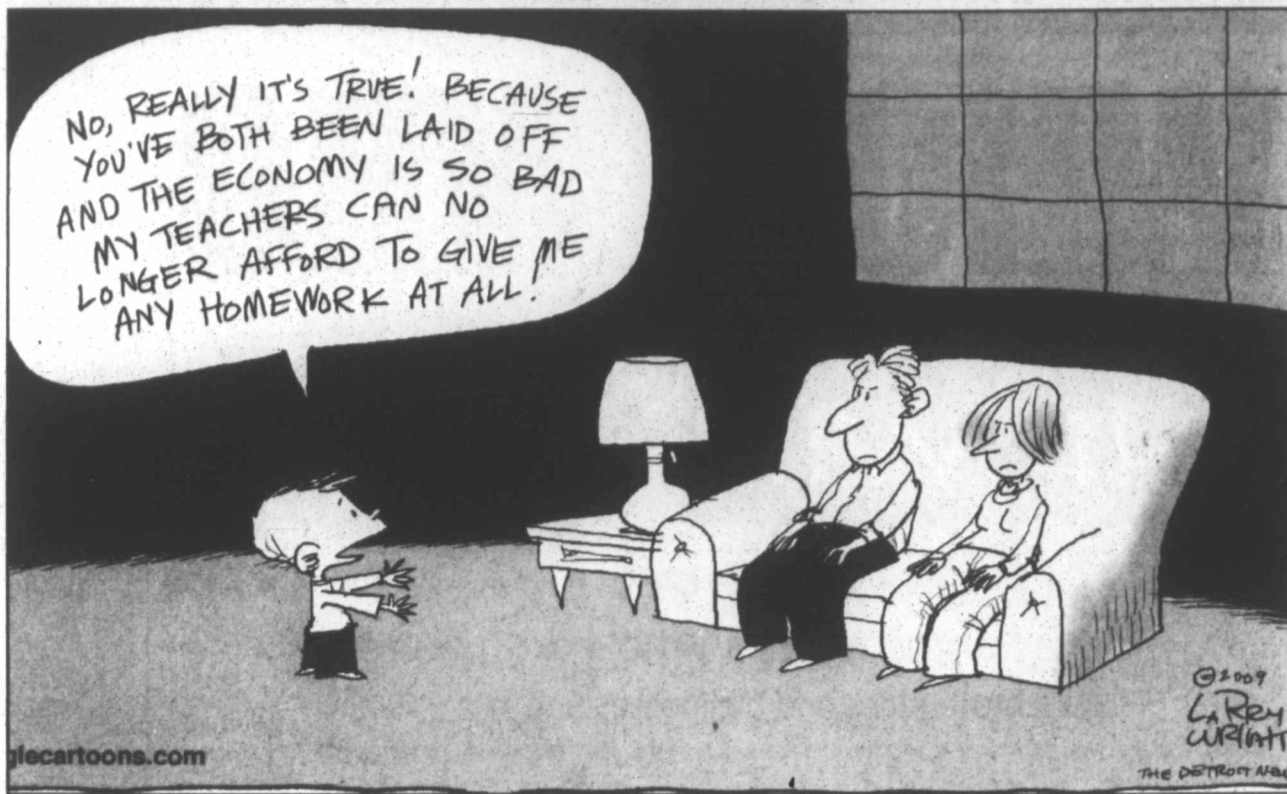
Five years ago: A suicide bomber struck a bus in Jerusalem, killing 10 Israelis. British author M.M. Kaye died in Lavenham, England, at age 95.

One year ago: Raymond Jacobs, believed to be the last surviving member of the group of Marines photographed during the first U.S. flag-raising on Iwo Jima, died in Redding, Calif., at age 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actor John Forsythe is 91. Actor Noel Harrison is 75. Author Germaine Greer is 70. Actress Katharine Ross is 69. Actor Tom Selleck is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bettye LaVette is 63. Actor Marc Singer is 61. Actress Ann Jillian is 59. Rock musician Tommy Ramone (Ramones) is 57. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 56. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 55. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 49. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 47. Actor-director Edward Burns is 41. Actress Heather Graham is 39. Actor Sharif Atkins is 34. Actress Sara Gilbert is 34. Actor Andrew Keegan is 30.

And were an epitaph to be my story I'd have a short one ready for my own. I would have written of me on my stone: 'I had a lover's quarrel with the world.'

— Robert Frost, American poet



What Republicans must do

by Bill Steigerwald

Not many political commentators on the nightly cable channels can boast of being proficient in Spanish, French and Greek, but Andrea Tantaros can. A regular on the Fox News Channel, CNN, CNBC and MSNBC, Tantaros is a communications specialist and Republican strategist whose extensive experience includes working in the campaign of former Massachusetts Gov. Bill Weld and serving as deputy press secretary to former Pennsylvania Congressman Pat Toomey.

To find out what she thinks her fellow conservative Republicans must do to recover from their battering in November, I spoke to her by telephone on Wednesday, Jan. 21, from her office in New York City.

Q: Republicans have their work cut out for them, obviously. What's Step Number One on the road to recovery?

A: Step one is to realize the mistakes that we have made over the last eight years. Usually step one in a recovery is admitting that you have a problem. I think that's an important thing for the Republican Party to do: One, admit that we have a problem; look introspectively at how we can fix it and understand why we were crushed in the last election cycle.

I also think the party needs to work on a couple different fronts. There are so many fault lines within the party: conservative vs. moderate, the more fiscally minded Republicans vs. the more socially minded Republicans, the Old Guard -- the sort of Newt Gingrich-Karl Rove Republican -- vs. the New Guard -- the Michael Steele-Sarah Palin

sort of emerging sect of the party. And the party has to decide what direction it's going to go in.

Q: What do limited-government, fiscally prudent old-time conservatives have to do to reassert themselves in the GOP?

A: Well, when we've just witnessed the largest government expansion at the fastest rate this country has ever seen, it's fairly hard to argue for small government at this stage because the people don't seem to want it anymore. But conservatives need to figure out a way to motivate by reason and persuade through emotion. Meaning that when they talk about our issues, it can't come from a selfish place -- "Give me a tax cut. Where's my tax cut." We have to get back to that "shining city on the hill."

I think Republicans forgot how to communicate with the American people. It was eight years of what I like to call "message constipation," where we weren't connecting and we weren't making our case and the Democrats -- even though their policies are wrong -- were able to communicate them in a noble way. Republicans have to do that.

Republicans also have to start to look at talent recruitment. Eight years ago Barack Obama was a no-name state senator. So I think we need to look outside the Beltway and start to look at a younger, more diverse pool of people and tap them to run for office instead of continuously tapping the same type of self-funder individual that Republicans seem to go after every time.

We also need to tap into new issues. There's a way to resurrect the sound policies of our party, but also to look toward new issues --

kitchen-table issues like the rising cost of education. I think that's a winning issue for Republicans. There were a lot of issues this last cycle that weren't touched upon that were missed opportunities. Medical malpractice -- that's a great issue for Republicans and you didn't hear anyone talk about it.

Q: Does the current economic crisis hurt or help the conservatives' political goals?

A: It depends on how they handle it. I think the liberals are going to try to blame -- and they already are -- this entire mess on the right and on President Bush. I think Republicans dropped the ball on actually articulating why we got into this economic mess, but it's not too late.

It's also not too late to stand up and start asking tough questions in Congress. Meaning that, you just don't let Democrats jam through a \$1 trillion stimulus without asking, "What is this going to do to our currency? What is this going to do to inflation? What if China decides to just stop buying up our debt?" Maybe that is the best thing that could happen to us -- like the parents cutting off the kids' allowance. But to just give the "Trifecta of Doom" -- the Pelosi-Reid-Obama trio -- carte blanche to pass this thing is, I suspect, just a bailout for financially strapped states under the guise of stimulus.

Q: Who do you see out there who could be a national leader that could emerge to ask these questions?

A: I think a New Guard-type of Republican -- Eric Cantor is a rising star in the party. Michael Steele is running for Republican National Committee chairman. Our selection for RNC

chairman will say a lot about the direction this party wants to go in.

Q: If you were to advise a conservative Republican candidate for Congress in 2010, what would you tell him to stress and what to avoid?

A: I think we need to start to play "small ball" in 2010, which means start with winning a couple key seats and build momentum from there. Republicans are telling ourselves, "Oh, we're going to take over in a huge landslide. Wait. Wait just two years." I don't think that's going to be enough. Play small ball. Get back to basics. I would say that you need to be a conservative, but you need to maintain your independent streak.

You also need to show a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to impropriety. That's one of the things, again, that Republicans left on the table as a missed opportunity. During the Blagojevich scandal Republicans had an opportunity impose a code of ethics: A one-strike-and-you're-out policy. Instead of continually tolerating the Sen. Larry Craig shenanigans and nonsense.

At some stage, Republicans and conservatives have to figure out that Democrats have plenty of rope to hang themselves on their own. But you have to give voters a reason to vote for you as well. I think that's what we failed to do this last election.

We focused so much on saying, "Don't vote for them and here's why" and we didn't tell the American people "Vote for us and here's why."

Bill Steigerwald is a columnist at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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How to draw President George W Bush

by Daryl Cagle

Political cartoonists are not much different from comic strip cartoonists; both draw an ongoing daily soap opera featuring a regular cast of characters. While comic strip cartoonists invent their own characters, the political cartoonist's characters are given to him by events in the world. For the past eight years, political cartoonists have been drawing little daily sagas starring the same main character, President Bush. Most people won't miss Bush as a president, but we should all miss him as a great cartoon character.

Around the world, cartoonists almost always draw President Bush as a cowboy. Outside America, a Texas cowboy is seen as: uneducated, ill-mannered, a "trigger-happy marshal" or outlaw who is prone to violence. Cowboy depictions of the president by worldwide cartoonists are meant to be insults, but Americans see cowboys differently. In the USA, cowboys are noble, independent souls, living a romantic lifestyle by taming the wilderness and taking matters into their own hands whenever they see a wrong

that needs to be righted. We are a nation of wanna-be cowboys.

The image of President Bush evolves with each cartoonist's personal perspective. Back in 2000, Bush started out as most political cartoon characters start out, as a caricature of a real person, meant to be recognizable from a photograph. The cartoonists soon stopped looking at photographs and started doing drawings of drawings, then drawings of drawings of drawings, so that the George W. Bush drawings morphed into strangely deformed characters that looked nothing like the real man, but are instantly recognizable because we've come to know the drawings as a symbol of the map. It is surprising that each cartoonist's drawings of the president look entirely different, but each is easily recognizable as representing the same character.

For most cartoonists, the president's ears have grown huge; a strange phenomenon, since the president doesn't have unusually large ears, and isn't well known for listening. Some cartoonists have seen President Bush shrink in height; a

combination of these has the president sometimes looking like a little bunny rabbit. Barack Obama's cartoon ears have also begun to grow in cartoons, for no good reason -- maybe big ears are the cartoon presidential curse of the new millennium.

The president who shrank most in cartoons was Jimmy Carter. At the end of Carter's term he was a Munchkin, standing below knee height on almost every cartoonist's drawing table. President Bush shrank for only the more liberal cartoonists early on, but is short for all of us at the end of his term. President Reagan grew taller during his cartoon term in office. President Clinton grew fatter, even as he lost weight in real life. Bill Clinton's personality was fat, and the cartoonists drew the personality rather than the man. President Clinton is now skinny, but he will always be fat in cartoons.

Another cartoon characteristic that has grown from years of drawing President Bush are his eyes, two little dots, close together, topped by raised, quizzical eyebrows. The close, dotted

eyes are an interesting universal phenomenon, shared by almost every cartoonist, that doesn't relate to the president's actual features. Over time, most cartoonists will draw a character with eyes that grow larger, but President Bush's eyes shrink, while his ears grow. There may be a political message in that, but I can't figure it out.

I once played "Political Cartoonist Name That Tune." The game went like this:

"I can draw President Bush in SIX LINES."

"Well, I can draw President Bush in FOUR LINES!"

"I can draw President Bush in THREE LINES!"

"OK. Draw that President!"

...and I did, two little dots topped by a raised, quizzical eyebrow line. It looked just like him.

Now I need to learn how to draw Obama with three lines; it may take me eight years to do it.

Daryl Cagle is a political cartoonist; his cartoons are syndicated to more than 850 newspapers, including the paper you are reading.

IN CONCERT



photo by Rick Blain

Tenth Avenue North, Christian music group, performed at Briarwood Full Gospel Church last night (Jan. 28). Multiple youth groups from the community attended the free concert, which gathered a crowd of about 500.

Rutherford elected

Women— cont. from page 1

and Kelly Packard, both are working on updating the bylaws. Jade Martin is researching fundraising opportunities in the community. The group meets at the Senior Citizens Center for lunch at noon on the third Wednesday of every month. The public and anyone interested in becoming a member or helping with the organization is welcome to attend the meetings.

Chapel on hold

Chapel— cont. from page 1

inmates currently congregate for services in a concrete gym or a small 35-person classroom.

The new structure would allow over 300 inmates to meet in a separate chapel near the entrance of the prison. The building also would have classrooms, offices, a library, and restrooms.

For more information about this non-profit organization, or to make a donation, please contact any board member. Board members are Curt Beck, Jan Elston, Ron Easley, Stan Franke, Ray Hupp, Chaplain Willard Kiper, Darville Orr, Jack Reeve, and Don Zumstein.

2 airliners make emergency landings

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — It was a nerve-wracking afternoon at Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport. That's as two airliners made emergency landings in separate Wednesday incidents 10 minutes apart.

A twin-turboprop American Eagle plane with 12 passengers and crew members aboard returned to Amarillo and made a safe landing about 1:30 p.m. The crew reported the smell of smoke in the cockpit shortly after takeoff for Dallas-Fort Worth.

Then, an American Airlines MD-80 jet flying from San Diego to Chicago with 140 passengers aboard was forced to land about 1:40 p.m. That was after a warning light indicated a drop in oil pressure in the left engine. American spokeswoman Andrea Huguely says another jet picked up the passengers.

No injuries were reported in either incident.

Top O' Texas Rodeo Assn. seeks teen queen for 2009

The Top O' Texas Rodeo Association is now accepting entries for the 2009 Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas and Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Teen pageant. The pageant will be held during the Top O' Texas Rodeo, August 13, 14 and 15, and young ladies from 14 to 24 years old are eligible to enter.

Some changes have been implemented for the 2009 pageant. Ages for Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas contestants are 19-24 years of age with the ages for Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Teen being 14-18 years of age. The required riding pattern for the horsemanship category will now be the same one as is used at the Miss Rodeo Texas Pageant.

Winners will receive many outstanding prizes including saddles, tiaras and other beautiful items. Horse products, jewelry, clothing and other prizes will be presented to the winners of the Appearance, Personality and Horsemanship categories. A scholarship will also be presented to Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas. All contestants may participate in an additional competition to see who can sell the most rodeo tickets. As this will not be a part of

the official judging, the contestant selling the most tickets will receive a generous prize.

The Luncheon and Style Show will be held on Friday, August 14, at 11:30 a.m. The contestants will be modeling western fashions and giving a three-minute speech on their hometown.

The Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas pageant is under the direction of Gina Greenhouse. This pageant has a great reputation and previous winners have done an outstanding job representing the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association and the Pampa area.

Entry forms, fees and pictures are due in the rodeo office by Friday, May 1. There will be no extension of the deadline and young ladies are encouraged to enter as soon as possible. For more information or to receive information packets, please contact the rodeo office, 200 North Ballard, at 806-669-0434, e-mail to: totrodeo@pampa.com, fax to 806-669-0117, or contact the pageant director at 806-665-6093.

Texas Xcel staff to aid in MO

Xcel Energy is sending 28 employees from Texas to Cape Girardeau, Missouri to assist Ameren with ice storm restoration. Ameren is a utility company that has been hard hit by the recent ice storm.

The men left at 7 a.m. today from Amarillo, and will be traveling to Memphis, Tennessee tonight before driving north to Missouri tomorrow. Yesterday, about 36,000 electric customers were without power in the Cape Girardeau area. The Xcel Energy men have packed for a two-week deployment, but they could be done sooner.

This assistance is part of a mutual aid agreement between neighboring utility companies, and our region has benefitted from outside help like this many times in the past.

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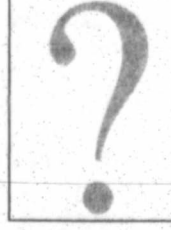
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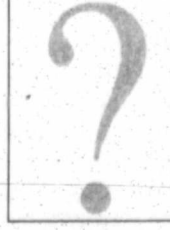



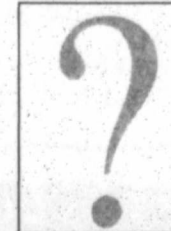



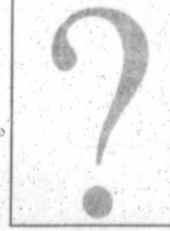
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PHS swimmers looking for tenth district win

by David Bowser

dbowser@thepampnews.com

The Pampa Harvester Swim Team will be looking for their tenth district win this weekend in Lubbock.

"We're in Lubbock this weekend," said Head Swimming Coach Edward Garvin, "at the Pete Ragus Center."

He said this is a big year because the guys and the girls are trying to win their tenth straight district title.

"They've won nine in a row," Garvin said of the Pampa High School swim team, "and they're trying to win their 10th."

He expects the boys to come back with the district title.

"The girls are pretty close," he said, "but things could still happen. Hopefully, we can come back with two district titles."

Garvin said they also hope to set some district records at the meet this weekend. "We've already set three school records this year," he said.

Pampa will compete in each event except diving. "We don't have any divers this year," Garvin said.

The events are set up with girls first, followed by the boys.

"They alternate between the guys and the girls," Garvin said.

The swim meet will start with the 200-medley relay.

"The medley relay consists of the first person swimming backstroke," Garvin said.

The second person swims the breaststroke. The third does the butterfly. The fourth member of the relay team has a freestyle choice.

The 200-yard individual medley is next.

"One person swims that," Garvin said.

That's followed by the 200-yard freestyle.

"Technically, that means you can swim anything," Garvin said, "but whatever to

start with, you have to finish with." Most schools, he said, swim the American crawl.

The next event is the 50-yard freestyle. "It's the shortest race," Garvin said. "It's a sprint and everybody likes that."

Garvin said that most of the pools where the students compete are 25-yard pools like the one where they practice at the Pampa Youth Center, so a 50-yard match is down and back.

The 100-yard freestyle is next, he said, followed by the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Then there are the 100-yard backstroke and 100-yard breaststroke competitions.

"The last event is the 400-yard free relay," Garvin said.

The district meet is Friday and Saturday in Lubbock.

"We'll come back and start tapering," Garvin said. "We'll have kind of a light workout for the next two weeks."

Regionals will be in two weeks in Andrews.

Garvin said their facility has just been built.

"They have a nice one down there," he said.

He said the Pampa team has a good chance at winning the regionals.

"There's a chance," Garvin said. "It's close. I think it's between us and Pecos, which is a really good strong team, too."

That will be followed two weeks later by the state finals at the University of Texas in Austin.

"It's every two weeks from now on," Garvin said. "Then that's the end of the season."

The top six people at the district meet go on to the regional meet, but in order to go to state, the swimmer has to win his or her event.

"It's pretty hard to go to state," Garvin said.

But he hopes to take the 200 and 400-yard relays at state.

Book features local Hall of Famers

A book that features 11 people who played or coached in Pampa and seven more from nearby towns is available at two Pampa businesses.

"Pride of the Plains: 50 Years of the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame," is a project that 1969 McLean High School graduate Mike Haynes, co-editor of the book, has worked on since 1996.

The book is available at Holmes Gift Shop and Sporting Goods and also at the Hastings store in Pampa. Proceeds go to the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame.

"I realized that the 40th anniversary of the Hall of Fame was coming up in 1998 and that it would be nice to have a book showing all the members of the Hall of Fame," Haynes said. "So I started working on gathering pictures and information."

"But in 1997, I began writing a religion column in the Amarillo paper, and the book got put on the back burner."

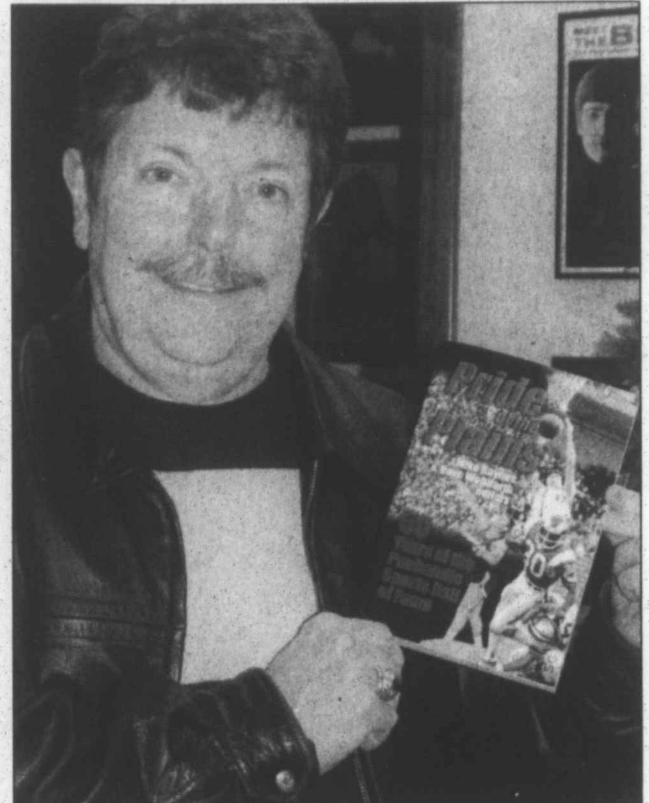
"In 2006, the 50th anniversary was coming up, so I recruited Dave Wohlfarth to write a lot of it, and we recruited 12 other sportswriters and got the Hall of Fame committee more involved."

Haynes, who teaches journalism at Amarillo College, and Wohlfarth, who retired from the West Texas A&M University journalism department last year, are co-editors of the book. Wohlfarth wrote 62 of the 145 coach and athlete profiles in the book. Haynes wrote nine profiles and a history of Panhandle sports called "From Pasture to Artificial Turf." He also designed the pages of the book.

Pampa coaches and athletes who are members of the PSHOF and featured in the book include Clifton McNeely, Grover Seitz, O.T. Nicholson, Randall Clay, Randy Matson, Warren Hasse, Jim Bond, Ken Hebert, Lee Cockrell, Tom Tipps and Johnny Austin.

Others include Jim Weatherall, Carl McAdams and Ron Mills of White Deer; Eugene Cooper and Bill Ellington of Lefors; and Sheri Haynes and Richard Back of McLean.

Also writing large sections were Danny Andrews of Wayland, Baptist University and Jon Mark Beilue and Jack Duncan of the Amarillo Globe-News. Former Globe-News publisher Gareth von Netzer raised the funds to print 2,000 copies of the book, and



"Pride of the Plains: 50 Years of the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame," co-editor Mike Haynes is a 1969 graduate of McLean High School.

Hall of Fame committee chairman David Jones of Amarillo helped coordinate the project. Former Globe-News editor Cathy Martindale was the proof-reader.

"I admit that my sister being inducted into the Hall of Fame is what made me interested in creating a book," Haynes said. Sheri Lee Haynes, a 1975 McLean graduate, was the 104th PSHOF inductee in 1996 for her career playing basketball, golf and

tennis and running track at McLean and continuing on the basketball court at Delta State University and Baptist University.

In addition to the 145 profiles, "Pride of the Plains" includes lists of all the Athletes of the Year, Coaches of the Year and other PSHOF award winners from 1958 to 2007.

"I hope this book will be a valuable reference for a lot of years," Haynes said.

TEXAS SPORTS IN BRIEF

BASEBALL
ARLINGTON — Rangers reliever Joaquin Benoit is expected to miss at least half the 2009 season following surgery to repair a torn right rotator cuff. The operation on Benoit's pitching shoulder was performed Tuesday in Cincinnati by Dr. Timothy Kremchek, the Reds' medical director.

NBA
SIXERS-ROCKETS
HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets return home after a three-game road trip to face the Philadelphia 76ers. Yao Ming is expected to return after missing two games with a sore knee.

WARRIORS-AVERICKS
DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard keyed a game-changing run during the second quarter, and Jason Terry scored 22 points to lead the Dallas Mavericks past the Golden State Warriors 117-93 Wednesday night. The Mavericks outscored the Warriors 32-11 over the final 7:45 of the second quarter. Howard and Nowitzki each scored eight points during the push and Dallas led 69-47 at halftime.

FOOTBALL
IRVIN THREATENED — Dallas police have suspended their investigation of former Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin's report that a man flashed a gun at him at a stoplight.

PRO BOWL — Texans tight end Owen Daniels is headed to the Pro Bowl for the first time.

BASKETBALL

DALLAS — Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and former Mavs coach Don Nelson are headed to mediation Thursday to try and resolve their long-running dispute over the former coach's compensation package. "We're going to mediation for the appeal," Nelson, who now coaches the Golden State Warriors, said before his team played the Mavericks on Wednesday night. "That's all I know at this point."

OKLAHOMA-BAYLOR
WACO — Courtney Paris had 15 points with 14 rebounds for her 11th consecutive double-double and scored the tiebreaking basket with 34 seconds left to help No. 2 Oklahoma beat fourth-ranked Baylor 56-51 on Wednesday night. The game was tied 11 times, the last at 51-all before Paris scored on an inside shot.

TEXAS A&M-TEXAS
AUSTIN — Historically, the Texas-Texas A&M rivalry is heavily lopsided in the Longhorns' favor. The times are definitely changing. Takia Starks scored 21 of her 26 points in the second half to lead No. 11 Texas A&M to a surprisingly one-sided 68-54 win over the No. 16 Longhorns on Wednesday night, the Aggies' sixth win in the last seven meetings.

TEXAS TECH-COLORADO — Dominic Seals scored 18 points to lead Texas Tech to a 66-60 win over Colorado on Wednesday night.

TEXAS TECH-TEXAS A&M
COLLEGE STATION — Texas Tech focused on

Josh Carter. The Red Raiders probably should have been a bit more concerned about Texas A&M's B.J. Holmes. With Texas A&M's leading scorer covered, Holmes scored six 3-pointers and finished with 24 points, both career-highs, to lead the Aggies to a 79-70 win over Texas Tech on Wednesday night.

SMU-UCF — Jermaine Taylor scored 16 of his 22 points in the first half as Central Florida rolled to a 70-45 victory over Southern Methodist on Wednesday night.

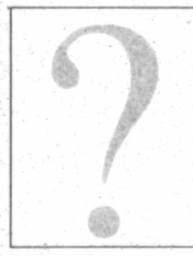
UTEP-HOUSTON — Arnett Moultrie had a double-double with 19 points and 18 rebounds to lead UTEP to a 62-55 win over Houston on Wednesday night.

TULANE-RICE — A buzzer-beating layup by Kevin Sims led Tulane to a 61-59 victory over Tulane on Wednesday night.

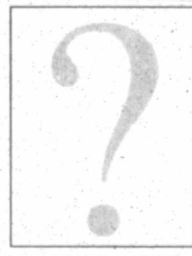
NORTHWESTERN STATE-STEPHEN F AUSTIN — Matt Kingsley scored 25 points and grabbed seven rebounds to lead Stephen F. Austin to a 73-45 victory over Northwestern State on Wednesday night.

SEARS

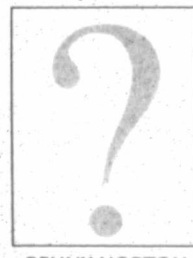
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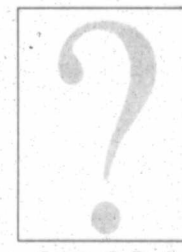
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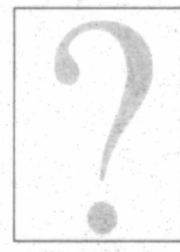


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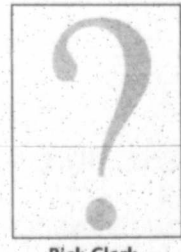
George Bullard



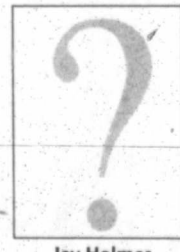
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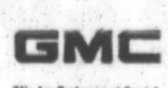
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Around town

EARLY SUPER BOWL WIN



Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr. along with Ford Family Chiropractic Team Members Cyndy Needham, Josh Link and Melissa Post present Duane Smith of Pampa with a Super Bowl XLIII Party Pack to enjoy while watching the game. Dr. Ford and his Practice Team wore the jerseys of their favorite NFL Teams leading up to Super Bowl XLIII and each patient reporting for treatment during January had a chance to win.

TEXAS TWISTERS



Texas Twisters Club Volleyball went to their second tournament, the Amarillo Elite Qualifier, Jan. 10. They advanced to the silver bracket and were first place champions. There were 15 teams in their division. The Texas Twisters played in their third tournament Jan. 24, the Crown of Texas Qualifier in Amarillo. The team finished in second place in the championship game out of 16 teams in their division.

ONGOING EVENTS

BOY SCOUTS. Boy Scout leaders meet at 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at First Presbyterian Church of Pampa. The Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts of America is open to boys between the ages of 6 and 18 and includes a 27-county area in the Texas Panhandle. The BSA program includes Club Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing, a new program for 14- to 20-year-old boys and girls. For more information, call (806) 358-6500.

DIVORCE CARE. DivorceCare recovery seminar and support group meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd. DivorceCare features experts on divorce and recovery topics. For more information, call 665-0842.

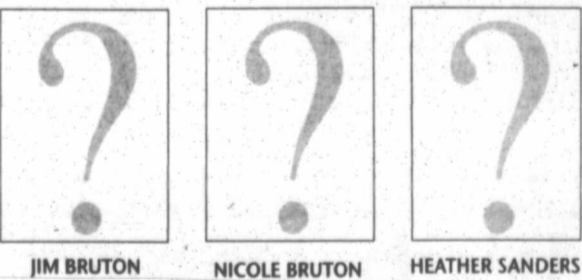
EASTERN STAR. Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

GIRL SCOUTS. Pampa Girl Scouts meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Pampa Girl Scout House on Kingsmill.

LITERACY COUNCIL. Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

MASONIC LODGE. Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at 420 W. Kingsmill.

RED CROSS. The area chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers from the community to



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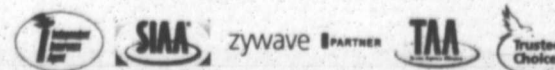
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ONGOING EVENTS

respond during times of crisis in Pampa and other parts of the county. As well as personal satisfaction, volunteers learn how to protect themselves and cope with disaster by planning ahead, particularly essential during tornado season. In addition, ARC is willing to deliver informational discussions on disaster preparedness to area church or community organizations. For more information, call (806) 669-7121.

SUICIDE SURVIVORS. Suicide Survivors Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Briarwood Church, 1800 W. Harvester.

STORY HOUR. Lovett Memorial Library will offer a story hour at 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday-Wednesday. The free program is open to toddlers to fifth graders and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

VFW BINGO. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, Charity Bingo every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open one hour early. No one under 18 allowed. Public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9. For more information contact Edgar D. Carson, 669-0853 or 669-1264.

WORKING FOR PROGRESS. Working for Progress meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month in the conference room of Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. Visitors are welcome.

BRIDGE CLUB. The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more information, please call Carol Carpenter at 669-7940.

FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION. Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building (Chamber building).

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. Gray County Genealogical Society meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month in the Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. For membership inquiries, contact Scott Nisbett at 665-7037.

GRAY COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR RETARDED CITIZENS. Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month at Pampa Sheltered Workshop.

GRAY COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION. Gray County Extension Education meets at 1:30 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Gray County Courthouse Annex.

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Deadly bus crash probes may be close to finished

SHERMAN, Texas (AP) — Nearly six months after 17 people on a religious pilgrimage died in one of the worst bus crashes in U.S. history, law enforcement authorities are working to wrap up investigations that could lead to state and federal charges, including negligent homicide.

Federal authorities have conducted interviews in recent weeks aimed at verifying the chain of ownership of the retreaded tire believed to be the cause of the accident, a possible signal that their investigation is nearing conclusion. Among those interviewed was the owner of the Pennsylvania retreading plant where the tire was made.

The FBI, Sherman police and the National Transportation Safety Board have followed a trail of evidence through at least three states since a charter carrying a Vietnamese Catholic group from Houston to a retreat in Missouri skidded off the highway and smashed through a bridge guardrail last Aug. 8 about an hour north of Dallas.

Investigators are trying to determine how the retread was illegally placed on the bus' front axle, who should have noticed it and what ultimately caused it to fail.

The bus was operated by a Houston-based company, Iguale BusMex, that hadn't been approved for interstate transportation. Iguale BusMex was an offshoot of another charter bus company, Angel Tours, that weeks earlier had been shut down over safety violations.

Pat Villafranca, an FBI spokeswoman in Houston, said agents from that office are working with several agencies to investigate the crash. She said she couldn't provide further information because the investigation is ongoing.

Brad Gibson, the officer supervising the Sherman police investigation,

said his department has focused on the crash and the driver, Barrett Broussard, while the FBI has concentrated on Iguale BusMex, Angel Tours and the companies' owner, Angel de la Torre.

Gibson said police have finished their investigation and are awaiting the results of forensic tests on the tire arranged by the NTSB.

If the tests show that the tire's failure was related to the retreading, Broussard could face negligent homicide charges for failing to recognize the retread when he inspected the bus before the trip, Gibson said.

"There's no question it was a recapped tire," he said. "It's just a matter of, did the tire blow because it was recapped or did it blow from the inside?"

Every retreaded tire sold in the United States must be branded with the retreader's Department of Transportation number and the week and year it was retreaded.

Federal regulations prohibit retreads from being used on the front, or steer, axles of buses.

Experts say even a well-made retread can be dangerous on the front axle of a bus because of the age of the tire casing.

"Every time you recap a tire, you're using a greater percentage of its life," said Dennis Carlson, a former tire company research engineer.

Phil Sellers, a Houston attorney who represents both de la Torre and Broussard, said neither he nor his clients could comment on the case. The Houston Chronicle quoted de la Torre last month as saying the retread was already on the front axle when he bought the bus.

Federal authorities have traced the tire to Henise Tire Service, a small, family-owned retreading operation

in Cleona, Pa.

The company's owner, David Henise, was questioned by an assistant U.S. attorney from Houston earlier this month, according to David Taylor, a Dallas attorney representing the company.

Taylor said the retreaded Goodyear tire was in a batch of 13 sold by Henise in September 2007 to Motor Coach Industries Inc., the company that manufactured the bus and sold it to de la Torre.

"The main thing (the U.S. attorney) wanted to know was who bought the tire and where we shipped it to," Taylor said. "He asked whether we did any mounting for them (Motor Coach Industries), and the answer was no."

Motor Coach Industries, based in Schaumburg, Ill., did not respond to a request for comment. In August, a company spokeswoman told the Chronicle that any notion the retread was on the front axle when it sold the bus to de la Torre is "false."

The 2002 model bus was one of two sold to de la Torre by Motor Coach Industries 16 days before the accident, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The bus was previously sold by Motor Coach Industries to another charter bus company, Schoolman Transportation of Bohemia, N.Y., and repurchased in November 2007, according to Bill Schoolman, the owner of the New York company.

Schoolman said his service manager has twice been interviewed by the FBI, most recently two weeks ago. The second interview mainly involved questions relating to the tires that were on the bus when it was sold back to Motor Coach Industries, he said.

"We have never used recaps, nor would we," he said.

Hackers create "Zombies Ahead" highway signs

AUSTIN (AP) — Apparent slacker hackers with time to kill brought a raised eyebrow or two to the faces of motorists at a busy Austin intersection.

Electronic signs intended to warn motorists of construction near the intersection of Lamar and Martin Luther King boulevards were changed yesterday to warn of "Zombies Ahead! Run for your lives!"

The two signs are about a half mile west of the University of Texas campus.

Austin Public Works spokeswoman Sara Hartley says the message was only displayed for a few hours. She said the hackers cut a padlock to get into the signs' computers.

Hartley also tells KXAN-TV in Austin that the stunt is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$500 fine if the scamps are ever found.

Watch for your chance to vote for The Best of Gray County coming soon in The Pampa News.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

9	2	3	1	8	5	4	6	7
6	7	1	2	4	9	8	3	5
8	5	4	3	6	7	1	2	9
7	3	6	8	5	4	9	1	2
2	8	9	7	3	1	5	4	6
1	4	5	9	2	6	7	8	3
4	6	8	5	7	2	3	9	1
5	1	2	4	9	3	6	7	8
3	9	7	6	1	8	2	5	4

	6						2	
8		9		2				3 6
4			3					
								9
		5	9		3			4
					7	8		5
				4				
9	2	8						
				6		1		

Level: Intermediate



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR READERS: As promised, today you'll see what some male readers had to say about thongs, as well as the results of my reader poll. Fifty-five percent voted thongs up, 28 percent voted thongs down, and 17 percent gave mixed reviews. And 9 percent of the readers were male ...

DEAR ABBY: Thongs up, girl! I switched to thongs when I turned 14 and have never looked back. A man can't wear tight white jeans with anything else. Love ... DINO IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: I'm a guy who wears string thongs under my work uniform and for casual day or evening underwear. I also wear thong swimwear by my pool in the summer, which I suppose makes me ... STRUNG UP THE MIDDLE IN VEGAS

DEAR ABBY: I have never understood why girls would wear something that appears to violate all laws of comfort.

The only way for me to solve this mystery was to try a thong. I purchased two and wore them exclusively for a couple of days. After the initial "getting used to," they were comfortable. In fact, I like them so much I bought a few more this evening. I am also thinking about buying other ladies' underwear.

While this might be perceived as less than masculine, what I saw in the lingerie section looked a lot more comfortable and sexy to me than my old boxers or briefs. Abby, why won't they let us guys wear sexy underwear? -- CONFUSED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: I'm voting thongs down. I'm 62 and grew up in the '50s and '60s with three good-looking sisters who always wore pretty ladies' nylon briefs -- all dif-

ferent colors, lace trim, prints, solids, flowers, silk panties. Wow! That was the style back then. All the girls wore them -- Marilyn Monroe, Bettie Page, etc.

In the '70s and '80s girls adopted those ugly bikini panties, and now they're wearing thongs? Abby, please urge them to adopt those pretty panties of the '50s and '60s again. -- JACK IN BROCKTON, MASS.

DEAR ABBY: Wearing thong underwear has nothing to do with comfort. It's about concealing the dreaded pantyline on today's tight fashions. Pulling the waist so high as to expose it is unsightly on most of the bodies I have seen. And yeah, it's like driving past the scene of an accident -- you know you shouldn't, but you just have to look! -- ROBERT IN MOUNTAIN LAKES, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: Thongs up or down? Up, they're uncomfortable -- I twist my neck and strain my eyes -- but I have to say I really love them down. -- TODD IN MILWAUKEE

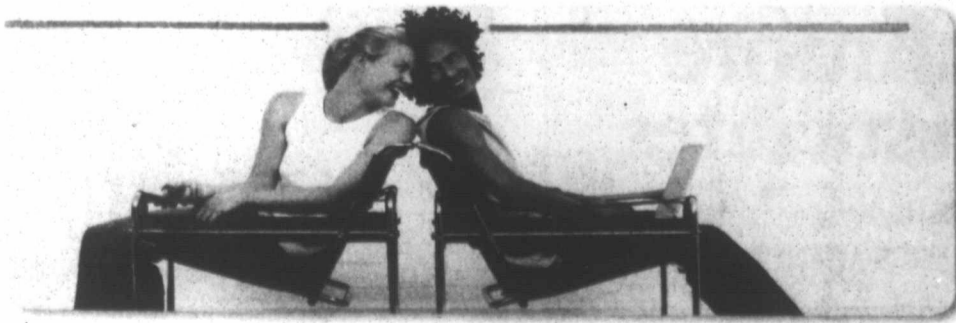
DEAR ABBY: I have three responses to "San Diego Sinner." One: Wearing a thong does not make one a sinner. Two: If you're wearing one only to avoid being laughed at, you're wearing it for the wrong reason. Three: There are attractive and sexy alternatives to thongs such as bikini underwear and boy shorts. -- MATT IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR ABBY: Thong underwear is as silly a fad as I can remember. Not all males find thong underwear appealing. Artful but suggestive concealment is what makes females appealing to men, not explicitness. -- M.J.H., COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: With regard to your poll, the whole world now knows Abby doesn't wear a thong. Pity. -- CLIFF IN HALLANDALE, FLA.

DEAR CLIFF: OK, so I'm "a little behind" the times. P.S. I love your imagination.

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Hutchison introduces border law enforcement bill

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), today filed The Border Law Enforcement Relief Act of 2009, S. 339, which would create a grant program at the U.S. Department of Justice to help border communities combat narcoterrorism.

"Our border law enforcement personnel are under assault. Powerful Mexican drug cartels threaten the safety of our communities and the law enforcement officials who protect us," said Sen. Hutchison. "Congress must provide funding to combat narcotics trafficking and safeguard families and neighborhoods along the border that are on the

frontlines. This legislation is an important step toward securing our borders and preventing violence in Mexico from spreading into our country."

"Border violence places a financial burden on the taxpayers with law enforcement struggling to meet the personnel and the equipment needed to keep up with the combat against drugs. Our local police are outnumbered, outgunned, and do not have the financial resources to match the cartel's unlimited financial budget. I appreciate Senator Hutchison's leadership role in this endeavor of obtaining funds for the law enforcement in the border

areas and looking out for the best interest of the United States," said Sheriff Omar Lucio, Cameron County.

"Border security continues to be one of Laredo's top priorities. The City of Laredo would strongly benefit from this important legislation. Border communities are in dire need of additional resources to ensure the protection of their citizens. I applaud the efforts of Senator Hutchison to safeguard our borders," said Raul Salinas, Mayor of Laredo.

"I fully support and appreciate Senator Hutchison's legislative initiative," said Houston Police Department Chief

Harold Hurtt. "The proposed Border Law Enforcement Relief Act is desperately needed to combat the growing violence along our southern border. It also recognizes that the major interior cities and urban areas are experiencing some of the same problems facing the border cities and provides funds necessary for large cities to combat the resulting drug and gang violence along with human trafficking, which is not restricted to border cities. A partnership between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies is crucial to addressing these issues."

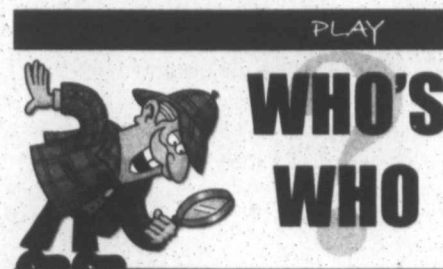
The Border Law Enforcement Relief Act of

2009, which was cosponsored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), will create and authorize \$100 million in federal grant funding for each fiscal year from 2009 - 2013. Two-thirds of the funding will be designated for border communities within 100 miles of the northern and southern borders. The remaining one-third will go to law enforcement agencies nationwide that

are affected by border-related criminal activity.

This grant funding may be used to obtain equipment, upgrade technology, hire additional personnel, and cover overtime and transportation costs associated with criminal activity along the border.

The National Sheriff's Association pledged its support of the Border Law Enforcement Relief Act.



Man convicted of killing 4 executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A former Houston security guard was executed Wednesday evening for gunning down four people, including his ex-girlfriend and her two small children, during a shooting frenzy more than a dozen years ago.

Virgil Martinez, 41, was condemned for the slayings of 27-year-old Veronica Fuentes; her 5-year-old son, Joshua; 3-year-old daughter, Casandra; and a neighbor, John Gomez, 18. Gomez, mortally wounded, told a police officer at the slaying scene in October 1996 that Fuentes' former boyfriend was the gunman.

Martinez became the fourth Texas inmate executed this year and the first of two on consecutive nights this week in the nation's most active death penalty state.

In a rambling final statement, Martinez told relatives he loved them, then blamed Gomez for three of the slayings.

"I know what you've been told and that's all a lie," he said, looking toward the victims' relatives watching through a window. "John Gomez killed your kids and sister."

"I wish I would have shot him in the leg, then he would be here. Those investigators were just trying to convict somebody."

He was recalling the slaying scene when prison officials, who warn condemned inmates they will have only a couple minutes for their final comments, began pumping in the lethal drugs.

Nine minutes later, at 6:50 p.m. CST, he was pronounced dead.

"I wouldn't have missed it," Jerry Fuentes, whose

family was killed, said after watching Martinez die. "I wasn't going to miss this."

"The day I carried you to your final resting place, I vowed to see Virgil Martinez brought to justice for what he did," he said, referring to his family as he tearfully read a prepared statement. "Even though it's been 4,136 days since you've been taken from us, I've seen it through to the end."

"The wheels of justice have finally turned. Although the system is flawed, justice has been served."

Fuentes called Martinez a liar for his comments from the death chamber gurney and said the prisoner was disrespectful to the Gomez family, some of whom also watched him die.

Lawyers for Martinez had hoped to get the punishment postponed, raising questions he may be so mentally ill that he could be disqualified for execution. Appeals pending in the federal courts briefly delayed the lethal injection beyond the scheduled 6 p.m. CST time.

Martinez, who declined to speak with reporters in the weeks preceding his execution date, was picked up by police in Del Rio, ranting about voices telling him to kill. He was taken to the Kerrville State Hospital for a mental evaluation. Two weeks later, authorities determined he had given them a false name and that he was the man wanted for the four slayings 300 miles away in Alvin, just south of Houston.

Prosecutors said Martinez faked the mental illness to avoid police.

Just before his sentencing at his 1998 trial in Angleton, Martinez told the court: "God knows my heart. I'm innocent."

Fuentes had been shot 14 times. Her son was shot five times and her daughter three times. Gomez, who had been helping the woman watch her children, was shot eight times.

Witnesses testified they saw Martinez shoot Fuentes. Her two children were found dead in their beds, both shot in the head at point-blank range. Gomez was gunned down as he ran to Fuentes' aid.

"Anybody that saw these two little kids, laying out like cordwood with a bullet in their heads, shot for no reason — that sort of sticks with you," said Dale Summa, a former Brazoria County district attorney.

In earlier appeals in the courts, lawyers argued unsuccessfully that temporal lobe epilepsy suffered by Martinez was responsible for the shooting spree. "The problem was, it was a bad crime," said Don Vernay, who handled some of Martinez's earlier appeals.

At trial, Martinez was defended by Jeri Yenne, who later was elected district attorney in Brazoria County. After she took office, the Texas Attorney General's Office, took over the case, handling all appeals for the state.

"I did everything we could from an advocacy perspective," she said of her defense. "We also want to make sure the system properly reviews it. I don't think I should talk about the particulars."

In 2004, a federal appeals court ordered a hearing to look into Martinez's claims that

defense lawyers didn't present enough evidence about his medical condition causing the shootings. Lawyers said that would have contradicted Martinez's stance going into the trial that he didn't do the shooting.

Prosecutors combined all four slayings into a single capital murder charge. Police concluded a single 9 mm gun fired all the bullets. A holster for the gun was recovered in Martinez's car, and a box designed to house the same caliber weapon was found in his mother's Houston home, where he lived. The murder weapon, however, never was recovered.

The shootings occurred a short time after Fuentes ended a relationship with Martinez.

On Thursday, Texas prisoner Ricardo Ortiz was set to die for the retaliation killing of Gerardo Garcia, 22, a fellow inmate at the El Paso County Jail, in 1997. Garcia died of a lethal injection of heroin.

Police say behavior list created for 'Baby Grace'

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — It was a list of nine things that 2-year-old Riley Ann Sawyers' mother and stepfather wanted to teach the toddler born in Ohio to help her behave better.

The list, called "Rules for Riley," included such things as "being polite," "behaves in public," "toys stay in her room" and "listen to mom & me."

But as the capital murder trial of Riley's mom, Kimberly Dawn Trenor, resumes on Thursday, her attorneys will continue arguing before jurors that a discipline session to teach the child these behaviors spun out of control and their client never intended for her daughter to die as a result.

Galveston County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Elias Cazares testified Wednesday the list was written in a notebook found by authorities in the couple's home after they were arrested for the death of Riley, who police dubbed "Baby Grace." There was space for a 10th item on the list but it was left blank.

After Riley was killed, the couple bought a plastic container, partially filled it with cement, stuffed her beaten body inside and

stored it in a shed at their home before dumping the remains in Galveston Bay in September 2007, according to authorities.

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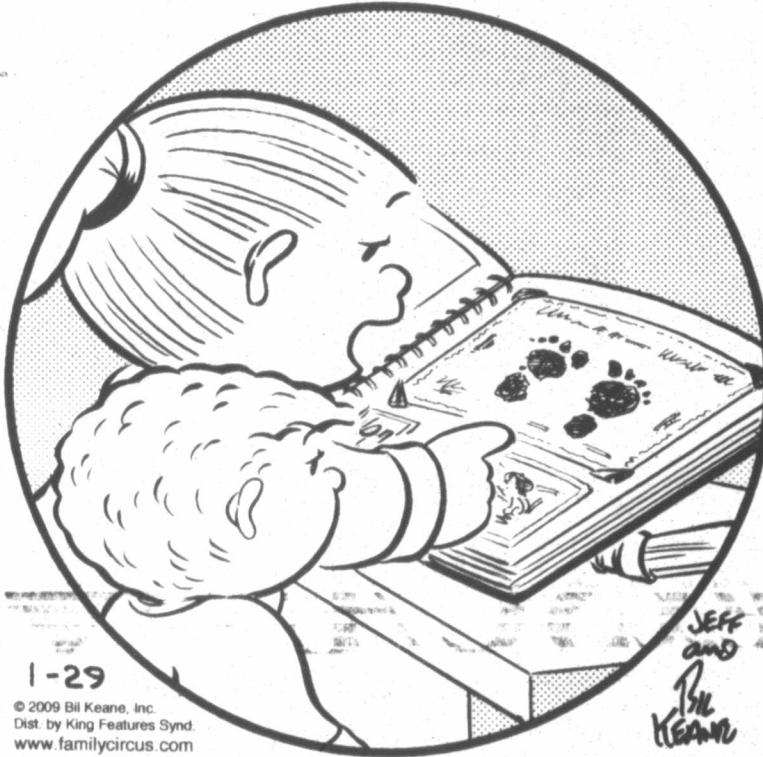
Marmaduke



1-29 © 2009 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. "Norman! Don't try throwing it again. When Marmaduke fetches a stick, it stays fetched."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



1-29 © 2009 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com "Those are PJ's paw prints."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 3 In a frenzy

1 Without a date

5 Rascal

10 Implausible

11 Stove part

12 Decrease?

13 Deceived

14 Heed

16 Join in

20 Infer

23 "Don't — stranger!"

24 Tea party

25 Papparazzi

27 Fish feature

28 Doughy rings

29 Fly

32 Become established

36 Flood

39 Cry of distress

40 Eats into

41 Mortgage, e.g.

42 Raring to go

43 Finish last

DOWN

1 Narrow cut

2 Movie plantation

C	E	D	E	S	M	E	W
A	R	E	N	A	W	E	A
B	A	L	E	R	H	E	X
O	S	U	O	P	E	N	I
T	E	X	T	U	R	E	N
R	E	U	S	E	T	E	D
			F	E	T	C	H
T	O	T	E	L	A	N	D
K	E	N	O	X	O	N	I
E	X	T	E	N	T	S	C
I	M	A	G	E	E	X	E
R	E	P	O	S	E	D	E
A	X	E	S		D	Y	N

Yesterday's answer

8	Got	22	Skating spot	31	Vegas action
9	Old hand	25	Walking aid	33	Canton setting
15	Church part	26	Chinese dinner	34	Till bills
17	Qualified extra	35	Muscle quality		
18	Country dance	28	Tour de	36	Scottish river
19	Bar bills		France	37	Historic time
20	Ludicrous vehicles			38	Ship record
21	Lamb's pen name	30	Piano piece		

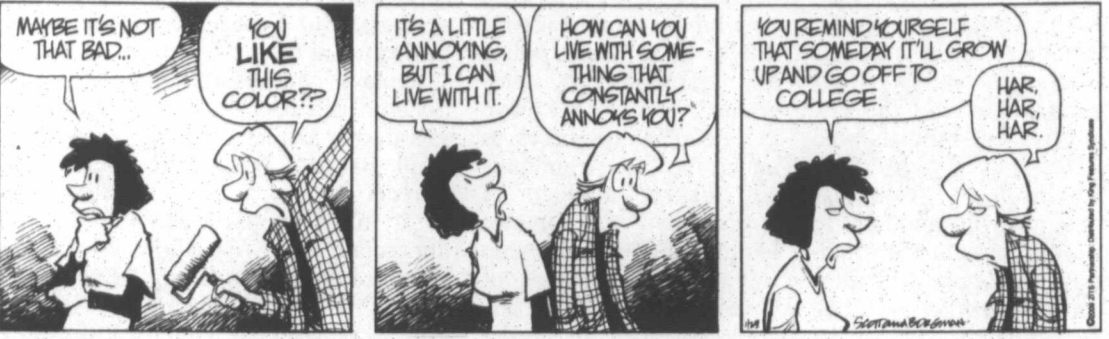
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For Better Or Worse



Zits



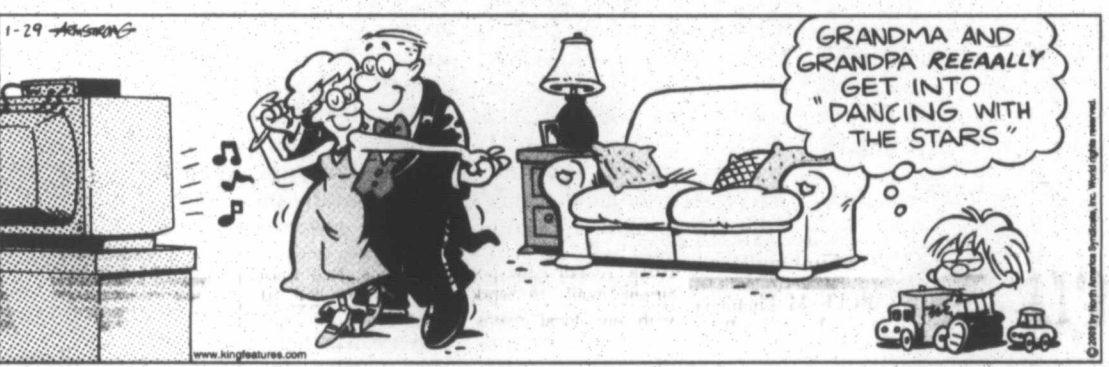
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts

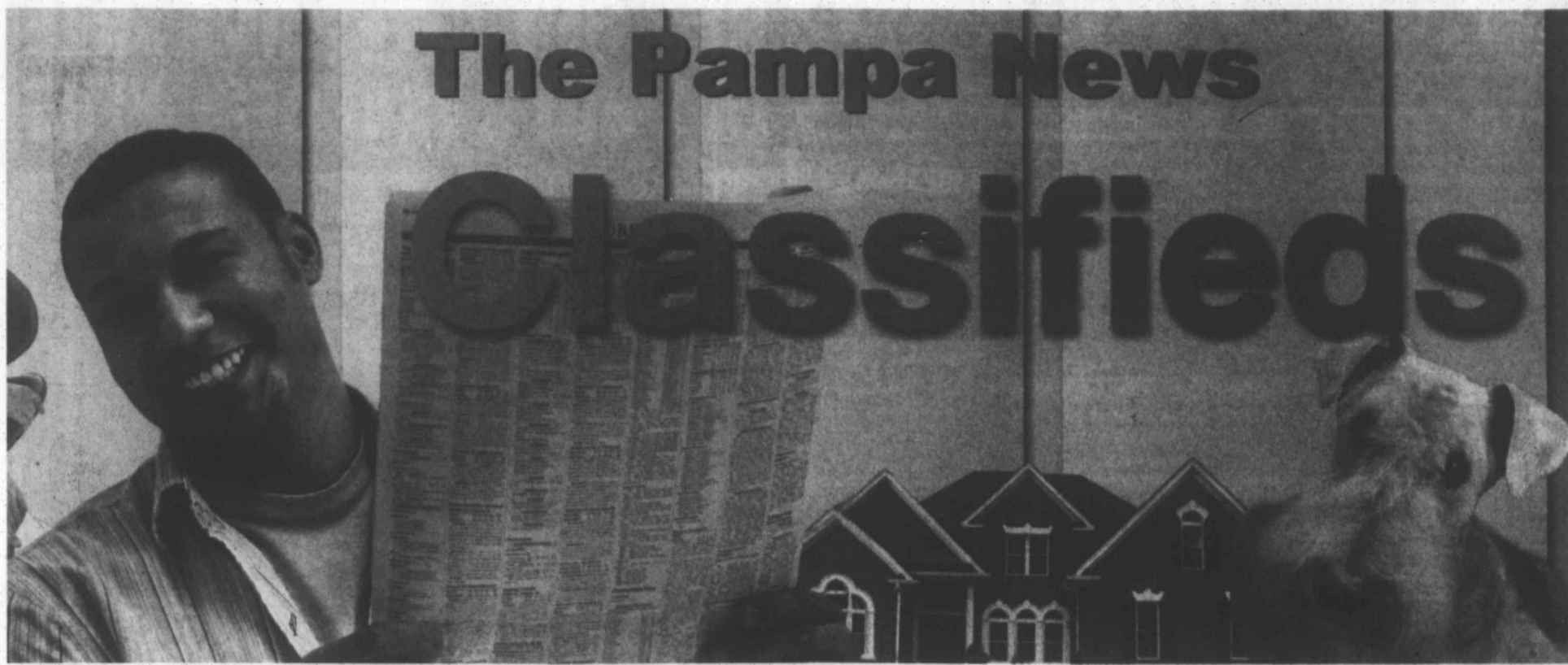


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The Pampa News

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14h Gen. Serv.
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21 Help Wanted
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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.

1-29 CRYPTOQUOTE
QNI'E GKLL EFY GHRZUEY;
RE OCNSUSHJ QNYLI'E HR'BY
JNK UIJ SYEEYC EFUI JNK
HRBY RE. — QNI ZUCMKRL
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY THAT ONE WRITES THE MOST INSPIRING PAGES ABOUT THE COUNTRY. — JULES RENARD

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 30, 2009:
This year, you must often greet changing circumstances that could impact your financial stability. You can cruise over these ups and downs with planning and discussions. Find experts; trust those who might know more than you. Communication becomes more and more important. You learn that by opening up and explaining yourself, you get what you want. If you are single, you'll meet someone in an easy manner, or in a day-to-day interaction. Take the time to get to know this person past the infatuation stage. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy your time together more and more. ARIES makes a great sounding board, but can be opinionated.

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)
**** Note a change in the wind. Out of the blue, you feel as if you have been re-energized. Listen to feedback from others. Pressure builds and takes you down a unique path. Understanding grows. Tonight: Start the weekend right. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
**** Use the morning for anything that you feel is important and significant to get done. By the afternoon, fatigue and reflection might have your mind drifting to another realm. If you can, make this an early day. Tonight: Play it low-key. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** A boss or higher-up could be demanding a lot from you. Try to clear out of work early if possible, as this person isn't changing the way he or she is right now. Be more upbeat and content. Tonight: Where the action is. CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** Find an expert and/or get other opinions before committing to any new course of action. By the afternoon, you might have a difficult time backing down. Others seek you out for help. Tonight: A force to be dealt with. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Deal with one person directly and with clarity. How you handle a this person could also depend on your ability not to trigger, as intense as the moment might be. Start considering a big change involving n. # places. Tonight: Accept an unusual invitation. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** Others need your time. Put a halt to what is occurring. The best you might be able to do is to eliminate a big meeting, in preference to seeing one person at a time. Your energy carries you where others might drop. Tonight: Relax and visit with a favorite person. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Maintain a nice and easy pace. If you think about it, you could easily become overwhelmed. What might start out as a business meeting could easily transform into fun. Allow more of the good times in. Tonight: Sort through suggestions. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** Plug more of your imagination into your work. You could be taken back by what goes on and what you feel you need to do. Trust in your ability to detach and find a straighter, more efficient route. Tonight: TGIF. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** You could be slow to start but a runaway freight train by the end of the day. Not knowing when to call a halt to the pace, you might achieve a lot and leave others behind, way behind. Tonight: Onward to the fun times. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** Make calls in the morning and complete any dealings that you can that involve others. By the afternoon, schedule time to reflect and clear your head. You'll get a lot done, and quickly at that. Tonight: Happy to be home, once you get there. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** Check out an expense early before you forget an incredible pace surrounds you midday, and you might have difficulty handling anything personal. An opportunity is the result of you being the person you are. Tonight: Favorite haunt. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** Get an early start on your day, and you could be delightfully surprised by what heads down your path. Others call on you. Demonstrate your resourcefulness and creativity, as your brainstorm away. Tonight: Your treat.

BORN TODAY
Actor Gene Hackman (1930), Vice-President Dick Cheney (1941), singer Phil Collins (1951)

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

• **Lovett Memorial Library** will present a free class, "Parents' Guide to Internet Safety," at 2 p.m. Saturday January 31 and February 28, in the auditorium. Learn about Internet safety, resources for parents and the effects and signs of drug use.

Other free classes offered at the library include:

Origami Napkin Folding: 10 a.m. Saturday, February 28.

Microsoft Excel: Tuesday, February 3, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. and Tuesday, February 10, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Microsoft Powerpoint: Tuesday, February 17, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. and Tuesday, February 24, 1:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

For more information call the library, 669-5780.

• **Gray County Genealogical Society** will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month, except for December. Visitors are welcome.

• **Members of Crowley, Texas, High School Class of 1989** are organizing a class reunion. For more information, e-mail chs89reunion@gmail.com or contact Nancy Dodgen Dyess (817) 994-0969 or Misty Shewmaker Hollis at (817) 991-8090.

• **"Live On Stage" Community Concerts** of Pampa's final performance planned for the current season will be "Pianofiddle," a combination of familiar tunes by pianist Lynn Wright and violinist/fiddler Adam DeGraff improvising to get toes tapping and hands clapping. Their performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 6 in M.K. Brown Auditorium.

• **Pampa Book Club** will meet at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room of Lovett Memorial Library. The 2009 reading schedule is as follows: Feb. 11, "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and Davie Relin; March 11, "Home: A Memoir of My Early Years" by Julie Andrews; and April 8, "The Glass Castle"

by Jeannette Walls. The May 13 book for review will be announced at a later date. Public welcome.

• **Confidential heart health screenings** are being offered free of charge from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, February 20, at United Supermarket, 1420 N. Hobart, by Accolade Home Care as part of Heart Health month, a national initiative of the American Heart Association.

For information, call Accolade Homecare in Pampa at 806-665-9700.

• **The South Plains Agriculture Wind and Wildlife Conference** will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 13 at the American Wind Power Center and Museum in Lubbock. The conference is being conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Wildlife Association, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The purpose of the conference is to explore the pros and cons associated with the industry in Texas. For more information, call Ken Cearley, Extension wildlife specialist, at (806) 651-5760.

• **USS Maddox Destroyer Association Reunion** is slated Sept. 9-13 in Phoenix, Ariz. To find out more, call (337) 616-8450 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.

• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2 x 3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

• **T.O.P.S. Club**, a weight loss group, is seeking new members. The club meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Monday at 513 E. Francis. New members welcome.

Bankers to raise mansion money

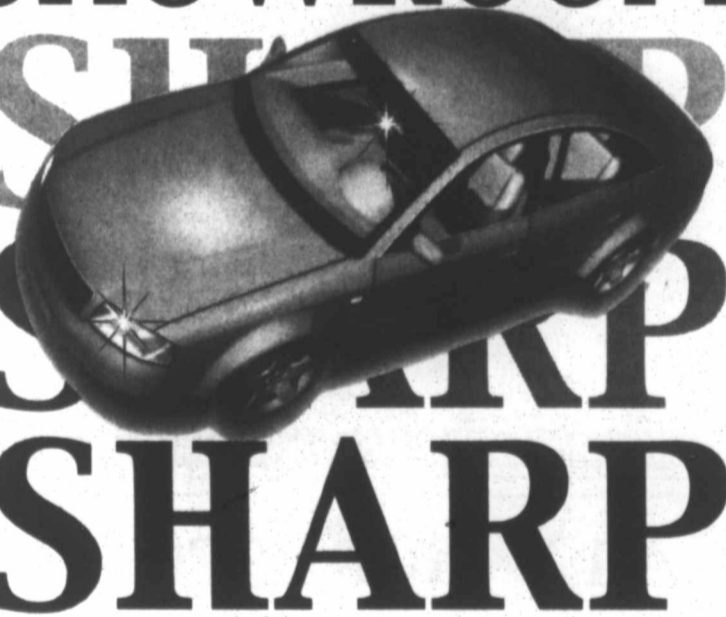
AUSTIN (AP) — Texas First Lady Anita Perry joined the Independent Bankers Association of Texas on Wednesday in launching a fundraising drive for restoration of the Governor's Mansion.

"Community banks are a natural fit for this important challenge," said Christopher Williston, association president and chief executive officer. "IBAT banks are all headquartered in Texas and concentrate solely on their communities and the state that has always been their home."

Williston said the group plans to blanket the state in the fundraising drive. The association represents more than 2,000 banks and full-service branches in 700 communities throughout Texas. The banks will act as collection points for Texans wishing to donate.

Anita Perry formed the Texas Governor's Mansion Restoration Fund after the historic home was severely damaged in a fire last June. The blaze was believed to be arson. No one has been arrested in the case.

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