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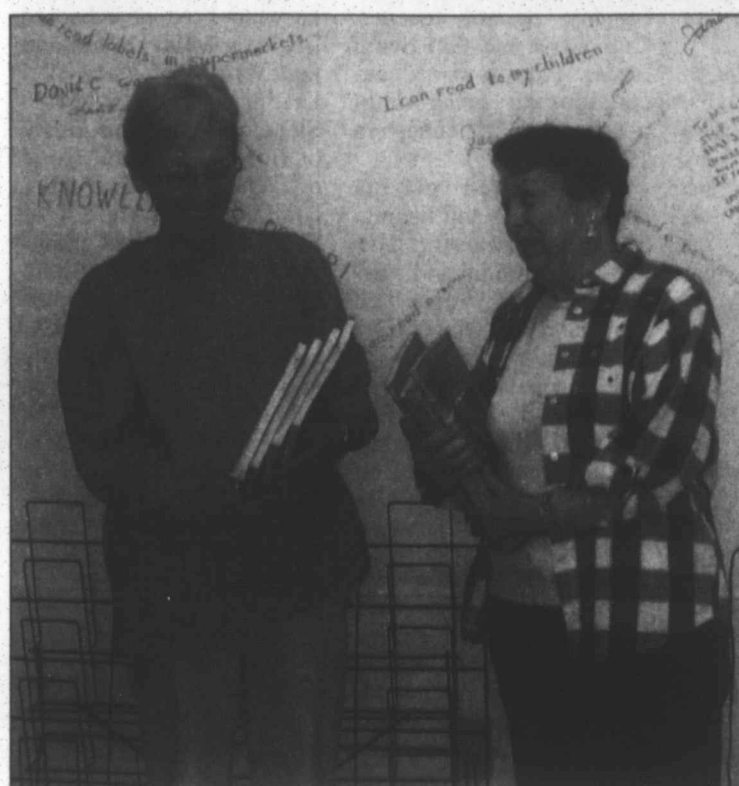
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submitted photo
Mary Jo Fiveash and Vera Plunk, members of the Pampa Area Literacy Council, who have helped oversee the literacy program, clean out the book racks. The program has closed its doors after 22 years of serving the community.

Literacy Council doors closing

After 22 years of serving the community and hundreds of "graduates" the Pampa Area Literacy Council is closing its doors.

"We have only four active tutors in our program, and they are doing the work of ten or more. We rely on volunteers, but our sources have evaporated," explained Mary Jo Fiveash and Vera Plunk, members of the council who have helped oversee the program.

The Literacy program offered one-on-one study for GED completion and English as a second language courses.

"We wish to thank all of the wonderful people over the years who have given their time and effort into making this project a success. To all of our students - keep the tradition alive by continuing to read." From all the tutors over the years, "it was a joy working with all the students - to see the joy in a student's eyes

when a new word was achieved - the alphabet was recited by heart - learning to write a check or filling out an application. Just watching confidence grow in that person was fantastic!"

"To all of our students — keep the tradition alive by continuing to read."

Mary Jo Fiveash and Vera Plunk, council members

The Memory Wall in the office tells quite a story. Participants were invited to write in their own words what learning to read meant to them. "I can read to my children," writes

Council— cont. on page 3

Youth bring petition for pool

by Betsy Phillips
 editor@thepampanews.com

Two young people appeared before the city commission Tuesday, one with petition in hand, to support the building of a new aquatic center.

Tanya Kiper told the commissioners she had obtained over 400 signatures since last Wednesday in support of the project. "It gives the town a good look," Kiper said, "and it would give teens jobs and that would support the economy. It would give youth something to do."

Nathan Dennis, another teen, was also in favor of the facility. He told the commission he thinks it would encourage tourism, that residents from Wheeler and White Deer would come here to swim and perhaps shop while they're here. "The current pool is old. It needs constant repair. It would decrease negative behavior and make our town look a lot nicer."

"I talked to the Dean of Clarendon College," he continued, "and with the

new wind jobs that will come in, a water park will make Pampa a good place to raise children."

Mayor Lonny Robbins told the youths it is "always exciting to have the next generation participate," in their government.

Commissioner Robert Dixon told then he appreciates the courage it takes to get up and speak in front of the commission.

It was suggested the pair repeat their presentation to the PEDC.

Resident Christy Robinson also spoke in favor of an upgraded aquatic facility. She told the commissioners that such a facility would make it possible for churches to have swim parties in Pampa instead of going to Sunray, and that that pool is always booked in advance. she also said she currently takes her family to Stinnett and Spearman several times during the summer.

The commission passed Ordinance 1500, the final

City— cont. on page 3

BEAR MINISTRY



photo by Rachel Stennett
Taylin Neef and Bailey Wichert created "Bear Ministry" as a part of their National Junior Honor Society service project. The two Pampa Junior High seventh grade students collected bears and other stuffed animals from their church and the community. The Pampa Fire Department and Pampa Police Department will give the stuffed animals to children who have gone through crisis. Pictured PFD firefighters J.W. Lane, Kasey Presson, Fire Chief Kim Powell, students Bailey Wichert and Taylin Neef, and Sargent Colby Brown of the PPD.

Texas worst for homeless kids, report says

DALLAS (AP) — Larry Canady took his family to a homeless shelter three weeks ago, no longer able to make ends meet after he and his wife were laid off from their jobs.

The family of five was already living from paycheck-to-paycheck. They went from renting a four-bedroom brick home in a south Dallas suburb to sharing one room in a dormitory-like shelter.

"No one knew the economy was going to crash so hard like it did," said Larry Canady, 38, now at the nonprofit Family Gateway facility in Dallas. "It caught us off guard."

The Canady family's story is a familiar one and in no place more so than Texas. A study by the National Center on Family Homelessness released Tuesday placed Texas 50th — last of all states — in how homeless children fare.

The ranking considered four areas: the percentage of homeless children; their overall

well-being; risk factors for homelessness, such as poverty and foreclosure rates; and what the state is doing to address the problems.

Dr. Ellen Bassuk, president of the national center that produced the report, said the child poverty level in Texas is 23 percent, compared to 18 percent nationwide.

"You're a big state, you've got a significant problem," said Bassuk, who also is an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. "Texas needs to respond."

The report defined as homeless any child age 18 or younger living with at least one parent or caregiver in such places as emergency shelters, motels, cars, or campgrounds due to economic hardships or losing their own homes. It did not include runaways or abandoned children.

The center estimates that 1.5 million children nationwide experienced homelessness at least once in 2005-2006. The states that fared best

were Connecticut, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Rhode Island and North Dakota. At the bottom were Texas, Georgia, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana.

Texas has more than 337,000 homeless children — just over 5 percent of all kids living in the state, according to the study. It noted, however, that number may have been temporarily inflated by families who lost their homes during the hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005.

Bassuk said that while Texas has a trust created to provide low-income housing — something a lot of states don't have — it has no statewide plan in place to address homeless issues.

Across the U.S., the study found that one of every 50 kids are homeless each year. The rate in Texas is probably a bit higher.

State officials and advocacy groups differ on

Kids— cont. on page 3

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 March 23 from 1-5pm
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PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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High 39
Low 27

High 35
Low 31

High 54
Low 36

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. Wind chill values between 15 and 25. East southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: A chance of rain and snow before 11pm, then a chance of freezing drizzle and sleet between 11pm and 2am, then a chance of snow after 2am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 31. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: A slight chance of snow before 10am, then a slight chance of rain and snow between 10am and 11am, then a slight chance of rain after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 54. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Grain prices

The following grain quotations are provided by Atterbury Grain of White Deer. Prices quoted are for the close of the last market day.

Wheat.....	\$4.84
Milo.....	\$4.92
Corn.....	\$6.49

Mega Millions grand prize grows to \$26 million

ATLANTA (AP) — There has been another rollover in the grand prize for the multistate Mega Millions lottery — to \$26 million.

The rollover occurred because no player matched all the winning numbers from Tuesday night's \$16 million drawing.

The next Mega Millions drawing will be Friday night. Although there was no grand prize winner, 1 player won a second prize of \$250,000. Another 16 players won third prizes of \$10,000 apiece.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: 02, 27, 31, 39 and 40. The Mega Ball number was 23.

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-3-6-10-17.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Matching four of five: 103. Prize: \$319
Matching three of five: 3,075. Prize: \$8
Matching two of five: 27,706. Prize: \$2
Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

Corpus Christi police officer killed during chase

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — A Corpus Christi police officer was struck and killed by a sport-utility vehicle police were chasing after a disturbance call.

Police are withholding the 20-year veteran's identity until relatives are notified.

A police statement says officers went to a house across the street from Laguna Park in southwest Corpus Christi just before midnight. After a brief struggle, a 21-year-old male suspect broke free and sped away in an SUV. During the pursuit, the vehicle hit an officer who was standing on beside Texas 358 westbound. He died a short time later at Spohn Memorial Hospital.

The police statement says officers later shot and wounded the suspect after he rammed their cars with the SUV. He's hospitalized with what police say are non-life-threatening wounds. His identity hasn't been released.

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD
Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday

Twenty-three attempts to serve papers were made.

Officers conducted 11 traffic stops.

A total of three calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

A criminal mischief call was received from the 1100 block of East Francis.

Civil matters were reported in the lobby of the PD, and the 1000 block of South Neel.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles.

Narcotics violations were reported in the 1500 block for North Dogwood, and Pampa High School, 111 East Harvester.

Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of 23rd and Promrose.

A threat was reported in the lobby of the PD.

A suspicious person call was received from the 1100 block of North Terry.

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of North Russell.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1300 block of North Garland.

Phone harassment was reported in the lobby of the PD.

Welfare checks were made in the 2200 block of Charles, and the 1800 block

For the Record

Obituaries

Patricia Lou Dutton, 82

Patricia Lou Dutton, daughter of Isaac Earl Holmes and Florence Rachel (Franks) Holmes was born February 14, 1927 in Truro, Iowa and passed from this life March 8, 2009 at Madison County Memorial Hospital in Winterset, Iowa at 82 years of age.

Pat received her education in the Truro Schools, graduating from Truro High School. She was united in marriage to Marvin Dale Dutton on August 30, 1948 at Urbandale, Iowa and two children, Kim and Mike blessed this union.

Patricia was a life long member of the Truro community except for brief times when she and her family lived in Knoxville, Wheeler, Texas and Kansas while Marvin was

with the pipeline.

She was a member of the Truro Centennial Committee; Truro Betterment Committee; Truro Alumni; Truro Congregational United Church of Christ; Church board member; a former Sunday School teacher, Cub Scout and Girl Scout leader. Pat was also a cancer survivor being diagnosed with lung cancer in 1999.

She enjoyed playing cards, dancing and fishing. She and Marvin also enjoyed camping and traveling south to Texas and Arizona in the winter. She sewed many outfits for dance recitals and enjoyed traveling to her children and grandchildren's events.

Those relatives who preceded Patricia in death were her parents, husband

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Marvin; sisters, Nola Atkinson, Marge Creger, Dorothy Meader and Ruth in infancy.

Pat is survived by her children, Kim Goad and husband Fred of Wheeler, TX; son, Mike Dutton and Sue Wright of Knoxville, IA; grandchildren, Mika Sloan and husband Dusty of Borger, TX; Bret Goad of Wheeler, TX; Dickie and C.J. Wright of Knoxville, IA; great grandson, Eli Michael Sloan (who was born on her last birthday) of Borger, TX; brother, Harold Holmes and wife Virginia of Johnston, IA as well as many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 11:00 A.M. Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at Truro



Dutton

United Congregational Church of Christ with Pastor Shonda Deranaleau officiating. Burial will follow in Ebenezer Cemetery, Truro, IA.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Truro Fire & Rescue or Truro Betterment Committee.

George Ingram, 94

Pampa, Texas — George W. Ingram, 94, died March 9, 2009, in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 13, 2009, at the First Christian Church, with Rev. Paul Carruth, associate area minister for the Christian Church in the Southwest, and Rev. Brian Christen, associate pastor of youth and education of First Christian Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery with military honors by Altus Air Force Base Blue Knights Honor Guard from Altus, Oklahoma. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Ingram was born August 11, 1914 in Pampa where he had been a lifelong resident of Pampa and Gray County. He was a

1931 graduate of Pampa High School and attended the University of Oklahoma where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. George married Viola Haggard on October 28, 1934 in Woodward, Oklahoma. He was a third generation farmer and rancher in Gray County. He was a former fireman for the Pampa Fire Department and a member of the Civil Air Patrol. George was a veteran of the U. S. Army Air Corps from 1940-1946 where he was a flight commander and flight instructor. He was a member of the First Christian Church and the Loyal Order of the Moose. He helped found the Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Survivors include his wife, Viola Ingram of the home, one son, Larry Ingram of Pampa, six grandchildren; Brandi Yee



Ingram

of Honolulu, Hawaii, Christian Ingram of Gunnison, Colorado, Geordan Montoya of Kingston, New York, Larie Pigeon of Fishkill, New York, DeAnn Bivins of Pampa, and Dennise Howard of Pampa, 15 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, three nephews; Buddy Cockrell of Pampa, Lee Cockrell of Amarillo, and Scott Haggard of Boston, Massachusetts.

MEMORIALS: First

Aubrey A. West, 65

Pampa, Texas — Aubrey A. West, 65, March 9, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be held 10 a.m. Friday, March 13, 2009, at Calvary Baptist Church, with Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor, and Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Friday, March 13, 2009, at Plymouth Cemetery in Samnorwood, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. West was born November 18, 1943 in Pampa. He married Linda Kidwell on June 8, 1964 in

Pampa. She preceded him in death on May 13, 2003. Aubrey was a welder, truck driver, mechanic and ranch hand. He also worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in the Clements and Jordan Units. He was a Baptist. Aubrey loved the outdoors, especially taking the children and grandchildren fishing. He spent many hours watching the grandchildren at Pampa Optimist activities.

Survivors include two sons; Billy West and wife Mistie and Preston West and wife Evelyn, all of Pampa, one daughter, Janie Yates and husband Mike of Pampa, 10 grand-

children; Coleby West, Charles Calloway, Brett West, Halie West, Aubrey Don West, Stephanie West, Michael West, Brandon Yates, Bryan Yates and Maddie Yates, one sister, Marlene Kyle of Pampa, one brother-in-law, Fines Marchman of Pampa, a host of nieces, nephews, in-laws and "special grandchildren." Aubrey was preceded in death by his parents, Alphas and Fannie Ruff West, a sister, Pat Marchman and a brother-in-law, Earl Kyle.

MEMORIALS: Pampa Optimist Club, P.O. Box 802, Pampa, Texas 79066-0802.

SPECIAL NOTICE:



Ingram

Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, Texas 79065, or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, 600 SW 11th Ave., Amarillo, Texas 79101.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at 2313 Evergreen in Pampa, after the funeral services.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Emergency Services

of North Beech.

Prowlers were reported in the 600 block of North Nelson, and the 700 block of North Roberta.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1000 block of Sirroco.

Wednesday
Officers conducted seven traffic stops. A stop in the 1300 block of North Coffee resulted in at least one arrest.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 1000 block of North Wells.

A suspicious person call was received from the 1500 block of North Hobart.

Burglary was reported in the 1600 block of Holly.

One open door was checked.

One animal complaint was made.

SHERIFF

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

Cornelius Dwayne LAnders, 38, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for bond surrender on theft of services.

David Allen Jeffries, 20, of Amarillo was arrested by the GCSO for violation of probation for assault causing bodily injury and criminal mischief.

Zachary Lee Schuermann, 22, of Pond Creek, Okla., was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Wednesday
Crystal Leigh Raines, 23, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for bond surrender on purchasing/furnishing alcohol for a minor.

FIRE

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls between 7 a.m. Tuesday and 7 a.m. today.

5:18 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 100 block of Cuyler on a med assist.

5:54 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 1400 block of Browning on a smoke investigation.

8:40 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 1500 block of Banks on a fire alarm.

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday
6:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital.

8:58 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of South Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of North Cuyler and transported a patient to

PRMC.
10:21 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Sumner. The call was cancelled in route.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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Group: Solar energy could bring jobs to Texas

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer
LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)

— Texas leads the nation in wind power, and now a group advocating for solar energy is pushing for the state to tap into its sunshine.

California-based Vote Solar Initiative took out classified ads in several Texas newspapers Tuesday, claiming solar energy could create 45,000 to 90,000 jobs across the state for electricians and engineers and in sales.

The ads, which the group said ran in The Midland Reporter-Telegram, the Abilene Reporter News, The Dallas Morning News and the Austin American-Statesman, urge readers to contact legislators to "ask for bold solar policies."

"You put the right policies in place, you get desirable results," said Adam Browning, executive director of the initiative. "Texas is an energy state. They know how to do energy."

Long known for its oil and natural gas production, Texas also has the most megawatts generated by wind in the U.S. As of Sept. 30, Texas had 6,297 megawatts installed, more than twice the 2,493 megawatts installed in California, the nation's No. 2 state.

A bipartisan group of legislators has filed dozens

of bills aimed at the boosting the state's solar industry. They include bills that would offer rebates to consumers who install solar power and which address homeowner association rules and taxing issues.

Texas Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, authored SB600 which calls for 3,000 megawatts of solar energy to be online in Texas by 2020.

In an e-mail Tuesday, she said that for every megawatt of solar energy added, at least four jobs will be created.

"Making Texas a leader in solar energy is important not only for our environment, but also for our economy," she said. "Given the current state of our economy, we need to harness the power of the Texas sun and use it to power our economy as well."

The solar energy that could be harvested from just one acre of West Texas land equals 800 barrels of oil a year, according to the State Energy Conservation Office.

More bills are being filed daily, said Annie Carmichael, a Vote Solar Initiative spokeswoman.

"This is the solar session," she said.

The nonprofit, grassroots group says the 90,000 jobs would be created if most of the circuitry, panels and other neces-

sary components were manufactured in Texas.

The average impact of a 10-year solar rebate program would be an extra \$1 a month addition to residential customers' bills, according to the initiative. Retail electric providers offer rebates to consumers who install solar at homes or businesses but "everybody pays because everybody benefits," Carmichael said.

Over the 10 years, the solar energy produced would mitigate more than 48 million tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent of permanently removing 760,794 cars.

One municipal electric utility in Austin is already stepping into solar power. Austin Energy will build a 30-megawatt solar plant that's scheduled for completion in 2010. It is expected to be one of the largest such plants in the U.S. and the sixth largest in the world.

The plant will remove 30,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the air per year and provide enough electricity to power 5,000 homes.

Killer of San Antonio woman set to die today

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A man who crawled through the window of a San Antonio home and fatally stabbed a mother of three as her oldest child tried to defend her was set for execution Wednesday night.

Luis Salazar, 38, would be the second condemned murderer put to death in Texas in as many nights and the 12th this year in the nation's busiest capital punishment state.

No last-day appeals were planned to stop the lethal injection, his lawyer said.

"There is just nothing left legally," attorney Michael Gross said.

Salazar testified at his trial that after a night of marijuana, cocaine and drinking he thought he was in his own house just before dawn Oct. 11, 1997, and that Martha Sanchez, 28, and her three children were intruders.

Evidence, however, showed the telephone wires at the home next door to where Salazar previously lived had been cut and Sanchez's injuries indicated Salazar had tried to rape her before she was fatally stabbed. He denied cutting the phone lines or the attempted rape.

The woman's 2-year-old daughter was asleep in the same bed and a 6-month-old son was in a crib nearby. Sanchez's screams woke her older son, 10-year-old Erick, who was asleep in an adjacent room and he went into his mother's room to see what was going

on. Then he tried to defend his mother from the knife-wielding intruder he knew as the man who used to live next door and was stabbed in the chest as his mother yelled at him to run outside and get help.

Leaving a trail of blood, the boy pounded on the doors of homes until he found a neighbor to respond. Salazar had attacked his mother and him, he told the neighbor.

Almost a year later, the boy showed a Bexar County jury the scars from his wound as he testified at Salazar's capital murder trial. A neighbor testified how she changed the clothes of the 2-year-old who had her mother's blood all over her.

Almost four years before the attack, Salazar had pleaded guilty and received two years probation for misdemeanor assault for a sexual attack on an 18-year-old mentally disabled high school student. And some four years before that, he was given probation for four counts of aggravated robbery for holding up convenience stores.

Richard Langlois, one of Salazar's trial lawyers, said the previous convictions were difficult to overcome in the minds of jurors who had been asked to spare Salazar's life because he's endured an abusive childhood.

At least four other condemned Texas inmates have execution dates, including three next month.

Council closes

Council — cont. from page 1

one. "I can read labels in the super market," another. "I couldn't read. I felt like a shell all closed up. Now I can read and I am opening up to the world."

The Literacy office was located in with the Red Cross office downtown. All the reading teaching materials have been donated to the school district and computers given to the Pampa Sheltered Workshop. The Red Cross will use the space to expand its office needs.

"There are people who helped with the peripheral aspects - such as writing articles, doing art work, monetary donations, providing food for workshops - the list goes on forever. Thank you for the part you played in making our program a success," adds Fiveash.

Currently there are 15 students studying with the volunteers and those people will continue to be supported through completion of their studies.

Kids want pool

City — cont. from page 1

step in authorizing the issuance of Certificates of Obligation, and approved on first reading, a resolution approving a grant by the PEDC for water improvements at Hidden Acres RV Park.

Mayor Robbins briefed the commission on his trip to Panhandle Days at the Texas State Legislature, during which he was able to meet the Speaker of the House on the the house floor and had a chance to meet with area representatives and their staffs.

Texas first in number of homeless kids

Kids — cont. from page 1

the number of homeless children in Texas — estimates range from 55,000 to 250,000 — but all agree that the numbers are increasing.

Michael Gerber, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs' executive director, said there's no doubt more people are in poverty.

"We're really needing to think long and hard about how we integrate our social service system because homeless kids are truly the most vulnerable among us," Gerber said.

Gerber said the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless, which coordinates the state's homeless resources and services, hopes to release a comprehensive plan to battle homelessness next month.

Ken Martin, executive director of the Texas Homeless Network, an information clearinghouse for more than 250 organizations that help the homeless, said there are signs that the problem is being taken seriously.

Still, he called the percentage of Texans without health care insurance, the lack of affordable housing and high poverty rates a "recipe for disaster."

"At the other end of the scale are people who are way over their heads in houses they can't afford," Martin said. "When they lose their jobs or have a health care crisis, they're out on the street and they take their kids with them."

For the Canady family, newly relocated to a shelter, their children, ages 13, 11, and 6, appear to be adjusting to their cramped but clean quarters and new inner-city schools.

"I can only thank God they've been OK," said Linesa Canady, 35, a former risk analyst for a bank. "They've been very understanding."

Eleven-year-old Tyra said she doesn't want people to pity or look down on her.

"Just because you live in a shelter doesn't mean you have to be treated any different," she said, explaining that she's still the same girl who dreams of being a veterinarian, pediatrician or actress someday.

BEALLS

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 11, the 70th day of 2009. There are 295 days left in the year.

- Highlights in history on this date:
- 1302 - Romeo and Juliet's wedding day, according to Shakespeare.
 - 1784 - British sign peace treaty with Tippoo of Mysore in India.
 - 1810 - Emperor Napoleon of France is married by proxy to the Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria.
 - 1812 - King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia gives Jewish citizens equal rights.
 - 1845 - Maori stage further uprisings against British rule in New Zealand.
 - 1888 - The "Blizzard of '88" strikes the northeastern United States, piling up snow up to 6 meters (20 feet) deep and resulting in some 400 deaths.
 - 1913 - Britain and Germany agree on frontier between Nigeria and Cameroon.

'There are some people who leave impressions not so lasting as the imprint of an oar upon the water.'

— Kate Chopin, American writer

- 1917 - British forces capture Baghdad during World War I.
- 1938 - German forces enter Austria.
- 1941 - U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs into law the Lend-Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.
- 1943 - British Eighth Army repulses heavy German counterattacks in Tunisia in World War II.

1965 - A white minister from Boston, the Rev. James J. Reeb, dies after whites beat him during civil rights disturbances in Selma, Alabama.

1989 - Two dozen nations sign declaration in the Netherlands enlisting United Nations as watchdog against pollution of Earth's atmosphere.

1993 - North Korea withdraws from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in a harsh rebuff of Western demands to open suspected nuclear weapons development sites for inspection.

1998 - South Korea says it will compensate women who were enslaved in Japanese army brothels in World War II, then recover the money from Japan.

2000 - A gas explosion rips through a coal mine in eastern Ukraine, killing 81 workers.

2002 - Fifteen are killed and more than 50 others injured in a fire and stampede at a girls' school in Saudi Arabia, sparking an outcry after religious police prevented male firefighters and paramedics from rescuing the girls because they were not wearing the black head-to-toe covering required by Saudi law.

2006 - Former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic, being tried at The Hague for war crimes after orchestrating a decade of bloodshed that killed 250,000 people and broke up his country, is found dead after a heart attack in his prison cell.

Today's Birthdays:
 Torquato Tasso, Italian poet (1544-1595); Christian Ditlev, Count Reventlow, Danish statesman who abolished serfdom (1748-1827); Astor Piazzolla, Argentine musician (1921-1992); Douglas Adams, British writer (1952-2001); Rupert Murdoch, Australian media magnate (1931-); Alex Kingston, British actress (1963-); Terence Howard, U.S. actor (1969-).



Profiles In Irish-Texan Heritage

By: Sen. John Cornyn

As it did for many settlers of all backgrounds, Texas offered a land of opportunity, freedom, and independence to the first Irish settlers. In Texas, Irish immigrants finally found land they could cultivate as their own after fleeing the political and religious prosecution they had suffered in their homeland under the English for more than 300 years.

One of the first Irishmen to leave an indelible mark on Texas history was Hugo Oconor (O'Connor), a native of Dublin. As a young man, Oconor fled Ireland to Spain to join his cousins in service in the Spanish Army. He was later transferred to serve in Cuba and Mexico, and in 1767, he was sent to Texas to investigate reports of corruption within the ranks of the colonial administration. Soon after uncovering the root of the corruption, Oconor was appointed acting governor of Texas. During his tenure as ad-interim governor, Oconor was dubbed the "Red Captain" by local Indians because of his classically Irish, fiery-red hair. Upon assuming the position of governor, the province was in disarray because of the constant clashing between local Indian tribes and raids on San Antonio by the Apaches. The Red Captain is remembered for his success in reinforcing San Antonio against the Apaches and bringing order to the region.

James Hewetson, a native of Thomastown, Ireland, came to the U.S. as a young man and set his sights on making his fortune in Mexico. His plans were temporarily diverted when he met Stephen F. Austin in St. Louis. Hewetson struck up a friendship with Austin and accompanied him on his first visit to Texas in 1821. In Bexar, Hewetson parted ways with Austin's party and

made his way to Mexico, where he started several enterprises and gained influence in the Mexican government. He was eventually drawn back to Texas, however, and he and James Power established the Power and Hewetson Colony (Refugio Colony) in 1826 along the Texas coast between the Lavaca and Guadalupe rivers, which was later extended from the Guadalupe to the Nueces River. The Refugio Colony was largely inhabited by Mexicans and Irish Catholic families from the southeast coast of Ireland. James Power would later be influential in seating Sam Houston at the Convention of 1836.

In 1828, two Irishmen, John McMullen and James McGloin, established the town of San Patricio de Hibernia on the north side of the Nueces River, in tribute to Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. McMullen and McGloin contracted with the Mexican government to obtain 80 leagues of land for the settlement. They recruited 200 Irish Catholic families to settle in San Patricio, which legally became the Municipality of San Patricio in the Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas in 1834. During the beginning of the Texas Revolution, San Patricio was ensnared with fighting. Residents from San Patricio did their part to aid the Revolution — sending representatives to every convention, except the first. In December of 1835, men from San Patricio helped Captain Ira Westover and his troops from Goliad capture Fort Lipantitan. The colonies of San Patricio and Refugio endured some of the harshest conditions experienced by early Texas settlers.

In addition to these four Irish empresarios, Hewetson, Power, McMullen and McGloin, many Irish

settlers played significant roles in the Texas Revolution. History tells us 11 of the Texans who died defending the Alamo were Irish natives, and nearly 100 Irish natives fought in the Battle of San Jacinto.

After the war, those Irishmen who did not remain in the army became artisans and merchants, while some pursued politics. The 1850 census in Texas listed 1,403 Irish, and by 1860, there were 3,480 Irish living in Texas.

Today, Irish heritage is celebrated throughout Texas and especially on St. Patrick's Day. In Shamrock, Texas, revelers participate in an annual beard contest, along with sheep-dog shows and a Miss Irish Rose Pageant. In San Antonio, which at one point in Texas history was known as the Irish Flat because of the large number of Irish who settled there, they dye the San Antonio River green on St. Patrick's Day. Organizations in Abilene host a St. Patrick's Day dance and a Painting of the Shamrock ceremony. And in Dallas, the North Texas Irish Festival has become so popular, it draws crowds of more than 20,000 each year—the largest Celtic festival in the southwestern United States.

Our state's first Irish settlers embodied independence and endurance. Texans are proud to continue that legacy and celebrate the rich contributions of the Irish people.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Finance, Judiciary and Budget Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Other newspapers say...

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on education for military children:

War often can be hardest on the warfighters children.

The family of an active-duty soldier, sailor, airman or Marine can move from one base to another in the states or overseas as often as every two years.

Educational continuity is a foreign concept for a student who attends six to nine different schools in 18 years. Yet almost 2 million military children in this country pay the price of interrupted studies and delayed graduations because of a parent's noble decision to serve in our all-volunteer armed forces.

Make that parents' decision. The Army in particular is seeing more and more cases where both parents are soldiers.

State Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, doesn't think it's fair that the children of the nation's military should be unduly burdened by a situation out of their control. That's why

he's introduced House Bill 503, designed to remove hurdles that slow the enrollment process for transferring students and can keep them from graduating on time.

"These kids are being held up by Texas law that truly shouldn't affect them," Geren said Tuesday from Austin.

Geren's interest in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children comes naturally. His brother, Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, has been working with Patty Shinseki, founder of Military Child Education Coalition and wife of retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki, now the secretary of Veterans Affairs, to encourage lawmakers across the country to adopt the legislation. The bill will ensure that the children of military families have the same opportunities for classroom success as other children and will not be penalized or delayed in graduating because

bureaucratic practices.

Should state lawmakers pass the bill and they should Texas would agree, among other things, that children who move midyear can continue in the same grade even if their new school has different age requirements.

Unofficial education records would suffice for a child's enrollment until the official records arrive from the previous school district. Students who are enrolled in honors or advanced classes in one state could continue those classes in their new school district.

"Compact kids also would be granted additional excused absences if a parent is about to be deployed or is returning from deployment," Charlie Geren said.

Eleven states legislatures Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma have signed on to the compact. The bill awaits the

Virginia governor's signature, and it's been introduced in 19 other states, including Texas.

The children of military personnel are expected to overcome stress in their lives that children of civilians don't often encounter. Any parent who has relocated for work knows the trauma that ensues after uprooting children from their friends.

Imagine that experience over and over. Layered on top of that uncertainty is the possibility that Mom or Dad or both might be deployed to a war zone. That, too, is happening over and over.

The goal of the compact isn't to dumb down the expectations for classroom achievement for military children. On the contrary, it acknowledges the exceptional sacrifices that these young men and women make as part of their service to America. URL: <http://www.star-telegram.com>

THE PAMPA NEWS

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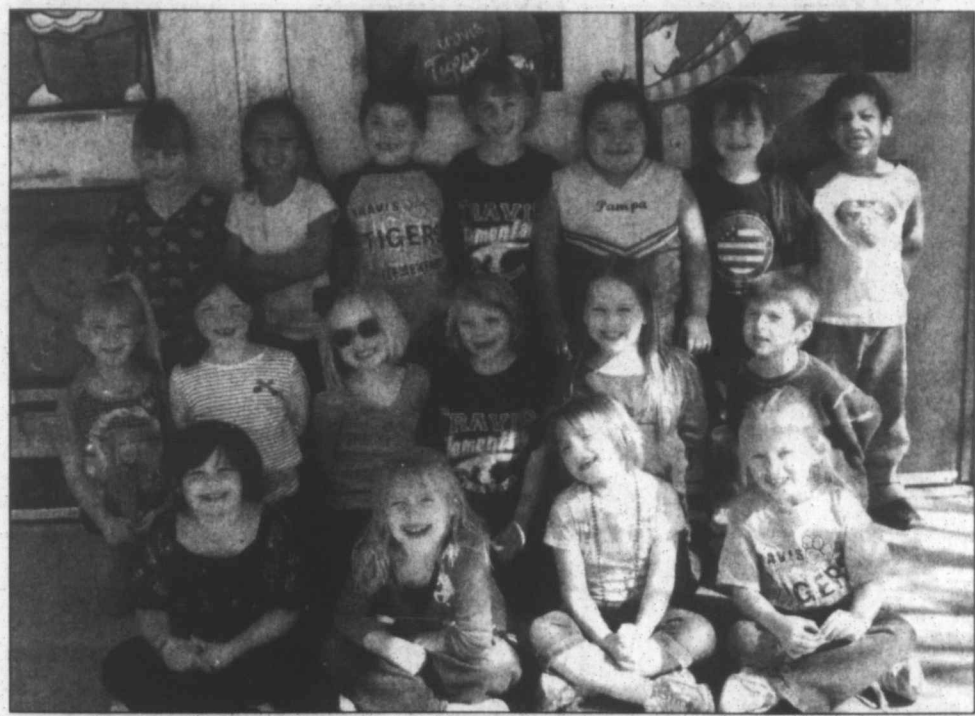
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ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



submitted photos

Travis Elementary recently held their annual Zak's Cheese fundraiser. The top selling classes were Mrs. Crawford's kindergarten (at top), with a total of \$2,068 and Mrs. Plunk's third grade, with a total of 2,321. Both classes were awarded with Coke and root beer parties.

Voter ID bill wins first round

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — After emotional debate and testimony that lasted all night, a bill requiring voters to present identification papers before casting ballots passed its first hurdle in the Senate. Acting as a "committee of the whole," the Senate approved the so-called "Voter ID" bill 20-12. It now will need another vote by the full Senate, but Wednesday's vote all but assures its passage.

The bill is being driven by Republicans over fierce opposition from Democrats. Debate and testimony started Tuesday and ended Wednesday morning. Supporters say the bill protects against voter fraud. Opponents contend it will disenfranchise thousands of voters by erecting paperwork hurdles that will affect minorities, the poor, the disabled and the elderly.

TEA investigates spending

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Education Agency has reopened its investigation into whether some Houston Independent School District principals and administrators incorrectly used discretionary funds to spend as much as \$100,000 on rodeo gala tickets since 2003. The agency looked at the ticket buys last year, but closed the investigation when the HISD's inspector general concluded there was no problem. TEA reopened the investigation this year after Del Murphy, husband of a retired HISD assistant principal,

filed complaints with the district's inspector general and TEA. Money from the discretionary funds, he said, should go to buy school library books or make other school improvements. "They use this money to go wining and dining. Taking this money and using it in this way is immoral. You are taking money away from kids and elementary schools that are at minimal resources," Murphy said in a story for Tuesday's online edition of the Houston Chronicle.

Bills would ban some driver cell phone use

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — If you talk or text on your cell phone while driving — and you know who are — the long arm of the Texas Legislature may be coming after you.

The House Transportation Committee heard from supporters and opponents of bills Tuesday that would ban hand-held cell phone use while driving in certain situations. Some of the proposals impose stiffer penalties for accidents while a driver is using a hand-held cell phone. Others ban hand-held cell phone usage by motorists in school zones.

A proposal by Rep. Solomon Ortiz Jr., a Corpus Christi Democrat, would ban anyone under 18 from using a wireless communications device while driving, unless it's a hands-free phone or it's an emergency. Ortiz says he's particularly trying to stop texting while driving, something many teenagers do.

"Talking on the phone and texting while driving is a significant distraction," Ortiz said, noting that a 2007 study by AAA showed 46 percent of 16- and 17-year-olds admitted to texting while driving. "That means that about half of our teenagers are driving around with part of their attention on the road and the other part trying to focus on a little key pad and a tiny little screen."

He said he wants to prevent bad habits from forming while drivers are young. Other bills would ban adult texting.

Reps. Dan Branch, a Dallas Republican, and Jose Menendez, a San Antonio Democrat, proposed separate measures that would place restrictions on using hand-held cell phones in school zones unless the driver's vehicle is stopped. Branch said some cities have banned hand-held cell phone use in school zones, but he said others are waiting to see if the state takes action.

"People, I think, are watching us," he told the committee.

A state law would provide uniformity, so Texas motorists know the law wherever they may be driving, he said. Branch said his bill, which allows handsfree phone usage, provides several exceptions and balances civil liberties of drivers and the protection of children. Several other proposals

also exempt handsfree devices. Ortiz said the handsfree exception could make the legislation easier to pass and easier to enforce.

Only six states and the District of Columbia have banned hand-held phones for drivers, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Among the opponents of proposed Texas cell phone bans is the American Civil Liberties Union, which would rather see public education on the risks of cell phone use while driving than increased penalties, said Rebecca Bernhardt, policy director for ACLU of Texas.

"That's more of a public education issue," Bernhardt said. "There's always going to be something that's distracting drivers."

Chris Jones, a Houston

police sergeant representing the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, told legislators he wants to make sure that in any legislation passed law officers may use cell phones and wireless devices in their patrol cars. But, as a father of a 16-year-old daughter who frequently sends text messages, he said he favors a ban on texting while driving for teens.

"Help me save her life. Amen, brother," Jones said.

The motorist association AAA Texas agreed that teens shouldn't be texting. Young drivers lack the experience and judgment that older drivers take for granted, said Anne O'Ryan, legislative and government affairs manager for AAA Texas.

Man Builds Record-Size Tree House After Using Thera-Gesic

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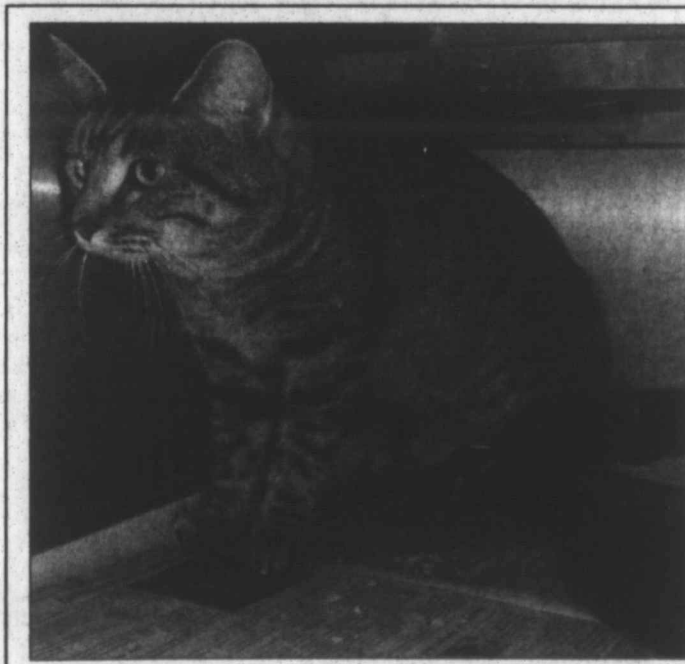
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Comics

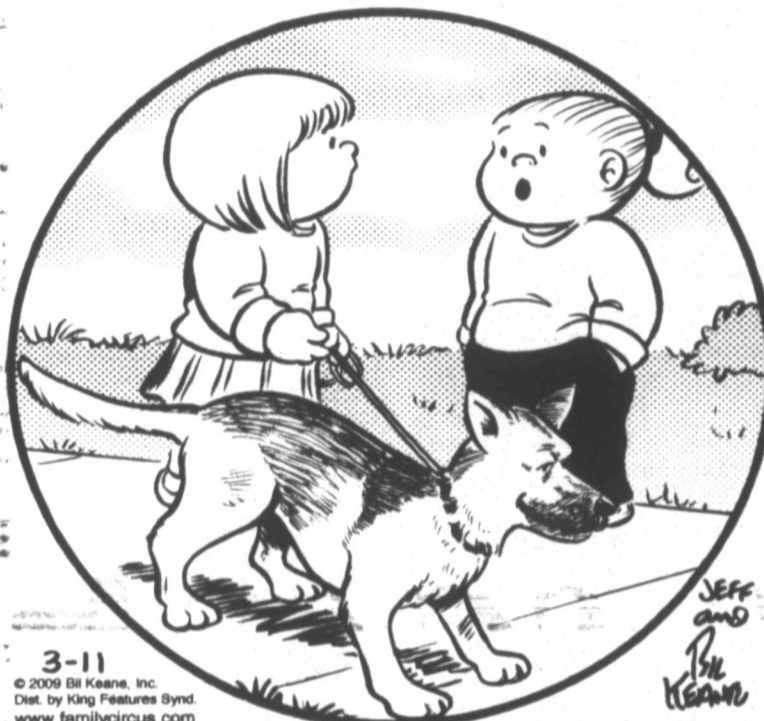
Marmaduke



"Our heater is on the fritz. Can we come in and keep warm until the repairman arrives?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Do you talk to your German shepherd in English?"

For Better Or Worse



Zits



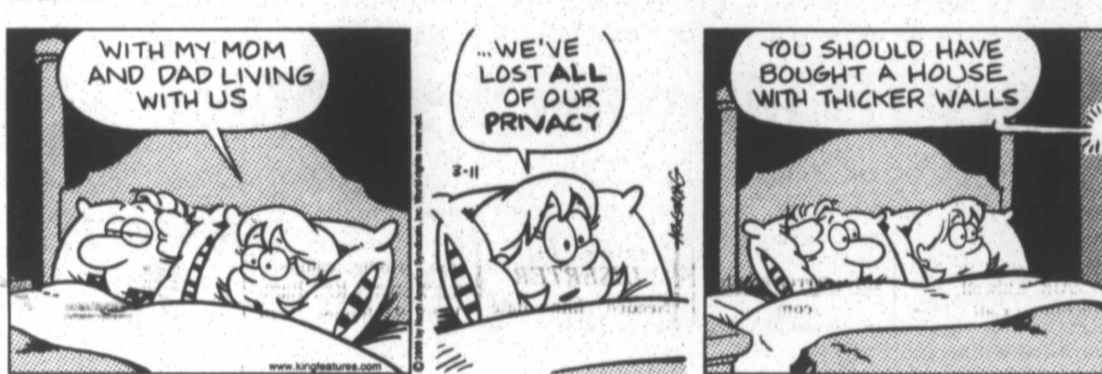
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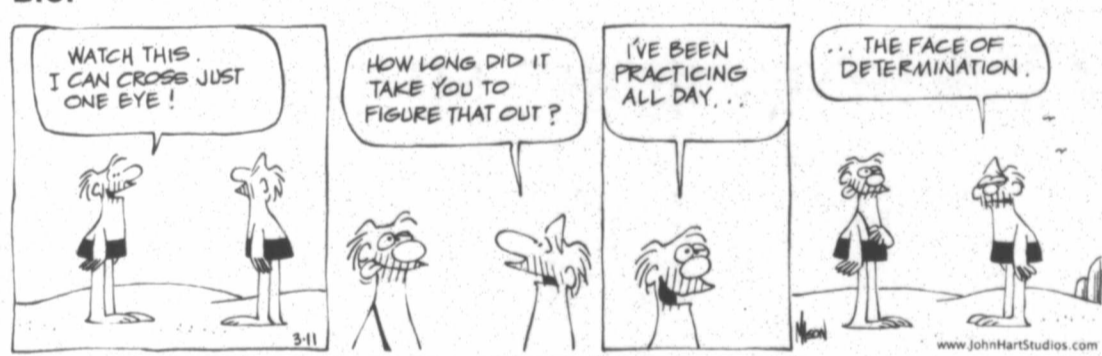
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Yesterday's answer

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- 20 Keg need address
- 24 Fellow with an ax
- 25 Trait
- 27 Plopped down
- 28 Twinges
- 29 Like some communities
- 30 Place in order
- 31 Intent look
- 35 Miseries
- 36 Composer Bartók
- 38 Ewe's mate

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HOT BATS PHS smashes Perryton

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com
A cold north wind didn't prevent Harvester bats from getting hot during Tuesday's home game against Perryton.

Pampa won 18-5 with three home runs.

After hitting a single in the first inning and a double in the second, Braden Hunt drove one over the fence in the third.

Madison Wilson was next up and hit one over the left center field wall.

Mitchell Killgo sent hit the third home run of the game in the fourth inning.

Blake Sieck, Brett Powell, Ryan Funderburg and Hunt each scored in the first inning.

Sieck, Powell, Funderburg, Killgo, Hunt and John Luke Covalt each scored in the second.

Powell, Funderburg, Killgo, Hunt, Wilson each crossed the plate in the third inning.

Sieck, Killgo and Hunt scored in the fourth.

In four and a half innings of play, the Harvesters scored 18 runs on 16 hits and left five men on base.

The Harvesters travel to Burk Burnett this weekend for a tournament before starting district play at home on March 17 against the Raiders of Randall High School.



Harvester Madison Wilson sends the ball on its way over the left center fence in the second of three home runs in Tuesday's game against Perryton.

staff photo by David Bowser



Harvester first baseman Braden Hunt, 9, reaches for a throw from the pitcher's mound in an effort to pick off a Perryton Ranger during the Pampa-Perryton game Tuesday. Hunt would later hit one of three home runs for Pampa during the game. Pampa won 18-5.

staff photo by David Bowser

7-H Raiders Traveling Basketball

by Roy Lott
The 7-H Raiders kicked off their 2009 season in the MAYO Basketball Tournament held in Miami, Texas. Basketball teams ages Kindergarten - sixth grade compete in this annual event.

Competing in the boy's fifth and sixth grade division, the Raiders got off to a rough start. Physically out-sized by a large margin the Raiders held a Valley team to 24 points only to lose by 7.

Their next game proved to be just as challenging, playing another large sixth-grade team from Darouzzette. After turning the ball over on several attempts the boys finally came out hitting 4 of 5 baskets and never looked back. 7-H went on to win a defensive struggle 15-10.

In the final game of the day 7-H faced a very familiar Wheeler team setting up what would be a very competitive ball game. These two teams have faced off in numerous tournaments in the past years. Breaking down the Wheeler zone and pressuring the ball was key to 7-H winning this game 17-12.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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Level: Intermediate

OPTIMIST BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

will be this week Monday through Thursday, March 9-12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Optimist Club, for boys and girls 5 to 15 years of age.

The playing fee for players 9 to 15 is \$85
The playing fee for players 5 to 8 is \$70

For more information
Contact Kevin Davis at 664-2542

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

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