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The PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, February 3, 2010 Volume 105 • No. 227 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

GOP candidates square off at forum

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Eighteen candidates squared off before 127 voters at the Top O' Texas Republican Women candidates debate last night.



John Triplehorn, left, a member of the Gray County Republican Executive Committee visits with Judge Steven Emmert during the Top O' Texas Republican Women's Candidate Forum Tuesday night at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Emmert is unopposed in his reelection bid as 31st District Judge.

While eight candidates were running unopposed, the rest are involved in races that involved two or more candidates.

The biggest field is the four candidates vying for Gray County Commissioner in Precinct 4 in the southeastern part of the county. Jeff Haley, Lynn Allison, Wayne Leathers and Mark Simmons are battling for Gray County Commissioner Precinct 4.

James Hefley, the current county commissioner there, is stepping down at the end of the year and four newcomers are fighting for his position.

Jeff Haley said he had come to Gray County 21 years ago, although he traces his family back to the Texas War of Independence.

"Gray County has been good to us," he said.

A rancher, Haley voiced his concerns over such issues as the Endangered Species Act and the federal threat to close down agriculture and the oil and gas business.

FORUM cont. on page 3

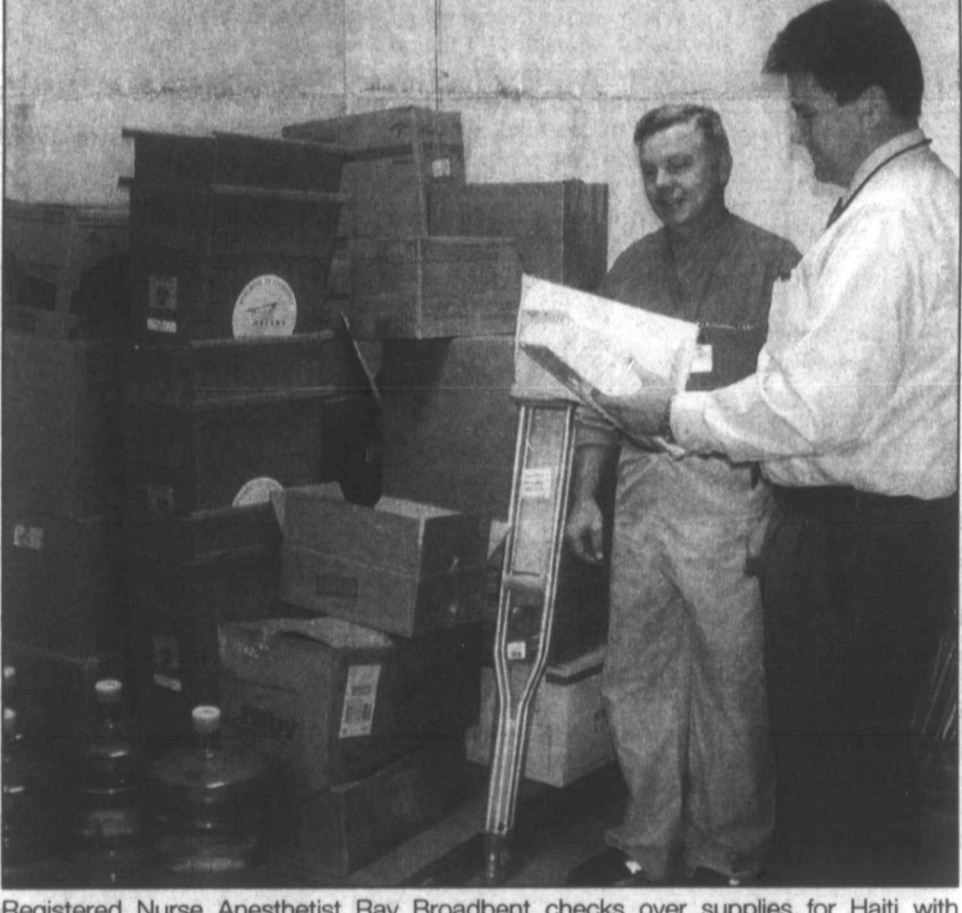
PRMC staffers headed for Haiti

Early next week Ray Broadbent, a local certified registered nurse anesthetist at Pampa Regional Medical Center, will be heading for Haiti.

Broadbent will be utilizing his vacation time by spending a week in the devastated country. Mercy Ships, is gearing up for delivery of medical services and supplies. PRMC has answered the request for medical supplies, surgeon kits, and various items.

Broadbent has been involved in volunteer work with the non-profit organization, Mercy Ships, for the past five years. Mercy Ships' main focus in the past has been surgeries for disfiguring genetic malformations, cataracts, cleft lip and palate reconstruction, and obstetric fistula.

PRMC cont. on page 3



Registered Nurse Anesthetist Ray Broadbent checks over supplies for Haiti with Director Mktg/PR and Volunteer Liaison Terry Barnes.

PISD excited about 3A move

BY ANDREW GLOVER
 aglover@thepampanews.com

Pampa school administrators and coaches are excited about Pampa High School's move down to 3A for athletics.

Pampa moved down to 3A after the UIL's realignment Monday. Head Football Coach Heath Parker said this was something they saw coming after they turned in an enrollment number lower than 2008's cutoff (980) for 4A and likes where Pampa was realigned.

"I like the teams we are playing against in our district," Parker said. "We're going to have community against community. I think we will have three rivals very quickly. The district should be very competitive."

Athletic Director Stuart Smith agreed with Parker that it wasn't

much of a surprise and said Pampa will be one of the larger teams in 3A.

"Our numbers in the school have been going down the last several years," Smith said. "I think it's a good move for us. We're going to be one of the largest 3As. Competitively we will be competing against schools that are closer to our size."

Superintendent Barry Haenisch said Pampa High School turned in an enrollment number of 976 to the UIL in October. Haenisch said the move has positives and negatives.

"A positive is we will be competing in a district with schools that are more our size," Haenisch said. "Another positive is familiarity with the teams in our district because we have played all of them at one time. One of negatives is

being only a four team district, scheduling across the board will be tough for our teams."

Smith said him and Parker were calling schools to fill their non-district schedule and have made some progress.

"The football schedule we have put together is going to be tough," Smith said. "We're playing all 3As and a 4A. We play Snyder and that's a perennially a pretty tough 3A team usually in the top 10. We're playing Randall, and we're going to keep that rivalry game going. Estacado that could potentially be a bidistrict game."

Pampa's athletic director said the girls athletics will really benefit from the move.

"From a girls standpoint we are going to be competing for district 3A cont. on page 3

Annual Photo contest entries sought

Submissions are now being accepted for The Pampa News' Annual Amateur Photography contest in two categories: "Family Fun" and "Pampa Panoramas." "Family Fun" simply means candid photos showing family and friends having fun together," said Pampa News Publisher Randy Pribble.

Submit your candid photos and win up to \$100!

The photo may be an individual or a group of people, but the key is to take a non-posed, slice-of-life image of Gray County residents enjoying life.

"Pampa Panoramas" is a category for creative amateur photographers who love living on the high plains and want to share their images of the beauty around them.

The editorial staff of The Pampa News will judge the contest and the top submissions in each category will receive \$100. Second place winners in each category will receive \$50. Third place winners will receive \$25.

The photos will be judged on creativity and general PHOTO cont. on page 3

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 50%		
High 33 Low 27	High 45 Low 23	High 41 Low 27

Tonight: Snow. Low around 27. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. Southeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100%. New snow accumulation of around 3 inches.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 33. Wind chill values between 18 and 26. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow before midnight. Cloudy, with a low around 27. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west northwest.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Saturday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 27. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Cloudy, with a high near 36. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow. Cloudy, with a low around 23. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

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Census bureau needs workers in West Texas

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Census workers are in short supply in West Texas as the U.S. Census Bureau's hiring effort faces some of the state's lowest unemployment numbers. A news release Tuesday from the bureau's Dallas regional office states that recruitment efforts in Midland as of Jan. 31 brought only 166 applicants of the 500 wanted. Questionnaires are set to be mailed out in six weeks.

Efforts in Abilene and San Angelo were only slightly better, bringing in 38 percent and 43 percent, respectively.

Oilfield activity and other business expansions have kept unemployment numbers low in the region: Midland's is 5.4 percent, one of the lowest in the state; Abilene is 5.3 percent and Lubbock is at 5.4 percent.

Job applicants can call 1-866-861-2010. Pay ranges from \$8 to \$24 an hour.

AG wants cities out of open meetings lawsuit

PECOS, Texas (AP) — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott says four cities don't belong in a federal lawsuit challenging the state's open meetings law.

Abbott argued in a brief filed Tuesday in federal court in Pecos that Alpine, Pflugerville (FLOO'-gur-vihl), Rockport, and Wichita Falls lack standing in the suit because they don't have First Amendment rights.

Abbott says that unlike 15 elected officials bringing the lawsuit, the cities are "creatures of the state" and can't make constitutional claims against the state.

The plaintiffs argue that the Texas Open Meetings Act shouldn't prevent some communication from being considered a quorum outside a posted meeting. Their claim includes E-mails and messages from social networking sites.

Obituaries There are no obituaries today

EMERGENCY SERVICES

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Feb. 2.
Christina Mullen Dills, 28, was arrested by Gray County deputies after a bond surrender on charges of forgery.

Larhonda Sue Willhite, 38, was arrested by Pampa police on charges of theft by check.

Wednesday, Feb. 3.
Christopher Duane Rose, 37, was arrested by police on charges of theft of prop-

erty.

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Police reported nine traffic-related incidents and five accidents.

Animal Control officials reported six calls.

Pampa EMS reported six medical calls. The Pampa Police Department, Pampa Fire Department and Lefors Volunteer Fire Department reported one medical call each.

Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Officers made a welfare check in the 400 block of South Pitts.

Officers provided escorts in the 600 block of North Ward.

A sexual assault was reported in the 2700 block of North Rosewood Lane.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of South Starkweather.

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

A forgery was reported in the 1600 block of Hobart.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block

of South Reid.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of East U.S. Highway 60.

Wednesday, Feb. 3.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1900 block of North Nelson.

A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of Warren.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of South Gray.

An alarm was reported in the 600 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of North Ballard.

Police: woman admitted killing 2 young sons

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 22-year-old woman stabbed her two young sons to death, then calmly held her wrists out to police officers who arrived at her home and said "I killed my babies," authorities said.

Elyse Marsyl Colon was being held Wednesday on two counts of capital murder of a child in the deaths of her sons, 3-year-old Jose Luis Garcia and 1-year-old Guillermo Garcia. Her bond was set at \$2 million.

"Words can't describe the scene," San Antonio police Chief William McManus said. "It was unspeakably sad."

Colon was waiting outside her home when officers arrived Tuesday evening and put her hands behind her back as they approached, police said. When an officer asked "What happened?" Colon allegedly responded with, "I killed my babies."

An officer kicked in the locked front door of the home and found the boys lying on a bed, according to police. After Colon was placed in the patrol car, she allegedly told police,

"Their father was in jail, I want him to know."

Public records show that Luis Alonso Garcia, who lived at the same address, was arrested in September for illegal entry and for family assault, a third-degree felony. More information was not immediately known.

Jail records indicated Colon did not have an attorney. She cursed at reporters while being taken to court for arraignment late Tuesday. She wore jeans, black ankle boots and a black "Don't Mess with Texas" skull cap when arrested, according to the police report.

The attack occurred less than three miles from the home where prosecutors say a woman decapitated and butchered her 3-week-old boy last summer. The woman, Otty Sanchez, is charged with capital mur-

der.

On Colon's street, neighbor Angelica Puentes, 34, said she had talked to the woman a couple of times and said she seemed like she was in a daze.

"They can't speak for themselves, they can't defend themselves," Puentes told San Antonio

television station KSAT.

"They're very vulnerable right now. She just took advantage of that for whatever reason, I don't know."

State child welfare officials said Wednesday they were still looking into whether their agency had previously investigated the family.

To the citizens of Pampa,

I would like to thank the community for being safe thru out the snow storm. We only had three accidents reported in the city limits. This was because everyone was well prepared for the storm and drivers used extreme caution when they did get out. Thank you again for all you do to make our community a safer place to live.

Thank you,
Stormy McCullar
Crime Prevention Officer

Lubbock County: mother, daughter shot to death

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A welfare check at a house in west Lubbock County led to the discovery of the bodies of a woman and a girl believed to be her 12-year-old daughter.

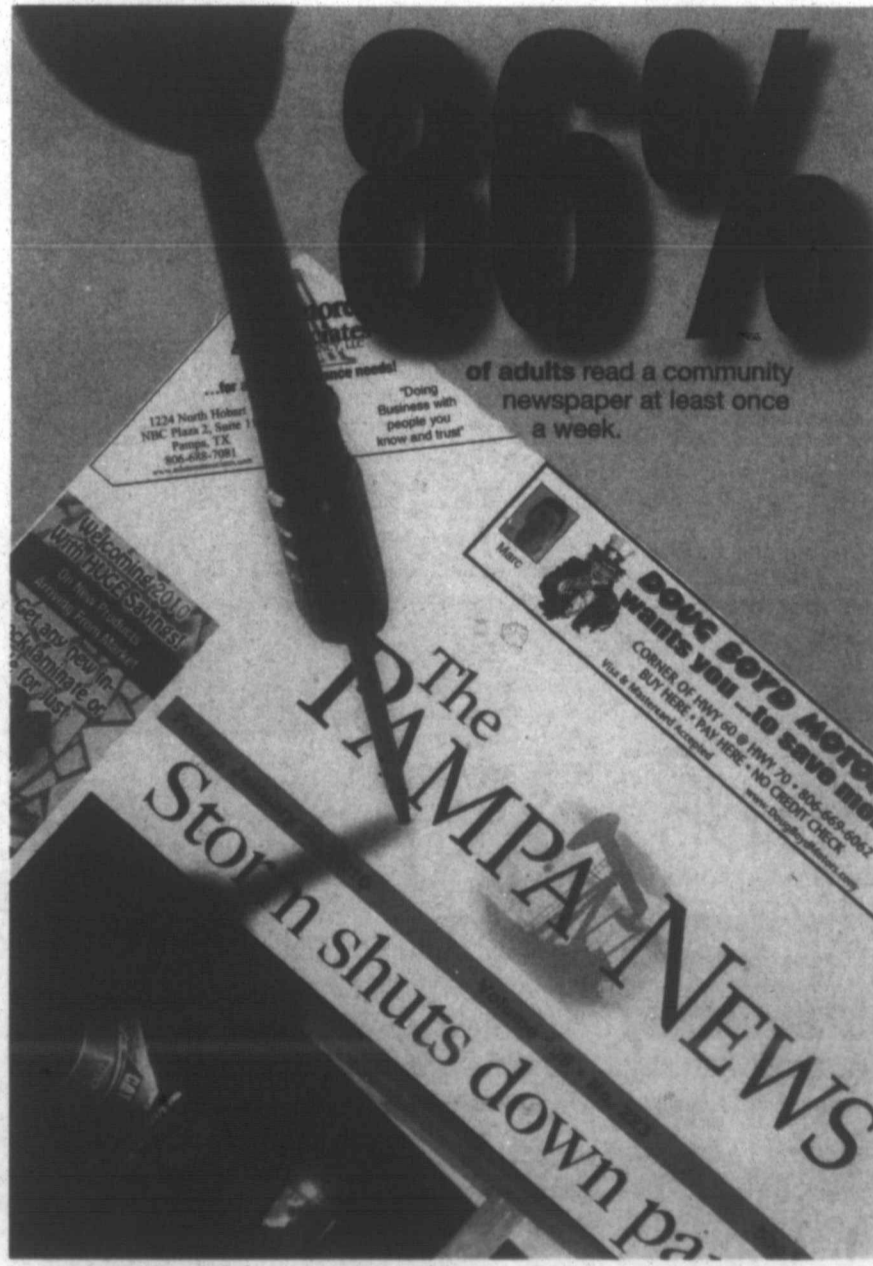
Interim Sheriff Kelly Rowe says both had gunshot wounds. Autopsies were ordered.

Relatives had called deputies, who located the bodies around 5:30 p.m. Monday. A news release says deputies, looking through a window, saw one person on a bed.

Rowe said Tuesday that his office is conducting a homicide investigation and murder-suicide has not been ruled out. The sheriff did not immediately release names of the pair, pending autopsy results.

Rowe says it appears several days had passed before the bodies were discovered.

Investigators found no sign of forced entry. Both bodies were located in the same room.



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* Survey conducted by the National Newspaper Association and the Center for Advanced Social Research at the Missouri School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Researchers surveyed adults 18 years old and up in markets with fewer than 100,000 residents.

LAST MINUTE ADS

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

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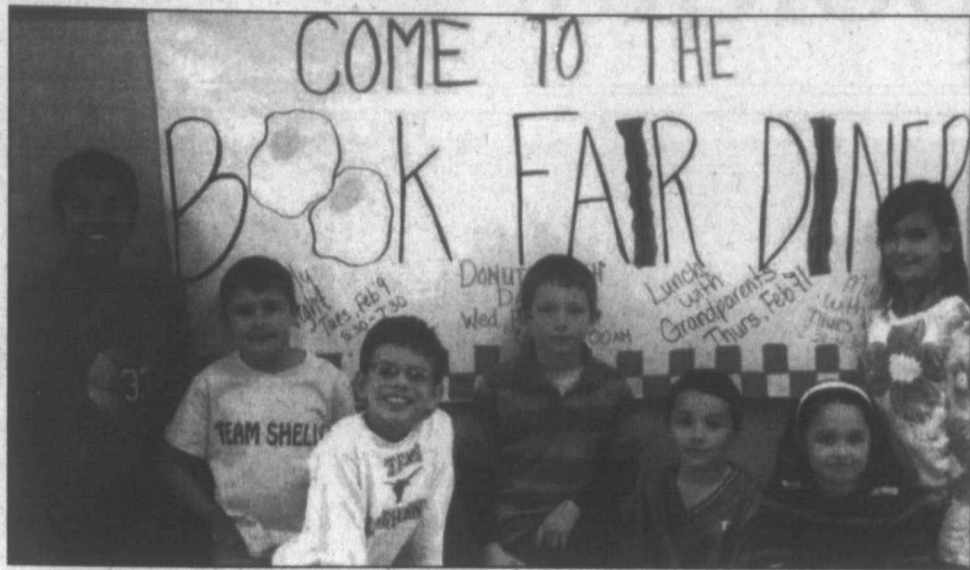
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PHS CHOIR "Evening On Broadway" rescheduled for Wed. Feb. 3, 7pm., MK Brown. For reservation call 669-4800, ask for Choir Room.



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Austin Book Fair



The Austin Elementary School Book Fair is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 Wednesday, Feb. 10 and from 8 a.m. to Noon Thursday and Friday, Feb. 11 and 12. Events during the fair include: Family Night: Tuesday, Feb. 9, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Donuts with Dads, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 - 8: a.m.; Lunch with Grandparents, Thursday, Feb. 11, during their child's lunchtime and Munchies with Moms, Thursday, Feb. 11, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. During school hours visitors need to check in at the office with a picture ID. Shown are Sydney Armendariz, Tell Ingersoll, Alex Smith, Xander Karson, William Karson, Blake Christen and Avery Carreon.

Photo

appeal. All photos submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting it and must have been taken in Gray County since Jan. 1, 2009. The photos cannot have appeared previously in any other publication or contest.

You can submit as many photos to the contest categories as you like. The best way to submit your photo is to send them via E-mail to rpribble@thepampa.com. The photos should be

in a jpg format.

Include your name, address, telephone number for verification and a description of the photograph. Please identify people in the photo. Any photo without this information will not be considered in the contest.

If you would rather submit your entries as prints, send them with the information to: Photography Contest, The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison Avenue, Pampa, TX. If you wish

cont. from page 1

the prints returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your entry.

All entries must be post-marked or E-mailed by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Submissions after that date will not be considered.

The Pampa News will publish all the winners, and many of the other submissions, in a special section of our annual Pride issue in March. Not all photographs will appear in the newspaper.

Forum

cont. from page 1

"If we do not decide these issues," he said of the local populace, "somebody will decide for us."

Lynn Allison, originally from Lefors, told the gathering that he thinks that Gray County has a bright future.

"Our county officials do a wonderful job," Allison said.

Wayne Leathers, originally from Donley County, worked for the county in Precinct 4.

He said his priorities are God, his wife and Precinct 4.

Mark Simmons, who lives south of Alanreed, is the son of former Gray County Commissioner Ted Simmons and is the third generation of his family to live in Gray County.

Although he worked for five years for the county in Precinct 4, he spent the last 10 years teaching at the welding center at Frank Phillips College in Borger.

Simmons said he's worried about the federal bureaucracy in Washington, D.C.

He said any change in Gray County has to come from the ground up.

The Gray County Judge's post has three candidates battling for it, including the incumbent.

Judge Richard Peet, the incumbent for county judge is being challenged by Robert Banks and Steve Hall. Hall did not attend the candidates' forum Tuesday night.

Peet, originally from New York, came to

Wichita Falls while in the U.S. Air Force.

"I'm from New York," he said, "but I chose to be a Texan."

He earned a degree at Mid-Western University while in Wichita Falls and came to Pampa where he taught political science at Pampa High for 24 years and at Clarendon College for 20 years.

Peet served on the Pampa City Commission for two years before being elected the Mayor of Pampa for six.

His opponent at the forum, Robert "Bob" Banks, is originally from Detroit, Mich., admitted Tuesday night that he did not have the experience in politics that Judge Peet did, but he felt he had the wisdom to serve as county judge.

"Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge," Banks said.

Banks is a former Baptist pastor.

Two candidates are campaigning for Gray County Commissioner for Precinct 2, including the incumbent.

Incumbent County Commissioner for Precinct 2, Gary Willoughby, is being challenged by Raymond Douglas. Douglas did not attend Tuesday night's forum. Co

Willoughby, a seven-year veteran of the Gray County Commission, spoke of his experience and accomplishments as commissioner, introducing his precinct crew, who attended last night's meeting.

Two candidates are also campaigning for the 223rd District Judgeship being vacated by Judge Lee Waters, who is retiring at the end of his term.

Phil Vanderpool, an associate judge, is facing off against one time Gray County Attorney Todd Alvey in the race for 223rd District Judge.

Alvey, a panhandle native, said he decided at 12-years-old he wanted to be a lawyer. Now, he wants to be a judge.

He's been practicing criminal and family law since 1991.

Judge Phil Vanderpool is an association judge with 31 years as a lawyer and 20 year as a sitting judge.

"Experience is invaluable," Vanderpool said. "It's more than calling balls and strikes from the bench."

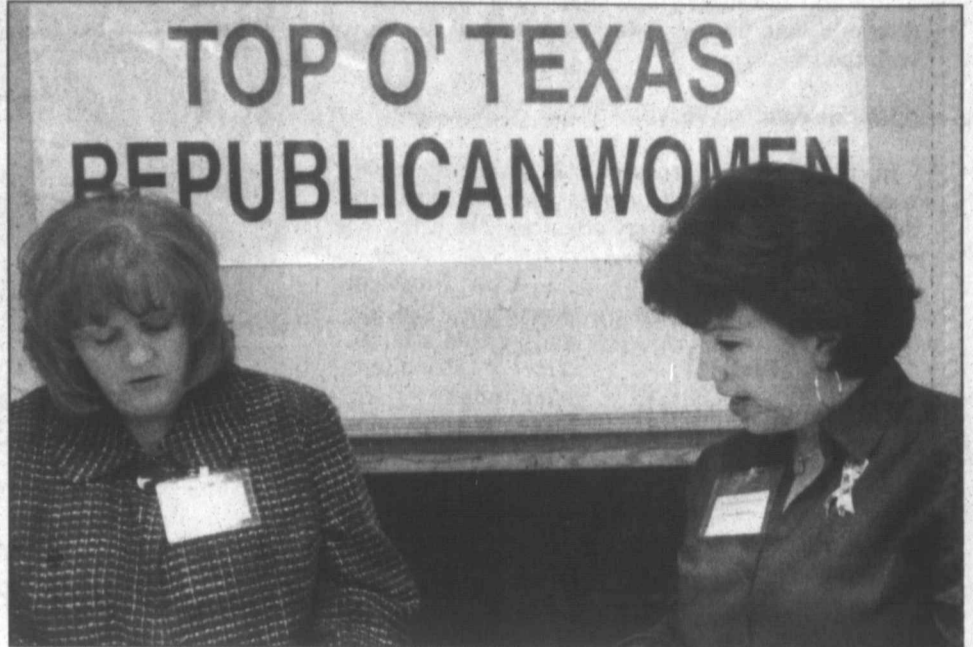
Andrew Castanuela of Early, Tex., is running for a spot on the Republican ballot next fall for the U.S. Senate.

No other Senate hopefuls attended the forum last night.

While 10 of the candidates who appeared Tuesday are in contested races, Pampa's State Representative called for unity in the Grand Old Party.

"At the end of the day," Chisum told the assembled throng, "we need a Republican to win."

Chisum is unopposed in the Republican Primary next month.



staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell, left, moderator of the candidates forum and Evelyn Ruth-erford, president of Gray County Republican Women, talk before candidates took the stage Tuesday night at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

3A

championships," Smith said. "We should. That's been our expectation before."

Head Volleyball Coach Libby Garza said she is really excited about playing in 3A next season.

"We have a really strong chance at playoffs," Garza said. "The district will be competitive but we have beat all but Dalhart. Now they're (Dalhart) losing their 6-4 outside hitter but we should win out; it'll be great for Pampa."

Head Boys Basketball

Coach Dustin Miller is excited about the Pampa-Borger rivalry being renewed.

"We need those games to mean something," Miller said. "But Perryton and Dalhart are going to be very difficult to beat still. The good thing is we play these guys every year so we are very familiar with them."

Head Girls Basketball Coach Gene Valentine said his girls are excited and looking forward to playing in 3A.

"I've told them that dis-

trict (next year's) is going to be tough," Valentine said. "But if we can compete in this 4A district, if we step it up we should compete in this one."

Haenisch said the soccer teams and swim teams will still compete in the same district.

"There is no 3A soccer so teams below that level will compete in 4A," Haenisch said. "So we will still be in the same district. Very few schools have swim teams so we will still be in the same district next year."

cont. from page 1

PRMC

repair. In addition to the medical capabilities of the ship, named Africa Mercy, the on-land teams design water and sanitation projects including well digging, construction, agriculture, and micro-enterprise programs.

Broadbent has traveled to Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Benin with the group. He says of

Haiti, "These people had a difficult life before the earthquake, now they are experiencing tremendous devastation and suffering. It's human nature to want to help in a situation like this". Broadbent will be replacing an anesthetist at Heartland Birth Center in Port-au-Prince and in a week he will be relieved by, John Hartin, a colleague from PRMC. "This

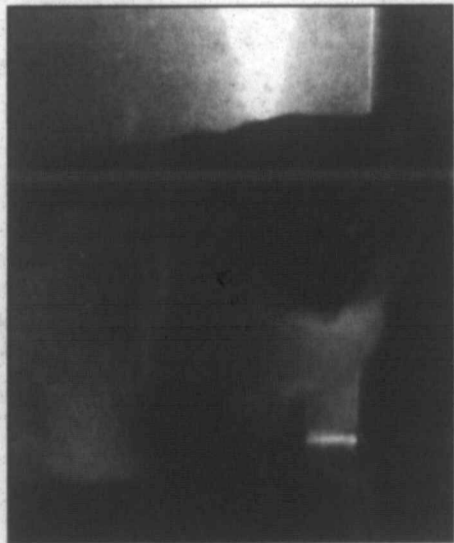
hospital (in Haiti) is about the only hospital that is still functioning", he said.

Todd Lorenz, CEO of PRMC said, "We're glad to support the efforts of Ray and John as they serve those in need in Haiti. These actions exemplify compassion, care and concern that both these men as well as many others at Pampa Regional Medical Center practice every day."

Pets of the Week...

Pictures Of All The Animals Can Be Viewed In The Window Of The Shelter Office 24 Hours A Day

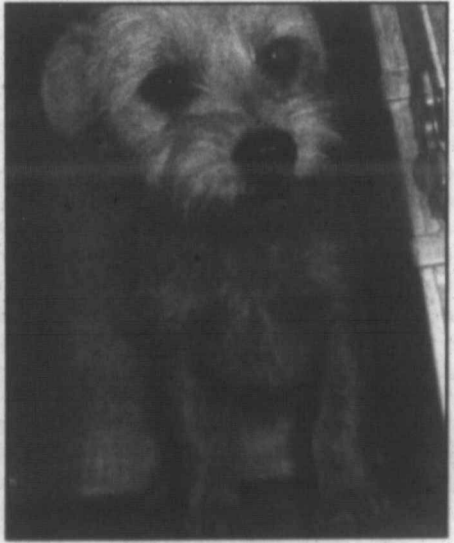
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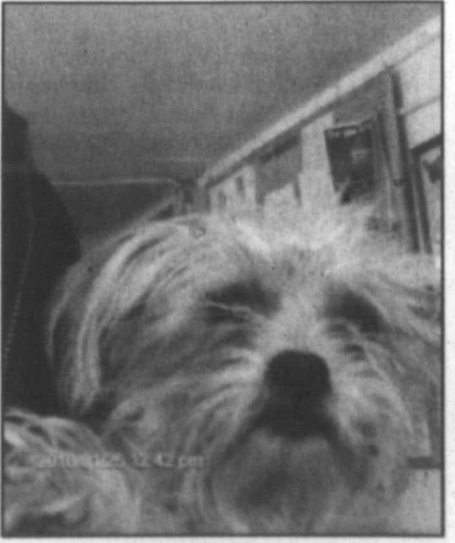
"Jax"
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2010. There are 331 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship *Dorchester*, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived. Four Army chaplains gave their life belts to four other men, and went down with the ship.

On this date:

In 1809, German composer Felix Mendelssohn was born in Hamburg. Congress passed an act establishing the Illinois Territory effective March 1.

'Your friend will argue with you.'

— Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Russian writer

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens held a ship-board peace conference off the Virginia coast; the talks deadlocked over the issue of Southern autonomy.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1916, Canada's original Parliament Buildings, in Ottawa, burned down.

In 1924, the 28th president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington, D.C. at age 67.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa. An American Airlines Lockheed Electra crashed into New York's East River, killing 65 of the 73 people on board.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1969, Yasser Arafat was elected chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization's executive committee during a council meeting in Cairo, Egypt.

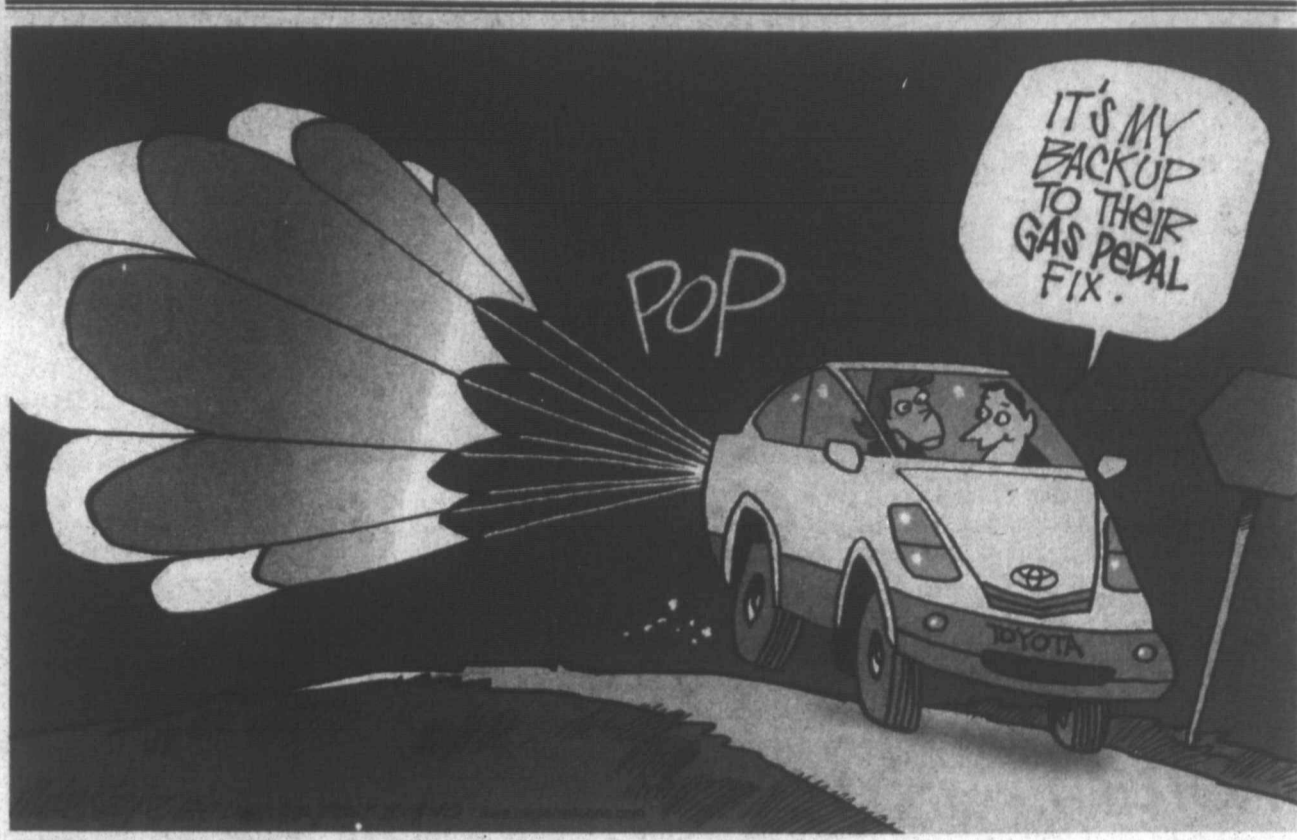
In 1989, Alfredo Stroessner, president of Paraguay for more than three decades, was overthrown in a military coup.

Ten years ago: The flight data recorder from Alaska Airlines Flight 261 was recovered from the Pacific Ocean off California. The Senate voted 89-4 to confirm Alan Greenspan for a fourth term as chairman of the Federal Reserve. Richard Kleindienst, who had served as U.S. attorney general during the Nixon administration and resigned during the Watergate scandal, died in Prescott, Ariz. at age 76.

Five years ago: Alberto Gonzales won Senate confirmation as attorney general. An interim report detailed conflicts of interest and flawed management in the U.N. oil-for-food program. An Afghan passenger jet carrying 104 people crashed east of Kabul, killing all on board.

One year ago: Eric Holder became the first black U.S. attorney general as he was sworn in by Vice President Joe Biden. The White House announced that Tom Daschle had asked to be removed from consideration as health and human services secretary after acknowledging he'd failed to pay all his taxes. Iran sent its first domestically made satellite, Omid ("hope"), into orbit.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Shelley Berman is 84. Former Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) is 77. Football Hall-of-Famer Fran Tarkenton is 70. Actress Bridget Hanley is 69. Actress Blythe Danner is 67. Singer Dennis Edwards is 67. Football Hall-of-Famer Bob Griese is 65. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 63. Singer Melanie is 63. Actress Morgan Fairchild is 60. Actor Nathan Lane is 54. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 54. Actor Thomas Calabro is 51. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 49. Actress Michele Greene is 48. Country singer Matraca (muh-TRAY'-suh) Berg is 46. Actress Maura Tierney is 45. Actor Warwick Davis is 40. Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is 34. Musician Grant Barry is 33. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 28. Rapper Sean Kingston is 20.



Analysis: Signs point to shift on gays in military

ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

An AP News Analysis WASHINGTON (AP)— President Barack Obama may get his wish to allow gays to serve openly in the military — not because of his powers of persuasion but because arguments against it have lost traction over time.

A cultural shift since Congress passed a legal ban nearly a generation ago has changed the debate.

For many younger members of the military — those doing the bulk of the fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq — it's hardly a debate at all. Polls show they care little about sexual orientation in their ranks.

Views in the wider society have evolved; gay marriage is now legal in five states and the District of Columbia. Opinion surveys say a majority of Americans think it's OK for gays to serve in uniform.

"Do I care if someone is gay? I have no qualms," said Army Sgt. Justin Graff, serving with the 5th Stryker Brigade in southern Afghanistan.

Jason Jonas, a former Army staff sergeant from Tempe, Ariz., said openly gay soldiers served in his intelligence unit at Fort Bragg, N.C., and their presence never affected unit morale.

"I don't think it is anybody's right to say who can and who can't fight for their country," said Jonas, 28, who served in Afghanistan before being injured. "Nobody cares. 'Don't ask, don't tell' is kind of a joke."

It will not go unnoticed among military members that their most senior uniformed leader, Adm. Mike Mullen, told a Senate panel Tuesday that he personally believes it is time to allow gays to serve openly. It's just wrong, Mullen said, that gays must "lie about who they are" to defend their country.

Although Obama said he would work to change the law this year, Defense Secretary Robert Gates gave him some extra leeway by telling Congress the Pentagon would need at least a year to implement the changes. Gates' comment gave the impres-

sion that he thinks repeal is almost inevitable, although a leading Republican voice on defense matters, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, opposes the change.

"I fully support the president's decision," Gates said. "The question before us is not whether the military prepares to make this change, but how we best prepare for it," adding that the final decision rests with Congress.

In the meantime, Gates said he is seeking latitude in how the law is enforced, and there are indications that the military already is honoring the ban mostly in the breach.

According to figures released Monday, the Defense Department last year dismissed the fewest service members for violating the policy in more than a decade. The 2009 figure — 428 — was sharply lower than the 2008 total of 619.

Overall, more than 10,900 troops have been discharged under the policy.

The list of countries that permit gays to serve openly in uniform has grown to 28, including Canada, Israel, Australia and most of Europe. Many of those nations have troops fighting alongside U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, and Mullen said he has seen no indication that the different policy on gays by the allies in Afghanistan has hurt the war effort.

Yet in the U.S., there remains a powerful rhetorical weapon for opponents of lifting the ban — fear that it would weaken a military at war.

It's a question that cuts to the heart of why sexual orientation has been such a sensitive topic in the military in the past — and remains so among those who see repeal of the 1993 ban on allowing gays to serve openly as putting still more stress on a military strained by years of conflict.

Mullen said he shares that concern, even as he became the first sitting chairman of the Joint Chiefs to publicly advocate allowing gays to serve openly. He told the Senate Armed Services Committee "there will be some disruption in the force" if the law is changed.

"Our plate is very full" already, he said.

Obama entered the White House as an advocate of repealing the ban, but he let it rest for a year. Last week, in his State of the Union address, he vowed to work with Congress this year "to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are."

When President Bill Clinton took office in 1993, he ignited a political firestorm by trying to use his executive powers to end the policy — not written into law at that point — of discriminating against gay service members in the military.

Congress stopped him by passing a law that does not explicitly prohibit gays or lesbians from serving but requires them to serve in silence. If they acknowledge their sexual orientation or engage in a homosexual act, they can be

expelled. But if not asked, they need not disclose it.

The 1993 statute calls the military a "specialized society" in which life is "fundamentally different from civilian life." And so it is. But the cultural differences are not necessarily as stark as in 1993.

Walter Slocombe, a defense consultant who was a senior Pentagon policy officer during the Clinton administration, says most military members "won't care one way or another" if the ban is lifted.

All branches of the military struggle to some extent with racial, religious and gender tensions, he noted, but "that's a result of having a military that reflects the diversity of the country."

Robert Burns has covered national security and military affairs for *The Associated Press* since 1990.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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MEMBER 2010

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We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.



Watson to play softball for Clarendon College

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Pampa Lady Harvester basketball and softball senior Shelby Watson signed a letter of intent to play softball for Clarendon College Tuesday in the Ready Room at the Athletic office. Watson said she is excited to continue her

playing career in college. "I think it will be fun," Watson said. The senior softball player said she chose Clarendon because she wanted to be close to home and get her basics out of the way. Watson is a three year letterman in girls basketball and softball. Head Softball Coach

Bobbi Gill said it will be a great opportunity for her. "She (Watson) will help the program," Gill said. "They're (Clarendon) lucky to have her." Gill said it's exciting to have one of her players play at a higher level. "She's not the first," Gill said. "It's nice to have someone continue that success."



staff photo by Andrew Glover
Shelbie Watson sits with her coaches and family after signing a letter of intent to play softball for Clarendon College. Back row from left to right: Father Drew Watson, mother Alana Etchison stepdad Larry Etchison. Front row left to right: Pampa Head Softball Coach Bobbi Gill, Shelby Watson and Clarendon softball coach Candra McKee.

Lady Pirates play hard, but can't hold on vs. Owls

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Lefors Lady Pirates played close but couldn't pull out a victory in a 41-32 loss to the Hedley Lady Owls Tuesday in Lefors. Head Coach Tory Peet said his team played hard and did much better than the first game at Hedley. "We knew what we had to do," Peet said. "We tried it. When you are tied at halftime and down by three after three you're given yourself a chance." Taylor Overstreet got Lefors on the board with a three pointer. The Lady Owls scored the next seven points to take a 7-3 lead. The Lady Pirates cut the lead to one but Hedley hit a three to take a 10-6 lead. Lefors scored the last four points of the quarter to end the first in a 10-10 tie. The Lady Owls opened

the second quarter strong with a 7-2 run to take a 17-12 lead. Ashley Sheppard hit a three to cut Hedley's lead to two. Kaitlyne Porter made two free throws to tie the game at 17 which would carry into the half. Hedley would take the lead for good in the third quarter hitting a two-pointer to lead 19-17. Sheppard made a free throw to cut it to one, but the Lady Owls would score four straight points expanding their lead to five. Hedley led 23-20 after the third quarter. In the final quarter, the Lady Owls quickly expanded their lead, making a three-pointer at the beginning of the quarter and a two after a Lefors turnover. Overstreet hit a two-pointer to cut Hedley's lead to six but that would be the closest Lefors would get. The Lady Owls out-

scored the Lady Pirates 18-12 in the fourth quarter. Overstreet led the Lady Pirates in scoring with 12 points and had three rebounds. Sheppard scored nine and led the team in rebounds with five. Porter scored six points and had three rebounds, and Story Pairsh scored five points and three rebounds. The loss eliminates the Lady Pirates from the playoffs. Peet said his team can determine who does make the playoffs in their season finale Friday at Samnorwood. "The last spot is going to be between Hedley and 'Norwood,'" Peet said. "Right now they (Hedley and Samnorwood) are tied. So, if we can go in there and beat Samnorwood we will make them think when Hedley comes to town."



staff photo by Andrew Glover
Taylor Overstreet attempts a layup against Hedley Tuesday night in Lefors. The Lady Pirates lost 41-32. Overstreet led the team in scoring with 12 points. Last night's game was senior night. Lacie Johnston, Ashley Woodard and Ashley Sheppard were honored after their game.

Great job on a fine season Lefors Lady Pirates!!

The decision to run for Gray County Judge weighed heavily on my mind because I knew I would become a target for gossip and personal attacks. I respectfully request that the citizens of Gray County focus on the issues as I make this effort to create a change in Pampa. I was raised in this town, and have roots in our community. I graduated from Pampa High School in 1970. The city of Pampa has changed, and the decision making process needs a common sense approach. My greatest fear is for those around me, and I do not want my mother and family to be hurt by any personal attacks. I hope all will listen and help work for the greater good of our community.

- If you cannot sell your house for appraised value then your taxes are too high!
- Are you worried about paying your bills and whether you will have a job next year?
- The citizens of Pampa elect the Gray County Commissioners!
- A Gray County Commissioner makes \$32,480 dollars plus health and retirement benefits
- How many hours does your Gray County Commissioner work per week to earn that money?
- The Gray County Sheriff's Deputies and employees have not received a raise for two years.
- These employees protect our County and they should be paid for their hard work!
- The Gray County Sheriff's Department must have adequate resources to protect our safety.
- Why is this important? The Gray County Judge sets the budget!
- The County Commissioners approve the budget and set the tax rate.
- The 2009 unaudited Gray County budget revenues were approximately \$7.5 million dollars!
- The Murder Trial was 10% of our total budget and we cannot afford to spend that much money over raises.
- Who was consulted and who made the final decision to proceed with the murder trial?

The defendant offered to plea to three life sentences without parole and no appeals. However, our District Attorney refused to take the plea offer. One must ask, "Was justice served?" As a Christian nation is the death penalty justice? The last capital murder trial in Pampa was in 1994 and the execution date is set for February 24, 2010. That is 17 years of taxpayer expenses. The murder trial represented at least 10% of the total Gray County budget, and the cost has resulted in a loss of services for all.

- My wife is a school teacher. Our Gray County Road was not graded during the snow storm. She got stuck Monday and had to walk home!
- The total fuel budget for Gray County Precinct #1 in 2010 is \$39,136.00. The commissioner's salary with benefits is about the same as the fuel budget for 2010!
- Was the trial worth the cost?
- Why did Gray County not join the Indigent Defense Fund? This is like an insurance policy to help cover the costs of a murder trial in our county. Were the Gray County Commissioners aware that this fund existed?
- The Commissioner's Court approved more expenditures than Gray County had revenues coming in! (If you doubt my words get a copy of the Gray County budget at the Gray County Courthouse.) We must live within our budgets!
- My property taxes increased 47% in 2008 to cover spending decisions! What next?
- Where are we going to come up with the money?
- The time is NOW! Hold our elected officials accountable for their actions, and end the wasteful spending that continues to plague the current administration.

**If you like what is happening in Pampa - keep voting the same men back into office.
We must balance the budget in Pampa before we complain about the National Debt.**

**THESE DECISIONS WILL BE DECIDED IN THE MARCH 2 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY.
DEMOCRATS CAN VOTE IN A REPUBLICAN PRIMARY.
DO IT NOW - REGISTER AND VOTE!**

HELP ME HELP YOU!

STEVE HALL FOR GRAY COUNTY JUDGE

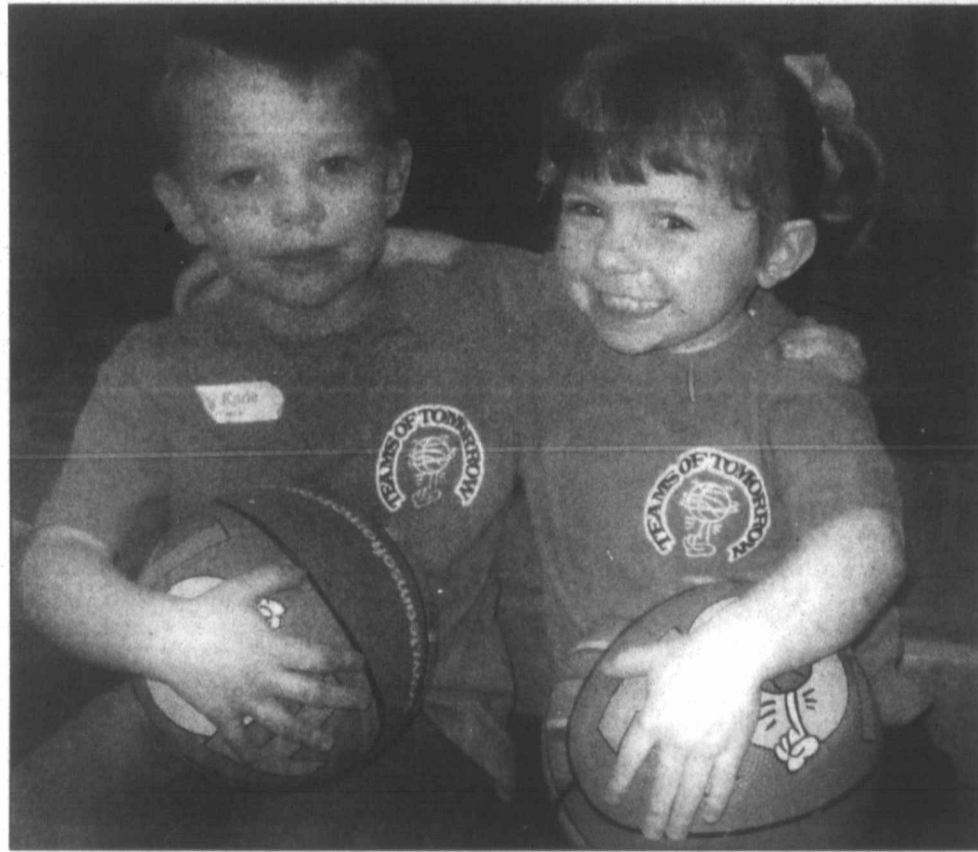
Community

Smiling faces



PJHS cheerleaders relax at their last practice for the year. From bottom left, left to right, Daniella Vizcaino, Caitlyn Tracy, Sage Dorn, Erin Parr, Danielle Bowers, Brooke Woelke, Kaylee Suttle, Ashlyn Paronto, Madison Joyce and Macy Cochran.

TOTS shine



Kade Parks (left) and McKenzie Woods (right) were among the area children who attended a recent West Texas A&M University girls basketball game in January. The kids demonstrated their skills they have learned in the TOT (Teams of Tomorrow) program at the Pampa First Baptist Church Child Development Center. Other towns that attended included Canyon and Amarillo. Kade is the son of Bridgett Parks and Adam Parks. McKenzie Woods is the daughter of Keith and ReDonn Woods. Students from all the TOT classes will be performing during half-time at the Lady Harvester Basketball game on Friday February 5 that begins at 6:00.

Changes for the 2010 EQUIP program told

By JOHN WIMBERLEY
There have been several new practices added to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's EQUIP conservation program for 2010 that could impact Gray County. One practice is Prescribed Grazing for Expired CRP Lands, which is available for any land that has been in the CRP program in the past and still maintains the grass cover established through that program. A participant must follow NRCS prescribed grazing standards during the three years of the contract to ensure that good grazing management is applied to the land. A prescribed grazing incentive of \$10 per acre per year will be paid for the three consecutive years in which the practice is implement-

ed. The practice may be planned on a field(s) that is a viable management unit of at least 50 acres. The acreage must be grazed all three years of the contract, unless watering facilities and a boundary fence are to be installed in year 1, in which case the acreage must be grazed in years 2 and 3. This prescribed grazing practice supports maintaining expired CRP acres in grass and assisting landowners and operators in the transition to a grazing system. Another practice eligible for financial assistance through the 2010 EQUIP program is called SmartCrop, which involves the use of field sensors set up in irrigated cropland to help monitor a crop's water needs. The field sensors measure the temperature

of the crop's leaf surface and relay the information to a base station, which can notify the grower via a text message or email when high crop stress levels are present. The signup for participation in the 2010 EQUIP program is ongoing, however there will be a cut-off date for applications on file to be considered for current year funding. That cut-off date has not been announced, but will probably be in the early spring. For more information on the 2010 EQUIP program, contact the NRCS office in Pampa at (806) 665-1751, ext.3 or come by the office in the Gray County Annex at 12125 E. Frederic Ave. (East Highway 60) in Pampa.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Harry," and I had a good marriage for 25 years, but we have grown apart and have agreed to divorce when our child finishes college. We just don't have a lot in common anymore. Harry is on the road a lot, and I have my own business. My problem is I have fallen in love with Harry's cousin "Cyrus." We met 25 years ago at my sister-in-law's house and were instantly attracted. My mother-in-law reintroduced us five years ago so we could put together a business deal, and we became close. Cyrus is successful, and he's generous to me and my child. I have been secretly in love with him all these years, and now he has fallen in love with me, too. Because I plan to leave Harry does not mean I want to leave his family. I have a wonderful mother-in-law and great sisters-in-law, and I love being a part of their family. I enjoy the weddings, family reunions and even the memorial services.

hold your breath expecting any invitations when their clan gathers.

DEAR ABBY: Ever since my father died 15 years ago, my mother has pursued her children's friends and made them her own. Example: I live in another state and have had a best friend, "Anne," for 20 years. Mom has gotten to know Anne quite well over the years, through me. She now calls Anne long distance, invites her to come and stay with her (without me), and considers the two of them best friends.

Last week when I talked to Anne, I learned that Mother will be joining us on a girls' trip I had planned with my closest friends. Mother has done this with my siblings' friends, too -- taking them on trips with her or inviting them to visit. Since Dad's death, she has severed most of their old friendships. Now, aside from our friends, her only friends are her secretary and some of her employees.

I'm having a hard time with this because I can no longer be open about my mother to Anne. Mom's relationship with Anne has changed my relationship with my friend, and I resent it. Is this normal? -- **COMPETING WITH MOM**

DEAR COMPETING: No, but has it occurred to you that after your father's death, their friends may have ended their relationship with your mother? According to my mail, it happens quite often because a widow may be perceived as a third wheel or even a threat.

Your mother may be competing with you (and your siblings), or it could be a desperate attempt to be more involved in your lives.

Does Anne know how uncomfortable this three-way has made you feel? If so, how did she respond when you told her? If you have discussed it, then it's time to recognize that the problem isn't entirely your mother, and you may be mad at the wrong person.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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2	4	3						1
			7					
					2		4	

Level: Intermediate

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*According to the 2009 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey results for the Cable/Satellite TV industry. Local channels available to 87% of U.S. households. To find out if you are eligible, visit our website or an Authorized Retailer. Digital Home Advantage offer requires 24-month commitment and credit qualification. If service is terminated before the end of commitment, a cancellation fee of \$17.50/month remaining will apply. Programming credits will apply during the first 12 months. All equipment is leased and must be returned to DISH Network upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. Limit 6 leased tuners per account. Base upgrade fees will apply for select receivers, monthly fees may apply based on type and number of receivers. HD programming requires HD television. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Local channels only available in certain areas. Offer is subject to the terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer Agreements. Additional restrictions and fees may apply. First-time DISH Network customers only. Offer ends 5/31/10. HBO/Showtime Programming credits will apply during the first 3 months. Customer must downgrade to their current price will apply. © 2010, DISH Network L.L.C. All rights reserved. HBO® and Showtime® channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. 2010/1002 and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS company. Charter is a trademark of Charter Communications. Time Warner Cable is a trademark of Time Warner Cable. The DIRECTV and the Onyx design are trademarks of DIRECTV. Comcast is a trademark of Comcast Corporation. iPhone is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.

Comics

Marmaduke



"Could you hold down the midnight snack crunching?"

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



2-3

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"...why'd you write it on the back of the picture I drew for my teacher?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 "What a pity!"
- 7 Litmus reddener
- 11 Go by
- 12 Ticked off
- 13 "The Bathers" painter
- 14 Understood
- 15 Fled
- 17 Support
- 20 Magician's cry
- 23 Previously
- 24 Greg Kinnear movie
- 26 Heir, at times
- 27 Poorly
- 28 Try out
- 29 Advises
- 31 Agent, for short
- 32 Deception
- 33 Sassy
- 34 Vacillate
- 37 Friend
- 39 Found darling
- 43 Mystique
- 44 Interstellar cloud
- 45 Hammer part
- 46 Prepares to propose

H	A	B	I	T	T	A	S	K	S	
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R	O	U	S	E	K	E	A	N	U	
E	G	R	E	T	S	T	P	A	T	

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Extreme pain
- 19 Fruit preserves
- 21 Schlemiel
- 22 Skilled
- 24 Mournful music
- 25 Shade source
- 30 Kind of band or show
- 33 Thorough investigation
- 35 Aquarium
- 36 Paradise
- 37 Topper
- 38 Shade
- 40 Wish undone
- 41 Building wing
- 42 "Kapital"

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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The Pampa News

Classifieds

5 Special Notices ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.	14d Carpentry WOOD & METAL FENCING and REPAIRS. Call 665-2859 or 662-5582.	14s Plumbing/Heat BROWNING Heating & Air Cond., 665-1212. Free est. on new equip. We service all brands!	21 Help Wanted BACKHOE operator needed. CDL required. Apply @ 100 N. Cuyler Ste. 200 (Bank of America Building).	21 Help Wanted NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.	21 Help Wanted NOW taking applications for host & wait staff. No phone calls. Please apply in person between 2 pm & 5 pm. at Dixie Cafe.	69 Misc. FOR Sale: Kenmore Elite gas dryer- Large capacity sweater rack \$350. 18.2 Cubic ft. Frigidaire Refrigerator \$350. 806-665-9445 or 806-664-0801	96 Unfurn. Apts. 1 Bedroom Apts. Reasonable Rate Coffee Street Apts. 665-4274	98 Unfurn. Houses PICK UP rental list, in the Black Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.
10 Lost/Found FOUND female blood-hound puppy with pink collar. Call 440-6886.	14e Carpet Serv. NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.	14u Roofing WENDELL'S ROOFING CO. Metal Roofs, Composition Roofs and Built-Up Roofs. Free Estimates. 806-665-7648	\$1500.00 SIGN-ON BONUS Certified Nurse Aide Pampa Nursing Center has openings for CNA's on all shifts. Apply in person, 1321 W. Kentucky.	\$2000.00 SIGN-ON BONUS Licensed Vocational Nurses Pampa Nursing Center has openings for LVN's on all shifts. Apply in person, 1321 W. Kentucky.	50 Building Suppl. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291	FIREWOOD For Sale \$265 a cord 806-663-3124	ALL BILLS PAID 1 Bdrms. No Sec. Deposit Monthly Leases Avail. (817) 909-4766	LRG. 3 or small 4 bdr. 706 Bldg. \$550 mo., \$200 dep. and Lrg. 3 bdr. 1040 Cinderella. \$650 mo., \$200 dep. 662-7557.
13 Bus. Opp. GREAT Investment opportunity Howardwick Convenience store. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.	14h Gen. Serv. CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message. Jesus Barraza.	21 Help Wanted CRALL ASME CODE WELDER Must pass plate bend test, flux core stick (carbon & stainless steel), & mini wire. Competitive wages. 100% employee paid insurance. Paid holidays.	Licensed Massage Therapist needed immediately for a busy Rehab / Wellness Center. Please fax resume to (806)665-0537	GENERAL Staff Position / 4 days per week. Vision Source, 1324 N. Banks. Fax: 806-665-3511.	PT Janitor needed. Call 662-9775, 662-4653	GARAGE Space for rent. \$200 a month plus utilities. 662-0097	WILL pick up and pay you for your battery, batteries & metal. 806-345-2137	APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386
14d Carpentry Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169	HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563	GET PAID TO EXERCISE!!! We are seeking an energetic, full-time team member with a passion for helping others to assist our Physical Therapist and Doctors with therapeutic exercises and physical rehab protocols. If you are punctual, have a great attitude and are willing to learn.....fax your resume to: (806) 665-0537.	59 Misc. ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.	69 Misc. FURNITURE CLINIC Refinishing, Repairing Re-Gluing 662-9700	FOR Sale: 1 1/2 Ct. Diamond Engagement / Wedding Ring Set. Only worn for 2 yrs. Purchased @ Zales. Size 6. \$1500. Call 662-5716 after 4 pm. Serious callers only please.	99 Wanted To Buy I Buy Old Records 45's & LP's Rock Soul, Blues, etc. Jason, 512-785-8714	95 Furn. Apts. THE Scheider House now leasing 1 bdr., utilities incl. 129 S. Russell or 665-0415.	APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386
CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. New Homes & Additions. Shawn Deaver Const., 806-662-2977.	COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.	69 Misc. ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.	99 Wanted To Buy I Buy Old Records 45's & LP's Rock Soul, Blues, etc. Jason, 512-785-8714	95 Furn. Apts. THE Scheider House now leasing 1 bdr., utilities incl. 129 S. Russell or 665-0415.	NEW queen sz. mattress set \$246, twin sz. sets \$128. Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes. Open Sat. or call 665-2767	102 Bus. Rental DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823	103 Homes For Sale HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOMES! CALL 665-1875	TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-6799, 665-2450.
OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.	SOLIS FENCING. New Fence / Fence Repairs. Free estimates. 806-486-1368, 662-2473	FOR Sale: 1 1/2 Ct. Diamond Engagement / Wedding Ring Set. Only worn for 2 yrs. Purchased @ Zales. Size 6. \$1500. Call 662-5716 after 4 pm. Serious callers only please.	104 Recre. Veh. 2003 Hitchhiker II 34 ft. fifth wheel. All season pkg., 3 slide-outs, fold-out couch, qu. bed, full ba., open kitchen. Very clean. Great shape! \$25,000 obo. 806-231-2597.	115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.	4 spaces in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Section A Lot 69 spaces 1-4 in "Garden of Good Shepard" \$3000 for all 4. Call Tom at 806-676-2556 or 806-935-4188 for more info.	OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.	114 Recre. Veh. 2003 Hitchhiker II 34 ft. fifth wheel. All season pkg., 3 slide-outs, fold-out couch, qu. bed, full ba., open kitchen. Very clean. Great shape! \$25,000 obo. 806-231-2597.	MCLEAN, Tx. 3 bdr., 1 ba. totally rebuilt. All new appliances included. 806-584-7166.

Daily Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010:
 This year, you will move in a new direction and do something quite differently. Others could be taken aback by your innovative behavior. You could be changing your views as you assume more responsibility. You could gain from your profession or community stance. A pay raise or more funds seem to be in your future. Your fire and get-up-and-go often can challenge others, if single or attached. Use diplomacy. **SCORPIO** pushes you into the limelight.

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)
 *** Clearly understand that you don't have as much under control as you would like to. In fact, through releasing you'll come up with an unusual solution. Realize when you have done enough. Let your fiery side come out in the right or effective situation. Tonight: Togetherness works.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 **** You wake up with work as a priority, but quickly different colorful characters appear in your life. Recognize the moment through networking. Understand that others' differences add, not subtract. Tonight: Say "yes" to living.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 **** Use an idea you have this morning to revive a project or association. Diplomacy helps you turn the corner with a key person. Avoid trying to convince someone that he or she is wrong through strong words or a putdown. Tonight: As you like it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ***** Share more of what is really important to your well-being. Yes, you know when enough is enough. How you handle someone and the choices you make could remain key. Laughter surrounds your decisions. You know what you want. Tonight: Togetherness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ***** You might want to make a difference, and you will if you relax. Sometimes when you push too hard, you experience a backfire. If you go with the flow, you'll come out all smiles and ready to handle nearly anything. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ***** Zero in on basics during a conversation. Your clarity can define what is happening. Listen to news with an eye to dynamic change. Keep conversations moving, and be ready to jump in and handle a matter. Your perspective is needed. Tonight: Visit with friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ***** Take a stand, knowing when enough is enough. You have far more to offer than you realize. Focus on security and the potential of a home office. Not everything is as it seems. Understand what is going on within your immediate circle. Tonight: Pay bills before solidifying plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ***** You could be on cruise control. Your words or concepts presented differently ring another person's chime. Be willing to discuss what is happening behind the scenes. Understand what needs to be accomplished. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ** You might want to distance yourself and take your time making a decision. You have the ability to move past a problem. Listen to news more carefully. Review your budget. Pressure builds. Understand your limits. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ***** Meetings put a smile on your face. You know what is happening behind the scenes. Realize that others mean well — in fact, someone could be quite the resource of ideas. Zero in on what is important, never losing your priorities. Tonight: Where people are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ***** You might want to assume a greater role at work and/or with your career. You could be very tired and drawn. Know when enough is enough. Feel free to change gears, and you could revive once more. Tonight: Could be very late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ***** Keep reaching out for more opinions. The more you stretch your mind, the better the end results. Sometimes we block ourselves from seeing the complete story and finding the right answers. Start thinking "vacation." You need some downtime. Tonight: Follow the music.

BORN TODAY
 Actress, director Ida Lupino (1918), former vice president Dan Quayle (1947), singer Alice Cooper (1948)

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AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

2-3 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

Y V D E A H V O E N P J V R E P Q
 G P B Y J U . M P H F P R Y O V J T
 T H D C O H Z L H N H M R O E M H E
 C Y F P E O . Y ' D Y J V L P N F T P Q
 D Z P L J . — D R A V D D V T V F Y

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE DUBIOUS PRIVILEGE OF A FREELANCE WRITER IS HE'S GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO STARVE ANYWHERE.
— S.J. PERELMAN

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Sports

Pirates edge the Owls, playoff spot within reach

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Lefors Pirates pulled out a close game and are closer to clinching a spot in the playoffs in a 58-54 victory over the Hedley Owls Tuesday in Lefors.

Head Coach Joey Czubinski aka "Coach Ski" said this game was similar to their game Monday at McLean but his team was on the other side of the outcome.

"We were on the free throw line in the final minute shooting for the game," Coach Ski said. "Credit to them. Kolby Ford, he wasn't shooting like that the first time we played. He was shooting lights out tonight, every time I thought we were going to pull away and put a little distance between us and them he hits a three."

In the first quarter the teams played fairly close. Hedley scored the first four points of the game but Lefors scored five of the next seven. The Owls led



Keenan Lott attempts a layup in the first half against Hedley Tuesday in Lefors. The Pirates won 58-54. Lott scored 27 points in the first half of his final home game. Casey Wyant, Wakely Pairsh and Trevor Czubinski also played in their final home game.

by as many as six points with a 15-9 lead in the last half of the quarter. The Pirates closed the gap to two as they trailed 18-16 after the first. Keenan Lott scored 14 of the Pirates' 16 points.

Hedley scored the first six points of the second quarter expanding their lead to 24-16. The Pirates got within three twice in the second but trailed 31-27 at halftime. Lott scored 27 of Lefors' 31 first half points.

The Pirates (9-7, 4-3) opened the third quarter on a 9-3 run to take a 36-34 lead. The Owls would score the next four points to regain the lead 38-36. Taylor Ray made a two-pointer to tie the game and Wakely Pairsh hit a three to give Lefors the lead 41-38. The Pirates led 41-40 after the third quarter.

Lefors scored the first seven points of the fourth to expand their lead to 48-40. Lott made two baskets and Pairsh hit a three. Hedley would score four points in a row to cut their

lead to 48-44. Lott made it a six point game with a basket. The Owls made four free throws to cut Lefors lead to two. The Pirates expanded their lead to five. Ford made a three to cut the Pirates lead to two. Lott made two free throws to expand Lefors lead to four. Ford made another three to cut the Pirates lead to 55-54. Lott made both free throws to make it a three-point game. The Owls missed a three-pointer and Lott sealed the game with a free throw.

With the victory the Pirates swept the Owls and lead McLean by two games. Lefors plays Samnorwood on Friday and a win will guarantee Lefors a second straight playoff appearance. Coach Ski said his team looks to get a win Friday and make it easy on themselves.

"We're sitting exactly where we were last year," Coach Ski said. "Could we get in at 4-4? Probably. I'm going to think about that? Hell no. Winning cures everything. If we go into Norwood on Friday and get a win and season sweep them like Hedley, we're going to be alright. We're going to be in really good shape."

Lady Harvesters rope Lady Horns, clinch playoff spot

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Former NFL Head Coach Jim Mora said in a post game press conference, "Playoffs? Don't talk about playoffs, are you kidding me." But, the Pampa Lady Harvesters basketball team can talk all they want about playoffs as they clinch a spot with a 49-37 victory over the Caprock Lady Longhorns.

Pampa trailed 8-7 after the first quarter and played even with the Lady Longhorns in second and trailed 15-14 at halftime. The Lady Harvesters took over the game in the third quarter, outscoring

Caprock 19-10 to take a 33-25 lead. Pampa outscored the Lady Longhorns 16-12 in the final quarter.

Shelbie Watson and Taryn Eubank, led the Lady Harvesters in scoring with 12 points. The victory gave the Lady Harvesters (10-16, 5-5) the final playoff spot in District 3-4A. Pampa only won two games last season and were predicted to finish last this season.

Head Coach Gene Valentine's comments were not available as of press time. Pampa hosts Hereford for Senior night and Pack the Pit.

Colts' Wayne ready to play favorite team

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Reggie Wayne may have grown up a Saints fan in New Orleans.

The Colts receiver also understands which team pays the bills.

On Wednesday, Wayne made a succinct point to reporters. Yes, he still has a special affinity with New Orleans and the city's residents, but his loyalties now belong to Indy.

If that makes Wayne the "bad guy" in his hometown this week, as the Saints prepare for their first Super Bowl appearance, well, that's just something the

four-time Pro Bowler will have to accept as the Colts chase their second Lombardi Trophy in four years.

Congratulations Coach Gene Valentine and the Pampa Lady Harvesters on clinching a spot in the playoffs!!

Enter to win a Dozen Red Roses when you let someone special know they are loved!

Put into words how much your loved ones mean to you by writing a love letter to them this Valentine's Day!

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Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Your Sweet Talkin' Message: (30 words or less) _____

Deadline for publication is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10. All ads must be prepaid.

Note
The Pampa Boys and Girls soccer game at Randall Tuesday was canceled due to last week's storm.

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