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The PAMPA NEWS

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TODAY IN SPORTS



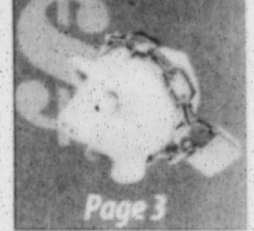
Net results

PHS tennis earns fifth at regionals

Page 9

inside:

Social Security and you by Tom Margenau



Page 3

Supreme Court: Skinner can pursue DNA test

ASSOCIATED PRESS
 WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday gave a glimmer of hope to a death row inmate in Texas who wants to test crime-scene evidence that he says may show he is innocent.
 The court's narrow, 6-3 ruling means that Hank Skinner, who was about an hour away from execution when the Supreme Court intervened last year, will



Skinner

not be put to death soon while his legal case continues. But the decision will not necessarily result in Skinner winning the right to perform genetic testing on evidence found at the scene of the triple murder for which he received the death penalty.
 Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, writing for the majority, said prison inmates may use a federal civil rights law to seek DNA testing that was not performed before their conviction. Lower federal courts had dismissed Skinner's claims at an early stage, although other federal judges have allowed similar lawsuits to go forward in

other parts of the country. Ginsburg said it is by no means clear that Skinner can prevail in his lawsuit and actually gain access to the evidence for testing. Even if he does win in court, she said, testing the evidence may prove exculpatory, inculpatory or inconclusive.
 Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justices Samuel Alito and Anthony Kennedy, said **SKINNER** cont. on page 2

ONE GAME SHORT

PHS junior center Reid Miller attempts to block Burk Burnett's Jerard Graham's shot in Pampa's regional finals game on Saturday. Graham and Burk Burnett proved too much for Harvester defenders as Pampa lost 48-48, finishing one game shy of the state tournament. Full results in **SPORTS**, page 9.

photo courtesy of Joe Murray

Relay for Life kickoff tomorrow

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com
 Gray County's chapter of the American Cancer Society will be holding its 2011 Relay for Life Kickoff Party at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow at the north awning entrance of the Pampa Regional Medical Center.
 With a busy Relay season ahead, local ACS chair Christy Robinson said that volunteers are already hard at work to make this year's Relay for Life a success. **RELAY** cont. on page 3

City to talk Celanese acquisition

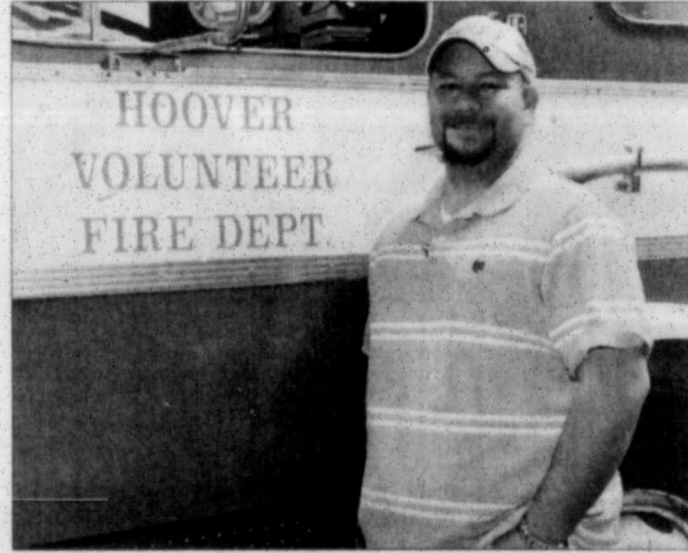
DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com
 The Pampa City Commission will consider a request by the Pampa Economic Development Corporation to develop an industrial park at the old Celanese Plant when the commission meets this week.
 The first city commission meeting this month will be dominated by the PEDC. **CITY** cont. on page 3

Volunteer firefighting a joy for Hoover FD's Mendoza

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Mike Mendoza looked up at the clouds building over Pampa with their promise of some badly needed moisture.
 Without rain, this could be a busy month for Mendoza and his friends at the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department. "If we don't get any rain," said the 36-year-old Mendoza, "we may have another 2006."
 In March of that year, wildfires burned off a million acres of grassland in the eastern Texas Panhandle, destroying homes and



taking a dozen lives.
 "That's one of those deals that I'm glad I was a part of it and had a great time doing it for the most part," Mendoza said, "but I sure don't care to do it ever again."
 When Mendoza first went on the fire line during the wild fires of 2006, he worked to the north and west of Pampa. **MENDOZA** cont. on page 2



staff photo by David Bowser
 Hoover's Mike Mendoza said he was glad to be a part of fighting the 2006 wildfires, but added that he doesn't ever want to see it happen again.

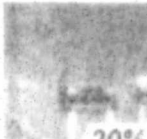

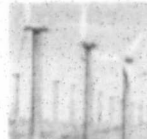
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IN THIS ISSUE:

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Viewpoints	4	Sports	9,10



PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 48 Low 29	High 54 Low 31	High 67 Low 41

Tonight: A chance of rain showers before 3 a.m., then a slight chance of rain and snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. Breezy, with a northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west southwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny with a high near 48. Wind chill values between 29 and 39 early. Windy, with a north northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 54. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 31. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. Windy, with a south wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Breezy, with a south southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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MODEEELXCL
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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

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Obituaries

Debby Harris, 55

SKELLYTOWN—Debby Harris, 55, died Friday, March 4, 2011, in Skellytown.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at Zion Lutheran Church in Pampa with Rev. Michael Erickson, pastor, officiating.

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

Mrs. Harris was born March 13, 1955, in Montezuma, Kan. She married Billy W. Harris on June 1, 1972, in Pampa. She had been a resident of Skellytown for 38 years and was a former Pampa resident for 15 years. Debby was a licensed vocational nurse and worked for Coronado Healthcare in Pampa for seven years. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Pampa.

Survivors include her husband, Billy W. Harris of the home; two daughters, Jennifer J. Bryan and husband Jeremy of Pampa and Bonnie L. Harris of Skellytown; a son, Thomas Harris and wife Camilla of Pampa; two brothers, Allen Richter of Clarendon and Clifford Richter of Englewood, Fla.; three granddaughters, Jilian N. Rogers of Knox City, Hannah E. Harris of Skellytown, and Emma S. Harris of Pampa; and a grandson, Tyson C. Harris of Clarendon. She was preceded in death by her father, Erwin Richter, in 2001, and by her mother, Edna Richter, in 1996.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.



Harris

Mary Kathryn Jewell Diggs, 79

WHITE DEER—Mary Kathryn Jewell Diggs, 79, died Friday, March 4, 2011 in Amarillo.

Services were held at 10 a.m. Monday, March 7, 2011, at the First Baptist Church with Rev. Calvin Winters, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Fritch, officiating.

Burial was at White Deer Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Diggs was born Feb. 24, 1932, in Eldorado, Ark. She graduated from West Texas State University in Canyon in May of 1964 with a bachelor's degree in education. She later received her master's degree from WTSU. Mary began teaching first grade in the fall of 1964 and retired from the White Deer ISD in 2000 after 36 years of service. She later taught for several years at Wilson Elementary in Pampa. She was a member of First Baptist Church in White Deer where she played the organ. Mary enjoyed Sunday school and mission work, traveling to Russia, Brazil, Peru, France and Spain. She was a member of the White Deer Senior Citizens Center and loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She made her primary purpose in life to serve the Lord.

Survivors include a daughter, Melinda Meadows and husband Roger of Edmond, Okla.; two sons, Frank Diggs and wife Tammy of White Deer and Wayne Diggs and wife Sherry of Colorado Springs, Colo.; a brother, Robert Jewell and wife Joann of Whitesboro; seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and by two great granddaughters.

Memorial may be made to City Church, 205 S. Polk, Amarillo, TX 79101.

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

Mendoza

"The truck I was on, we worked our way back east," he said. "I never did go south."

Some of the other firefighters with Hoover ended up going south of Pampa during the massive fire.

February this year may have been a hint of things to come, Mendoza said he hoped it's not another 2006.

"I thought we were going to have one the other day over at Skellytown," he said.

Mendoza got into fighting fires just out of curiosity, he said.

He had a cousin with the Hoover fire department, Brian Snapp.

"He started about a year or so before I did," Mendoza said. "It sounded interesting so I thought I'd try it out."

That was in November, 2004.

"When I first started," he said. "I just thought it would be a bunch of us on a truck squirting water."

It turned out to be a lot more involved, he admitted. The department puts in close to 1,000 training hours in every year.

"I didn't realize that it would be as organized as it is," Mendoza said. "The training hours, the dedication and keeping up the trucks."

He said he never dreamed it would be that involved.

"It's a little more time than I thought it was going to be when I started," Mendoza said, "but it's well worth it. Yes, it is."

He said he's been asked why he doesn't become a full-time firefighter.

"If I got a paycheck for it," Mendoza said, "I think it would take the meaning out of it. I really think it would. I don't want a paycheck for it. God bless the guys that do get a paycheck for it. We need them, but for me it would take the pleasure and enjoyment out of it."

When he's not fighting fires, Mendoza works and plays with his kids.

"They keep us busy," he said about his 12-year-old son, Braydon, and an eight-year-old daughter, Madison.

Mendoza and his bride, Tammy, will have been married 16 years this month.

The family supports his work with the volunteer fire department.

"I know it's hard on them," Mendoza said.

He said it's especially hard on them when they're out eating or participating in a family activity.

When the fire alarm goes off, Mendoza said he jumps and runs.

"I leave my wife holding the bag," he shrugged. "It couldn't be done without her."

The kids think it's neat to have a firefighter for a father.

Mendoza said that Madison is more likely to follow in her father's footsteps and fight fires.

"Braydon's interested in it," Mendoza said, "but not as much."

Mendoza said that if his father had been involved in something like the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department, he would have loved to come down to the fire station and play on the fire trucks.

Mendoza works for AT&T and their cell phone division and ranges from Borger to Wellington.

cont. from page 1

Skinner

Skinner's legal claims Robert Owen, Skinner's lawyer, praised the decision.

LAST MINUTE ADS

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55TH ANNUAL Pancakes & Bacon, St. Matthew's Parish Hall, 727 W. Browning, Tues. March 8th, 5-8pm. Tickets \$5, pre-school free. Day School Support Group Bake Sale & Scholastic Book Sale.

LE CHIC Boutique, 413 W. Foster, Pampa 806-688-1530, 806-665-0346, Tues.-Fri. 10-5:30, Sat. 10-2:30. **March Close-Out Sale!!** Mother's Day & Graduation-coming up! All products, like new boy's clothes 4-5 jeans, etc. New Platinum Skincare-2 new products!

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"We look forward to making our case in federal court that Texas's inexplicable refusal to grant Mr. Skinner access to evidence for DNA testing is fundamentally unfair and cannot stand," Owen said. Skinner, 48, was convicted of killing his girlfriend and her two adult sons on New Year's Eve 1993.

Police found him hiding in a closet in the home of a woman he knew, about three hours after the bodies were discovered. He was splattered with the blood of at least two of the victims. A trail of blood led police from the bodies to his hiding place, a few blocks away. He acknowl-

edged being inside the house in the Texas Panhandle where the killings took place.

But other evidence was not tested at the time of Skinner's trial, on the advice of his lawyer. The untested material includes vaginal swabs taken from the girlfriend, Twila Jean Busby, at the time of her autopsy, fingernail clippings, a knife found on the porch of Busby's house and a second knife found in a plastic bag in the house, a towel with the second knife and a jacket next to Busby's body.

Skinner and his new defense team say that evidence could exonerate him. The state says Skinner is trying to game the system to delay his execution.

Like almost every other state, Texas has a law that allows prisoners to do DNA testing on evidence, long after their conviction. Skinner tried and failed twice to invoke the state law to get at the evidence.

He then filed the federal lawsuit, saying that the state had deprived him of his rights by withholding access to the evidence.

The case is Skinner v. Switzer, 09-9000.

cont. from page 1

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2 killed in car wash shootout

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - San Antonio police say two men were killed and one was injured in a shootout at a car wash after two groups of men got into a fight. Police say several people at the car wash witnessed the shootings on Sunday afternoon.

Police aren't certain what caused the disturbance. Sgt. Daniel Scott tells the San Antonio Express-News that when the fight escalated, two guns were pulled. Police say shell casings from both a .45-caliber weapon and an assault rifle were found at the scene.

Scott says the suspected shooters fled in a vehicle. Police searched for them on foot and by helicopter. The identities of the men who were shot weren't immediately released.

Surcharges may be gone soon

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - State lawmakers are considering eliminating a program that has required Texas drivers charged with offenses including DWI and no insurance to pay surcharges.

Since nearly 60 percent of those who got the surcharges - about 1.2 million drivers - are unwilling or unable to pay, Texas has offered an amnesty program beginning in January that allows those drivers who are delinquent a chance to settle up by paying 10 percent of the amount owed on all surcharges.

The Dallas Morning News reports that the Senate Criminal Justice Committee has called for eliminating the Driver Responsibility Program.

Those who are delinquent in payments of the surcharges owe the state more than \$1.1 billion.

License bill draws opposition

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - Faith and community groups plan to hold simultaneous candlelight vigils in seven New Mexico cities to voice their support of driver's licenses for illegal immigrants.

The vigils are in response to a House vote Friday in which lawmakers voted 42-28 for legislation to stop the state from issuing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants.

The vigils will be held at 6 p.m. Monday in Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Hatch, Anthony, Lovington, Roswell and Farmington.

The community group Somos Un Pueblo Unido says they want to "decry the inflammatory and divisive rhetoric surrounding the immigrant driver's license debate."

Eight Democrats broke party ranks in voting for the legislation.

Young Mexican Chief fired

MEXICO CITY (AP) - A 20-year-old woman who made international headlines when she accepted the job as police chief in a violent Mexican border town was fired Monday for apparently abandoning her post after receiving death threats.

Marisol Valles Garcia was given permission to travel to the United States last week for personal matters but failed to return to Praxedis G. Guerrero as agreed, according to a statement from the city.

Local news media have reported that Valles Garcia was seeking asylum in the United States, but there has been no confirmation of that and her precise whereabouts were not clear Monday.

On Friday, Chihuahua state Human Rights Commission official Gustavo de la Rosa Hickerson said Valles Garcia's relatives and friends told him she had received telephone threats against her life the previous weekend.

A local official accompanied the 20-year-old police chief this week to the international bridge connecting El Porvenir to Fort Hancock, Texas, he said.

De la Rosa Hickerson and city officials tried to contact Valles Garcia by cell phone amid increasing speculation that she was seeking refuge, but were unable to reach her.

Valles Garcia was named police chief of Praxedis G. Guerrero in October. The town had been without a police chief since her predecessor was shot to death in July 2009.

City

The economic group wants buy the old plant site for \$3 million. They will put up \$500,000 of PEDC funds and borrow the rest from local banks, according to PEDC officials.

The PEDC will also put up \$600,000 through the rest of the fiscal year for maintenance and upkeep.

The PEDC is also requesting the approval of a grant of \$75,000 for the demolition program to clean up Pampa.

They are also requesting a cooperative agreement between the PEDC and the Entrepreneur Alliance, Inc., in the maximum amount of \$35,000 to help existing and new businesses.

The PEDC is also asking the city to approve a forgivable loan for \$30,000 to Jefferis Enterprises, Inc. The loan will be tied to number of employees the company hires and the hour they work during the first four years of business.

In other business, the city commission will consider on second reading an ordinance changing the zoning of the old Pampa Junior High School from Single Family 2 to Commercial.

The commission will hear a report from Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes on the Pampa Outdoor Aquatic Center and consider setting a general admission fee for the water park.

They will also consider selling 16 tax-delinquent properties in town.

Pampa Engineer-in-Training Jildardo Arias will also be recognized as a Nationally Accredited Certified Floodplain Manager.

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TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Can we please stop bashing people getting Social Security disability benefits? After I offered my fact sheet that cleared up myths and misunderstanding associated with the financial operations of the Social Security program, and provided some proposals for reforming the system to prepare for the onslaught of baby-boomer retirees, I can't tell you how many e-mails I got from readers that went something like this: "I'll tell you how we can fix Social Security. We can greatly reduce or even eliminate benefits paid to people getting disability. We all know that if we cut their government checks, most of these deadbeats would go out and get a job the next day!"

That is total poppycock on a number of different levels. And I'll use today's column to explain why.

First, I'm always puzzled why so many people simply assume that most folks getting disability benefits are pulling a fast one over on the rest of us. I suppose they think that these men and women have figured out slick ways to scam the system to get something they aren't due. What's with that? Some former colleagues have speculated that there is an undercurrent of jealousy involved. I find that hard to believe. Why would you be jealous of someone who has cancer or kidney disease or mental illness?

However, I've got to admit that on a lesser level, I've felt this myself. There have been times when I've pulled into a crowded grocery store parking lot and had trouble finding a space. Then I saw someone getting out of a car parked in the "handicapped" section right next to the front door. And I muttered under my breath: "That person sure doesn't look disabled to me!" Thankfully, I quickly rise above such petty thinking and realize I'm wrong. I wouldn't want to trade places with any one of those folks parked in the handicapped spaces.

But getting a handicapped sticker for your car is one thing. Getting Social Security disability benefits is an entirely different matter. Please dear readers, believe me: As



someone who worked with the disability program for many years, I know you have to be really severely disabled to qualify for benefits. Of course, I'm not naive enough to think that out of the millions of Social Security disability beneficiaries, there aren't a few bad apples in that big barrel that are getting benefits they don't deserve. But I assure you their numbers are few and far between.

The Social Security disability program is universally recognized as one of the most difficult programs to qualify for. You simply don't get benefits if you have a bad back or a bum knee. You must have a severe physical or mental impairment that is expected to keep you out of work for at least 12 months — or a condition that is terminal.

Many of you wrote to complain about "drug addicts and alcoholics" getting benefits. Let me clear up that myth. You DO NOT get Social Security disability benefits simply because you are an addict or alcoholic. But you might get benefits if you have problems associated with those addictions. For example, you could qualify for disability if you have severe liver disease — a condition that might have been brought on by excessive drinking. But that's no different than someone getting benefits because he or she has lung cancer brought on by heavy smoking.

Having explained how truly difficult it is to qualify

for Social Security disability benefits, I can tell you from experience that everyone seems to know someone (a brother-in-law, a neighbor, that guy in the handicapped parking space) whom they believe is getting such benefits fraudulently. But no one seems to do anything about it but gripe and complain. If you're one of those who knows someone you believe is getting Social Security disability benefits they are not due, I challenge you to turn that person in. Call the Social Security fraud hotline at 800-269-0271. Or go online at www.socialsecurity.gov and click on "Reporting Fraud" right on their homepage. Your report can be anonymous.

I can also tell you from experience that 99 percent of you will not do this. That tells me two things. First, people will believe what they want to believe. They think that government is corrupt and inefficient, so they want to believe there are a bunch of deadbeats who snookered the bureaucrats and are ripping off the Social Security system. But the lack of fraud reporting also tells me that deep down these folks know it's not true.

And now on to my second reason why the allegation that reducing Social Security disability benefits would help "save Social Security" is pure poppycock.

We could eliminate the entire Social Security disability program tomorrow, and it would have ZERO impact on the long-range problems facing the Social Security program. Those problems have everything to do with aging baby boomers

retiring in record numbers over the next 20 years or so. They have nothing to do with alleged disability deadbeats.

Besides, the Social Security disability program is funded separately from the retirement program. And it faces its own long-range problems. As all we baby boomers get older, many of our bodies are breaking down before we reach retirement age, and we are filing for disability benefits thousands of times each day. That's severely straining the disability trust fund, which is financed by about one-half of 1 percent of the Social Security payroll tax. This wasn't a tax carved out of the retirement program. It was added to the payroll tax in 1956 specifically to pay for disability benefits.

So please readers, stop bellyaching about your disabled neighbor and brother-in-law. They're not ripping you off. They are getting benefits they have worked and paid for; benefits that probably took them a long time to get; and benefits that wouldn't be paid to them without all kinds of medical evidence to back their claims.

I think a big part of the problem is that we don't want to face the facts about the difficult choices we'll have to make to keep Social Security solvent for the next several generations. Instead of supporting real reform — like raising the retirement age or increasing payroll taxes — we find it easier to claim that cutting disability benefits will solve all our problems.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net

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cont. from page 1

Relay

"Oh, yeah, we're ready," Robinson said. "A lot of people in Pampa are cancer victims right now, and we just want to give them our support. I think it's going to be a really active year, and we've already got a lot going."

Robinson said that this year's theme, "Under Construction," will be evident from the start at the kickoff party.

"We'll have a tree from A&T Landscaping as a door prize, and the girls will be wearing hard hats," Robinson said. "We'll have some plastic tools and the danger tape and all that. It'll be a lot of fun."

Skellytown's Debbie Brame, who is currently in cancer remission, will

be the kickoff party's guest speaker. Brame is the Relay for Life's 2011 Hero of Hope.

"She's going to be great," Robinson said. "It's going to be great. When you go to kick off a Relay year like in Lubbock or Dallas or someplace like that, it excites you to no end because of all the stories you hear. It's good to hear someone speak. It brings it closer to home."

The 2011 Relay for Life is slated for Friday, June 24 at Recreation Park. For more information about the kickoff, contact Robinson at 806-663-2856, Melissa Denton at 806-662-7828 or Pam Dalton at 806-664-3013.

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, March 7, the 66th day of 2011. There are 299 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 7, 1911, President William Howard Taft ordered 20,000 troops to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border in response to the Mexican Revolution.

On this date:

In 1793, during the French Revolutionary Wars, France declared war on Spain.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for his telephone.

In 1926, the first successful trans-Atlantic radio-telephone conversations took place between New York and London.

In 1936, Adolf Hitler ordered his troops to march into the Rhineland, thereby breaking the Treaty of Versailles (vchr-SY) and the Locarno Pact.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. forces crossed the Rhine River at Remagen, Germany, using the damaged but still usable Ludendorff Bridge.

In 1960, Jack Paar returned as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," nearly a month after walking off in a censorship dispute with the network.

In 1965, a march by civil rights demonstrators was broken up in Selma, Ala., by state troopers and a sheriff's posse.

In 1975, the U.S. Senate revised its filibuster rule, allowing 60 senators to limit debate in most cases, instead of the previously required two-thirds of senators present.

In 1981, anti-government guerrillas in Colombia executed kidnapped American Bible translator Chester Bitterman, whom they'd accused of being a CIA agent.

Ten years ago: Ariel Sharon was sworn in as Israel's prime minister.

Five years ago: The Bush administration drew a hard line on Iran, warning of "meaningful consequences" if the Islamic government did not back away from an international confrontation over its disputed nuclear program.

One year ago: The Iraq war thriller "The Hurt Locker" received six Academy Awards including best picture, with Kathryn Bigelow accepting the first directing Oscar awarded to a woman.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian Alan Sues is 85. Photographer Lord Snowdon is 81. TV personality Willard Scott is 77. Auto racer Janet Guthrie is 73. Actor Daniel J. Travanti is 71. Former Walt Disney Co. chief executive officer Michael Eisner is 69. Actor John Heard is 65. Rock singer Peter Wolf is 65. Rock musician Matthew Fisher (Procol Harum) is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer-musician Ernie Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 59. Actor Bryan Cranston is 55. Actress Donna Murphy is 52. Actor Nick Searey is 52. Golfer Tom Lehman is 52. Actress Mary Beth Evans is 50. Actor Bill Brochtrup is 48. Comedian Wanda Sykes is 47. Singer-actress Taylor Dayne is 46. Rock musician Randy Guss (Toad the Wet Sprocket) is 44. Actor Peter Sarsgaard is 40. Actress Rachel Weisz is 40. Rock singer Hugo Ferreira (Tantree) is 37. Actress Jenna Fischer is 37. Actress Audrey Marie Anderson is 36. Actor TJ Thyne is 36. Actress Laura Prepon is 31.

Thought for Today: "If you're not feeling good about you, what you're wearing outside doesn't mean a thing." —Leonora Price, American opera singer.



Joblessness down, some still downbeat

JIM KUHNHENN
AP Analysis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Why so glum?

Unemployment is dropping, but the reaction from both the left and right ends of the political spectrum is surprisingly unenthusiastic.

Conservatives fear the improvement will weaken their argument that the way to bring back jobs is less regulation and more fiscal discipline. Liberals worry that better job numbers will create momentum for spending cuts that will cause the fragile recovery to falter.

The divided reaction illustrates the ideological forces pulling at President Barack Obama as he tries to gain economic and political traction out of the positive jobs report.

"Overall, it's a very solid jobs report," said Austan Goolsbee, the chairman of Obama's Council of Economic Advisers. "And overall there's been increasing optimism that despite having a long way to go, we're clearly headed in the right direction and we're putting some miles behind us and trying to get back to a good situation."

Indeed, a number of economic markers are moving in positive directions. The U.S. economy has been growing for 18 months. Retail sales are picking up. A Federal Reserve survey released this week showed factory activity rising in all Fed districts except St. Louis.

Obama, himself, made the point Friday, trumpeting the unemployment numbers during a visit to a Miami high school.

"That's the 12th straight month of private sector job growth," he said. "So our economy has now added 1.5 million private sector jobs over the last year. And that's progress."

Still, unemployment is usually the last economic signpost to improve after a recession, and the rate remains high at 8.9 percent. The number of unemployed is 13.7 million, almost double since before the recession. And that's enough to provoke some downbeat assessments.

"We have yet to see the leadership we need coming out of the White House to restore sustainable economic growth," declared Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus.

Economist Heidi Shierholz, at the liberal Economic Policy Institute, weighed in with this: "Some of February's growth is simply a positive rebound effect after bad weather last month, and the trend is modest."

Since the November elections that placed Republicans in control of the House and weakened the Democrats' hold on the Senate, Republicans and conservatives have argued that the path to jobs is through deregulation

of industries, fiscal restraint and low taxes. Obama has embraced some of the advice, reaching out to business with a pledge to reconsider some government rules and compromising with Republicans by dropping, for now, his demand that the wealthy pay higher taxes.

So, even as the unemployment rate goes down, Republicans insist Obama's past policies were at worst, counterproductive, or at best, ineffective. Jobs will come faster and with more staying power, they argue, if government simply gets out of the way.

Liberals and their Democratic allies have been pressing for more government intervention in the economy. The fragile recovery still needs to be prodded by public spending, they say, and they bristle at attempts to cut current budgets. Obama has embraced some of that advice, too. He has proposed additional taxpayer money toward education, research and technological innovation while negotiating with Republicans on how far to cut into current spending.

"The current jobs numbers underscore the fact that deep cuts in federal spending are extremely premature," Shierholz wrote in an analysis of the new jobs number. "We should instead be having discussions of substantial additional stimulus spending."

Even Goolsbee cautioned that the unemployment numbers themselves might not follow a smooth downward trajectory.

While private employers added 222,000 jobs last month, some analysts noted that when averaged with more meager number of new jobs in January, the increase in payrolls is similar to the monthly pace in the last quarter of 2010.

"On the unemployment rate, for sure there are going to be blips," Goolsbee said in an interview. "Nobody knows, is 8.9 the rate or will it go up? That could happen."

But he added: "The three-month trend, the one-year trends of sub-

stantially adding jobs in the private sector and substantial reductions in the unemployment rate are exactly what we want."

The White House is certainly counting on those trends moving in their favor. The economy - and high unemployment - were key factors in last November's Republican election wave.

At the time, the unemployment rate had been rising for six straight months. But since the 9.8 percent high of November, it has been dropping. Politically, the trend line could be as important as the unemployment rate itself.

In 1980, Jimmy Carter lost his re-election bid to Ronald Reagan as unemployment climbed from 6 percent in October of 1979 to 7.5 percent in October of 1980. Likewise, George H.W. Bush lost to Bill Clinton in 1992 in the midst of rising unemployment, which went from 6.9 percent September of 1991 to 7.6 percent in September of 1992.

But Reagan managed to get re-elected in 1984 even though unemployment stood at 7.4 percent in October of that year. Unlike Carter and Bush, Reagan's unemployment trend line had been dropping since the spring of 1983.

There are still trouble spots ahead, for Obama.

"The main clouds of concern that we monitor are what happens in the Middle East with fuel prices and what happens with the financial system in Europe," Goolsbee said.

In addition, public-hiring by local state governments remains an area of weakness. "State finances tend to lag the aggregate economy by six to 10 months," Goolsbee said. "It's likely to continue to be tough for them."

Those are clouds that can still dampen an economic recovery - and complicate a president's political prospects.

Jim Kuhnenn covers the White House for The Associated Press.

The PAMPA NEWS

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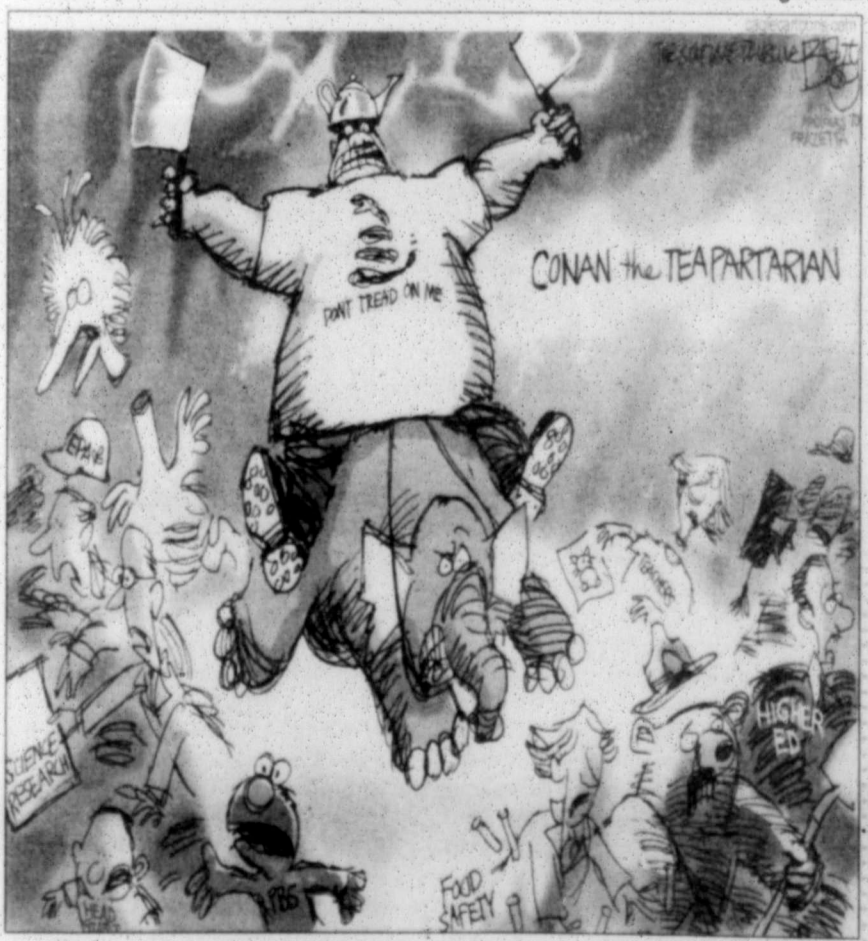
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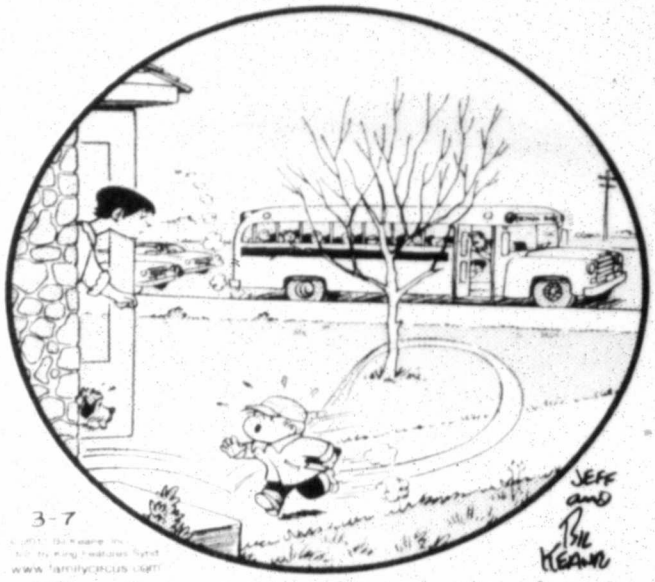


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6 comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

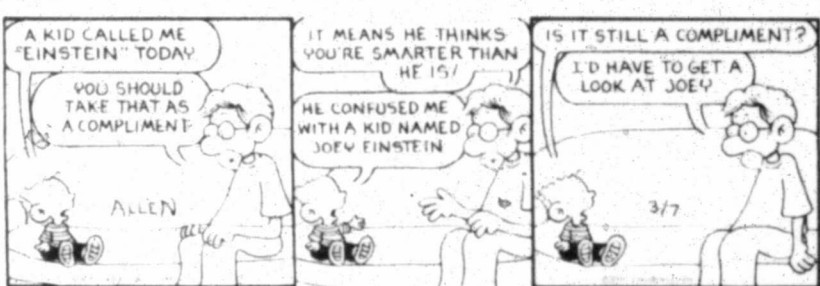


"You forgot to write a note about why I was absent!"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, March 8, 2011:

Your words often create illusions for others. The ability to inspire people is a double edged sword. You also could discover that your communication style creates confusion for some. You cannot confirm plans enough. At times, you might want to check what you think you are hearing. If you are single, often a rosy-colored haze surrounds your relationships. Make sure that at some point you break through and see reality. Wearing rose-colored glasses might be fun, but ultimately destructive. If you are attached, the two of you could finally react and meet a long term aspiration. **TAURUS** zeros in on what you want.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-No-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)
 ***** Reach out for others. Their feedback could be instrumental. Financial stability could be the end result if you think things through. If your inner voice makes a suggestion, verify and question. Take a walk if you're feeling unsure or confused. Tonight: Pay bills.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)
 ***** Knowing that you have the energy to meet the demands, you get ahead of a situation. Use your imagination when focusing in a meeting. What comes up could be a little humorous, and you might decide you don't want to share. Tonight: Zero in on everything.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)
 *** Touch base with your sixth sense more often than usual, especially if you're dealing with authority figures. You might be surprised by what happens if you hit the right note. Visualize great success. Tonight: Up until the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)
 ***** Zero in on what you want. You'll gain greater insight into what is happening in your immediate circle by listening to what isn't being said. Feel free to find an expert or to explore different ideas. Another person's insight could be enlightening. Tonight: Join a friend.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
 ***** Stay on top of your responsibilities. In order to get someone else involved, you need to relate on a one-on-one level. Also, create a greater sense of direction through conversations. Be clear when dealing with someone in charge or someone you have to deal with. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

***** Visualize and share more with someone you often brainstorm with. How you handle this matter and the choices you make could be quite dynamic after this conversation. Be willing to take a leap intellectually and a risk emotionally. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
 ***** Focus on each task at hand. You might need to check in with another person for feedback or direction. Your perspective changes radically with a conversation. How you relate on a one-on-one level could determine the success or failure of a situation. Tonight: A discussion gets to the bottom of the matter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
 ***** Others rise to the occasion, and you might need to back off. Others also need the chance to strut their stuff. Do write down what you are thinking. Soon enough, others will be asking for your feedback and ideas. Tonight: Make merry.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
 ***** You might want to rethink a personal matter that involves your day-to-day life. One person might be more involved than others. How you handle the matter, the trust you exhibit and your decisions all allow for greater give-and-take. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
 ***** Your ability to move back and forth on a problem allows for the flex you need. Count on the fact that someone cares much more than you realize. Discussions help demonstrate this person's support and resourcefulness. Tonight: Where you enjoy yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
 ***** Investigate an option when it appears. Give extra attention to a home-security matter. You might want to question the alternatives before you make a decision. Discussions might illuminate cost-effective alternatives. Tonight: Happy at home.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)
 ***** Your ability to say "no" to someone could determine how your long-term relationship flows. If you become too high-voltage and lose your confidence, the long-term damages might be greater than anticipated. Tonight: Living it up!

BORN TODAY
 Tattoo artist Kat Von D (1982), actor Aidan Quinn (1959), actress Lynn Redgrave (1943)

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



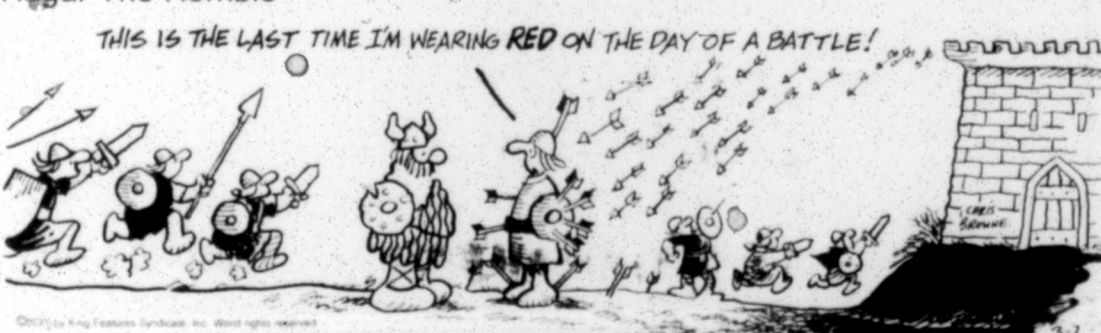
Beetle Bailey



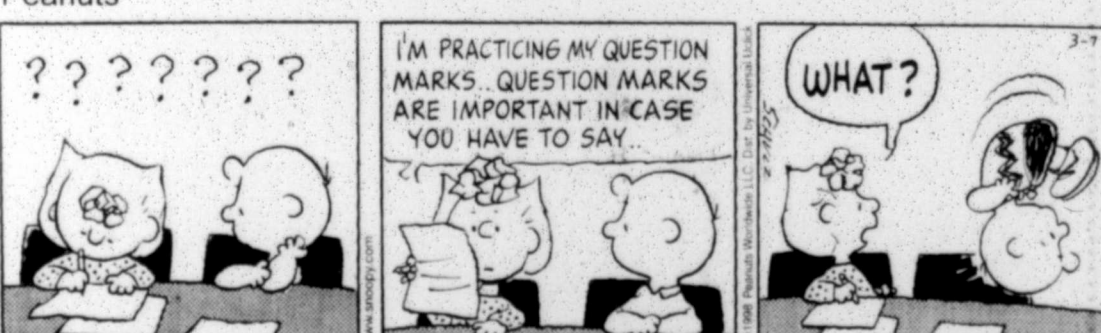
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





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

3-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

ITAWIGCVABE K XKT JY CW
 B K G W L CW G V C C V L Z I Y
 S W T A I C J W T G I C P L Y C C W
 G V C C V L Z I X Y V B P

N J B B J K X V B B V L F S Z K T T J T Q
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908 Crane	\$147,000	3/2/2 1617 SF/GCAD
1509 Dwight	\$130,000	4/2/2 1468 SF/GCAD
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY Like many other young adults, I was too busy establishing a career during my 20s and early 30s to care much about diet and exercise. I felt healthy, so I saw no need to change my lifestyle. My doctor had told me my blood pressure was elevated during a number of my yearly physical exams, but I didn't ask any questions and took no action.

Then one morning, I awoke into my doctor's office complaining of a severe headache and nausea. I was sent to the hospital with a dangerously high blood pressure reading. After just a few tests, I was told I had chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Even though it can be silent and cause no symptoms, high blood pressure should not be ignored. It is a leading cause of kidney disease and because I didn't pay attention, my kidneys began to shut down. Abby, please tell your readers who are at risk for chronic kidney disease and that's anyone with high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of CKD to check how

their kidneys are functioning. I found out — too late how important it is. — **AZIZA M., NEW YORK CITY**

DEAR AZIZA: Of course I will pass on your warning. According to the National Kidney Foundation, more than 26 million adults and thousands of American children have chronic kidney disease — and most of them don't know they have it. In addition, millions of people who have diabetes, hypertension and other diseases are unaware that they too are at risk for developing it.

Readers, March 10 is World Kidney Day. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is offering free screenings during the month of March through the Kidney Early Evaluation Program in cities and towns around the country. With more than 50 local offices nationwide, the NKF provides early detection screenings and other vital patient and community services. To find a screening near you, visit www.kidney.org.

DEAR ABBY: One day, after dropping my son

"Wyatt" off at day care, I looked back and saw an older kid push him and take away my son's toy. I was furious. What happened next restored my faith and softened my heart. A little girl walked over, handed Wyatt the toy she had been playing with and patted him on the head! I was very moved that someone so young understood compassion and was willing to give up something she enjoyed so my son wouldn't be upset.

Abby, please remind your readers that the slightest gesture can change someone's life. I'm glad I stopped to take another look at my son that day. I can't thank that little girl enough. — **THANKFUL FOR LITTLE ONES, LEMAY, MO.**

DEAR THANKFUL: I'm glad you stopped for that second look, too. You are absolutely right that the smallest gesture can change someone's life — and that statement applies to people of every age and from every walk of life. There are angels among us, and you saw one of the littlest.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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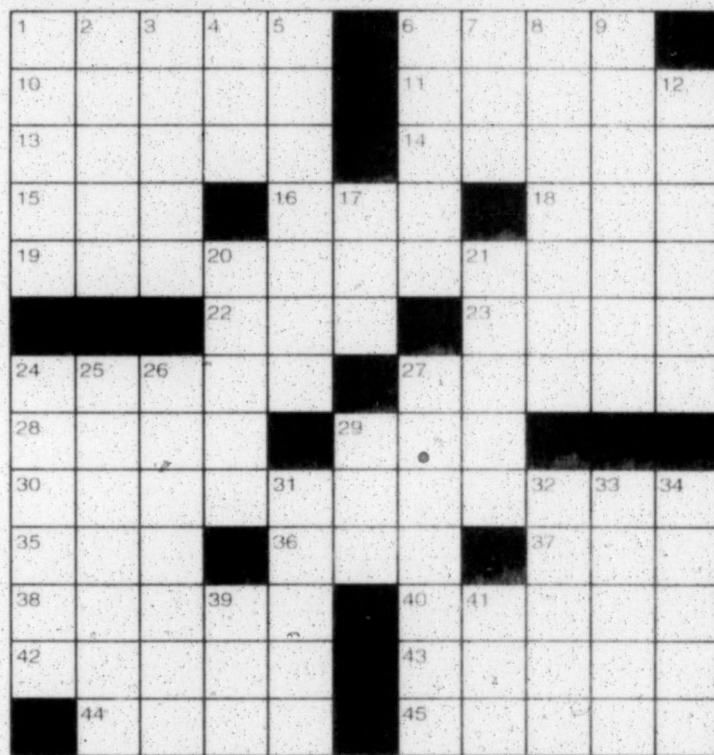
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Sports

No. 9 Bulldogs' length, depth too much for Harvesters

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

There's a saying that "every dog has its day."

Saturday was the Burk Burnett Bulldogs' day as they defeated the Pampa Harvesters 68-48 in the regional finals Saturday at United Spirit Arena.

Senior forward Jonathan Polasek said they got beat by the state champion.

"(Burk Burnett) has all the right pieces," Polasek said. "They got length and they got the shots. Next week, they will hold the state championship trophy in Austin."

Head coach Dustin Miller said the Bulldogs have good athletes and good depth.

"Those guys are deep," Miller said. "They run five and five at you and don't get tired. I think we are deep with our size of school but they give a new definition of deep."

Senior forward Garrett Ericson said Burk Burnett had a lot of talented athletes and deserves credit.

"You got to hand it to Burk Burnett," Ericson said. "They kind of beat us lopsided. That No. 1 (Mario Garcia) can pull up an hit a shot anytime he wants. We played with them in the first quarter but they were subbing off the bench five at a time. I don't think we had the legs to hang with them."

The first quarter was very competitive. The Bulldogs jumped out to an 8-2 lead. Jerard Graham, who won Regional Tournament MVP, scored six of those points and scored eight in the first quarter. The Harvesters rallied back. Ericson hit a jumper and sophomore Derrek Pollard scored two second chance baskets. Junior guard Latigo Collins scored two layups and a free throw to put Pampa ahead 13-9. Burk Burnett closed the quarter on a 6-2 run to tie the game at 15.

The Bulldogs carried their momentum into the second quarter, outscoring Pampa 9-2. Junior swingman Cole Engle hit a three and cut Pampa's lead to four. Derrell Gibbs answered back with a three. The Harvesters struggled controlling the ball, racking up 13 turnovers

in the first half. Burk Burnett outscored Pampa 21-9 and led 36-24 at halftime.

Polasek said the Bulldogs' size and athleticism created problems.

"The length is just incredible," Polasek said. "Their wingspan goes seven to seven and a half feet. I don't know the width of the court but they took up a lot of it."

The Harvesters were unable to rally in the third. Pampa only scored eight points and didn't have a run longer than two. The Bulldogs outscored the Harvesters 11-8 and expanded their lead to 47-32.

The Bulldogs made sure the Harvesters weren't going to pull a fourth quarter comeback, scoring the first five points of the quarter. Both teams played even the rest of the quarter. With two minutes left, Miller subbed in his seniors and let them finish the game.

After the game, the Harvesters were presented with the region runner-up trophy. Collins and Ericson made the All-Region tournament team. The senior forward said he was shocked about the selection.

"There's four really good teams here," Ericson said. "Wichita Falls Hirschi, Burk Burnett and Lubbock Estacado are all really great teams. To be named an All-Region Tournament player, I thank God for giving me the ability to play and the time he gave me."

Mario Garcia led the Bulldogs in scoring with 23. Graham followed with 19. Collins led the Harvesters in scoring with 15. Ericson followed with 11. Sophomore post Derrek Pollard scored nine and grabbed five rebounds off the bench. Junior post Reid Miller led the Harvesters in rebounds with six. Ericson, Zach Murray and Pollard each had five.

The Bulldogs (32-3) play Dallas Smith in the state semifinals in Austin Thursday. The Harvesters finish the season 20-13 and made their first regional appearance since 1996, when they won their last state title.

Miller said his team had an amazing run and is ready to get to work on next season.

HARVESTERS cont. on page 10A

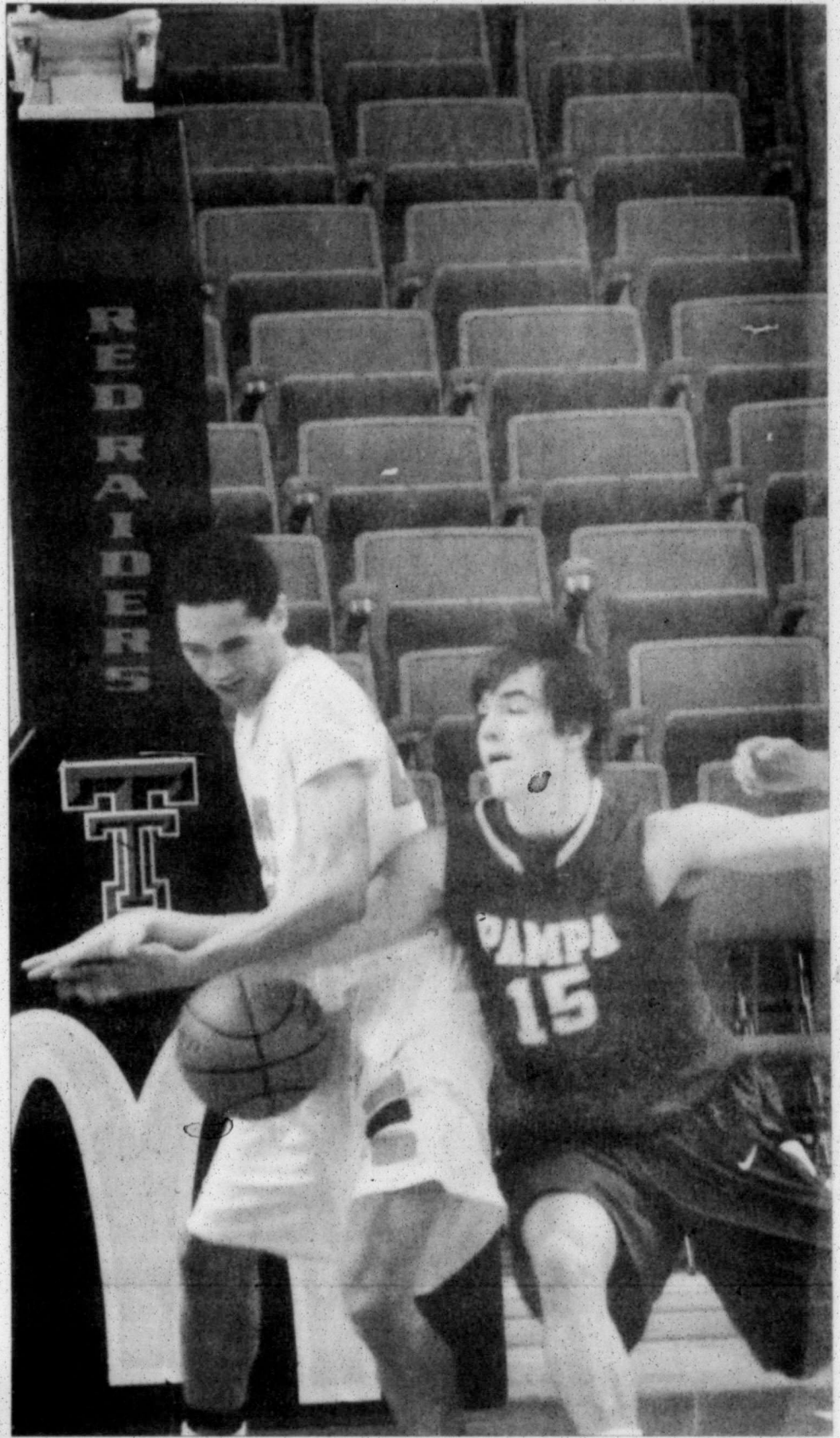


photo courtesy of Joe Murray
Junior Reid Miller attempts to knock the ball away from a Burk Burnett player Saturday in the regional final. The Harvesters lost 68-48.

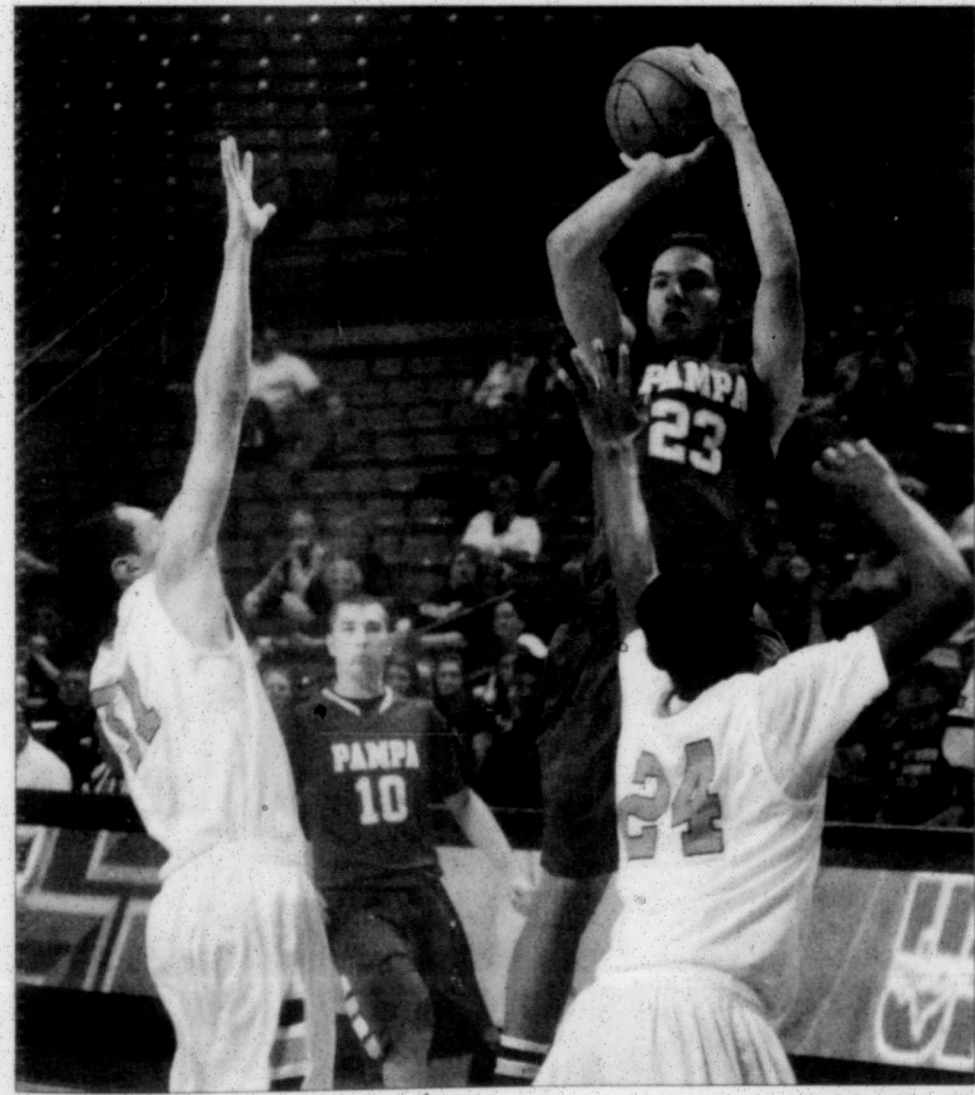


photo courtesy of Joe Murray
Senior Forward Garrett Ericson rises above Burk Burnett's Bryce Hollingsworth and Jerod Graham to shoot a jumper. Saturday was Ericson's final game. Seniors Jonathan Polasek, Zach Murray, Brandon Chairez, Joseph Mechelay and Greg Cabrales also played their final game.

Harvesters finish fifth at team tennis regionals

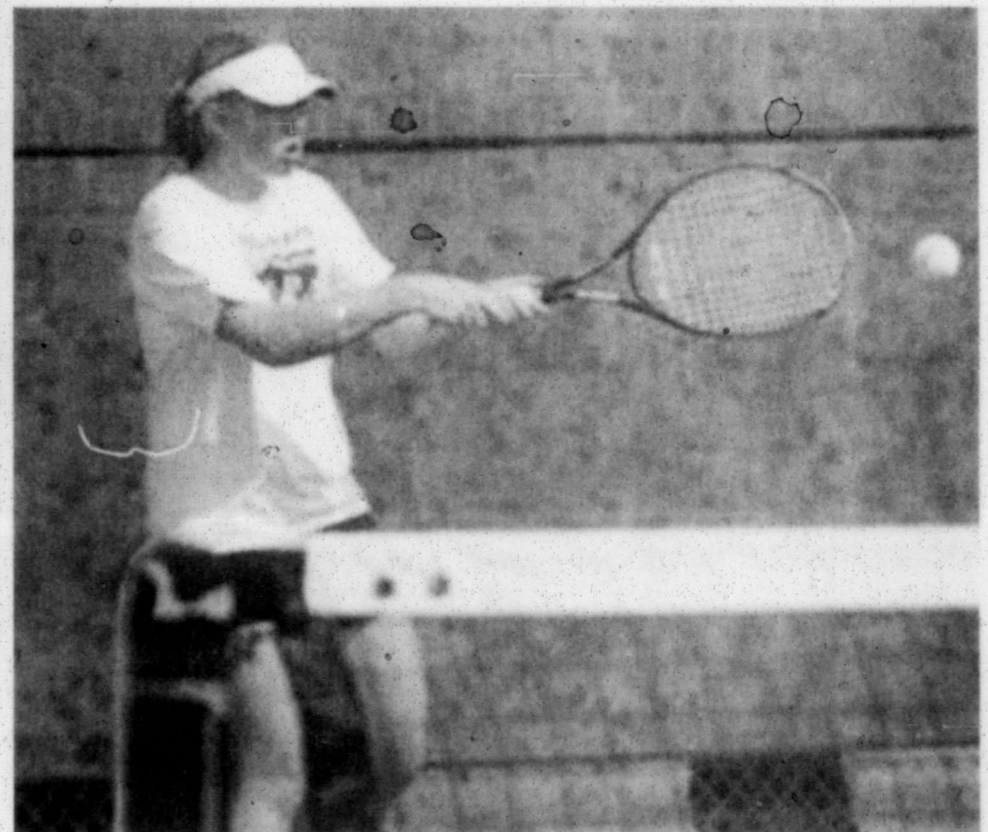


photo courtesy of Cody Moore
Senior Holly Gage returns a ball in the regional tournament Saturday in Wichita Falls. Gage won all eight matches and the Harvesters finished fifth.

Baseball loses five at Burk Burnett

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters dropped five in the Burk Burnett tournament Thursday through Saturday.

Pampa opened the tournament with an 11-5 loss to Dumas Thursday. Junior Collin Killgo started and took the loss. The Harvesters lost to Caprock 14-1 and lost to Iowa Park 9-7. Freshman Ethan Hunt (1-1) took the loss against Caprock and senior Brent Green took the loss against Iowa Park.

BASEBALL cont. on page 10A

The Harvesters (3-6) closed the tournament with a 6-5 loss to Burk Burnett and a 20-1 loss against Abilene Wylie. Green (0-2) took the loss against Burk Burnett and Killgo (1-2) was the losing pitcher against Wylie.

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said his team needs to do a better job of finishing games.

"We were up against Iowa Park and they scored two in the seventh," Snelgrooves said. "We were up by one against Burk Burnett and they scored two in the bottom of the seventh."

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters tennis team went 3-1 and finished fifth in team regionals Friday and Saturday in Wichita Falls.

Head coach Sarah Corse said she was pleased with how her team played.

"Overall, it was a great team effort and could not be anymore proud of the way these players represented Pampa at the regional team tournament," Corse said.

The Harvesters opened with a 10-9 loss to Burk Burnett. The match came down to

Braden Russell's match which he lost in a tiebreaker.

Pampa beat Bowie 19-0. Corse said it was good to win all of the matches.

"Those kind of matches are hard to get with everyone winning their match," Corse said. "I'm very proud of the way they came back after such a hard fought loss earlier."

The Harvesters beat Iowa Park 14-2 and Graham 10-6 to claim fifth. Pampa starts their individual tennis season with a tournament in Amarillo.

Baseball

cont. from page 9A

The Harvesters were without senior pitcher Garrett Erickson, senior Zach Murray, juniors Reid Miller and Mike Engle because they were still competing in the state basketball play-offs. Snelgrooves said that was a challenge.

"All the teams we played were at full capacity," Snelgrooves said.

With the basketball team's loss Saturday Snelgrooves will have a full crew for his team's tournament in Midland Thursday through Saturday.

"It will give me a good idea of where we are at," Snelgrooves said.

Harvesters

cont. from page 9A

"You can't ask for any more," Miller said. "Everything fell into place perfectly for us as a team and the bracket. We are going to go back to work and get back here and not stop here."

Erickson agreed and added it was a special team to be apart of.

"To get Pampa basketball back where it belongs is huge for this senior class," Erickson said.

"I want to come back in two years and three years and see them here. I think we got it back where it belongs and got people excited about Pampa bas-

ketball."

Collins said they have a good group coming back next season.

"We have a great chance of coming back here," Collins said.

Pollard said the bar has been set for next season. "We are going to be back next year and we are going to win it," Pollard said.

"I'm a sophomore and we're just barely getting started. Next year we are going to come out on top."

Knight out as coach at Texas Tech

BRACKEN (AP) — Texas Tech fired Pat Knight on Monday, ending a disappointing coaching career that was supposed to lead the Red Raiders to the NCAA tournament after taking over from his famous father.

Knight will coach the Red Raiders at this week's Big 12 tournament and then step down, school officials said. Blayne Beal

Knight is 50-60 in his Division I coaching career and his third full year as head coach. He had only one winning season (19-10 in 2009-10) at Texas Tech after taking over for his father at midseason in 2008.

Knight, who did not return a call from the school Monday, said he did not know he might be dismissed in comments made to the Red Raiders program following a 71-68 loss to Colorado on Saturday.

"I've just seven games left," he said. "The program is competitive. Big 12 is not for me. Honestly, I'm not going to be coaching here."

"I'm going to be coaching somewhere else. I've got to go. I can coach. I run a program. I don't want my players graduate and we have discipline. So I don't want me here. I'm going to be somewhere else. He wants me."

As Tech president Tom Hottel said it was a "change of change."

"I appreciate everything he has done for our university, not only as a head coach, but also throughout his career as an assistant," Hottel said in a prepared statement. "I wish him success and the best moving forward."

Knight played under his father at Indiana University from 1990-1995 and later worked as a scout for the Phoenix Suns. He was an assistant for the CBA's Connecticut Pride and served as a coach in both the International Basketball Association and the U.S. Basketball League.

Pat Knight was also at Indiana and at Akron University before joining his father as an assistant at Texas Tech in 2001.

The elder Knight took the Red Raiders to the NCAA tournament, but the success didn't come as easily for Pat Knight. The Red Raiders got to the quarterfinals of the NIT last season, losing at Mississippi 90-87 in double overtime.

At the beginning of the season, with six seniors on his squad, Knight said he didn't deserve a contract extension if he did not get the team to the NCAA tournament. Going into the league tournament, Texas Tech is 13-18 overall and 5-11 in the Big 12.

Knight's team won just three Big 12 regular season games in 2008-09 — one against No. 9 Kansas

and he openly criticized officiating twice in a three-week span. The Big 12 slapped him with a public reprimand and a one-game suspension.



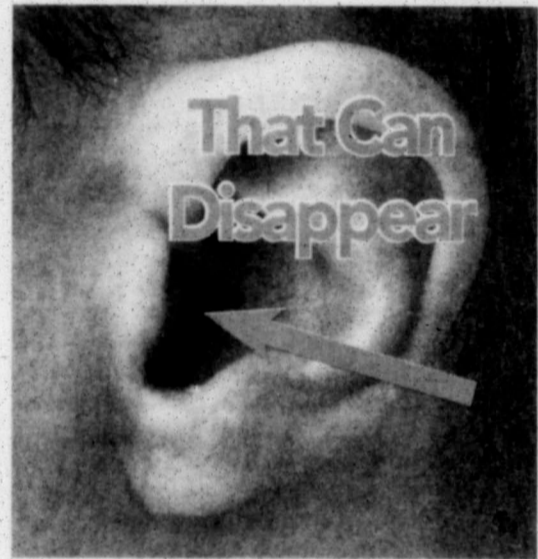
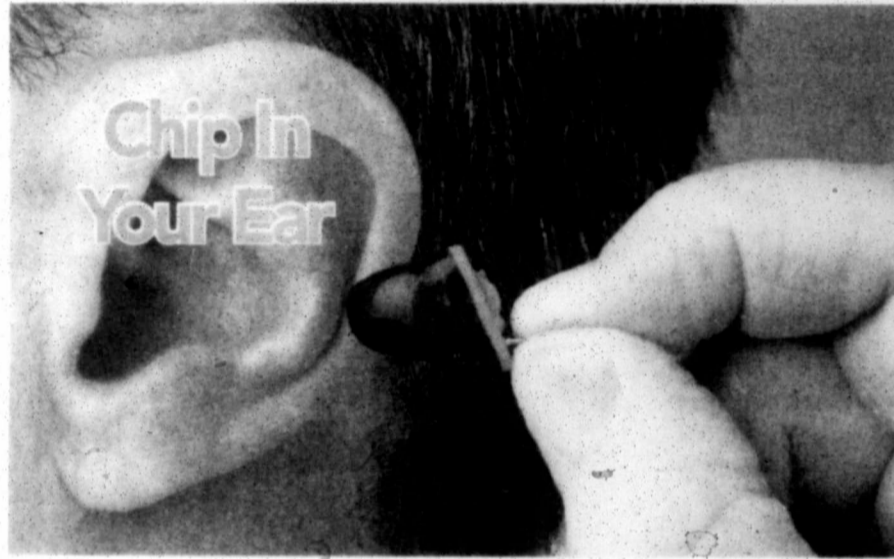
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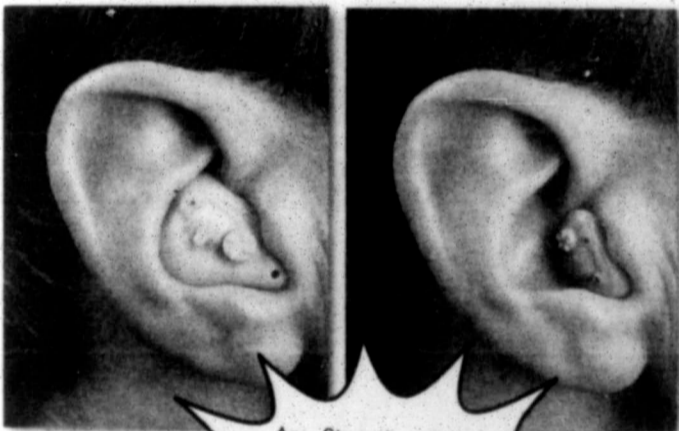
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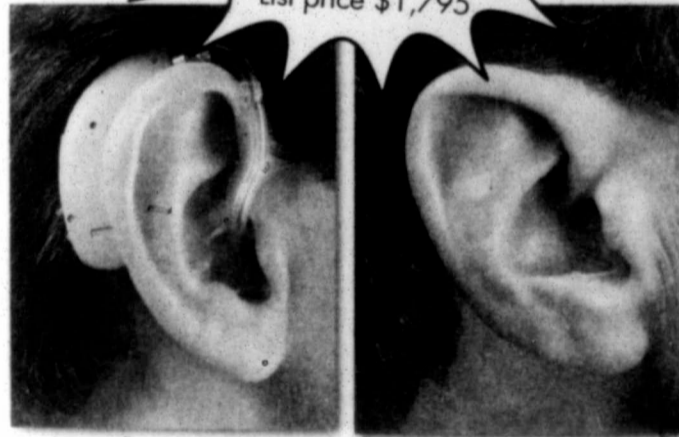
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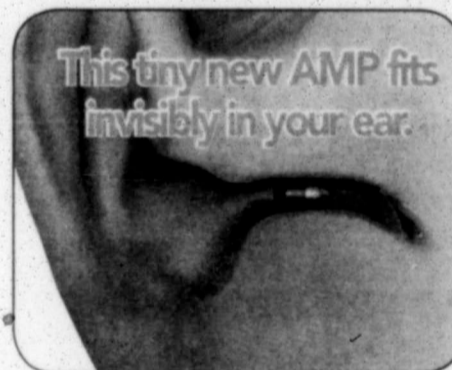
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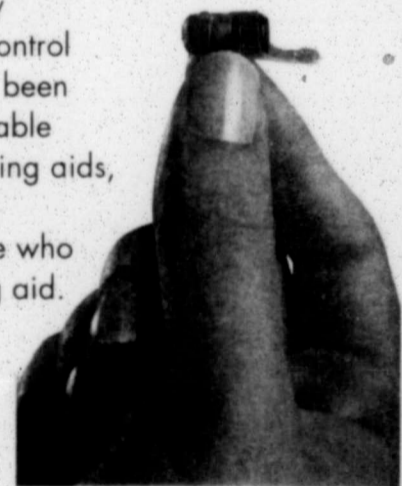
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