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The PAMPA NEWS

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staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Ted and Nelda Dickman place a bid during the silent auction at the Country Fair at M.K. Brown Civic Center on Saturday night.

Country good time Pampa gathers at Country Fair

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Fall has arrived in Pampa, and with it has come cooler weather, pumpkins and the Chamber of Commerce's annual Country Fair.

"I was very thrilled by the size of the crowd and by the live auction. I think everyone had a good time, and I appreciate everyone that helped," said Joe Weaver, Executive Director of the chamber.

"There were so many opportunities for entertainment this weekend that I was thrilled with the number of people that came," he added.

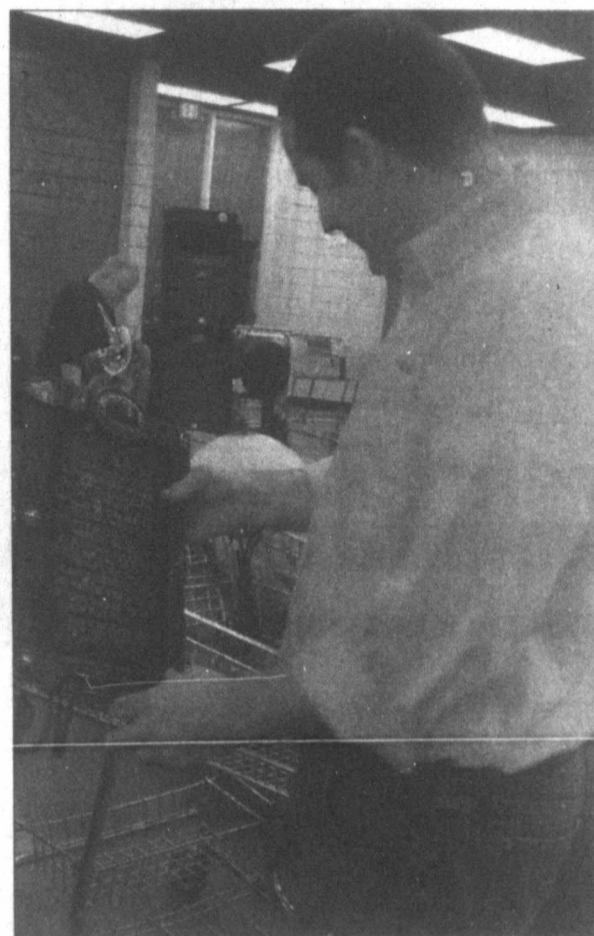
Among this year's attendees were Pampa's own District 88 Representative Warren Chisum and Representative Jim Landtroop of Plainview, who will be vying for the seat Chisum will vacate in 2012 when the state district lines are redrawn.

Landtroop also lent a Chamber a hand as a hawker during the live auction, which included paintings, rocking chairs and even the chance to fly your alma mater's flag downtown for a week. The silent auction featured a slew of gift certificates, tools, housewares and art for people to bid on.

"We sold a lot of tickets and had a really good turnout. There were lots of bidders for the silent auction," said Christy Robinson, board member of the Chamber of Commerce and head of the Country Fair planning committee.

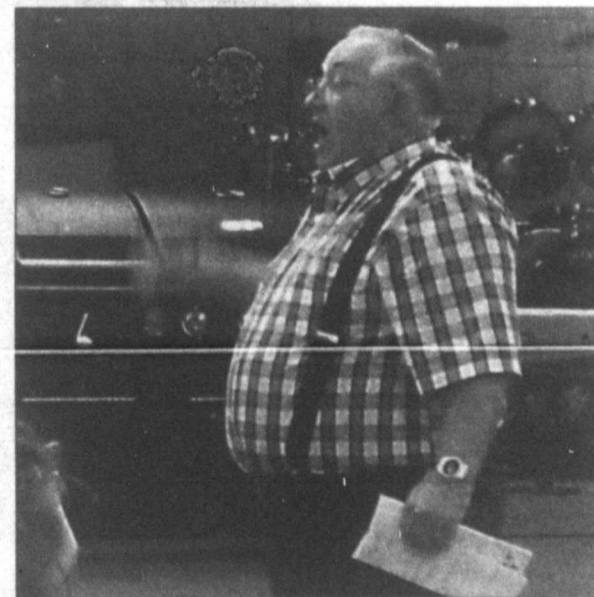
This year's event also included **FAIR** cont. on page 5

City Commissioner Neil Fulton barks as a hawker during the live auction on Saturday night. ➤



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Top O' Texas Goldcoat Bryan Guymon helps clear off the tables during Saturday evening's silent auction.



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

CLASSIC BEAUTY



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

James Watson (left) and **Shane Gunter** look at a 1967 Dodge Coronet RT at a car show Saturday in the parking lot of Advance Auto Parts.

Meet the 2011 United Way loaned executives

[Editor's Note: The Pampa United Way loaned executives will be speaking with area businesses and organizations in an effort to help raise funds and awareness for the 18 agencies the United Way supports around the Gray County area. Over the next few days, The Pampa News will be running some short biographical sketches about them, as well as their statements about why they are lending their efforts to the United Way cause.]

Kenny Rigoulot
 2011 United Way Campaign Chair
Past work with United Way: Served as a Loaned Executive in 2009 and 2010.
Employment: Pastor of First Presbyterian Church.
Education: Abilene Christian



University and Princeton Theological Seminary.
Community activities: Board member, Meals on Wheels and Rotary Club; Volunteers as a Cub Scout den leader and soccer coach.
Family: Wife Jennifer, sons Kennan (6) and Grayson (18 months) and daughter Brayden (4)
EXECUTIVES cont. on page 6





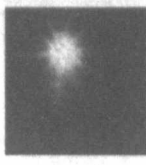
Rigoulot

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
		
High 71 Low 39	High 63 Low 37	High 62 Low 37

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Breezy, with a north northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 63. Wind chill values between 32 and 42 early. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 37. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 62. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Obituaries

Lena Craig Harper, 99

Lena Craig Harper, 99, died October 14, 2011, in Pampa.

Vigil will be at 6 p.m. today in the Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel. Mass will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church with Rev. Joseph Ravi, associate pastor, officiating. Private burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Harper was born Magdalena Cecilia Kurtz on June 25, 1912 to George and Clara Weller Kurtz in Groom. She married A. V. "Jack" Craig in 1933 and they moved to Pampa. Jack preceded her in death in 1961. Lena was a member of St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church. She loved to cook and was employed at several local restaurants until her retirement. She also loved to quilt and spend time with her family members. Lena will be greatly missed and remembered as a compassionate, loving, generous mother, grandmother, and friend to all.

Survivors include a son, Robert Craig and wife Bettie of Pampa; three daughters: Gloria Pauline Blanton of Yukon, Okla., Alice Havens of Odessa and Linda McCarley and husband Danny of Pampa; 10 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and six great great grandchildren.

Lena is preceded in death by her son, Jimmy Craig, who died while serving as a Marine in Vietnam, her infant daughter, Margaret Craig, her parents, four brothers and a sister.

Memorials can be made to the Pampa VFW Post #1657, P. O. Box 2684, Pampa, TX 79066-2684 or Disabled American Veterans, 507 S. Alabama, Amarillo, TX 79106.

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

For the record

Continued from Sunday

Police Department

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 800 block of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 500 block of North Perry.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Friday, October 14 at 7 a.m.

Thursday, October 13
Darren Gene Nelson, 22, was arrested by police for theft of property.

Angelia Marie Ferretti, 34, was arrested by police for driving while intoxicated.

Raquel Hernandez Jaime, 42, was arrested by deputies on motion of enforcement for child support.

Justin Cody Hazelwood, 24, was arrested by police for theft of property, evading arrest, failure to identify, unlawful carrying of a weapon, driving while intoxicated and public intoxication.

Penny June Hopkins, 31, was arrested by police for possession of a controlled substance.

Billie Jean Lewis Nolte, 33, was arrested by police on charges of possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Christopher Shane Nolte, 37, was arrested by police for possession of a controlled substance.

COMMUNITYcalendar

Tuesday, Oct. 18

•Chamber's "Lunch and Learn," noon at the Chamber building.

Wednesday, Oct. 19

•Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office.

Friday, Oct. 21

•Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

•50 Year reunion of the Class of 1961, Americinn Event Center. For more info call 665-4666.

•Woody Guthrie Center Jam Night - all instruments welcome.

•Football - Pampa vs. Borger, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 22

•PHS High School variety Show, 7 p.m., PHS auditorium

Saturday, Oct. 22

•Altrusa International of Pampa program meeting, 6:30 p.m. in Lively Hall at First United Methodist Church.

Wednesday, Oct. 26

•Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K Brown Room of the Chamber office.

Thursday, Oct. 27

•Good Samaritan Board of Director's meeting, 5 p.m. at the offices at 308 P. Ward St.

Friday, Oct. 28

•Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

•Falloween Car Show and Craft Fair, Briarwood Church 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

If your nonprofit or community organization has an upcoming meeting or event, submit it to The Pampa News Community Calendar at least one week in advance by e-mailing to rpribble@thepampanews.com. Submissions should include only the date, time, location and contact number for the event. The Pampa News reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Items will be considered for the calendar solely at the discretion of the newspaper.

Public Meeting Agendas

Pampa ISD School Board meeting

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice. Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

- I. Declaration of a quorum / call meeting to order
- II. Public Hearing: FIRST Report (First Integrity Rating System of Texas) 6 p.m.
- III. Spotlight on Excellence
- IV. Public Hearing: Tax on tangible property in transit, which would otherwise be exempt pursuant to Texas Tax Code Section 11.253 (6:30 p.m.)
- V. Public Comments (7 p.m.)
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Consideration and action to approve monthly financial reports
 - B. Consideration and action to approve the quarterly investment and financial reports
 - C. Consideration and possible action to approve the Annual Investment Report
 - D. Consideration and action to approve board minutes: Sept. 20, 2011 and Oct. 6, 2011
 - E. Consideration and action to approve the sale of delinquent tax property
 - F. Consideration and action to approve 2011-2012 appraisers
 - G. Consideration and action to approve Spring Sports bids

VII. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- A. Consideration and action to approve September 2011 Cash Disbursements
- B. Consideration and possible action to approve an overnight, educational trip for Austin Elementary fifth grade students
- C. Consideration and action to accept bids for portable buildings located at the former Pampa Junior High School
- D. Consideration and possible action to issue invitation to bid on a modular building located at the former Pampa Junior High School; possible re-bid if the bid is rejected
- E. Consideration and possible action to issue invitation to bid on a portable building located on the northwest corner of the Pampa High School football field
- F. Determine manner of invitation to bid on former Pampa Junior High property (whether to offer tract as a whole or to divide into smaller tracts)
- G. Consideration and action to approve a contract for purchase of real property located at 1233 N. Hobart, former Albertson's building
- H. Consideration and possible action to approve the Campus Improvement Plans
- I. Consideration and action to approve the official tax roll
- J. Consideration of a possible action on resolution related to change of election date; changes to length of terms of Board of Trustees, and extension of current trustee terms.

New districts, upcoming elections in limbo

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Two ongoing legal cases to determine whether new voting maps drawn by the Republican-controlled Legislature discriminate against minorities have cast uncertainty over Texas' 2012 elections.

While a federal court in Washington has been mulling for months whether the maps meet legal requirements, another court in Texas is preparing to temporarily implement alternative maps to ensure March primaries are not delayed.

Until the cases are resolved, would-be candidates for Congress and legislative seats aren't sure what districts they live in, much less which ones they'll run in. Elections officials can't finalize realigned precincts, set up polling places or begin printing ballots.

"We're sort of in a state of limbo," said Jose Garza, an attorney representing the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, one of the plaintiffs suing the state over the proposed maps. "The time now is pretty critical."

Expressing doubt that a resolution would be in place before the upcoming election deadlines, a federal judge in San Antonio has asked plaintiffs to submit alternative maps by Monday that can be used until final maps are in place. A hearing to determine the interim plans is set to start Oct. 31, two days before another judicial panel in Washington reviews the validity of the state-approved maps.

Meanwhile, the backlog of deadlines has already started.

The San Antonio court, which concluded a trial on the matter last month, waived an Oct. 1 deadline for county officials to finalize their election precinct boundaries. A requirement that counties issue new voter registration certificates to voters also was temporarily lifted.

Candidates have a month starting Nov. 12 to file for a spot on the ballots, which have to be mailed to overseas voters by Jan. 21.

"You can see the pressure cooker we're living in," said Jacque Callanen, the Bexar County elections administrator.

Several plaintiffs groups, including MALC and the League of United Latin American Citizens, said they would submit separate interim proposals Monday, although the court suggested they agree on one plan.

Several Democrats and minority groups sued the state after the Legislature redrew voting district boundaries this summer, arguing the maps are discriminatory because they camouflage a statewide surge in Hispanic population during the past decade. They argue the growth warrants the creation of districts in which Hispanics have enough voting strength to elect the candidates of their choice.

Plaintiffs have targeted the design of a handful of districts, including a sweeping West Texas congressional district represented by freshman Republican U.S. Rep. Quico Canseco. Critics contend Hispanic-dominated precincts with a history of low turnout were moved into the district to meet the constitutional requirements while maintaining its GOP dominance. Hispanic voters have traditionally supported Democratic candidates.

The Texas chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also among the plaintiffs, has argued growth in Texas' black population merits at least one new district with a mostly black population on the congressional map.

The Legislature is tasked with redrawing electoral districts every 10 years to reflect updated census data. This year, Texas re-

ceived four new seats in the U.S. House based on a population surge driven by Hispanics.

The MALC proposal being submitted Monday would preserve the seven minority-dominated districts already in the congressional map and turn the four new seats into minority-dominated districts — three Hispanic districts and one black district in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Under a provision in the Voting Rights Act, the Legislature's redistricting maps can't be legally implemented until the U.S. Department of Justice or a federal court in Washington determines the maps do not limit people's right to vote on the basis of race or language group.

Bypassing the Justice Department, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott asked the federal court in July to approve the Legislature's map.

The state "continues to believe ... we will have a decision from the D.C. District Court in time to comply with Texas' new voter registration deadlines, deeming interim maps unnecessary," Abbott spokeswoman Lauren Beaji said in an e-mailed statement to The Associated Press. "The interim maps would only be necessary if the D.C. court has not issued a decision in time for Texas to prepare for the March 2012 primary election."

Former Democratic Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, who was ousted last year by the freshman lawmaker Canseco after 11 years in office, said he's committed to running for re-election, no matter what the final map looks like. But he's optimistic that the courts will restore the current boundaries of his old Congressional District 23.

"I've been through this game," Rodriguez said. "You never know what the judges are going to do in the end."


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MORNINGRUSH

20 charged in hazing allegations

SAN MARCOS, Texas (AP) - Authorities have arrested 20 Texas State students on hazing charges after allegations that underage students were blindfolded, stripped to their underwear and forced to drink alcohol.

Arrest affidavits show Sigma Nu fraternity leaders told members of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority to gather prospective fraternity members Sept. 12.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that the affidavits state that pledges were taken to an apartment garage, where they were forced to drink alcohol to be accepted into the fraternity.

There were no major injuries.

A spokesman for the fraternity's national chapter said it is awaiting additional information.

Ten fraternity and 10 sorority members were charged with Class B misdemeanors. An attorney who represents several of them said the event was not an official fraternity event and the students weren't pledges.

Many ticket recipients toss them

DALLAS (AP) - A newspaper survey of a dozen North Texas cities found that nearly 30 percent of the more than 1.3 million red-light camera violations issued from 2008 until 2010 went unpaid.

The violations don't go on driving records, and the penalties cannot be reported to a credit bureau. Many drivers simply throw their red-light camera tickets into the trash and get away with it.

The survey by The Dallas Morning News found that, at \$75 a ticket, plus a \$25 late fee, nearly \$30 million in fines went unclaimed.

Grand Prairie police spokesman Eric Hansen, echoing the opinion of other law-enforcement agencies, said if people do not mind being badgered by a bill collector, "there's not a lot we can do."

Thousands in Komen race

DALLAS (AP) - About 15 years ago, only about 500 people would meet in a small field near NorthPark Center to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Times have changed.

On Saturday, The Dallas Morning News reported, the event attracted more than 30,000 people, with 992 people signing up on the Komen Web site.

Jennifer Legere, executive director of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Dallas, said a little more than \$2 million has been raised and fundraising will continue through Nov. 11. The first Race for the Cure in Dallas was in 1983.

Officials say Komen, founded in 1982, has contributed \$685 million to breast cancer research and \$1.3 billion to community programs that help with mammograms, transportation and other needs.

CA doctors favor legalizing pot

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) - California's largest industry group for doctors is calling for the legalization of marijuana even as it maintains that the drug has few proven health benefits.

The Los Angeles Times reports the California Medical Association adopted the new stance at its annual meeting Friday in Anaheim.

A Sacramento physician who wrote the new policy says doctors are increasingly frustrated by the state's medical marijuana law, which allows use with a doctor's recommendation. Dr. Donald Lyman says physicians are put in the uncomfortable position of having to decide whether to recommend a drug that's illegal under federal law.

The group acknowledges health risks associated with marijuana use and proposes regulation similar to alcohol and tobacco, but says the consequences of criminalization outweigh the dangers.

CMA represents more than 35,000 California physicians.

Rig count up by 11

HOUSTON (AP) - The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. rose 11 last week to 2,023.

Houston-based drilling product provider Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday that 1,080 rigs were exploring for oil and 936 for natural gas. Seven were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago this week the rig count stood at 1,670.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Louisiana gained six rigs and Pennsylvania was up four. New Mexico and Texas each increased by three and Alaska, Arkansas, California and Wyoming were up one apiece.

Oklahoma declined by five, Colorado and North Dakota dropped two and West Virginia one.

Bachmann pledges border fence

ERRY, Iowa (AP) - Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann on Saturday signed a pledge to push for construction of a fence along the entire length of the border with Mexico, raising the issue of illegal immigration in an Iowa town where about one third of the residents are Hispanic.

Bachmann also renewed her attacks on the immigration policies of Gov. Rick Perry of Texas, one of the rivals for the Republican nomination, and she criticized President Barack Obama for what she called his failure to control the border.

"President Obama has failed the American people by failing to secure the southern border," said Bachmann. "I will secure that border and that will be job one."

Bachmann's call for increased border security was made in a town where the meatpacking industry has drawn immigrant workers. Thirty-two percent of the town's 9,800 residents are Hispanic.

"I have been saying this all through the campaign," Bachmann said. "Now you have my word in writing."

She called control of the border a national security issue and said illegal immigration costs the U.S. more than \$100 billion a year. At the same time she rejected suggestions that talking about cracking down on illegal immigrants is racist or anti-Hispanic.

Social Security's misunderstood suspense file

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Q: I recently heard a news report that said Social Security has several billion dollars in something called a suspense file. It has something to do with the taxes collected on fraudulent Social Security numbers. The report said this money is just sitting there, not earning interest and not being used for any constructive purpose. If this is true, it's no wonder our government has such financial problems when there are large pools of unaccounted-for cash like this just lying around. Can you shed any light on this?

A: Ah, yes, the infamous "suspense file." When I was the deputy press officer for the Social Security Administration, I don't think a day went by when I didn't field a call from a reporter somewhere in the country asking me about this alleged pile of cash supposedly lying around in some Social Security safe or other government vault. But there is no pile of cash. There are no unaccounted-for and mismanaged funds that, once found, would miraculously solve all of Social Security financial woes. Here's the real story.

Every single day, thousands of wage reports from employers representing millions of workers around the country trickle in to the Social Security Administration. (I guess since we're talking numbers like thousands and millions, "trickle" is the wrong word. How about "flood?") The reports contain the names, Social Security numbers, and earnings of anyone working at a job covered by Social Security. And it's important to note that these files are just the wage reports needed to maintain Social Security's earnings records for all Social Security number holders.

The actual money withheld in Social Security taxes takes a completely separate path and goes directly to the Treasury Department. In almost all cases, the name and Social Security number on the employer's earnings report sent to SSA match a name and Social

Security number in the agency's records. So the Social Security records for all those folks get updated immediately. But in a relatively small percentage of the cases (the last I heard, it's about 5 percent), the information supplied by the employer doesn't match the information in Social Security's files.

Many times, this is merely a problem of a transposed digit in a Social Security number on the employer's report. Other times, it's a simple name issue. For example, the employer's report might show an employee named T. Robert Margenau, but SSA's records show the name as Thomas R. Margenau. SSA's computer software programs have "tolerances" built into them that recognize these easily explained discrepancies and post the earnings to the proper record.

But if the problem cannot be simply identified and readily fixed, then we have what SSA calls an "earnings discrepancy" case. The actions necessary to assign the earnings in question to the proper Social Security number account are temporarily suspended. Thus the term "suspense file" for all the earnings reports that have not yet been assigned to the proper Social Security number.

Many of the cases that go into the suspense file don't remain there for very long. SSA works with the employer who submitted the report and/or with the employee in question to resolve the problem.

But in some cases, the problem can never be resolved. Many times, this is because there was some



If you ask me, one way to help resolve this problem is to issue everyone a Social Security card that's a full-fledged identity card — something with a picture and maybe some form of biometric identification. But that'll never happen because folks on both sides of the political spectrum dislike the idea. Conservatives hate it because it would be one more example of big-brother government intruding into their lives. And liberals dislike the idea because it would take away from our civil liberties.

And so the suspense file will just keep growing and growing.

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

fraudulent activity involving a fake Social Security number or maybe someone using a deceased person's Social Security number. Lots of these earnings reports remain in that suspense file for years and years.

And even though the percentage of such unresolved cases is very small, over decades, the numbers just keep adding up. And that is why today, there are about \$300 billion in unrecorded earnings reports in the suspense file.

But please bear in mind that does not mean that \$300 billion in cash is just lying around because no one knows what to do with it. Once again, the money collected in taxes, including the taxes collected in these earnings discrepancy cases, went directly from the employer to the Treasury Department and was used to finance Social Security checks sent out to all of the program's beneficiaries. The only records sitting in the infamous suspense file are paper reports of earnings still waiting to be assigned to a proper Social Security number.

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New convict health program planned

AUSTIN (AP) - State prison officials are exploring operating a convict health care program that would not involve the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for the first time in 18 years.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that, in a surprise move Friday, officials said they are creating a network that would rely on regional hospitals across the state to provide the care.

The development came after UTMB officials said talks to extend their managed care contract for prisons had reached an impasse. They proposed no longer providing care at prisons but continuing to operate the prison hospital in Galveston.

But Brad Livingston, prison system executive director, said if the regional network is created, "we believe we could provide care at a regional level, including the specialty care, at less cost."

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"2009 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR"

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Oct. 17, the 290th day of 2011. There are 75 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 17, 1711, Jupiter Hammon, the first black poet to have his work published in America, was born on Long Island, N.Y., into a lifetime of slavery. (The date of his death is unknown, although he apparently lived at least into his 80s.)

On this date:

In 1610, French King Louis XIII, age nine, was crowned at Reims, five months after the assassination of his father, Henry IV.

In 1777, British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered to American troops in Saratoga, N.Y., in a turning point of the Revolutionary War.

In 1807, Britain declared it would continue to reclaim British-born sailors from American ships and ports regardless of whether they held U.S. citizenship.

In 1931, mobster Al Capone was convicted of income tax evasion. (Sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone was released in 1939.)

In 1933, Albert Einstein arrived in the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany.

In 1941, the U.S. destroyer Kearny was damaged by a German torpedo off the coast of Iceland; 11 people died.

In 1961, French police attacked Algerians protesting a curfew in Paris. (The resulting death toll varies widely, with some estimates of up to 200.)

In 1973, Arab oil-producing nations announced they would begin cutting back oil exports to Western nations and Japan; the result was a total embargo that lasted until March 1974.

In 1989, an earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale struck northern California, killing 63 people and causing \$6 billion worth of damage.

In 1991, entertainer Tennessee Ernie Ford died in Reston, Va., at age 72.

Ten years ago: With the threat of anthrax hovering over Capitol Hill, congressional leaders closed six House and Senate office buildings for decontamination; the U.S. House of Representatives shut down for several days.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush signed legislation authorizing tough interrogation of terror suspects and smoothing the way for trials before military commissions.

One year ago: Pope Benedict XVI gave Australia its first saint, canonizing Mary MacKillop, a 19th century nun who was briefly excommunicated in part because her religious order had exposed a pedophile priest.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marsha Hunt is 94. Actress Julie Adams is 85. Singer Jim Seals (Seals & Crofts) is 69. Singer Gary Puckett is 69. Actor Michael McKean is 64. Actress Margot Kidder is 63. Actor George Wendt is 63. Actor-singer Bill Hudson is 62. Country singer Alan Jackson is 53. Movie critic Richard Roeper is 52. Movie director Rob Marshall is 51. Animator Mike Judge is 49. Actor-comedian Norm Macdonald is 48. Reggae singer Ziggy Marley is 43. Rapper Eminem is 39. Singer Wyclef Jean is 39. Actress Sharon Leal is 39. Actor Matthew Macfadyen is 37. Actor Chris Lowell is 27. Actor Dee Jay Daniels is 23.

Thought for Today: "Those who nobly set out to be their brother's keeper sometimes end up by becoming his jailer. Every emancipation has in it the seeds of a new slavery, and every truth easily becomes a lie." - I.F. Stone, American journalist (1907-1989).

WHAT'S MY ALBATROSS?

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How to moderate the power of lobbyists

There is a fundamental question raised by lobbying of the Congress. It is this: Can we temper its excesses without destroying its usefulness as a valued component of the system?

There are roughly 13,000 registered lobbyists in Washington at the moment, and they spend huge sums of money on their work — \$3.5 billion last year, according to the Center on Responsive Politics. This money goes into campaign contributions, independent election expenditures, questionable grassroots campaigns, wooing legislators with golf tours, cruises, gifts to favorite charities and the like.

It has a direct impact not only on how members of Congress look at issues, but also on what issues they decide to look at in the first place. I don't think it's a stretch to say that it can skew what takes place on Capitol Hill toward the interests of those who can provide this money, and away from those who cannot.

Yet lobbyists are also indispensable to lawmaking. Most are principled people who know that their word is their bond. When done well, lobbying helps the governing process work. The best of its practitioners know that what lawmakers need is information — straightforward, understandable, and accurate. Lobbyists help members of Congress understand the issues before them and gauge how a given piece of legislation will affect the various constituencies affected by it. Members of Congress are so pressed for time and confronted by so many varied matters of importance that they have no choice but to rely on lobbyists to help them sort out both the facts and the consequences of the decisions they have to make.

So as a nation, we are left with a challenge. How do we counterbalance the impact of all the money

that lobbyists wield, so that Congress pays attention to the voices of ordinary Americans and serves the country's best interests?

In other words, how do we safeguard what's good about lobbying — its role in providing information — while moderating the perceived or real consequences of the billions of dollars that lobbyists spend?

This is by no means impossible. Lobbyists are already regulated, but there's room for improvement. One important measure that could be put in place immediately would be complete, real-time disclosure of lobbying contacts with legislators and regulators. There are no technical reasons this can't be done, only the objections of politicians. The more sunlight on the process, the more the voters will know about lobbyists and the issues they advocate.

I'd even go further: I favor the fairly radical steps of prohibiting members of Congress from accepting contributions from firms that lobby them, and banning lobbyists from contributing to members they lobby. As reformers argue, it's fine for lobbyists to plead their case, but they shouldn't be able to pay off the jury. I'm not so naive as to believe that either of these measures will pass anytime soon — or perhaps ever.

It also makes sense to slow the revolving door between Capitol Hill and the offices of the lobby corps. Overall, according to a new study by the online disclosure site LegiStorm, 5,400 former congressional staffers and almost 400 former lawmakers have become lobbyists over the past decade. And the Washington Post recently revealed that more than 100



LEE H. HAMILTON

lobbyists for defense companies, Wall Street firms and other industries used to work for the 12 members of the "supercommittee" charged with finding ways to reduce the national debt. As the panel moves forward, its members will no doubt be hearing from their former advisers.

Congress also needs an institution, similar to the Congressional Budget Office, to give it unbiased and unvarnished analysis of pending issues each week. While such an operation would hardly eliminate the need for lobbyists, it would go beyond background information and get into the pros and cons of pending legislation with no axe to grind, no special agenda — and no money spigot for legislators to worry about.

Finally, I believe a big part of the answer lies with individual members of Congress and with the American people. Members have the ultimate responsibility to assess and judge a lobbyist: where he comes from, for whom he speaks, what his interests are. They also need to ask themselves how much they're influenced by the campaign contributions they receive and whether they are giving careful consideration to all sides on any given policy issue, including how the policy might affect ordinary Americans.

Similarly, we all have to step up as Americans and engage actively with our legislators. The more vigorous the conversation between our elected representatives and their constituents, the less of a hold lobbyists will enjoy.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

The PAMPA NEWS

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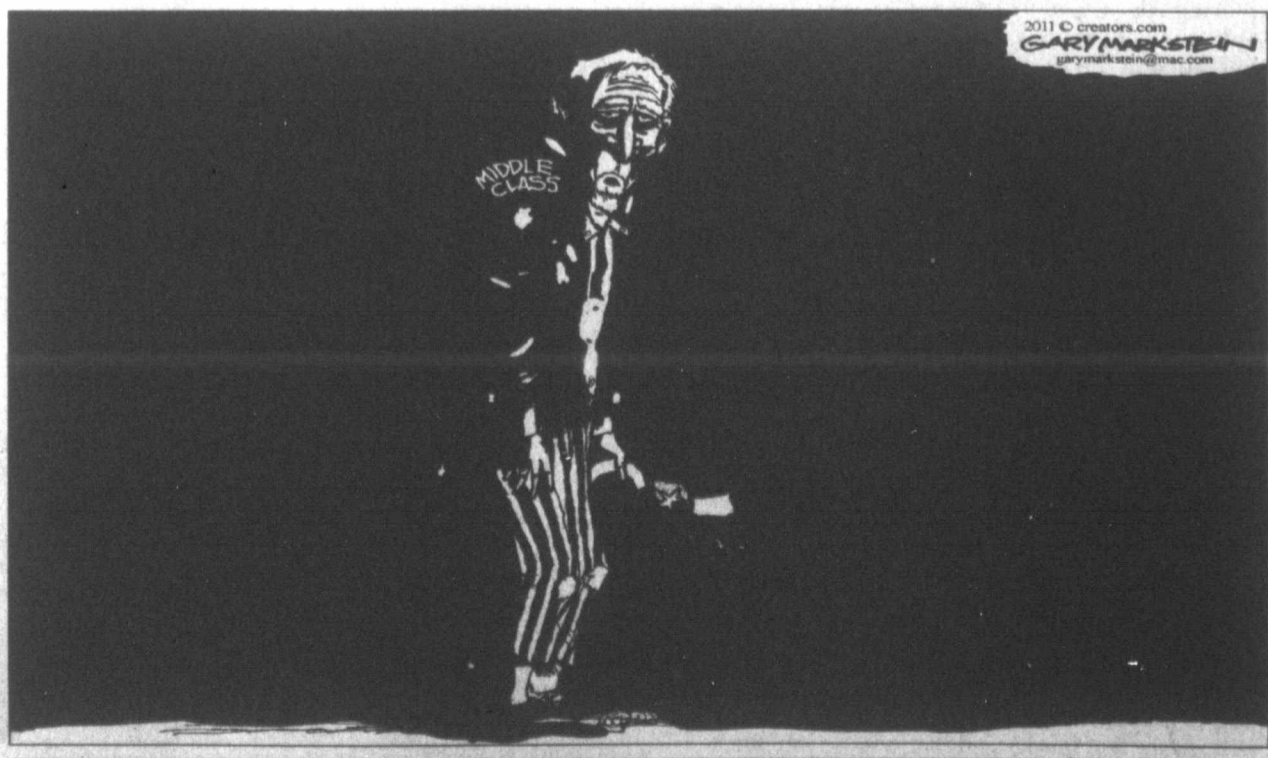
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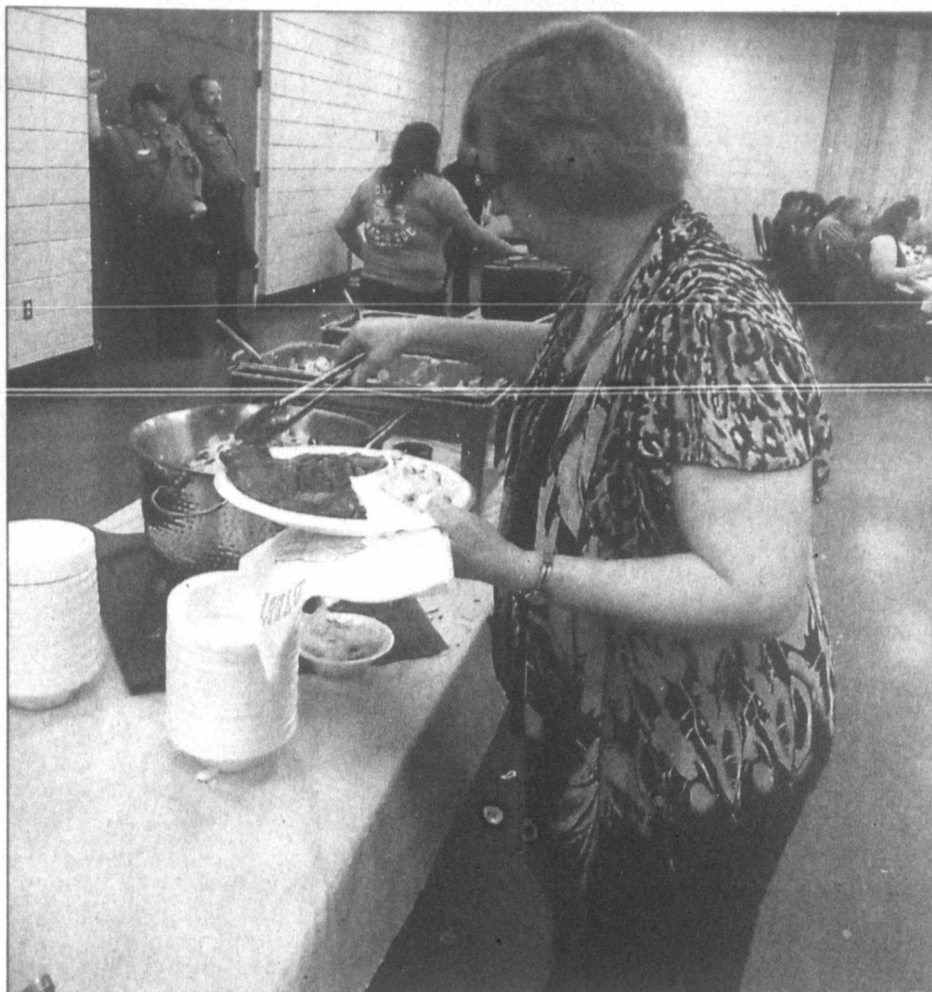
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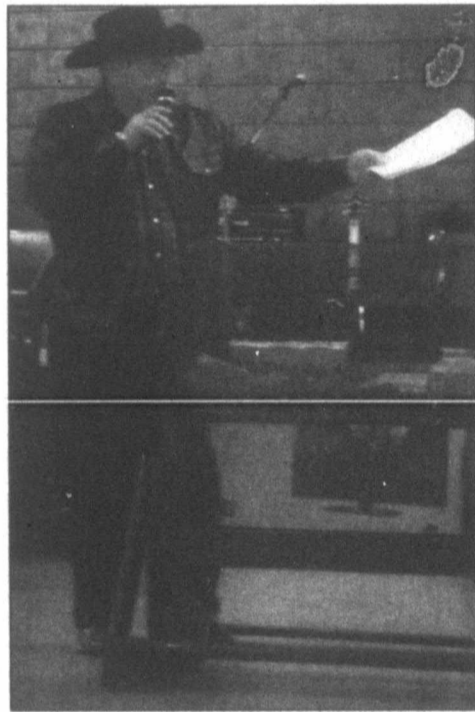
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Rick Hall (left) buys a drawing ticket from Top O' Texas Goldcoat **Bob Marx** during the Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Country Fair at the M.K. Brown Civic Center on Saturday.



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Linda Weaver stacks some fixings on her plate during Country Fair. The evening was catered by Dyer's Barbecue.



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Auctioneer Dale West leads the live auction.

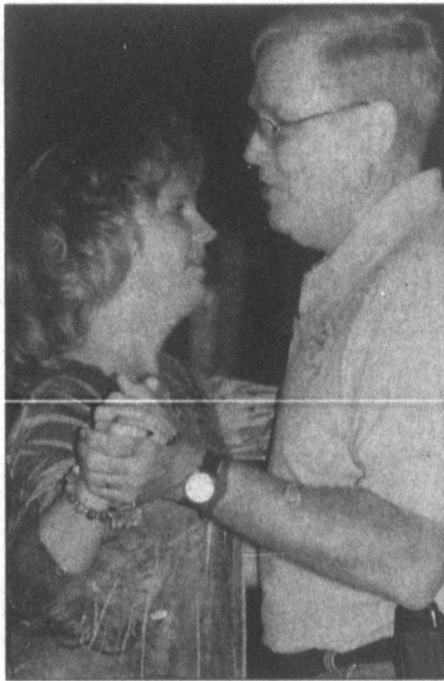
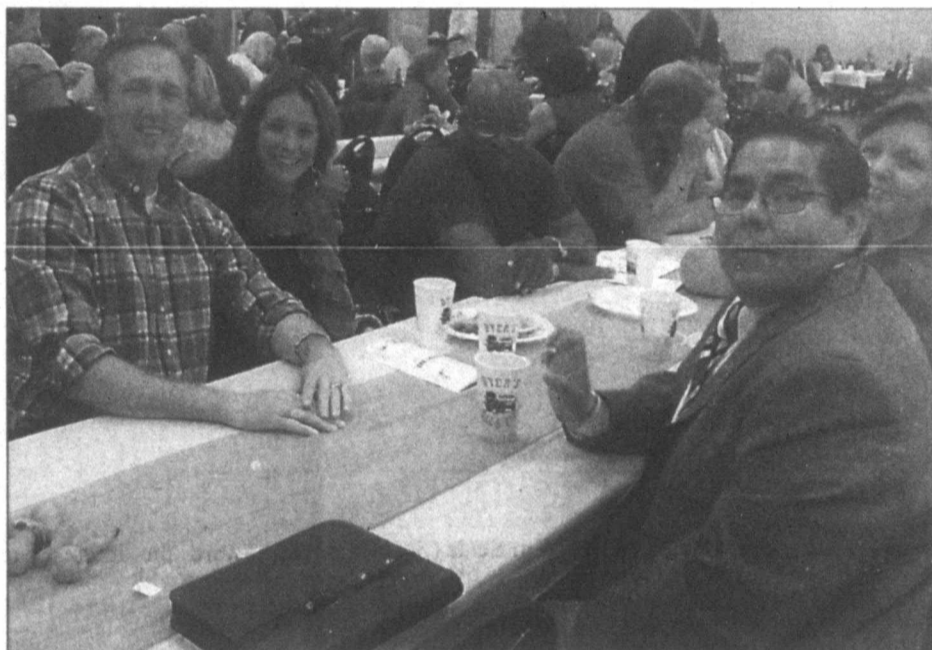


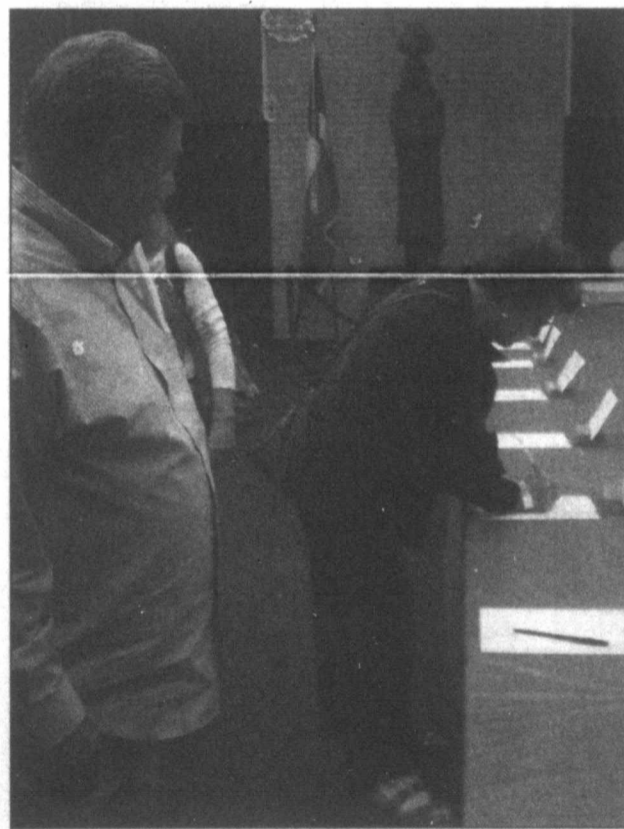
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Redonn Woods and **Joe Weaver** dance to the country stylings of Double Shot.



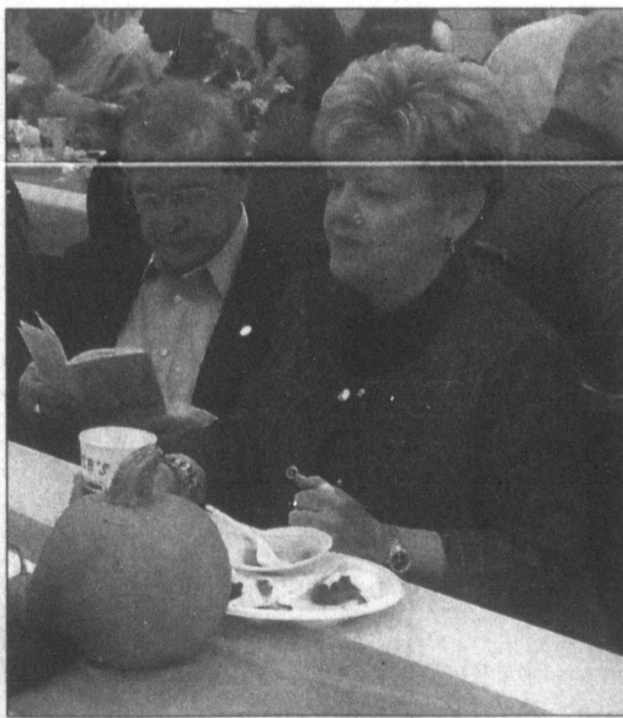
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Jim and Cathy Landtroop (clockwise from left), **Irving Sawyers**, and **Adrian and Oscar Rojas** share a smile at Country Fair.



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Bob Crippen watches as wife **Janice** places a bid during the silent auction.



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District 88 Representative Warren Chisum of Pampa enjoys the night's dinner with wife **Omega**.

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Fair

cont. from page 1

several new events, like the wine pull and coin toss. "It seemed (to have) a lot more engaging activities this year," said David Hall, Chamber board

member. The evening of food and dance gave fair-goers a chance to kick back and have a good time. "I haven't been to a Country

Fair in ten years, and this is great," said Terri Sexton. "The food was wonderful, and I've seen a lot of friends I haven't touched base with in years."

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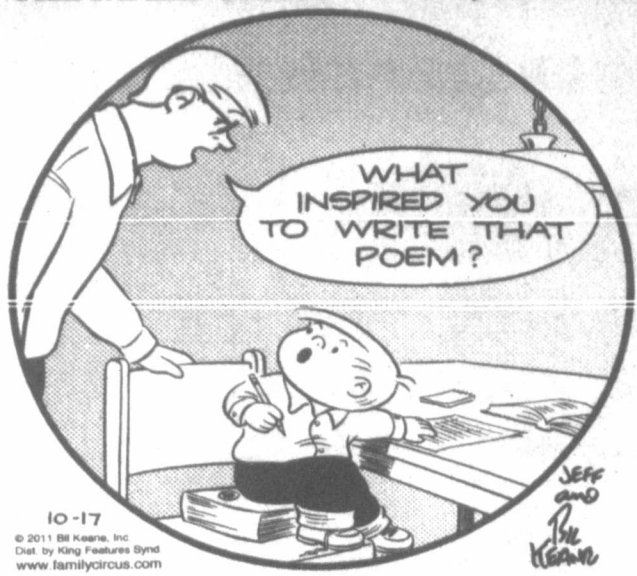
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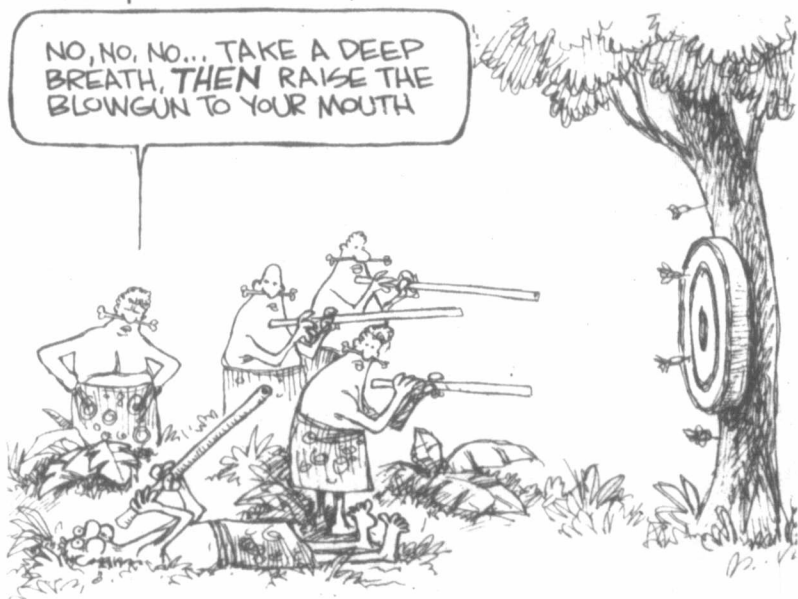
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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Oct. 17, 2011:

This year you visualize idea after idea. You also will want to share many of them. You are serious-minded and direct. Someone adds to your bounce and strength. You seem to gain from his or her optimism. If you are attached, this person could be your sweetie. You will have one of those warm, loving years with each other. If you are single, many potential mates appear. Take your time making the right choice. **CANCER** pushes you into the limelight.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Think before you make a quick retort. A partner or associate could be overly serious and somewhat closed down. You wonder if others listen to themselves. Be smart — say little. Tonight: Chat up a storm at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be aware of how much you give. Money isn't the only form of exchange. You offer a lot. Others appreciate what you give. Extremes punctuate different areas of your life. Listen to someone you look up to who is very imaginative. Tonight: Only what you want.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Never underestimate your brightness and willingness to find new ideas and solutions. Extremes don't serve you well when dealing with others. Yet you can help them through an intellectual process. Reveal more. Tonight: As you like it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Take your time with problems. Do all the brainstorming and thinking you need to, but make your decision this evening or afterward. Use the daylight hours for processing and research. Listen to all suggestions. Tonight: You're coming into your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Use the daylight hours for what is close to your heart. Curb a tendency to scatter yourself. Wherever you apply your focus is more than likely to be a sure-bet winner. Tap into an inspirational idea. Tonight: Play it low-key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others listen to your suggestions; although the concepts more than the details ring true for them. Your ability to translate your ideas into a practical

plan comes forward. Schedule a doctor's or dentist's appointment. Take care of yourself, too. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy, as long as you aren't alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for others and more information — hop on the Internet. Information, not bias, is critical to making good choices. The more research you do and the more knowledge you gain, the better off you will be. An associate or loved one always has your concerns in mind. Tonight: Until the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Remain receptive to a partner or friend. This person can come up with one idea after the other. In a discussion, you often tighten up a project or discover another way of handling an issue. Others are more than willing to help or support you. Tonight: Imagine staying close to home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Understand your liability when dealing with a neighbor who often confuses your meaning. You might need to clarify. Return calls and schedule meetings. Let your people skills come out. Zero in on what you want. Tonight: Share with a friend or loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Pace yourself during the day. You only have so much energy. Your attention often goes to a loved one or child who keeps popping into your day. Don't commit to a financial offer too quickly. If possible, sit on it for a day or so. Tonight: Return a call. Call a friend: Then decide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Your mind defines your existence, but today your imagination designs quite a set of possibilities. Please don't wonder why others don't see what you see. You have such a unique thought process that even when you clearly explain an idea to others, they still have difficulty understanding. Tonight: Work out stress through a favorite pastime.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might feel that you cannot make headway where it counts. You could let frustration build or simply diversify, going where you can be effective right now. Your communication skills excel. Tonight: Let your imagination choose!

Tundra



Shoe



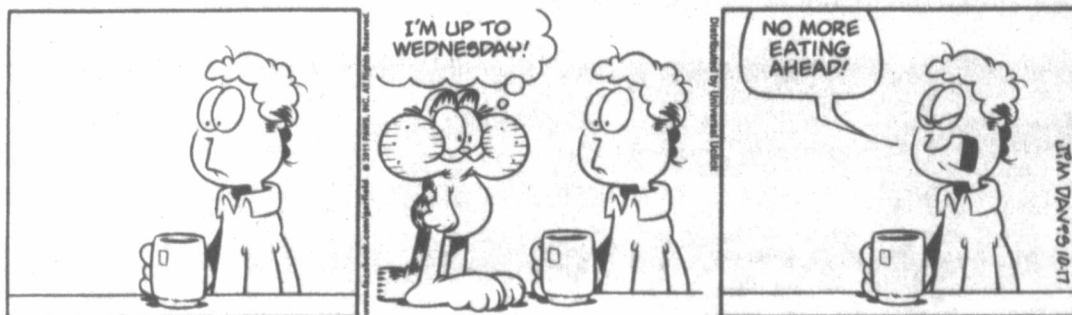
Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



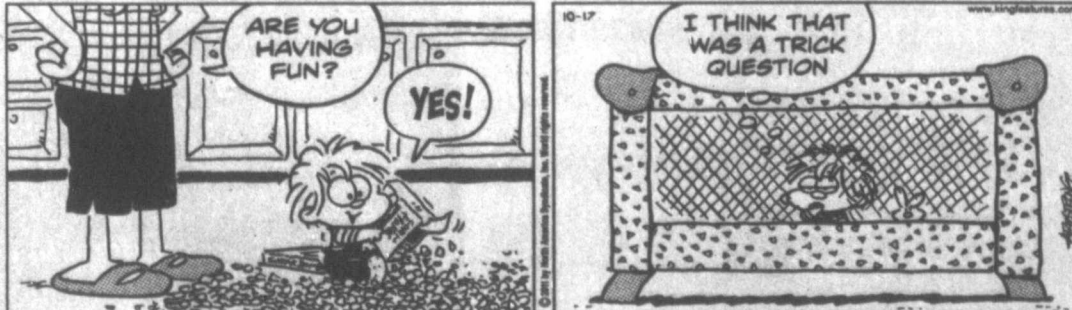
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



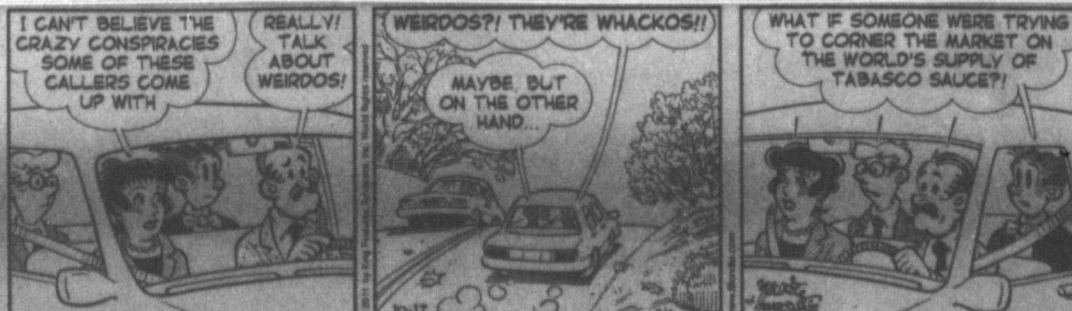
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts

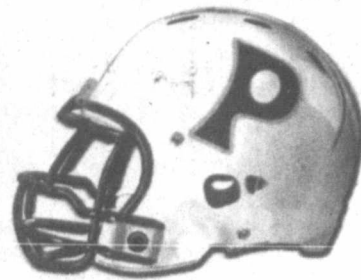
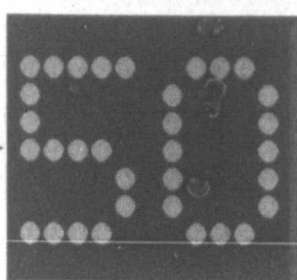
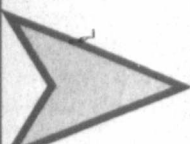
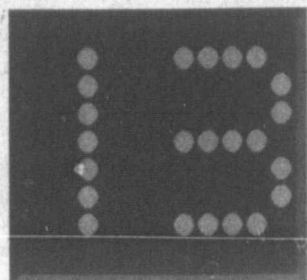


Blondie



Sports

BORGER
Alumni



PAMPA
Alumni

Pampa's 23-point second leads to rout of Borger

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The buzzer sounded to signal the end of the third quarter. The Pampa alumni team's sideline was holding up four fingers and enthusiastically chanting "fourth."

This moment showed the Harvesters seeing the culmination of their hard work that started in July as they were on their way to a 50-13 victory over the Borger Bulldogs' alumni Saturday at Bulldog Stadium.

"It means a lot because we put in the hard work with our ages, with our jobs taking a toll on us, our families taking a toll on us and whatever personal issues we have," linebacker David Robinson said. "Once we get on the football field, all that emotion we have fuels us. That's what we do, play football."

Quarterback Jason Roark said it was nice to see the team be rewarded for its work.

"It seemed like (the game) was never going to get here," Roark said. "Then it got here. It was fun and great to be out here. It feels like all the hard work paid off."

The Harvesters honored their late teammate, Luis Martinez with a memorial decal with his initials on their helmets. Martinez was killed in a car accident last year. Luis' brother, James Martinez, wore Luis' number 88, like he did in the team's game at Highland Park last August. James made the first tackle of the game.

James said it felt good to make that play adding he wish he could have done more.

"I told myself that I got to do it," James said. "I was hoping that I would get a fumble recovery and be able to take it for a touchdown. I was going to play my part and help the team how they needed me to."

Pampa made its first drive count, thanks to the running of Marques Long and Roark's passing. Long opened the drive with a 17-yard run. Roark followed with a 26-yard pass to Armando Tarango. On fourth and goal from the 10, Roark hooked up with Long for a touchdown.

Roark started the game, completing his first seven passes and throwing for two touchdowns in the first half. He said it was nice to have a good game on his rivals' field.

"It took a little longer than we expected," Roark said. "We had a good game. It was fun and exciting. It was fun to play here again."

Borger started the game looking lost on offense, even struggling to line up, which resulted in using two timeouts early. The

Bulldogs did pick it up towards the end of the first. Running back D.J. Dickson was able to burst through Pampa's line and got to the outside, picking up three first downs and 54 yards on four carries.

Jordain Johnson kicked a 35-yard field goal to cut Pampa's lead to 6-3. At the beginning of the second, the Bulldogs gained their only lead when Jared Hooper hit Maurice Cunningham for a 15-yard touchdown, making it 10-6.

Things got heated on the next possession. Roark completed a pass to Luis Salazar, whose facemask was grabbed by a Borger defender. Salazar shoved the defender, which led to a brawl between Borger's defense and Pampa's sideline. After it was broken up both sides were warned of ejections if that behavior repeated. Neither side was penalized, though.

Long said the brawl helped turn the momentum in Pampa's favor.

"The cooler heads prevailed," Long said. "Once we settled down and played our game, it started clicking and there was nothing they could do to stop it."

Robinson said it shows that the rivalry is still alive.

"It seems like it gets stronger every year," Robinson said. "Every time we play these guys, whether it's high school or alumni football, it grows and grows."

The Harvesters scored 23 unanswered points as Roark threw touchdown passes to Quinn Evans and Chris Calloway. Roark dove in from one-yard adding to Pampa's lead. Pampa's defense scored the final points of the quarter, taking down Johnson in the end zone. The Harvesters led 29-10 at the half.

In the second half, Borger made it a two-score game as Johnson hit a 34-yard field goal. That would be the last points the Bulldogs scored, though.

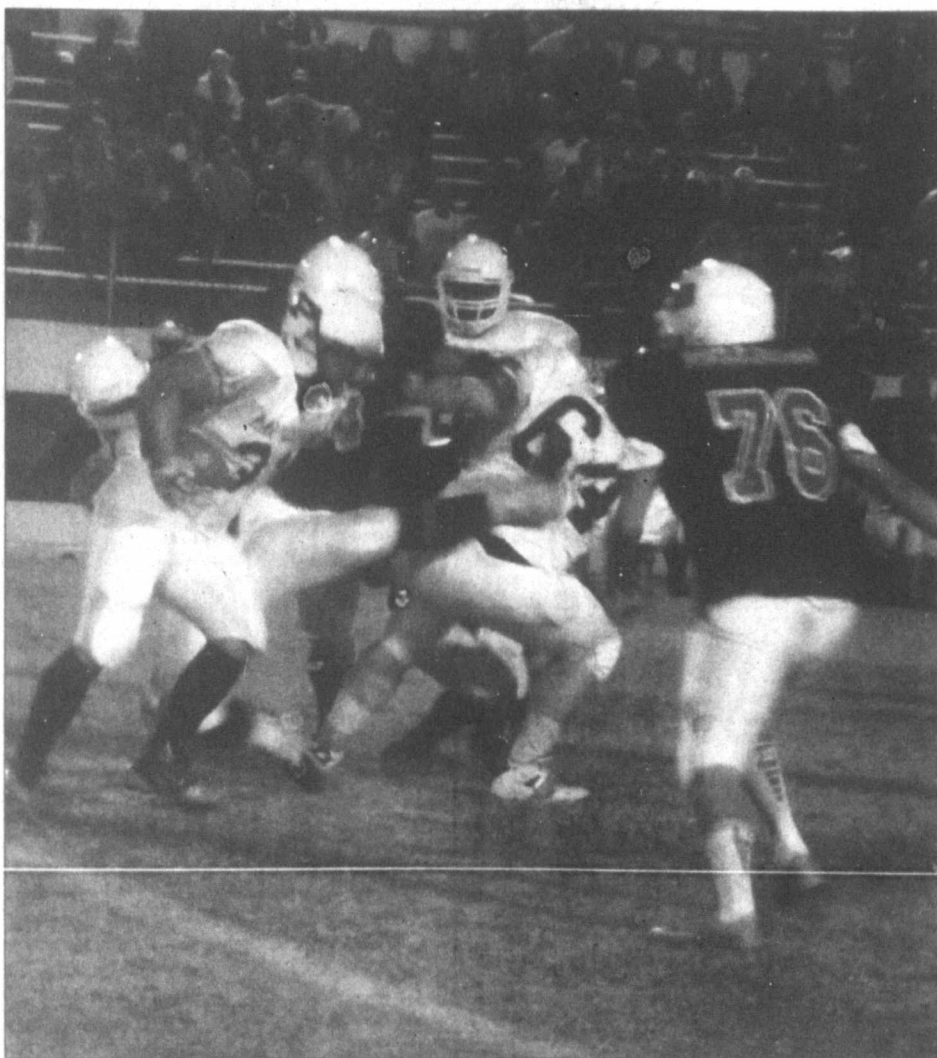
Dickson, who dominated on the first two possessions of the game, was held to just a yard on four carries.

Roark threw his fourth touchdown pass to Calloway, who caught his second. Pampa led 36-13 after the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, the Borger fans started to leave with their team well behind. Long said everyone played well.

"Our defense did great," Long said. "Obviously they didn't score much. They set the tone early and got them out of their rhythm. It helped us get going offensively."

Roark said he would play again next year if the guys want to return.

"I graduated with most of the guys," Roark said. "If we do it again, I'm always game. I have the best linemen in the world. I'm pretty excited about that."



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Marques Long tries to run between two Borger defenders Saturday. Long rushed for 134 yards and one touchdown in Pampa's 50-13 victory over Borger.



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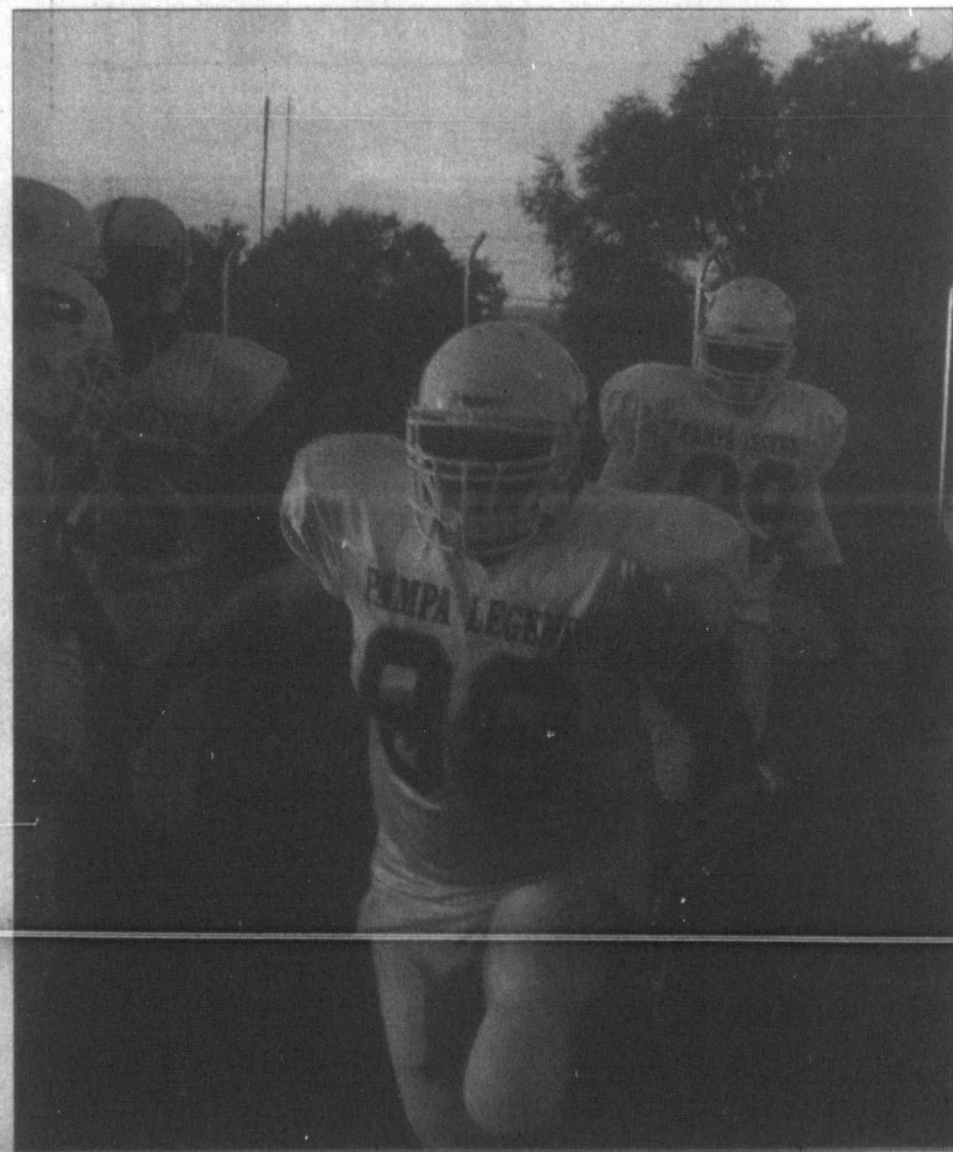
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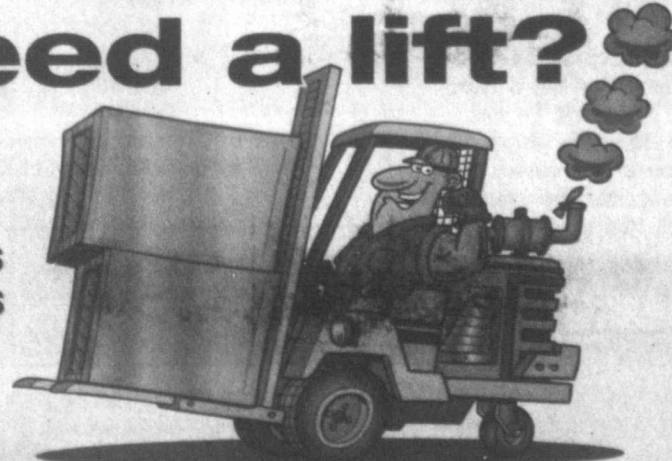


staff photo by Andrew Glover

James Martinez honors his late brother Luis, wearing Luis' number 88 Saturday. James made the opening tackle on the kickoff.

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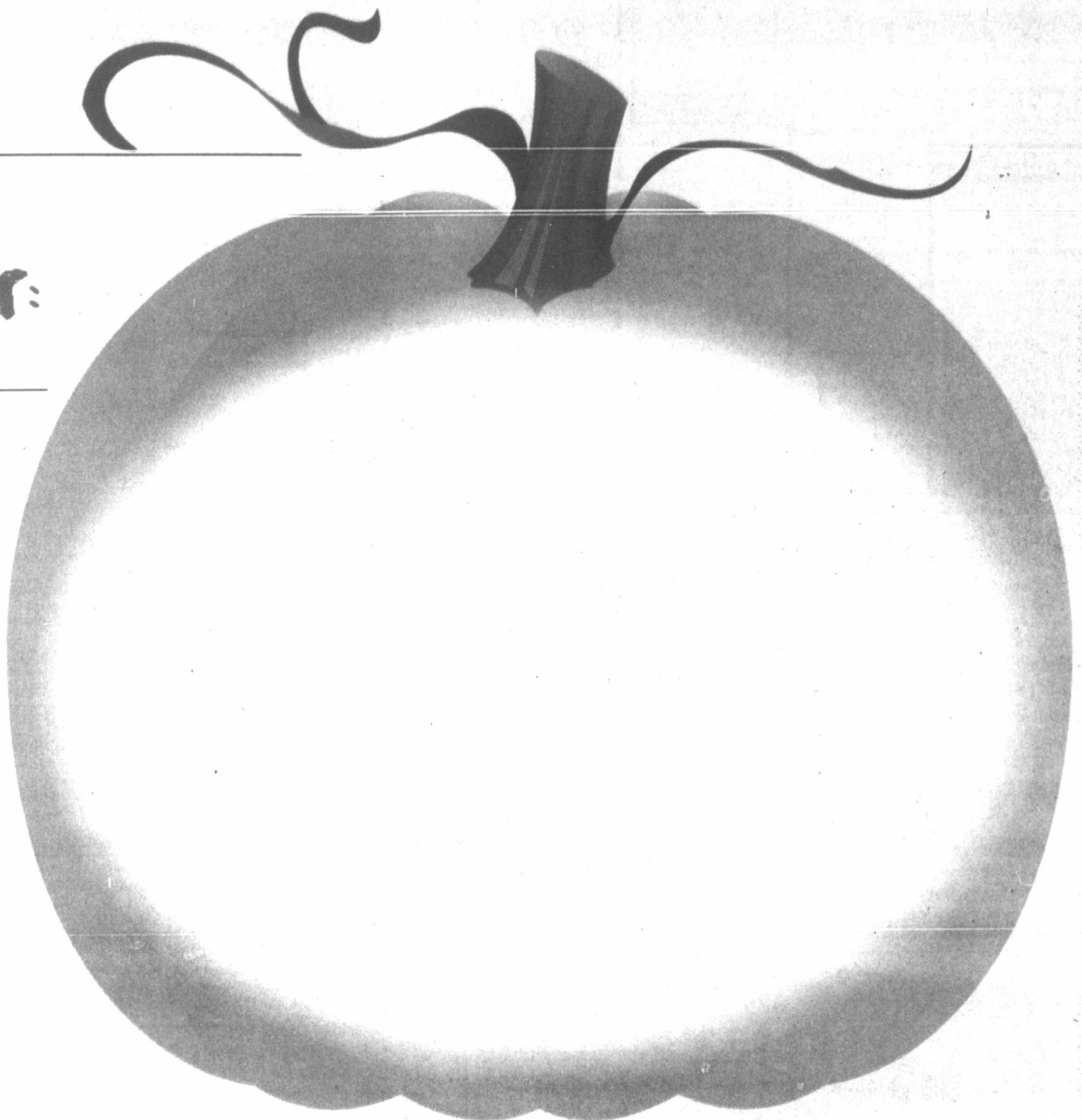
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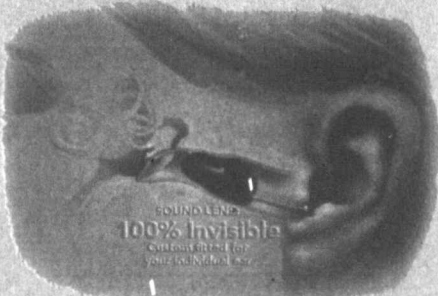
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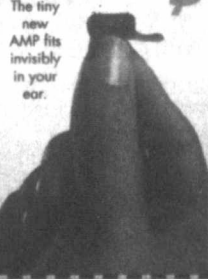
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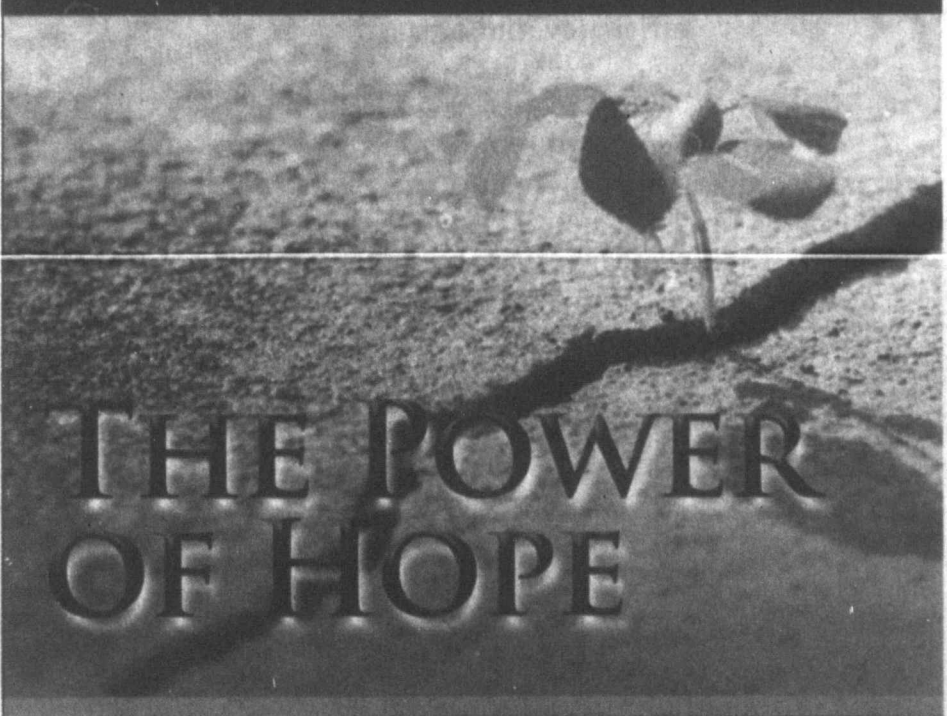
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LIGHTHOUSE COVENANT FELLOWSHIP PRESENTS...



THE POWER OF HOPE



With special guest speaker
Mark Shell

October 16-19
Sunday 10:30am & 6pm
Mon-Wed 7pm
1733 N. Banks, Pampa, TX

For more info call 806.669.6915

About Mark Shell Ministries: If the ministry was to be explained in a few simple words, it would have to be described as "mind changing". Mark believes very simply Jesus came to cleanse the world with His blood sacrifice so that whoever accepted that substitution as their salvation is now the residence of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit on a daily basis helps us renew our minds to think like Christ. In essence, as we change our minds we change our lives.