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County rejects Skinner lawsuit fees

Early voting in McLean set for Feb. 24, 25

BY DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com The Gray County Commission today directed 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer to work with the Texas District and County Attorneys Association in an effort to get funding for civil legal battles with defense attorneys for convicted killer

Henry Watkins "Hank" Skinner. Switzer had approached the county about the civil legal fees involving the convicted murder's case.

"We reject that at this time," Gray County Judge Richard Peet said.

He said the commission wants her to pursue it through the state's District County Attorneys Association to see if there is another vehicle through which those funds can be acquired.

"She's not being sued

personally," Peet said. "It's the office that's being

The judge said it's a complicated situation.

sued."

"His attorneys are suing the district attorney's office for the release of some additional pre-trial testing that was done," Peet said, "and they've already been denied by the Texas appellate court twice and by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals twice."

Judge Peet said the defense attorneys are now trying another angle.

'They're going back and suing the D.A.'s office," he said.

The question is who pays for that, the judge said.'

Skinner was convicted in 1995 of killing his live-in girl friend, Twila Busby, and her two sons, Elwin Caler and Randy Busby, on New Year's Eve, 1993.

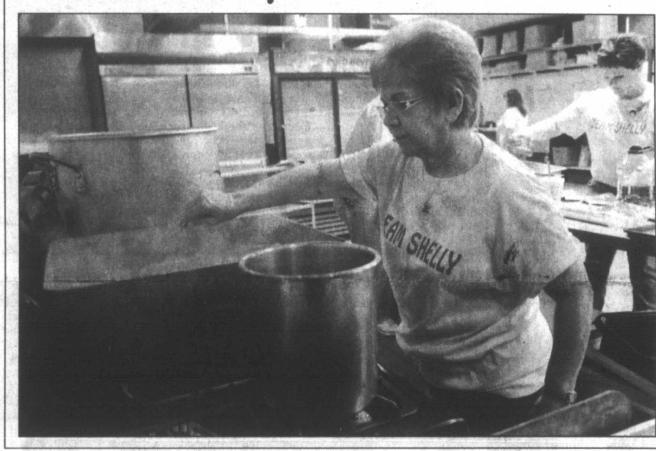
Judge Steve Emmert has set Skinner's execution date for Feb. 24.

A phone service proposal by NTS was tabled during the commission's meeting today until the county's current carrier could be contacted by Gray County Auditor Elaine Morris.

"We've asked the auditor to contact our current provider, AT&T, and see what kind of proposal they can make for us," Judge Peet said.

NTS proposed an upgrade of the county's phone system that would COUNTY cont. on page 3

Team Shelly



Della Hulsey stirs a pot of spaghetti for a lunch held today at the Knights of Columbus Hall to benefit her daughter Shelly McCarn of the Gray County Sheriff's Office. McCarn is undergoing treatment for cancer. Family, friends and coworkers are also holding a benefit dance for McCarn on Feb. 13, at the Lone Star which will feature live music and a silent auction. Tickets are available at the door or they can be purchased in advance at Pampa Municipal Credit Union, Above the Clouds, Regina's Shear Elegance and Pampa Office Supply.

staff photo by **David Bowser**

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Simmons vying for Precinct 4 commissioner Mark Simmons is a candidate for

Precinct 4 Gray County Commissioner. Simmons states that he is for conservative representation of the people. "We must maintain good moral conservative stewardship of our govern-

ment," Simmons said. He believes in a balanced budget with accountability promoting conservative fiscal policies conducive to economic growth.

Simmons is a lifelong resident of Gray county, living in McLean/ Allenreed. He grew up involved in farming and ranching, around the family business of raising horses and cattle. He and his wife, Becky have two daughters and live near Allenreed.

His father, Ted Simmons, served as a commissioner for 16 years.

Simmons has: · Served on the Gray County Airport Board for 12 years,

· Served as a councilman on the West Cost Construction and Contractor **Training Consortium** · Been a Senior Training Specialist,

Engineering Department for Flour · Been certified as a State Facilities

Safety Officer through the Texas

Attorney General's office He has been in the workforce for 35 years and said that has provided him with a broad base of experience in hard work, management communications, budgeting, organizing and implementing programs involving fed-



Mark Simmons

eral and state appropriations mandates which require solid alliances with state legislators.

Simmons stated he worked for five years for Gray County in Precinct 4's roads and bridges department, 18 years in the industry and technology field and 12 in the education field.

Simmons said county officials should stay informed on issues at the local, state and federal levels to ensure responsible resource development, less intrusive government and respect for equality.

Two arrested in stabbing incident

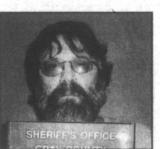
BY DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Two men were in jail today and one man was in the hospital following a stabbing incident on the East Side of Pampa Monday evening.

John Richard Stewart, 29, was in Pampa Regional Medical Center today with stab wounds to his arm and back after an argument turned to violence about 7 p.m. Monday at 12050 East Frederic, Gray County Deputy Joe B. Hoard said today.

Bernhard Ludwig Millhausen, 43, Splendora, Tex., and Jesse Donald Moore, 48, of ARREST cont. on page 3



Ludwig Bernhard Millhausen



Jesse Donald Moore

Candidate Forum Tonight

The Top O' Texas Republican Women will sponsor a candidate forum at 7 p.m. at the Knight's of Columbus Hall, 318 N. Cuyler. The public is encouraged to attend, hear candidate's platforms and ask questions.



Linda Laucock Larry Hadley Jordan Oneal

Annual Chamber Banquet

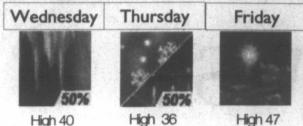
Citizen of the Year & Business of the Year Awards Featuring Bruce Chadwick February 25th at 7:00pm \$25 per person • RSVP to (806) 669-3241



For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Low 30



Low 30

Low 27

Tonight: Areas of freezing drizzle after 2 am. Areas of freezing fog after 2 am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Wednesday: A chance of freezing rain before 10 am, then a chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 40. Wind chill values between 16 and 26. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Wednesday Night: Rain likely before 10 pm, then snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 22 and 27. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Thursday: A chance of snow before 2 pm, then a chance of rain and snow. Cloudy, with a high near 36. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east southeast.

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Texas selling off part of Palo Duro Canyon ranch

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas will sell but still require conservation of part of a ranch acquired for Palo Duro Canyon State Park near Canyon.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on Tuesday announced the plan that will keep the for-sale property protected by a conservation easement.

The agency in September 2008, joined by the Trust For Public Land, announced the addition of the 2,912-acre Fortress Cliffs Ranch.

The original plan included selling upland portions of the ranch, which features about seven miles of cliffs, and use the proceeds to buy other state park land.

Public comment is sought for the planned sale of about 1,900 acres, located 15 miles southeast of Amarillo. The area shares seven miles of boundary with the more than 29,000-acre state park.



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Obituaries

Warren James Teichmann, 85

Warren Teichmann, 85 of Midland, went to be with Our Lord and Savior Sunday, January 31, 2010.

Warren was born April 23, 1924 to Samuel Jacob and Mabel Marie Teichmann in Fargo, North Dakota. Warren was raised and educated in Fargo and upon graduating from High School he enlisted in the Army Air Corp in 1942. He proudly served his country as a gunner on a B-24 in the South Pacific. He was honorably discharged in 1945 and returned to Fargo to attend North Dakota State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 1949. He furthered his education at Ohio State University and obtained his Masters degree in Geology. During this time Warren met the love of his life, Gloria May Wold, and married her on October 23, 1953.

In 1955, Warren went to work with Shell Oil Company in Billings, Montana and moved with

in Harrison, Ark.

the company to Midland in 1959. He stayed and worked with Shell Oil until 1971 when he ventured out on his own as an independent Geologist where he remained until his death.

Warren was a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church where he was a faithful member and sang in the church choir, was a charter member of the Midland/Odessa Symphony and Chorale, member of American Legion Post 19 where he served on the board and various other posts. He coached youth baseball at Eastern Little League for 15 years. He enjoyed playing golf, bowling and was an avid hunter. The family would like to extend a special Thank You to the members of Post 19 and St. Mark's United Methodist for their many years of friendship and support. He was preceded in death

in 1994 by his wife Gloria after 41 years of marriage, 3 sisters Wanda, June and Marian.

by his daughter, Janiece Teichmann of Midland, TX: two sons, Steven Teichmann of Midland, TX and David Teichmann and wife Shelly of Pampa, TX; six grandchildren, Jennifer, Crystal, Stevie, Weston, Hillary and Carlyn; ten great-grandchildren; brother Paul Teichmann of Fargo, ND and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at Ellis Funeral Home, Tuesday, February 2, 2010 between the hours of 6 and 7:30 7:30 p.m..

Funeral Services have been scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church with Reverend Gilbert Z. Bela officiating. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home, 801 Andrews Highway, Midland, Texas, 79701, (432) 683-5555. Condolences may be offered at www.ellisfunerals.com.

In lieu of flowers, memo-



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Teichmann

rials may be directed to the American Legion Post 19, 501 Veterans Airpark Lane, Midland, TX 79705 or St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1701 N. Main, Midland, TX 79701.

Ralph Otis Dehls, 86

of his life, Juanda Walden, Ralph Otis Dehls died Monday, January 25, in Dec. 8 1956, in Lubbock. Lubbock. He was born July He served in the United 15, 1933 to the late Clinton States Air Force until his and Ollie (Garrison) Dehls retirement in 1973. He was a member of the Highland Celebration of Life ser-Baptist Church, where he vices were held at 1:30 also taught adult men's p.m. Wednesday, January Sunday school classes for

> Ralph was preceded in death by a grandson, Roy

Those left to cherish

his memory are his wife, Juanda of Lubbock; children, Tommie Dehls and wife Lori of Round Rock, Linda Jones and husband Russell of Lubbock and Keith Dehls and wife Raynalda of Odessa; brothers, Marvin Dehls of Papa, Bobby Dehls of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Larry Dehls of Mt. Pleasant; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to vistaCare Hospice, 1717 Norfolk Ave, Suite A, Lubbock 79423 or American Cancer Society, 3411 73rd St., Lubbock 79423, or the carity of your choice.

Please join us in celebrating Ralph's life by visiting his memorialat www.mem.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

many years.

PAMPA PD

27 at Highland Baptist

Church. Interment with

military honors followed at

Resthaven Memorial Park.

Dehls married the love

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

Police officers reported two accidents and two traffic-related calls.

Animal control officers reported one animal-related call.

Pampa EMS reported four medical calls. Pampa police, Pampa firefighters and Lefors Volunteer Fire Department reported one medical each.

Monday, Feb. 1.

An alarm was reported in the 2300 block of North Chestnut Drive.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1300 block

of North Duncan. A theft was reported in the 100 block of North

Sumerville. A grass fire was report-

ed at FM 291 and County Road S.

A theft was reported in the 2800 block of North

Charles. Found property was reported to police.

Hazardous materials in the 11800 block of U.S. Highway 60 were reported to the fire department.

A vehicle fire in the 100 block of East Atchison was reported to the fire department.

Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of South Faulkner.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 300 block of North Perry.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Officer reported the following arrests in the past 24-hour period. Monday, Feb. 1.

Janna Linn Sims, 41, was arrested by deputies on a warrant charging her with fraudulent use or possession of identifying informantion.

Mary Elizabeth Lennington, 20,

Littlefield, was arrested by deputies on a warrant charging her with failure to appear and interfering with state mility forces.

Bernhard Ludwig Millhausen, 43, of Splendora, Tex., arrested by deputies on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Jesse Donald Moore, 48, of Hydro, Okla., was arrested by deputies on charges of evading arrest and resisting arrest.

Tuesday, Feb. 2. Christina Mullen Dills, 28, was arrested by deputies on a bond surrender on a forgery charge.

LAST MINUTE

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

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County

provide caller ID numbers for all phones and other services

"We do have this proposal, but we'd like to at least give the current provider an opportunity to give us some ideas," Peet said.

The commission gave John Mark Baggerman, Precinct 3 commissioner, permission to purchase a mowing tractor through the Buy Board.

"It's what was budgeted for that purpose," the judge

The Buy Board was created by the State of Texas that lists various vendors that have been approved by the state.

Companies approved by the Buy Board alleviate the need for counties and other governmental entities to go out for bids.

the state says we can do," Peet says. The commission set early voting hours in McLean for

"It eliminates a steps that

8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Feb. 24 and 25. "Those are the two early voting days in McLean," Peet said. Early voting

starts on Feb. 16. Peet said that the county commission's action doesn't mean that the voters in McLean can't come up to Pampa and vote early.

"We've just trying to provide two days for that community, which is over 30 miles away, an opportunity for people to vote early

there," Peet said. One of the major factors, he explained is that County Commissioner James Hefley, who represents McLean, is retiring and there are four people running to take his place on the county commission.

"It would be of genuine interest," Peet said, "so we're trying to assist the people of that area."

The commission also reviewed the state-required racial profile reports filed by the Gray County Sheriff's Office and Gray County Constables of Precincts 1 and 3.

The state requires that county law enforcement agencies provide the reports annually to the county commission.

"It's a breakdown of the people they have arrested and/or stopped," Judge Peet said.

The county commission also passed a resolution regarding Dig Tess.

"This is the organization that one calls before you start doing any digging," Peet said. "We're having kind of a problem because sometimes they're looking

cont. from page 1

at an incorrect map." The maps they have sometimes show highways or roads that Gray County

doesn't have.

"They have them," Peet said, "but they don't have the current labeling of them on their maps.'

When they come out, the judge said they couldn't find the right place.

"We're going to try to deal with that," he said. "I'm sure that's a problem that's common throughout the state."

In other business, the commission rescinded their choice of bidders on two vehicles for the sheriff's charged

While originally granted OVCT 2 to a local dealership, the county auditor feared that the state wouldn't accept the county's reasoning.

The local bid was \$8,700 more than a bid from a downstate dealership.

The commission awarded the bid Monday to Holiday Chevrolet in Whitesboro,

The vehicles are being bought with federal grant

Buying local could bring down the wrath of the federal government, according to the auditor.

Pulling sleds against the law

Arrest

Hydro, Okla., were in Gray

County jail today in lieu of

bond in connection with the

the Peace Kurt Curfman

set a \$10,000 bond this

morning for Millhausen

ed assault with a deadly

Gray County Justice of

Pampa— This time of year is a very fun time, playing in the snow, going down hills on snow sleds and spending well deserved time with family. I want to encourage this activity all throughout the year. I also want to encourage safe ways for families to be together without having a fun time turn into a parent's worst nightmare. During the past few days there have been reports of children's sleds being pulled by vehicles. I want to discourage anyone from doing this. Not only is it very DANGEROUS it is against the LAW. TC 551.102 (d) states "A person operating a bicycle, coaster, sled, or toy vehicle or using

roller skates may not attach either the person or the bicycle, coaster, sled, toy vehicle, or Roller skates to a streetcar or vehicle on a roadway" The last thing an Officer wants do is to see a child injured due to this type of accident. I ask the community to have fun with their families but please be safe in doing so. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thank you, Stormy McCullar, Crime Prevention

Pampa Police Department (806) 669-

cont. from page 1

weapon and a \$1,000 bond

on Moore on charges of

evading arrest and a \$2,000

bond on Moore on resisting

Hoard said the three men

apparently got into an argu-

ment Monday evening at

a house on East Frederic

where they all live.

arrest charges.

Pair killings

HENDERSON, Texas (AP) — Two men have been charged with capital murder over a double on charges of aggravatslaying in Rusk County in which the victims were shot and dumped along a road.

The Rusk County Sheriff's Office says 23-year-old Drake Dario Blanton and 24-year-old Jason Terel Hunt were jailed Tuesday on \$1 million bail apiece.

Sgt. Viki Penny told The Associated Press that she had no record of attorneys for the Rusk County men. Both were arrested over the

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

Are your property taxes too high?

Can you sell your house for appraised value?

Are you worried about having a job next year?

Will you have enough money to pay the bills?

• The citizens of Pampa elect the Gray County Commissioners!

Do you know your Gray County Commissioner's name?

 As a Pampa city resident do you know your Gray County precinct number? Has your Commissioner ever contacted you about your problems?

Do you know how much a Gray County Commissioner gets paid?

Do you know how many hours your Gray County Commissioner works per week?

Why is this important? The Gray County Judge sets the budget!

• The County Commissioners approve the budget and set the tax rate.

The 2009 unaudited Gray County budget revenues were approximately \$7.5 million dollars!

What percentage of the budget did the murder trial cost?

Who was consulted and who made the final decision to proceed with the murder trial?

'Gray County Judge Richard Peet told a Texas television station, ProNews 7, the trial for the McDonald County native has cost more than \$340,000, most of that in defense attorney fees." "Peet stressed the cost is not a determining factor in the case, as it is about justice for the families." By Staff Reports

"http://www.neoshodailynews.com" Neosho Daily News

Posted Jun 19, 2009 @ 01:14 PM

The defendant offered to plea to three life sentences without parole and no appeals. However, our District Attorney refused to take the plea offer. One must ask, "Was justice served?" As a Christian nation is the death penalty justice? The last capital murder trial in Pampa was in 1993 and the execution date is set for February 24, 2010. That is 17 years of taxpayer expenses. The murder trial represented a substantial percentage of the total Gray County budget, and the cost of that murder trial has resulted in a loss of services for all. I still do not know the final cost! Was it worth the cost?

· Why did Gray County not join the Indigent Defense Fund? This is like an insurance policy to help cover the costs of a murder trial in our county.) Were the Gray County Commissioners aware that this fund existed?

• The Commissioner's Court approved more expenditures than Gray County had revenues coming in! (If you doubt my words get a copy of the Gray County budget at the Gray County Courthouse.) We must live within our budgets!

• My property taxes increased 47% in 2008 to cover spending decisions! What next? Where are we going to come up with the money? • The time is NOW! Hold our elected officials accountable for their actions, and end the wasteful spending that continues to plague the current administration.

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

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

STEVE HALL FOR GRAY COUNTY JUDGE

Rod Porters

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Sports ly Harvesters escape Dumas, playoffs in reach

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters basketball team had a strong second quarter and is closer to clinching the last playoff spot in a 34-26 win over the Dumas Demonettes Monday at the McNeely Field House.

The game was originally supposed to be played Friday but had to be rescheduled due to weath-

Head Coach Gene Valentine said he felt his team played well defensively and limited the Demonettes' top shooters.

"The first time we played them their two shooters, (number) 12 had 16 and (number) 32 had 15 or so," Valentine said. "We knew if we could control the outside, we would be OK."

The first quarter started as a back and forth game. About halfway through the first Pampa started to pull

away some, closing the quarter on a 6-2 run to lead 12-7 after one.

In second quarter the Lady Harvesters (9-16, 4-5) continued where they left off in the first quarter. Pampa held Dumas scoreless until 43 seconds left in the quarter.

The Lady Harvesters outscored the Demonettes 9-2 to expand their lead to 21-9 after the first half. Taylor Eubank scored six of Pampa's nine points in the second.

Pampa mostly maintained their lead in the third quarter. The Demonettes (7-15, 0-10) didn't get closer than nine but outscored the Lady Harvesters 5-3 to cut Pampa's lead to

In the fourth quarter, the Demonettes started to rally, opening the quarter on a 10-4 run dropping the Lady Harvesters lead to 28-24. Andi Hutto scored

four of Pampa's next six points expanding the Lady Harvesters' lead to 34-24.

Eubank led the team in scoring with nine points. Shelbie Watson scored eight points, Hutto scored seven, Emilie Troxell and Kayla Hughes each scored four points and Kirsten Kuhn scored two points. The Lady Harvesters play Caprock (13-14, 3-7) tonight and Valentine said a win today puts them in the playoffs.

"Even if we both end up at 5-7 and we beat them a second time we would have the tiebreaker over them because we beat them twice," Valentine said. "Tonight is a big game, it's not a must win game but it's a big game, it could clinch it for us.'

Delaney Clendening, Lindsey Brown, Caitlin Sieck and Kailyn Troxell played with the varsity for the first time this season.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Shelbie Watson attempts a jumper against Dumas Monday at McNeely Field House. Pampa won 34-26 and could clinch a playoff spot with a win over Caprock tonight in

leading scorer with 25

points and led the team in

Collins scored 18 points

and had two rebounds.

Ericson scored eight

arvesters a heartbreaking defeat

BY ANDREW GLOVER

aglover@thepampanews.com The Pampa Harvesters led early and late leads slip away in a 75-70 overtime loss to the Dumas Demons Monday at the McNeely Field House.

Head Coach Dustin Miller said any game you lose is going to be a heartbreaker no matter what the situation is.

"We started off well," Miller said. "We got a 10-point lead. We let them hit a couple good wide

open threes right before halftime, gave them some confidence. We built it (lead) back up and even late in the fourth quarter we had a six point lead."

In the first quarter, Pampa took an early 5-0 lead with Latigo Collins hitting a

three and Alex Clendening made a two. The Demons scored the next six points to take a 6-5 lead. Pampa closed the quarter on an 11-5 run to lead 16-11 after the first.

In the second quarter, the Harvesters started strong and expanded their lead to nine, opening with a 6-2 run. Pampa led by as much as 11 but the Demons would finish the quarter strong. Dumas (3-18, 2-6) hit two three pointers in a 10-0 run cutting Pampa's lead to 28-27. Both teams played even in the third quarter. The largest lead for the Harvesters was three points as they led 31-28 and 34-31 at the beginning of the quarter. The Demons got a couple one point leads towards the end of the quarter. Dumas third to tie at 44.

In the fourth quarter, Pampa opened with a 10-4 run to take a 54-48 lead. Clendening and Travis Hagerman combined to score those 10 points. The Demons made a three and a two pointer to cut Pampa's lead to one. Clendening and Collins would bring Pampa's lead back to five. The Demons would go on a 6-1 run and score a twopointer with less than five seconds left to force over-

time. Hagerman started the overtime period with a two, to put Pampa ahead 61-59. Dumas would take the lead for good scoring the next four points to take a 63-61 lead. Garrett Ericson cut the lead to one but the Demons would go on a 8-0 run to expand their lead to 71-62. Clendening and Collins would make three pointers but it wouldn't be enough.

points with six rebounds. Hagerman scored eight points and had two rebounds. Reid Miller scored seven points and had two rebounds.

rebounds with nine.

With the loss, the Harvesters (9-14, 1-6) fall three games behind fourth place Hereford. Dustin Miller said his team will play with pride the rest of season and represent Pampa well.

"We talked about tonight that you represent your family and the name on your shirt," Miller said. "No matter what happens on the scoreboard we are going to go out and play as hard as we can play.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Shortly before my wedding, decided to have my teeth fixed. The dentist quot- take the plunge, consult ed me a price of \$4,000, which my husband and I could not afford since we were paying for our entire

wedding. My parents agreed to pay the dental bill as soon as it arrived. However, there is now a "stipulation." They are demanding the full list - including exact dollar amounts - of what EACH of our guests gave us for wedding gifts. If I refuse, my parents now say our previous verbal agreement is worthless, and my husband can cover my den-

Am I wrong for not wanting to give them the dollar amount or tell them what each guest gave at our wedding? They call me at work and insist I tell them because they "must" know if their family and friends "disrespected" them. I feel that whatever people gave us is whatever they could afford, and my husband and I are very happy with the gifts we received. NEWLYWED IN

NEWLYWED: Your parents are wrong to attempt to blackmail you into sharing the list with them. That information is none of their business. I hope you stand firm, call your dentist and work out a payment plan.

DARIEN, CONN.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 73-year-old man in reasonably good health who would like to own a dog. However, I have two concerns: A dog might outlive me, or I might outlive the dog - which would be traumatic for me. I'd appreciate your opin-ion. - THINKING OF ADOPTING IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR THINKING: It is well known that pets lower levels of stress and depression. Adopting a dog could give you a new leash" on life because responsible pet owners ust establi h a regular routine and exercise their.

animals. However, before you your doctor about whetheryou're healthy enough tohave one, and ask a veterinarian about the care it will require and whether you. should adopt an adult dog rather than a puppy. Then talk to your lawyer about ensuring that, in the event of your death, your faithfulcompanion will be caredfor until it joins you in the Great Puppy Park in the

DEAR ABBY: I am writing this as a mother of four and an operating room nurse for 30 years. Once again, I had to pull a crying mother from her child so I could take the child into the operating

I understand that a child having surgery is upsetting and stressful. My own children have had to have surgical procedures done, so I know the feeling. But if I can help parents understand one thing, it would be that the child looks to the parent for support. If the mother is crying and clinging at the bedside, the message the child receives is: If Mom is that upset, something bad must be about to happen to me.

No one is implying that you do not love your child or you are not worried about him or her, but it does no one any good if you have to be peeled off your child. Please send your little one off with kisses and encouraging words, and the child will be a little less frightened. - WISCONSIN R.N.

DEAR WISCONSIN R.N.: I'm printing your letter verbatim. As traumatic as sending a child into surgery can be for both parent and child, the words a child needs to hear are, "You'll be going to sleep, and when you wake up, Mommy will be right here. Plove you. Now give me a kiss." For the child's sake, venting for stress relief should be saved for the waiting room.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Travis Hagerman attempts

a shot over a Dumas Demon in the first half against Dumas Monday at McNeely Field House. The Harvesters lost 75-70 in overtime. Hagerman scored eight points and had two rebounds. Pampa visits Caprock tonight and

> Reminder: The Top O' Texas Republican Women will host a candidate forum tonight at 7 p.m. in the Knights of Columbus Hall on Cuyler. The public is encouraged to attend.

hosts Hereford Friday.

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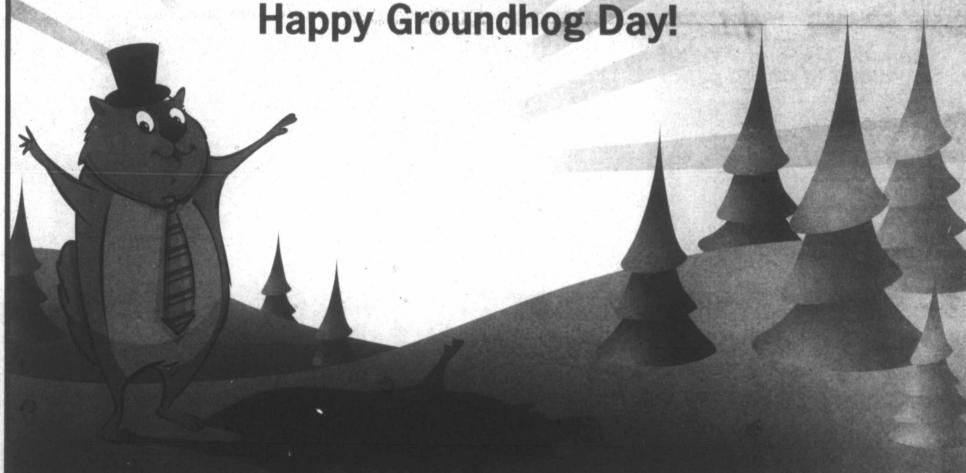
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MEMBER 2010



Traditionally, Groundhog Day is the day we humans look to a small animal for either a sign of a longer Winter, or a sign of the coming of Spring. Watch a groundhog's burrow today, and if he sees his shadow, spring is on its way. If it does not see its shadow, then we still have a few weeks of winter to endure.



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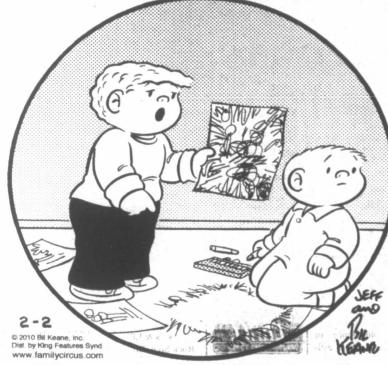
Marmaduke



"Let's keep him indoors. I don't want the neighbors seeing his ankle bracelet."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Mommy, some of PJ's drawing didn't fit on the paper."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

1 In the

clouds

2 Farming:

Prefix

journal

reminder

3 Online

4 Debt

5 Taste-

bud

setting

6 Runway

7 Bustle

8 Wallop

9 "Citizen

10 Team

18 Shoe

14 Used a

shovel

parts

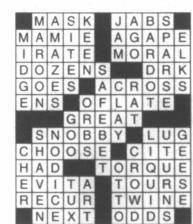
country

material

ACROSS DOWN

1	Custom
6	Chores

- 11 Snow
- house 12 Politico
- Stevenson
- 13 Hamburger makeup
- 15 Glutton
- 16 Candycounter
- buy 17 "Golly!"
- 18 Coffee additive
- 20 Typical soldier 23 Havana
- native
- 27 Revered
- one 28 Lasso
- 29 Lecturer's
- aid 31 Sent, in a
- way
- 32 Compete in a bee
- 34 Switch
- setting
- 37 tizzy
- 38 Floor
- cover
- 41 Buildup of
- opinion 44 Wake up
- 45 Reeves of
- "Speed"
- 46 Plumed bird
- 47 March honoree, for short



Yesterday's answer

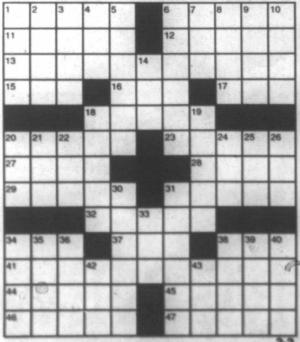
- 20 Martini base 21 Wedding
- words
- 22 Write
- hastily

- 24 Carton
- 26 Homer's neighbor
- 30 Small
- piano 19 From the 31 Whiskey holders
- 34 Shrek, for one 35 Marsh
 - hopper

33 Finish

- 36 Quartet's makeup 25 Big galoot 38 Harvest
 - **39** Arm bone
 - 40 Over-
 - supply 42 Purpose 43 Drenched

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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





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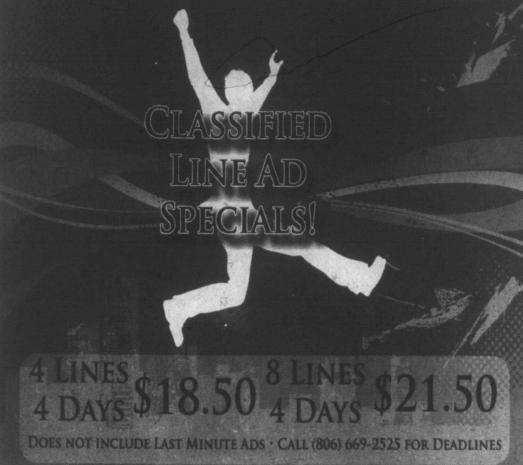
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Daily Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010:

You could become overwhelmed quickly by everything that is happening. Even if you don't understand what is occurring, you will be able to make progress. Your way or style makes friends and eliminates problems. Confusion or mixed messages can toss projects left and right. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Take your time getting to know a new suitor. You will have a tendency to choose someone who is emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from weekends spent together. LIBRA understands more than you realize

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 4-Positive; 5-Dynamic; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

BLE

**** Stay in tune with the positive. Know that you are not the only person who feels a bit awkward at times. How you handle someone could change radically because of a side that he or she manifests. Tonight: Be the audience and the listener TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

** Easy does it. You could be exhausted and dragging after a certain point. You have a lot of charm and a positive attitude, which carry you through a tense moment or two. Know what it is you seek. Tonight: Put your feet up. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** Give a problem a shot of your ingenuity and then see where everything lands. You could be taken aback by your alternatives, as strange as that might seem. How you deal with someone you care about could change radically.

Your Guide to

Tonight: Take a midweek break CANCER (June 21-July 22)

** Easy works better than you realize. Sometimes you get uptight imagining what-if scenarios. Toss them to the wayside, as they won't serve you. Realize your limits within your domestic circle. You might not be the only one who is uncomfortable. Tonight: Happy at **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** The Lion roars and wants no one and nothing to stop him. Listen to what someone shares within your immediate circle before leaping in. Remain optimistic in a conversation. Someone is most certainly getting your point. Tonight: Hang out with a friend. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Your discomfort with one issue easily could be coloring other issues, despite all efforts to stay clear. Listen to a close friend or associate. Not only does this person mean well, he or she has your best interests in mind. Tonight: Treat yourself to a not-too-expensive item you have desired

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Others might be a lot tougher than you anticipated. Yet there appears to be no problem in you having your way. Dominate and express your preference Think positively about an offer that could be surprising. Tonight: Only what you

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ How you see an evolving situation could change radically. If you understand what is happening, you might opt to do something differently. Give yourself time to sort through recent confusion. More conflicting facts are heading your way. Tonight: Get some extra R and R. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Your ability to zero in on problems comes through in a meeting. You might feel a bit strange about what comes up. Think in terms of growth. You could be worn out by everything that is happening. Certainly you are in a period of transformation. Tonight: Where the

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Others continue to look to you for decisions and insight. You feel pressure from a misunderstanding or a mixed message. You could be a bit uncomfortable until you understand that you need to release some of these issues. Tonight:

A must appearance AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Reach out for someone at a distance. Your ability to get past a problem energizes many. If you are confused about info you are hearing, say so and get more confirmation. You cannot have all the answers all the time. Tonight: Be adventuresome when making plans. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**** Work with someone directly without having any expectations. Realize what happens when you let go and don't feel the need to do anything a certain way. Investigate options with someone you trust. Tonight: Try dinner for two.

BORN TODAY

Actress Maura Tierney (1965), football player Fran Tarkenton (1940), author James Michener (1907)

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A.D. ZCHCJUBW Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THREE GROUPS SPEND OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY: CHILDREN, THIEVES, POLITICIANS. ALL THREE NEED SUPERVISION. — DICK ARMEY







The Winners of The Pampa News' Who's Who contest are:

1st Prize - \$100: Kristi Coble 2nd Prize - \$50: Rita Montealro 3rd Prize - \$25: Kandice Garrison









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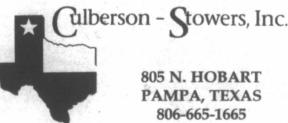








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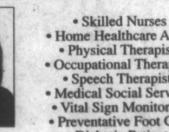


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