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TODAY IN SPORTS



Wednesday, December 19, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 203

75¢ Hope in the midst of tragedy
 \$1.50 weekend Fall of the house of labor | p4
 38¢ subscription

Pampa girls' basketball teams in action
 A local soccer team goes pink | p7

Pampa ISD to pick contractor Thursday

Board has recommended Wiley Hicks Construction of Amarillo for design, construction of new administrative offices.



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

NEW DISTRICT DIGS. The former Albertson's grocery store in the Coronado Center on North Hobart Street will be renovated to house Pampa ISD's administrative offices. The project is expected to cost between \$4 million and \$6 million.

By SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District on Thursday will select a contractor to plan, design and construct the district's new administrative facility at the site of the former Albertson's grocery store on North Hobart Street.

The Pampa ISD Facilities Committee on Dec. 12 interviewed three architectural firms for planning, design and engineering services for the district's administration building project: Lee Lewis Construction, of Lubbock; Western Builders, of Amarillo; and Wiley Hicks Construction, of Amarillo.

The school board has recommended Wiley Hicks Construction for project management services as

the proposal submitted by Wiley Hicks was considerably less than the other two proposals. The proposal totals are as follows: Wiley Hicks — \$316,400; Western Builders — \$331,441; Lee Lewis — \$398,000.

The following is a breakdown of the proposal submitted by Wiley Hicks: construction services fee — \$171,500; field and office staff — \$67,200; and general conditions — \$77,700.

According to district records, the estimated cost of renovating the property is between \$4 million and \$6 million. Construction is set to begin in May 2013 with completion targeted for November.

In other business at Thursday's meeting, the school board will consider a \$60,010 appropriation from the district's annual maintenance

budget for preventative maintenance of Pampa High School's track.

According to the proposal, the funding will cover: cleaning the running track and field events; repairing any areas of surface damage; protecting existing structures; applying two black polyurethane structure sprays to running track and field events; stripe the track; clean the site; and providing a 48-month warranty on new structure sprays.

The board will also consider the City of Pampa's tax sale of the following three properties: 720 E. Murphy; 1036 Varmon; and 611 Barnes.

The Pampa Independent School Board will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, in the Pampa High School Library, 111 E. Harvester Ave., Pampa.

Ranchers say plastic bags killing cattle



Photos by Sasha Heller

FIELDS OF PLASTIC. Billy Scribner, inset, said he has lost a half-dozen cattle that are suffocating when trying to chew through plastic bags discarded from a nearby shopping center that fly across the street onto his 250-acre ranch. City officials are aware of the issue, but are unsure how to prevent it. Below is an example of what Scribner claims the bags are doing to his cattle.

BY SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

Pampa rancher Billy Scribner is fed up with what he feels is blatant disregard by businesses adjacent to his property that allow their trashed, plastic bags to fly across the street and litter his ranch.

Scribner's 250-acre spread is a mere 1/4 mile from Walmart and about a half dozen other stores, hotels as well as the Pampa Regional Medical Center. But Scribner said he knows exactly who the culprit is.

In a past letter to the editor, Scribner wrote, "Ninety-nine per-

cent of these bags have blue writing on them."

Only one store in the area near his ranch uses plastic bags with blue writing on them — Walmart.

"I can't say it is for sure but I know it is," Scribner said about

the big-box retailer in an interview Friday.

The plastic bags hang on fences, weeds, trees and in ponds located on Scribner's ranch. The cattle chew and suck the plastic into their stomachs while drinking water. The cows are unable to digest the plastic causing fatal repercussions. Scribner values each heifer between \$7,000 and \$10,000 in today's market.

There are so many white plastic bags strewn across Scribner's property that it looks like he's growing cotton, which is ironic since he intended to plant cotton on that

PLASTIC cont. on page 3

News Analysis

What can be done with an active shooter?

By ZACHARY GREEN
 zgreen@thepampanews.com

Over the past year, there have been 13 mass shootings across the United States. Two of those have been among the deadliest in U.S. history. The movie theater shooting on July 20, in Aurora, Colo., killed 12 and injured 58.

Just last Friday, a shooter claimed the life of 26 people before turning the gun on himself at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. The injuries from the shooting at Sandy Elementary School are still being counted.

The question that needs to be discussed is not what can be done to prevent shootings like this from happening, but how people can be better prepared to react when there is an active shooter.

In many of the shootings, it surfaced later that the shooter suffered from a mental illness. A lot of the shootings also include military-style assault weapons. In 1994, Congress enacted a 10-year ban on assault weapons. The ban has since expired in 2004.

Do we need to implement stricter gun laws or simply provide help for those that are mentally unstable? Should we allow teachers to carry guns in the classrooms?

Armed in the classroom

Pampa resident Bart Barton said the government is ignoring the biggest issue.

"The teachers and employees need to be trained with and allowed to carry weapons in the schools," he said. "Gun control laws won't be worth anything if teachers are not allowed to carry weapons in the classrooms. More gun control laws will just provide another burden on law abiding citizens, but it

SHOOTER cont. on page 10

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 59 Low 18	High 44 Low 28	High 58 Low 28

Today: Partly cloudy and windy with a high of 59. No chance of rain. Winds west south west sustained at 25-40, with gusts over 50 mph. Sunrise at 7:49 a.m.

Tonight: Partly cloudy and windy with a low of 18. Ten percent chance of rain or snow. Winds sustained at 25 to 35 mph, with gusts over 50 mph. Sunset at 5:34 p.m.

Thursday: Sunny with a high of 44. No chance of rain. Winds west at 16 mph. Sunrise at 7:49 a.m.

Thursday night: Clear with a low of 28. No chance of rain. Winds southwest at 10 mph. Sunset at 5:35 p.m.

Friday: Sunny with a high of 58. No chance of rain. Winds southwest at 19 mph. Sunrise at 7:50 a.m.

Friday night: Clear with a low of 28. No chance of rain. Winds southwest at 11 mph. Sunset at 5:35 p.m.

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Obituaries

Randy Slavick

Randy Slavick, 76, passed away on Dec. 15, 2012 in Pampa. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012 at Fellowship Baptist Church at 622 E.



Randy Slavick

Francis in Pampa, with Joel Osborne, pastor, officiating. Private family memorial services were held earlier with the Rev. Barry Owens, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Cremation arrangements were under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Randy was born Oct. 20, 1936 in Englewood, Kan., where he graduated from high school, and attended the Methodist church. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America and was an all-star in basketball, track, baseball and football.

Randy married Donna Gayle Jones Lamar on Aug. 7, 1964 in Pampa. They spent 48 years as each other's help-mates. He retired with Kansas Irrigation Engine, Inc. after 25 years of service, and moved to Pampa at that time.

He is survived by: his wife, Donna Slavick of the home; three children, Rhonda Slavick, formerly of Scottsdale, Ariz., Debbie Douglas and Mark Lamar, both of Pampa; nine grandchildren, Kaysi Douglas-Folsom, Cody Douglas, Karli Douglas, Melanie Dunn, Mark Lamar, II, Jennifer Kent, and Dustin Smith; and nine great-grandchildren.

Randy was preceded in death by: his parents, Alfred F. "Fritz" Slavick and Beulah Mabel Slavick; and a great-granddaughter, Heaven Lynn Dunn.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to a favorite Christmas charity.

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

Twila Fisher

Twila Gunter Fisher, 79, died Dec. 17, 2012 in Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Pastor Paul Nachtigall of Highland Baptist Church, officiating.



Twila Fisher

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, 2012, at Los Creek Cemetery in Jacksboro, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Fisher was born Oct. 14, 1933 in Jacksboro where she graduated from Jacksboro High School. She married Ray Fisher on April 30, 1956 in Clayton, N.M. He preceded her in death in 2010. Twila had been a resident of Pampa since 1957.

She worked for Montgomery Ward for over 20 years as the stock control manager. She then obtained her real estate license and worked as a broker and owner of Twila Fisher Realty. She concluded her real estate career with Century 21 Realty. Twila was a member of First Baptist Church. She enjoyed her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include: two daughters, Cheryl McFall and husband Gary, and Teresa Kirby and husband Steve, all of Pampa; a son, Ray W. Fisher, Jr., of Columbus, Ohio; a sister, Mary Smith of Grand Prairie; a brother: Lloyd Gunter of Quinlin; three granddaughters, Jenifer Richards and Casey Thomas and husband Justin, all of Pampa, and Reagan Fisher of Columbus, Ohio; four grandsons, Anthony Albus and wife Amy of Kingsville, Trey Fisher of Columbus, Ohio, Marty McFall and family of Brownwood, and Chad McFall and family of La Vernia; four great-granddaughters, Paige Richards, Ashley Albus and Gatlyn Thomas, all of Pampa, and Cami Albus of Kingsville; two great-grandsons, Layne Richards and Gunter Thomas, both of Pampa; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Twila was preceded in death by: three sisters, Nona May, Jewell Boatman and Callie Roden; and two brothers, Bob Gunter and Dan Gunter.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, Texas 79066-0621.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 7:30 p.m. tonight at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home.

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

Maxine Parsley

Maxine Parsley, 84, died Monday, Dec. 17, 2012 in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Parsley was born Aug. 27, 1928 in Pampa and was a graduate of Pampa High School. She married R. L. Parsley on Aug. 19, 1947 in Pampa. Maxine had been a resident of White Deer since 1969. She was a long-time member of First Christian Church in Pampa and later became a member of White Deer United Methodist Church. Maxine was a member of the Pampa Optimist Club as well as the Pampa VFW Post No. 1657 Auxiliary. She was a wonderful artist and seamstress and was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Survivors include: her husband, R. L. Parsley of the home; a son, Kerry Parsley and wife Gail of Pampa; a daughter, Jody McClendon of Clarendon; three granddaughters, Darla Gaines and husband Heath and Rhonda Ceaser and husband Michael, all of Amarillo; and Tracy Mills and husband Thomas of Blanchard, Okla.; two grandsons, Jerry Parsley and wife Melissa of Garden Grove, Calif., and Dave Parsley and wife Lucy of Escondido, Calif.; and 12 great grandchildren.

Maxine was preceded in death by: her parents, Lester and Corinne Bell; a son, Richard David Parsley; and a son-in-law, Steve McClendon.

Memorials may be made to White Deer United Methodist Church, 800 S. Jordan, White Deer, TX 79097 or White Deer Senior Citizens Center, 315 S. Main, White Deer, TX 79097.

Sign the online register book at carmichael-whatley.com.

For the record

- 44-year-old Darren Lee Munn, Pampa, was arrested Monday by the Pampa Police Department for evading arrest or detention.
- 31-year-old Amanda Ruth Douglas, Pampa, was arrested Monday by the PPD on an arrest warrant for burglary of a habitation.

Fla. chief gives out onions

MARATHON, Fla. (AP) — A chief in the Florida Keys is giving drivers something to cry happily about during the holiday season. Monroe County Chief Lou Caputo doles out onions instead of traffic citations to motorists who violate the speed limit outside an elementary school in Marathon, Fla., by no more than 5 mph.

Dressed as the Christmas "Grinch," Caputo doled out about 10 of the tear-provoking vegetables to motorists on Monday afternoon.

He has donned the Grinch costume nearly every holiday season since seeing actor Jim Carrey in the 2000 movie of the same name. The radar-gun-wielding "Grinch" is on hand to provide a light-hearted reminder to drivers to slow down. Drivers have the option of an onion or a ticket. Nine times out of 10 they accept the vegetable.

Man sentenced in puppy's drowning

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio man has been sentenced to nine months behind bars for the 2010 drowning of a stray puppy that defecated in his backpack.

A judge in San Antonio on Monday sentenced Elton Aguillard to state jail time.

Aguillard in November pleaded guilty to cruelty to animals.

The pup's legs and muzzle were bound when it was found dead in an over-

flowing bathtub. The San Antonio Express-News reports Aguillard found the dog along a street, put the animal in his backpack and sneaked the creature into his apartment.

Pets weren't allowed. Aguillard says he planned to bathe the dog, which relieved itself in his backpack, but briefly left to take his father to an appointment.

A maintenance worker checking on flooding found the overflowing tub and the puppy.

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Community Calendar

Meredith House presents live music

Meredith House, an assisted-living facility at 812 W. 25th Ave., has a band performing at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday night. Join them for Western music, gospel and the classics. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

Jam sessions every Friday night

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center has a jam sessions every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to play or listen. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler St. For more information, call 806-664-0824.

Calvary Baptist Advent, Candlelight service

Calvary Baptist Church's annual Advent and Candlelight Service is this Wednesday night, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Calvary Baptist Church is located at 900 E. 23rd Street. There will be a nursery for children through age 3.

Christmas carols at the Meredith House

There will be Christmas caroling at the Meredith House from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 21, at 812 W. 25th Ave., Pampa. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

Gift wrapping fundraiser at PRMC

Pampa High School's AP English students will host a gift-wrapping fundraiser from 8

a.m. to 8 p.m., Dec. 22, at the Pampa Regional Medical Center. Funds raised at the event will go toward the students' planned trip to London, England. Residents who wish to have their presents wrapped in a specific type of wrapping paper are asked to bring that kind of paper.

Mass schedule for St. Vincent

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 810 W. 23rd St., has scheduled Masses for Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, both holiday days of obligation.

Christmas Masses are Vigil Mass, 5:30 p.m., Dec. 24; Midnight Mass, Dec. 24; Christmas day English Mass, 10 a.m., Dec. 25; and Christmas day Spanish Mass, noon, Dec. 25.

Vigil Masses for Solemnity of Mary is 5:30 p.m., Dec. 31, followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until midnight. Masses on Jan. 1 are at 10 a.m. (English) and noon (Spanish).

For more information, call 806-665-8933.

Editor's note: Email submissions to thowsare@thepampapnews.com. Submissions should be 100 words or less and written in the third person. Please include the title of the event, the date and time, physical address, the admission cost or whether it is a free event and a contact number and/or email address for the public.

Plastic

Continued From Page 1

particular field but is now unable.

"I was going to plant cotton to rejuvenate the soil," he said. "Now I can't even do it."

Fellow Pampa rancher Durwood Dunlap also commented on the situation.

"A lot of it comes from the trash trucks," Dunlap said, referring to the City of Pampa's waste removal service.

Rancher Lewis Davis shared his thoughts on the subject as well.

"I've seen cattle that would be grazing along and they'll pick these bags up and swallow it before you can get there," Davis said.

Step in, step up

Scribner claimed he has taken his complaint before to the Pampa City Commission but his issue fell on deaf ears.

"I went before our City Commission a few years back and nothing was ever

done about it," Scribner wrote in his letter to the editor.

Public Works Director Donny Hooper said the city is aware of the situation.

"I understand the littering problem but the litter can be complicated," he said. "You have to figure out what the source is."

Hooper continued about the challenge of identifying specific people who are littering in the parking lot.

"Unless you really see the origin of where it came from, you can't go after them," Hooper said. "There's really not a lot that we can do."

Hooper cited how the area's consistently strong winds have contributed to the situation.

While Hooper is receptive to Scribner's issue, representatives with Walmart have not been as forthcoming as officials refused to comment for this story.

So how does Scribner expect local government to remedy the situation?

"The City Commission needs to vote out or abandon

the use of plastic bags and go back to paper bags because they are biodegradable and can be digested by animals," he wrote in his letter.

The city's code includes a section covering the accumulation of trash but it is fairly vague and general in its description. The section reads:

"The accumulation of waste, refuse, trash and other deleterious substance on the premises of private residents, commercial institutions and in streets and alleys constitutes a public menace and nuisance and greatly increases the danger of the spread of infectious, contagious and epidemic diseases. It is imperative and urgent for the preservation of health, safety, sanitation, peace and public welfare that proper and adequate regulations be adopted to require property owners, tenants, occupants or lessees to secure containers and receptacles of sufficient size and material in which to deposit garbage and trash for collection and removal at regular intervals."

Any violation of a city code is subject to at least a \$500 fine. The city's code places the responsibility of enforcement with the Public Works Director.

Besides city or county governments getting involved, Dunlap said it comes down to residents being more careful about how their trash is being discarded.

"A lot of it is people just being more aware of dumping trash," he said.

Davis echoed Dunlap's sentiments.

"I just think that people should be more considerate," Davis said. "I just think people and businesses should be a lot more conscientious about what they're doing."

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Texas presidential electors cast votes

AUSTIN — Texas presidential electors met Monday to cast their Electoral College votes for the 2012 election of president and vice president of the United States. All of Texas' 38 electoral votes were cast for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan.

"Monday's meeting fulfills Texas' role in the Electoral College process and officially brings the 2012 election to a close," said Texas Secretary of State John T. Steen Jr. "I want to thank the nearly 8 million voters who made their mark on Texas by participating in this year's

November General Election and the thousands of election workers who work hard all year long to conduct elections that are fair, accessible and secure for our great state."

The set of elector candidates that is elected is the one that corresponds to the candidates for president and vice-president receiving the most votes, in accordance with Texas Election Code. Political parties choose their respective sets of electors in accordance with state law and each party's rules.

Electoral votes are allocated to states based on the most recent census. Only California has more electoral votes, at 55, than

Texas.

For more information on the Electoral College, please visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/index.html.

For more information on the Texas Secretary of State's Office, please visit www.sos.state.tx.us.

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Kids—if you have entered a picture in the Elf on the Shelf Coloring Contest and/or the Where's Willy Contest—we will be drawing for the winners tomorrow night between 7pm-8pm. THE CHILD MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Viewpoints

The PAMPA NEWS

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To hell with charity

(Post-publishing note: My wife, Gena, and I join the rest of the nation in mourning with and praying for the families and



CHUCK NORRIS

friends of the 20 children and six adults who lost their lives at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. We are so incredibly sorry for your loss, and want you to know it is for you and in honor of the precious souls of your loved ones that we continue to fight for a more peaceful, safe and charitable America.)

There are two weeks remaining for Washington to take action before the George W. Bush tax cuts expire and \$1.2 trillion in spending cuts are triggered. And President Obama is in his normal duck-'n'-blame mode: "If Congress fails to act before the end of the year, middle class families' taxes will skyrocket \$2,000." What the White House is telling you is how it wants to raise taxes on high-income earners to raise revenue to run Washington. What the White House isn't telling you is how it's going to slash charitable tax deductions, which, in turn, will trickle down to cripple charities, the middle class and even the poor.

Part of Obama's prescription to raise \$600 billion in new revenue is to overhaul the tax code by closing loopholes and capping deductions, including tax deductions for charitable giving. The latter would add \$239 billion between 2013 and 2017 to federal revenue, according to the White House budget. Reducing tax deductions for charitable giving was set in motion the very month Obama took office. Way back in February 2009, then-Director of the Office of Management and Budget Peter Orszag told exactly how the taxes would be used: "The money raised from the limits on itemized deductions would be used as part of the historic \$634 billion reserve fund

to fund health care reform."

Orszag confessed: "Some nonprofits have argued that the administration's plan to limit the amount that high-income families (those with income of more than a quarter million dollars a year) can deduct from their taxes for charitable contributions will hurt these organizations — and do so at a time when these organizations' resources are stretched because of the recession we inherited."

And just two weeks ago, on Dec. 4, Obama himself conceded, "If you eliminated charitable deductions, that means every hospital and university and not-for-profit agency across the country would suddenly find themselves on the verge of collapse." In order to get his way, Obama is overgeneralizing and twisting some Republicans' opinions to use scare tactics and bully charities into accepting his higher tax plan for the wealthy. The president is saying that charities will face total charitable deduction elimination under the Republicans' budget plans, unlike his plan to merely "reduce" them.

The truth is: Despite that both major political parties are being lobbied extensively by charitable organizations not to limit these deductions, some Republicans in Washington are in fact caving in to this fiscal strategy and folly. Many Republicans have offered to increase tax revenue by eliminating some deductions and loopholes. But fewer are serious about capping the total that taxpayers could write off for any reason, including charitable gifts, as a way to raise revenue without increasing tax rates, according to the Orlando Sentinel.

(Next week, in Part 2, I will reveal exactly why scholars and tax experts are saying Obama's reductions of charitable tax deductions will adversely affect the middle class and the poor, too.)

Follow Chuck Norris through his official social media sites, on Twitter @chucknorris and Facebook's "Official Chuck Norris Page."

Letter to the Editor

Pastor: Hope in the midst of tragedy

News of the school shooting this past Friday sent shock waves through our nation. Any other day, the goings-on of a small school in Connecticut would seem far removed from our lives here in Pampa. But this hit close to home.

Sandy Hook Elementary could be any school across America. In a day in which parents are hesitant to let children run free and play outside, this senseless shooting made us question whether our children are safe anywhere.

The Aurora movie theater shooting this past July had already jolted our sense of security, but this ... this was pure evil.

Twenty innocent children and six brave educators were gunned down by a madman. For many, reading and watching the stories of these victims may be too much to take in. Some may even feel a little guilty for continuing on with Christmas festivities in light of this week's tragedy.

My eyes continue to tear up at the thought of these innocent lives lost, and my heart will be heavy for each family on Christmas morning as they face their first Christmas without their beloved child. How do we



Blossom Matthews

go on with life as usual when so many are in mourning?

Our church, like many others with liturgical traditions, lights a candle in our Advent Wreath for each week of the season of Advent. We then light the central Christ Candle on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This past Sunday was the third Sunday of Advent, meaning that the third candle — the candle of Joy — would be lit. One might wonder how we could light the candle of Joy in the midst of our national grief. And yet we did light the candle of Joy, and the reason is this: our joy as Christians is not based on our present circumstances, but on our hope in Jesus Christ.

As the darkness presses in, we may be tempted to withdraw from it and hide our eyes from the cruel realities of our world, but true Christianity shines more brightly at such times. We read in John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." As

we light the candle of joy within our own hearts this Christmas, let it not be a dim flame fanned only by our present feelings and circumstances, but let it be a roaring fire of joy that is deeper than any joy offered by this temporal world.

Our joy this season is not in neatly wrapped presents or in festive holiday parties, but in the babe who was born in Bethlehem. Our joy is in the Savior who took on human flesh, who knows our sorrows, and who walked a dark and lonely road for our sake.

This holy season, we pray for those who mourn, trusting that Jesus will comfort them with his love. But even more, we hold high the light of Jesus, the hope of the world, for all to see.

May our words and actions bear the light of Jesus Christ in a way that pushes back the darkness inch by inch. For Jesus said, "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness." (John 12:46) May the light and hope of Christmas be yours.

Blossom Matthews is pastor of First United Methodist Church in Pampa.



How To Write Us

The Pampa News welcomes letters to the editor. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and signatures.

We reserve the right to edit letters or not to publish certain letters.

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The fall of the house of labor

In 1958, Senate Minority Leader William Knowland, his eye on the 1960 GOP nomination coveted by fellow Californian Richard Nixon, went



PATRICK BUCHANAN

home and declared for governor. Knowland's plan: Ride to victory on the back of Proposition 13, the initiative to make right-to-work the law in the Golden Land. Prop. 13 was rejected 2 to 1. Knowland's career was over, and the Republicans were decimated nationally for backing right-to-work.

Badly burned, the party for years ran away from the issue.

This history makes what happened in Michigan, cradle of the United Auto Workers, astonishing. A GOP legislature passed and Gov. Rick Snyder signed a right-to-work law as libertarian as any in Red State America.

The closed shop, where a worker must belong to the union before being hired, is dead. The union shop, where an individual must join the union once hired, is dead. The agency shop, where a worker cannot be made to join a union but can be required

to pay dues if the union is the agent negotiating the contract for all workers, is dead.

Michigan just legislated the open shop.

And behind the blue-collar bellicosity in Lansing is this new reality. Non-union workers can now "free ride" on union contracts. This is close to a non-survivable wound for labor.

Workers who do not belong to unions will cease paying dues, and union members will begin quietly to quit and pocket their dues money.

Why pay dues if you don't have to? Why contribute a dime to a union PAC if you don't have to, or don't like labor's candidates?

Michigan workers are not going to suffer. They have simply been given the freedom to join or not join a union, to pay or not pay dues. And while wages in right-to-work states such as Virginia, Tennessee, Texas and Florida are slightly below those of other states, employment in right-to-work states is higher.

For these are the states where domestic and foreign investors look to site new plants. The BMW assembly plant is in Greenville-Spartanburg, S.C., the Mercedes plant in Tuscaloosa, Ala., the Volkswagen and Nissan plants in Tennessee. As

Gov. Rick Perry boasts, Texas has been the biggest job creator in the Obama recession.

But union power is going to be circumscribed as non-union workers elect to free-ride and union members start resigning. And just as Michigan saw Indiana creating jobs after passing right-to-work, other states may observe Michigan and go forth and do likewise.

There are now 24 right-to-work states. But while these laws arrested the rise of the house of labor, there was an inevitability to its fall. Who are the collective killers? Like the murder on the Orient Express, just about everyone on the train.

First came automation. A third of U.S. workers were unionized in the 1950s. But with new technologies, we discovered we did not need so many men to dig coal, make steel or print newspapers. We did not need firemen riding in the cabs of diesel locomotives.

A second blow came with the postwar rise of Germany and Japan. Their plants and equipment were all newer than ours. Their wages were far lower, as they did not carry the burden of defending the Free World. Under our defense umbrella, they began to invade and capture our markets.

And Uncle Sam let them

do it.

A third blow to Big Labor, concentrated in the Frost Belt, came from the Sun Belt. With air conditioning making summers tolerable, the South offered less expensive and more reliable labor than a North where union demands were constant and strikes common.

The corporate establishment and political establishment shook hands, the deed was done, and the fate of U.S. industrial unions sealed. So came NAFTA, GATT, the World Trade Organization, MFN for China, free trade with all.

But the mortal blow to American unions came from globalization.

And with globalization came trade deficits unlike any the world had ever seen, a loss of one-third of U.S. manufacturing jobs in the last decade, a U.S. dependence on foreign-made goods almost as great as in colonial days, the enrichment of our corporate and financial elites beyond the dreams of avarice, and the decline and fall of the house of labor.

Unions are dying because, in America, economic patriotism is dead.

To find out more about Patrick Buchanan and read features by other columnists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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Pampa Faith

Spying out presents before Christmas

It was December 1959 and about two weeks before Christmas. Dad was working evenings, the shift that started at 3 p.m. and got off about 11 p.m. This particular evening my mom was going to be playing bridge with some friends; leaving about 7 p.m. and not expected home until after 10:30 p.m. That meant that I would be completely alone in the house throughout the whole evening. If ever there was a time to try to sneak a peek for Christmas presents, this was the night.



MIKE SUBLETT

I first checked in the most obvious place, the attic. The ladder and crawl whole was in the garage. I took a flashlight, climbed the ladder attached to the wall, shined the light around the attic and struck out. There wasn't anything but the old dust covered boxes that were always there. Bummer.

Since our house by today's standards was tiny, there weren't an abundance of hiding places. I figured that they couldn't be in my room, besides I had already checked every square inch, especially the storage area above my closet. In a small two-bedroom house that only left one place: MOM AND DAD'S BEDROOM.

Now I didn't grow-up in these modern times where children think they can go anywhere and get into anything with no fear of repercussion. I grew up in a time when mom and dad's bedroom was like the sacred ground around the burning bush. God didn't live in that bedroom, but it was just as scary to even think about entering. However, that night all of my fear prompters were either playing cards or at work.

I looked under the bed, only to find nothing. I rummaged around in the closet, but came up empty. That left the storage area above their closet. I went into the kitchen and brought one of the chairs to stand on for a look see. I still remember opening the storage compartment doors and finding Santa's stash. The only present I remember perfectly was my Mattel Fanner 50 Shootin' Shell Cap Gun with the derringier belt buckle on the leather holster that actually shot a bullet when you pooched your stomach out. The shells actually had two parts that shot the bullet part for real. I was oooing and ahhhhing; my mouth was probably even watering.

That's when an eerie chill blew across me. Ever had one of those times

when you can "feel" someone looking at you? Since the storage doors were blocking my view to the bedroom doorway, I had to bend down and look under the door. There were two feet there and I recognized the shoes. Mom was standing in the doorway. One of the ladies didn't show up to play, so they cancelled the bridge night and one of the other ladies brought my mom home. Mom was so angry that she was afraid that if she spanked me she might hurt me, so she was going to let dad handle it when he got home. I knew she must have really been livid because mom never waited on spankings.

Mom then tugged me by my shirt into the living room and ordered me to sit down and wait.

It was about 9:30 p.m. if I remember correctly. Dad wasn't going to be home until about 11:30 p.m. That two hours was an eternity. I guess you know that my mom reminded me over and over again how bad it was going to be when dad got home. I didn't have to use my imagination because I got in trouble pretty often and was well acquainted with my dad's cowboy belt. (To this day I can still hear that belt zipping through his belt loops on his pants.) Finally the executioner's hour arrived and I heard a car pull into the driveway. The car door opened and closed and then our front door opened. Dad was home.

Dad asked what was going on and why I was up and mom unloaded. She recounted the events of the evening and then said, "And I was so angry that I knew I shouldn't spank him, so I decided he could wait until you got home and you could handle it." I braced for what was about to happen. My dad's swats were never less than 10 and were always a very memorable learning experience.

Dad paused for a moment and then exclaimed, "Well, if he already looked at all his presents, let's get them out and play." Dad and I headed for the bedroom to get all of my presents.

As we left the living room I glanced over at mom. I'm not sure I ever remember seeing mom that mad EVER! For once dad was on my side and we had overcome my "mean old mom."

And believe it or not, I never, ever, ever even thought about spying out my Christmas presents ever again. God bless and Merry Christmas. Mike

Mike Sublett is a pastor at Hi-Land Christian Church, 1615 N. Banks St., Pampa, Texas 79065. Email him at pawdad@nts-online.net.

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

Candlelight service

Calvary Baptist Church's annual Advent and Candlelight Service is tonight at 6:30 pm.

The one hour service will include lots of Christmas music and drama.

The service will conclude with a candle lighting ceremony by everyone in attendance. Solos and Christmas carol singing will be included.

Candles and candle lighting have al-

ways been popular during the Christmas season because God, the Father, sent His son, Jesus, as a light to the world.

Just as light will spread through the Calvary Baptist Church sanctuary as the candles are lit, the light of Jesus Christ is spread by Christians into the world.

Calvary Baptist Church is located at 900 E. 23rd St. There will be a nursery for children through age 3.

For more information call 665-0842.

Mayan calendar vs. God's calendar

If you believe the Mayans, time is running out! The Mayan calendar predicts the world will end on Dec. 21. Shouldn't we all be panicked right now? No, don't worry, it's not the Mayan calendar we should be concerned about. It's God's calendar that matters.



CHRIS ELY

If the Mayans are right, we won't be around anyway. If they're wrong, it's just one more miscalculation in a manmade prediction.

Remember Harold Camping who predicted the world would end last year — on Oct. 21? He spent \$140,000 to put up billboards across the country, warning people to "Save The Date." He said Jesus would return May 21, 2011, and that the world would end five months later on Oct. 21. But he was wrong. Camping previously claimed the world would end in September 1994. He was wrong then, too.

The prophets in the Bible never set dates for the end of the world. Actually,

the Bible says the world will never end. It will be remade by holy fire.

In 2 Peter 3:12-13, it says, "As you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming, that day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth."

There is strong biblical warning against setting dates. When talking about the time of His return to earth while He was still here in the flesh, Jesus said, "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24:36).

Jesus gave this warning to all people, urging them to be spiritually prepared for His sudden return. "Therefore keep watch because you do not know the day or the hour." (Matt. 25:13).

Christ's coming for believers in the rapture is imminent. It can happen at any moment.

No calendar — Mayan or otherwise — can predict that glorious event. Jesus IS coming soon!

Pampa Church Directory

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500 E. Kingsmill Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-7830
- Briarwood Full Gospel Church**
1800 W. Harvester Avenue
Pampa TX 79065
665-7201
- Calvary Assembly of God Church**
1030 Love Street
Pampa TX 79065
669-7207
- Calvary Baptist**
900 E. 23rd Street
Pampa TX 79065
665-0842
- Carpenter's Church**
639 S. Barnes
Pampa TX 79065
669-2720
- Central Baptist Church**
513 E. Francis
Pampa TX 79065
665-1631
- Church of Christ**
1342 Mary Ellen
Pampa TX 79065
665-0031
- Church of Christ Somerville**
500 N. Somerville
Pampa TX 79065
665-0004
- Church of God**
Gwendolen & Sumner
Pampa TX 79065
669-6372
- Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints**
411 East 29th Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-2967
- Church of the Nazarene**
500 N. West
Pampa TX 79065
669-3144
- Community Christian School**
409 N. Frost
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665-3393
- Cornerstone Baptist Church**
2410 W. 23rd Ave.
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- Faith Tabernacle UPC**
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665-2747
- Fellowship Baptist Church**
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665-2545
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665-1031
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669-7411
- Gateway of Grace Ministries**
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- Harvest Bible Church**
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669-3212
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- Highland Baptist Church**
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- Iglesia Bautista Emanuel**
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- Iglesia Casa Del Alfarero**
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665-5898
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669-3330
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New Life Church
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665-8331
- Jehovah's Witnesses**
1701 Coffee
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665-2572
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665-4926
- New Hope Baptist Church**
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- New Hope Missionary Baptist Church**
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665-4044
- New Life Assembly of God**
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665-0804
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665-8347
- Redeemer Pampa**
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669-2923
- Salvation Army**
701 S. Cuyler
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665-7233
- Seventh Day Adventist Church**
421 N. Ward
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665-4929
- Southside Church of Christ**
11927 McCullough
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665-2183
- St. Paul United Methodist Church**
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665-8951
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665-6743
- St. Matthews Episcopal Church**
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665-0701
- St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**
810 W. 23rd Ave.
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665-8933
- Straight-Up Fellowship**
400 N. Wells
Pampa TX 79065
664-0096
- Trinity Fellowship Church**
2225 N. Hobart
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665-3255
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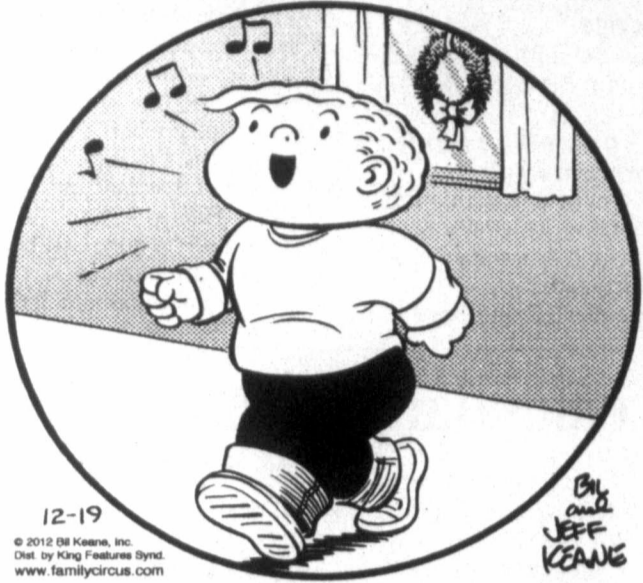
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

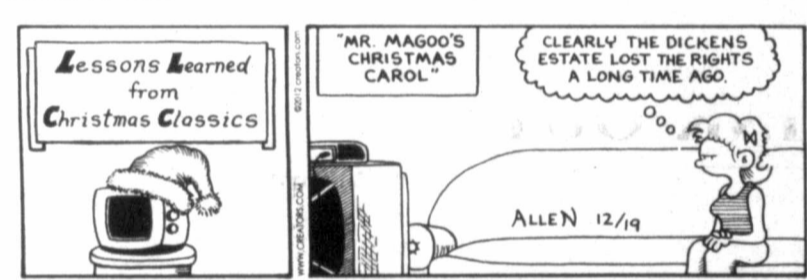


"It's beginning to smell a lot like Christmas ..."

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012:

This year you will be much more assertive than you have been. As a result, you will break past patterns that have held you back in the past. You will be prone to do the unexpected. According to others, you are following a different drummer. If you are single, you will meet quite a few potential suitors. Be true to yourself. You will continue to date until you meet the right person. If you are attached, be gentle with your sweetie. This person is adjusting to the changing you. ARIES has a fiery temper!

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ The unexpected runs rampant right now. If you stop and think about it, you are the trigger. Express your caring without getting involved in a power play. Others will try to manipulate you, but you can walk right through their ploys. Tonight: A call could affect your plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You could be taken aback by everything that is happening around you. It might be difficult to define what you want to do. Make it OK to do nothing. Trust that you will see the path and that timing will be on your side. Go off and do something you want to do. Tonight: Keep a secret.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Make plans to bring friends together before you exit the scene for a family holiday gathering. You will be, or probably already are, in the mood to start enjoying the eggnog and presents and comering your sweetie under the mistletoe. Tonight: Wrap those presents.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Others follow your lead, but they could be wondering what is up. You might want to vanish and not be found. Indulge those around you a little, but continue on your path. Tune in to your inner voice and center yourself. You will know what to do. Tonight: In the lime-light.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Keep reaching out to others, especially the people you rarely call but often think of. A friend's confession could stun you. Let your feelings show — there is no reason to hold back. Be willing to ask for more of what you want.

Tonight: Go along with someone's plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You might want to eliminate a problem and move forward. The other party can be unreasonable and often does the unexpected. A child or a loved one decides that now is the time for rebellion. The smart move is to ignore this behavior. Tonight: A chat over coffee and dessert.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Others want what they want, so try not to stand in the way of their long-desired dreams. Avoid protesting any opposition you might have, as their energy is far higher than yours. You simply are not as attached to this matter. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Everyone seems to be pursuing their interests, or they're already slacking off. You have a lot that you would like to accomplish before relaxing and getting into the holiday mood. Smart moving, as you will be able to let go and appreciate the moment sooner. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You can't be restrained or held back. You are like a wild horse that is tied up. Your creativity surges in this mindset; however, not all of your ideas are good or positive. Hold yourself back. Tap into an innate sense of self-discipline. Tonight: You can have the best of both worlds.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You might be uptight about a domestic or personal matter. Accept what is, and choose not to push to have your way. Your pushing is part of what keeps the situation from finding resolution. You want change, so change your behavior. Tonight: Head home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You could have a lot to say. Maybe the smart move is to hold back and be more observant. You have been questioning where an acquaintance is coming from. Your answer will be transparent once you detach from the situation. Tonight: Have some eggnog with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Run out the door if you must for some last-minute holiday items or gifts. You might feel as if you want to indulge a loved one more. You don't need to drop all of those gifts on this person immediately. After all, you do not want to make this person feel uncomfortable. Tonight: Out late.

Tundra



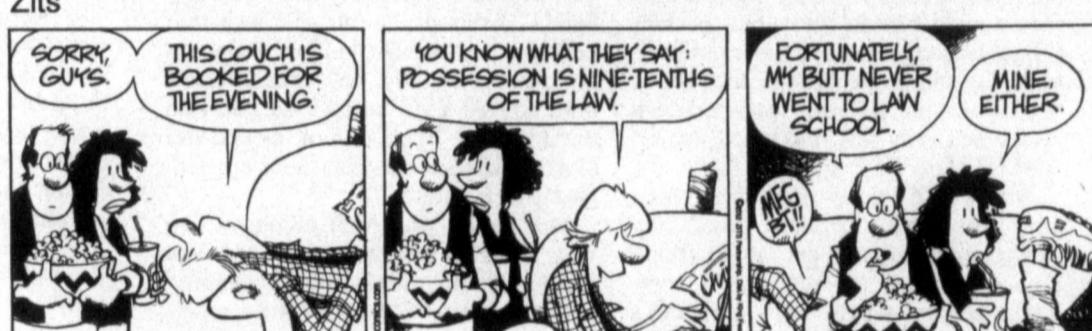
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



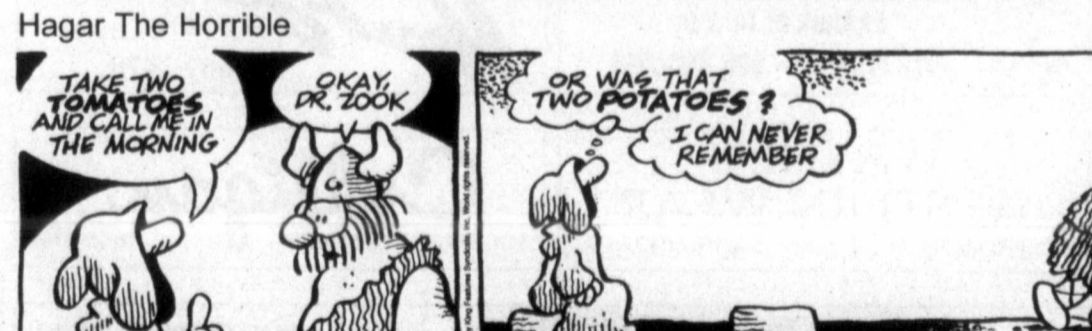
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



PampaSports

JV Lady Harvesters win in OT

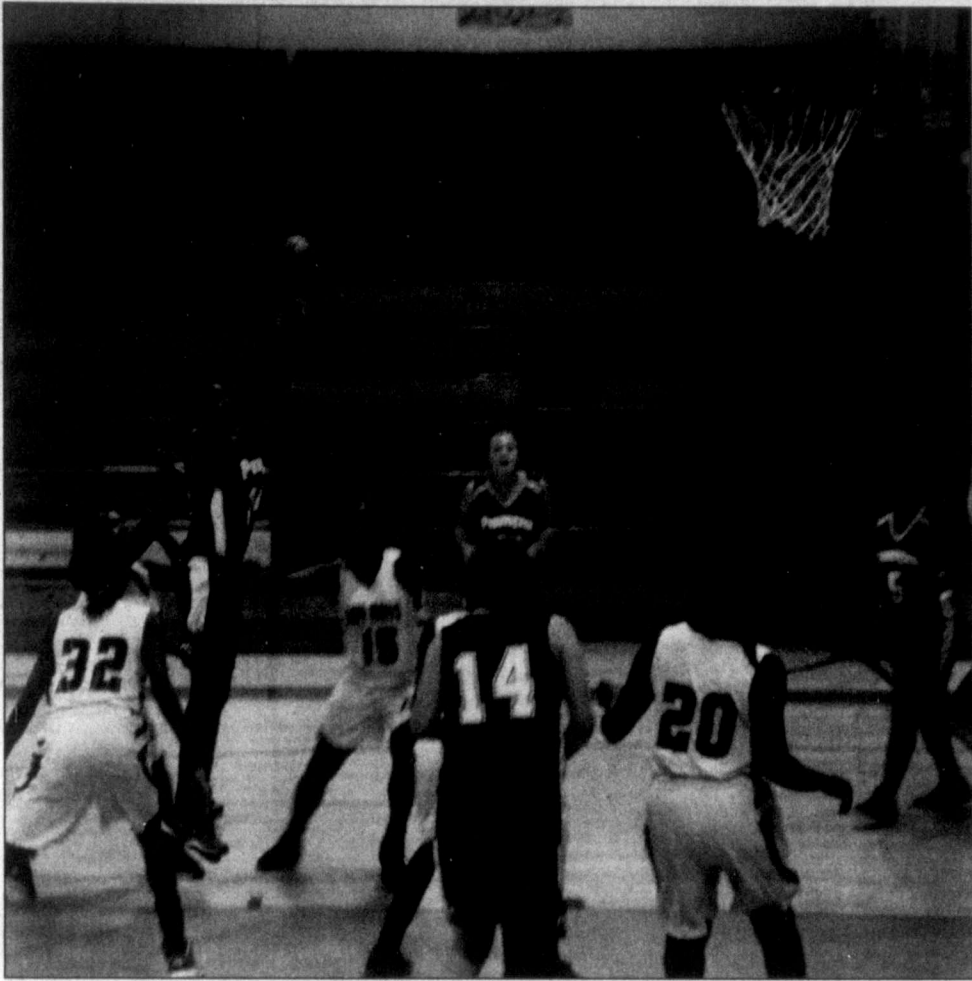


Photo by Sheila Niccum

Tia Brown attempts a jump shot against Estacado's JV girls team on Friday night. Pampa won the game in overtime 41-39.

By ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

Pampa's JV Lady Harvesters traveled to Lubbock on Friday to face the Estacado JV.

The Lady Harvesters forced overtime and won 41-39.

Keshia Daniels scored 12 points to lead Pampa. Raven Neal added 10 points. Reata Collins scored 8 points. Tyranda Johnson added 5 points. Caragan Niccum

scored 4 points and McKinli Thomas added 2 points.

"We played extremely hard. We had some circumstances that we had to overcome to win in overtime, so I was very proud of the way we fought back to win a tough game," said Pampa Coach Braydon Barker.

With the win, Pampa's JV Lady Harvesters move to 6-4 on the season.

They will be back in action Jan. 4 against Perryton.

Lady Harvesters fall to Caprock

Caprock Tournament up next.

By ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

The Pampa varsity Lady Harvesters traveled to Amarillo to face Caprock on Monday night.

Pampa started out slow trailing 13-5 after the first quarter. The sluggish start continued into the second quarter with the score at the half, Caprock 31 Pampa

14. Pampa had a nice third quarter scoring 13 points, but unfortunately Caprock scored 15 points, which made the score after three quarters, 46-27. The fourth quarter was also sluggish for Pampa and the Lady Harvesters fell to the Lady Longhorns 61-32.

Madison Brown and Taylor Morgan each had 8 points to lead Pampa. Hayley Burnett and Taylor Eubank scored 5 points. Allison Ceyanes added 4 points. Casey Sark finished with 2 points.

With the loss, the Lady Harvesters fall to 5-10 on the season.

Pampa 9th girls split pair over weekend

Lost Friday to Estacado; Won Monday vs. Caprock

By ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

Pampa's freshman girls team traveled to Lubbock to face Estacado Friday. After the first quarter the game remained close at 13-12.

At halftime, Pampa trailed 21-16.

At the end of the third quarter Pampa trailed 31-24.

The Lady Harvesters made a comeback and were down 34-32 with a chance for a last shot. However, the attempt by Pampa at the buzzer to tie the game and send it into overtime fell short.

"The girls played a pretty good game but fell short by 2 points. We had a shot at the buzzer to

take it to over time, but it was in and out," said Pampa Coach Alan Segura.

"Estacado had a girl that was probably 6 foot 3 and we just couldn't get to her."

"She just towered over us and got a ton of rebounds and second chance points."

Megan Brock led Pampa with 13 points. Cameron Schaub added 7 points. Kassie Jerome scored 6 points. Angel Brumfield, McKenzie Dull and Kathlyn Cummins all added 2 points.

The Pampa freshman girls also traveled to Amarillo on Monday to face Caprock.

The game was tight early on, with the score tied up at 8-8 after the first quarter.

Pampa took a 5 point lead into the locker room, 15-10.

After three quarters, Pampa still led with the score 28-22.

The Lady Longhorns would come back and tie the game at 31 to force overtime.

In the overtime period, Pampa outscored Caprock 6-2 and won the game 37-33.

"We had a couple of starters get into foul trouble and it made the game a little more interesting than it should have been. Again the girls fought hard and gave 100 percent," added Segura.

Brock led Pampa with 12 points. Cummins added 8 points. Jerome scored 6 points. Kristen Duree added 4 points. Sarah Dennis scored 3 points.

Schaub and Dull added 2 points each.

After those games, the Pampa freshman girls record moves to 7-7 on the season.

They will be back in action after the Christmas holiday break on Jan. 4 against Perryton.

SOCCER TEAM PINK OUT

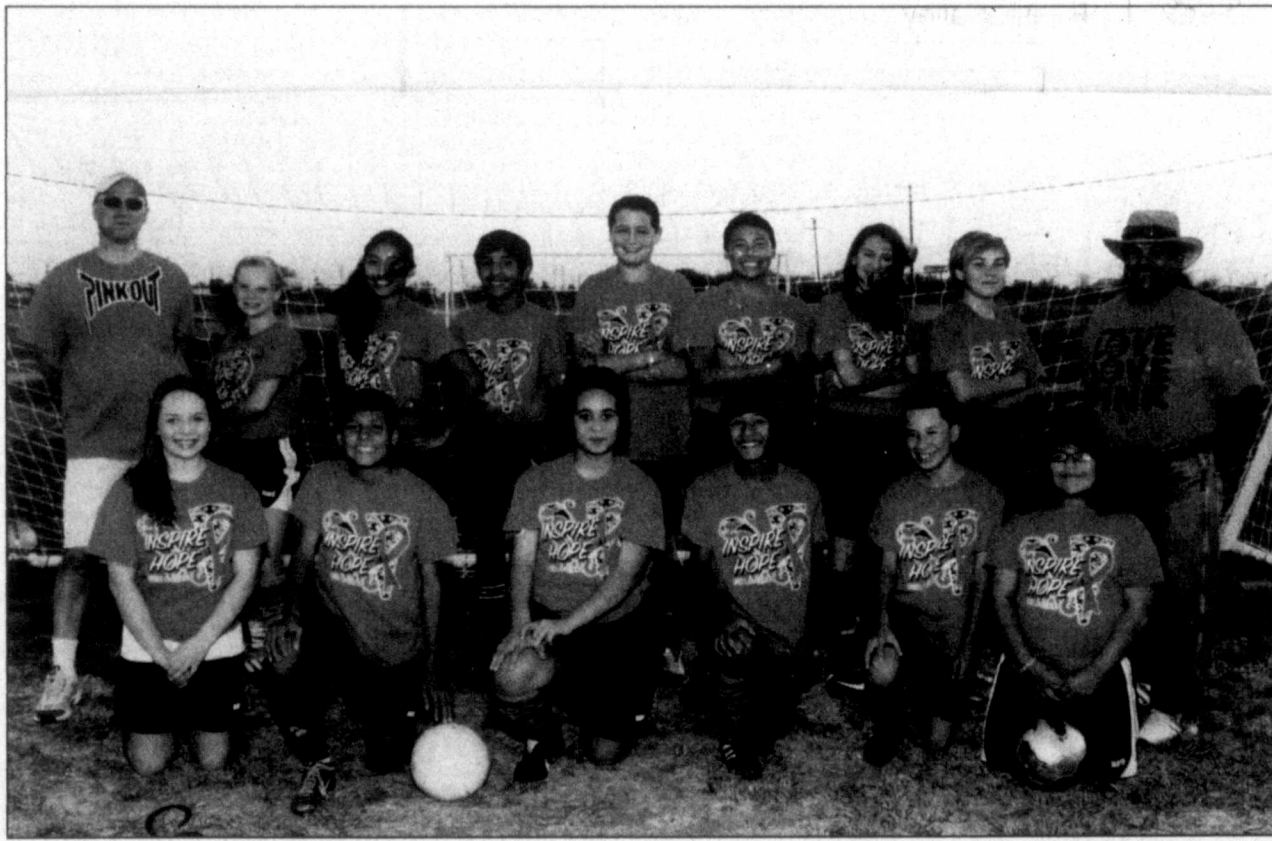


Photo courtesy of Shutterbug Photography

Top, from left, Coach Mr. Gncolski, Brianna Picket, Jasmin Gonzalez, Elisha Palma, Dustin Winborne, Justino Castillo, Adam Gncolski and Coach Martin Avila. Bottom, from left, Candice Courter, Moses Avila, Nicki Johnson, Luis Gonzales, Gabriel Hernandez and Jeremiah Avila. Not pictured are Alexis Vasquez, Saira Cera and Kevin Acosta.

SUBMITTED

It all started with Martin Avila's eagerness to coach. He loves soccer and signed up to coach a team. He played soccer himself in his younger years in New Mexico. He loves kids and has nine of his own, ranging from 3 to 10 years old.

The team Avila got to coach was so full of energy. They were ready to play and become undefeated for the first part of the season. They are the No. 1 team in the league right now as they prepare for indoor soccer.

They decided to wear pink when their color was meant to be blue. The purpose of changing from blue to pink was for a good cause to support the American Cancer Society.

The team name they choose was Pink Out. They want everyone to know that they have you in their prayers, especially one of Lamar's teachers, Rachel Navarrete.

They all know it takes courage and bravery to go through a situation like cancer. Every time this team plays in their pink out they are thinking of everyone dealing with cancer in various ways. They also play harder for those. They love you all and God Bless all of you.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT
Caprock Engineering, Inc., P.O. Box 941, Pampa, TX 79066 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas.
The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Brown Dolomite & Granite Wash Formations, Betty (06701) Lease, Well Number 2W. The proposed injection well is located 9 mile South of Kingsmill, Tx, in the Panhandle Gray County Field, in Gray County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2894 to 3345 feet.
LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792).
D-34 Dec. 19, 2012

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Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Wild ones
1 "Waterloo" 45 Keenness group
5 Defandant in a 1925 trial
11 Iron, for one
12 Tropical fruit
13 Occasion
14 Frittata
15 Masseur's place
16 "Fargo" director
17 Safari sighting
19 Wager
22 Audibly
24 Pasta topper
26 Come down in buckets
27 Harp's cousin
28 With 30-Across, annual visitor
30 See 28-Across
31 Last part
32 Preside over
34 Edinburgh native
35 Make a choice
38 Musical shows
41 Make sound
42 Set straight
43 Mile or meter

DOWN
1 Play parts
2 Radar dot
3 Loaf
4 Tad's dad
5 Stirring aid
6 Carved gems
7 Start the bidding
8 Chum
9 Pupil's place
10 Was inactive
16 E — (Spanish hero)
18 Damaged
19 Be generous at the bar
20 Stocking shade
21 Golfer's supply
22 Basilica part
23 Bank offering
25 " — want for Christmas ..."
29 Stress
30 Purr producer
33 Party VIPs
34 Takes to court
36 Prudish one
37 Head, to Henri
38 Hold up
39 Before, in poetry
40 Through
41 Pool need

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
15				16					
17		18				19	20	21	
22	23				24	25			
26							27		
28				29		30			
31				32	33				
34							35	36	37
38	39	40					41		
42							43		
44							45		

12-19

BANANAGRAMS!

There is one letter that when added to all of the five-letter words below can be used to form new six-letter words. Find the letter that works for all four words, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

ROVER FLUME
TALLY SHIED

COMMON LETTER

Yesterday's Answer: STANZA, HEIFER, PAUPER 12-19

Dear Abby...
By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 31-year-old, never-married mother of two. Last summer I started having an affair with "Jordan," the father of my first child. He left me when our daughter was a year old and has been engaged for three years in an on-again, off-again relationship. I could give you excuses about why the affair started up again, but the truth is we both knew it was wrong and continued to do it anyway. I never stopped loving him and I thought it would bring him back to me.

Today I found out from Jordan's fiancée that they have set their wedding date for next spring. She said they would like for me to come. As if it wouldn't be painful enough to go to the wedding, his fiancée has also asked me to do her hair for the occasion. (I'm a hairstylist.)

Abby, Jordan and I are still having an affair. I want to tell her, but I don't want him to hate me. I believe this wedding is a big mistake for many reasons, not just the obvious. Please give me some outside advice. — CAN'T HELP MYSELF IN OHIO

DEAR CAN'T HELP YOURSELF: OK, the first thing to do is wake up, smell the coffee and accept that resuming the sexual relationship with Jordan has not had the desired effect. He WILL be marrying someone else.

Next, concentrate on saving yourself and waste no more of your time on him — that is, if you would like a permanent, monogamous relationship with someone. Jordan has given you ample proof that he is incapable of being faithful to one woman. And last, tell his fiancée that you do not plan to attend the wedding or do her hair because you are in love with Jordan and have been sleeping with him since last summer.

DEAR ABBY: My sister relinquished custody of her kids in a divorce 30 years ago. I recently made contact with them to re-establish lost ties. The contact I made with the daughter has been a wonderful success. The other resulted in complete — and understandable — rejection.

Now my sister, who didn't want to open the door, blames me for her heartache because her son rejected her. Was I wrong for bringing at least one of them back into the family? — SISTER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SISTER: Because you did it over your sister's objections, I think you were. While the daughter seems interested in establishing contact — at least for now — your sister has now "lost" her son TWICE. And if the daughter eventually backs off, your sister will be zero for two.

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Shooter

Continued From Page 1

won't stop the crimes."

Barton has been an NRA member for at least 30 years as well as a member of the Texas State Rifle Association. He uses the weapons for protection and recreational use. Barton used to hunt until he suffered a heart attack.

There are schools that allow their employees to carry guns.

In 2008, the Harrold Independent School District began allowing employees to carry concealed firearms to deter and protect against school shootings. Harrold is located 150 miles northwest of Fort Worth in Wilbarger County near the Oklahoma border.

Former GOP presidential candidate and ordained Southern Baptist minister Mike Huckabee said in a Fox News interview that taking guns out of people's hands will not solve anything.

"Ultimately, you can take away every gun in America and somebody will use a bomb. When somebody has an intent to do incredible damage, they're going to find a way to do it," Huckabee said. "People will want to pass new laws, but unless you change people's hearts, they're our transition to the pastor side. This is a heart issue, it's not something, laws don't change this kind of thing."

Huckabee was asked by the interviewer, "You know, inevitably people ask after tragedies like this, how could God let this happen?"

In reply, Huckabee said, "We ask why there is violence in our schools, but we've systematically removed God from our schools."

"Should we be so surprised that schools would become a place of carnage because we've made it a place where we don't want to talk about eternity, life, what responsibility means, accountability?"

Heart of the matter

David Young, superintendent of Pampa Independent School District, said, "Our hearts go out to those in Connecticut. We are deeply saddened by the situation but it makes us reflect on our preparedness for a situation like that."

Young said every campus has an updated emergency operations plan that includes communication plans for an event such as an active shooter, bomb threat, train derailment, severe weather or a stranger on a campus. Young added that every staff member has a copy of those plans in his or her rooms.

There is also a committee that reviews the plans to make sure they are up-to-date with the latest safety procedures. The schools have

drills on lockdowns just like they would for a fire or tornado drill.

"Professionals in the schools have to know their students and have a positive and proactive approach to the situation," Young said. "The student's safety is our first and foremost priority. We always have to evaluate our safety plans. We cannot check off a box that our safety procedures are in place and we don't have to worry about them anymore."

Those plans have been in place for a while and the district just hired a new campus resource officer on Wednesday. Young said that the hiring of the additional officer had nothing to do with Friday's shooting.

The school district has one campus resource officer from the Pampa Police Department who is stationed at the high school, but can go to the junior high or elementary schools if needed to resolve an issue.

Young said the district hired another campus police officer to be stationed at Pampa Junior High. Both will share responsibilities for the elementary schools.

Stormy McCullar, PPD public information officer, said the police department does have a plan for an active shooter but that the PPD cannot go into details of the plan so as not to tip off a would-be shooter.

McCullar said that the best thing the police department can do is make the community aware. The PPD is hoping to bring a workshop on how to deter an active shooter workshop to Pampa. If that occurs, The Pampa News will publish information on the time and place.

From Facebook

The Pampa News also asked its Facebook followers their views on the shootings and what, if anything can be done to prevent shootings. The consensus is that stricter gun laws will not provide a solution.

Some commenters said that teachers need to be allowed to be armed in schools. Others added that taking God out of the schools is part of the problem.

Joel Morgan said that laws won't fix the problem. "Only law abiding citizen [sic] obey laws. We empower those who chose to disobey them when we apply more restriction to the laws."

"I heard a conversation earlier that makes an enormous amount of sense to me. We know there will be people who will say where was God in all of this chaos? Why did God not protect those who were killed? We as Christians have allowed society to remove God from the equation. When we don't allow God to be a part of our everyday lives, then God won't be. I think a better fight is one of our Christian Faith, God has given us all the laws we will every need to be a people of love

and compassion."

Morgan added "We new [sic] to quit looking for answers from the unfaithful and start looking out for one another. We may not change the world but we can make a huge difference in our own community. My heart goes out to those people who lost their loved ones."

Carla Stover said God needs to be in the schools.

"Put God back in our schools regardless. There should be stricter back ground checks which include mental history. The person who did this horrific thing was to blame, not the gun. I mean what if he had used his car? Would we have car control?"

Meredith Fleming said there is nothing one could do to prevent something like this from happening.

"What are some ways to prevent things like this from happening? There is none. That is the tragedy of it all. We are all in God's hands every day of our lives. The parents that dropped off their kids at that elementary had no idea that was the last time they would see their little one. What stops anyone from doing anything sick? Humanity, but it seems people have lost that."

Lacy Kilcrease disagrees with those who say teachers need to be armed in the classroom.

"What would giving a teacher a gun help prevent? There would be a weapon in the classroom, what message does that send to children? Its more than likely going to be in a locked drawer so they will not have time to react to the situation."

"It gives someone a weapon to use against you if you're not properly trained. A teacher can be a likely mentally unstable person and you have given them a weapon to use against your children. You might as well keep your child at home if you want them in the safest place possible."

The shooting tragedies that have occurred across the U.S. this year are heartbreaking. No parent should ever have to go through the loss of his or her child. The best thing students, parents, employees and police can do is be prepared.

The city of Pampa and PISD have plans in place that are constantly being reviewed to ensure the best possible safety for the community.

Those in the community need to be reminded that crime does not know a place. A terrible tragedy like the ones we see on the news can happen right here in Pampa. We should be proactive in our approach rather than taking a reactive response, such as instituting more gun control laws or allowing teachers to carry weapons in the classrooms.

Information from the Associated Press was used in this article.

Cerberus to sell gun company that makes Bushmaster

(AP) The company that makes one of the weapons used to kill elementary school children in Connecticut is being put up for sale by its owner, which called Friday's tragedy a "watershed event" in the debate over gun control.

The private-equity group Cerberus Capital Management said Tuesday it will sell its controlling stake in Freedom Group International, the maker of Bushmaster rifles.

Investors also continued to bail out of other gun-makers while the retailer Dick's Sporting Goods said it would stop selling military-style rifles.

The activity comes as the political winds appear to be shifting. Some Republicans now say they're willing to discuss the issue of gun control — along with mental health issues and violent video games.

Cerberus cobbled Freedom Group together by buying Bushmaster, Remington, and other well-known gun brands starting in 2006.

On Friday, a gunman using what is believed to have been a Bushmaster military-style rifle killed 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history.

"It is apparent that the Sandy Hook tragedy was a watershed event that has raised the national debate on gun control to an unprecedented level," Cerberus wrote in announcing the planned sale.

Cerberus owned 95 percent of Freedom Group, according to a year-end 2011 filing for the gunmaker on its website.

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