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Pampa

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State amendment election Tuesday

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

The deadline for early voting in the Nov. 4 Texas Constitutional Amendment Election is Friday, Oct. 31 at 5 p.m. A total of 117 ballots have been turned in from Gray County so far.

Voters are being asked to remember that new changes in the law make it impossible to vote without identification of some kind.

"If they do not have and bring their voter registration card, they must have their I.D.," County Clerk Wanda Carter said.

Regular voting begins Tuesday morning at 7 and voters are welcome to come and cast their ballots until 7 p.m. that evening.

The County Clerk's office Precinct 1 has changed from the Lefors High School library to the Lefors Community Center for this election.

Constitutional Amendment Election voting places for this election are:

- Precinct 1 - Lefors Community Center
- Precinct 2, 10, 13 - Lovett Library, Pampa
- Precinct 3 - Grandview-Hopkins School
- Precinct 4 and 5 - Lovett Library,

McLean

- Precinct 7, 11, 12 - M.K. Brown Auditorium (please use south door)
- Precinct 8 and 9 - Calvary Baptist Church Atrium, 900 E. 23rd St.
- Precinct 14 and 15 - Family Life Center, First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson

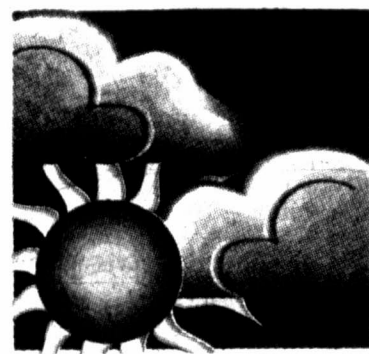
There are fourteen amendments on this election ballot:

- No. 1 - The constitutional amendment to allow a person who holds the office of municipal court judge to hold at the same time more than one civil office for which the person receives compensation.
- No. 2 - The constitutional amendment

to authorize the legislature to limit increases in the appraised value of residence homesteads for ad valorem taxation and to permit a school district to calculate the school property tax freeze applicable to the residence homestead of an elderly person or the surviving spouse of an elderly person in accordance with the law authorizing the transfer of the school property tax freeze to a different homestead regardless of whether that law was in effect at the time the person established the person's homestead.

No. 3 - The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to permit a

See AMENDMENTS, Page 3



Low tonight 40.
High tomorrow 72.
For weather details see Page 2.

PAMPA - The high school DECA group is selling phone book covers to the public to help raise money for their annual competitions and projects. The students need your help! Contact Donna Crow at the high school for more information about getting a phone book cover and supporting these business-oriented students: 669-4800.

PAMPA - The Tralee Crisis Center is sponsoring a domestic violence awareness seminar entitled, "Prosecuting without the victim. It can be done!" This program is free to the public today from 1 to 4 p.m. in the M. K. Brown Heritage Room. For more information call 669-1131.

AUSTIN (AP) - Concerned about safety in the wake of an increase in highway deaths, the Texas Transportation Commission approved an emergency rule today to allow speed limits to be lowered on some roads.

The rule won't automatically lower maximum speeds.

But it will give Texas Department of Transportation engineers more flexibility to recommend lower speeds to the commission.

Approval of the rule comes after Texas traffic deaths rose following the repeal of the federal speed limit.

Speed limits were raised as high as 70 mph on many highways in December 1995, and the number of people killed on Texas roadways increased 17.8 percent to 3,738.

In a series of meetings around the state to get public input on speed limit issues, commission Chairman David Laney said, "What we heard ... is that most Texans generally agree with the higher speed limit, but there are some roadways, particularly narrow rural highways, that we should re-examine."

The new policies don't change the requirement that speed limits be determined by engineering studies and practices.

- Ollie Lake Arrington, 96, former teacher, lived on Rocking Chair Ranch 43 years.
- James Glenn Hooker, 27, was in oil field business.
- Norma Lee Wilson Leake, cattle rancher.
- Ronald Terry McCarthy, 53, foreman for KNN Energy.
- Thomas E. Patterson, 80, retired City of Pampa employee.

Classified 10
Comics 8
Editorial 4
Sports 9

School breakfast popular in Texas 644 Pampa students served the meal daily

When it comes to providing a bowl of cereal or some eggs and sausage to needy school children, Texas ranks among the most generous states, according to a survey issued today.

The Food Research and Action Center, in its annual scorecard on the federal School Breakfast Program, ranked Texas among the top providers of breakfast at free or reduced price to low-income students.

In Pampa, the program is more than 10 years old and an average of 644 Pampa ISD students eat breakfast at school daily, according to food service supervisor Debbie Middleton.

"I think without this program we would have a number of students coming to school hungry...and we all know children can't learn if they are hungry," Middleton said.

The food service supervisor has seen the program grow especially in the past three years since a breakfast bar with a variety of selec-

See BREAKFAST, Page 2

"I think without this program we would have a number of students coming to school hungry...and we all know children can't learn if they are hungry."

— Debbie Middleton
food service supervisor

Inmate's death apparent suicide

Suicide is probable cause of death of a 27-year-old man who was found hanging in his cell at the Gray County Jail, said Sheriff Don Copeland.

James G. Hooker of 111 S. Starkweather was found dead about 11:50 Tuesday night when a jailer was making routine rounds, the sheriff said. Hooker was alone in his cell.

Copeland would not say how or by what Hooker was hanging pending the outcome of an investigation by Texas Ranger Alvin Schmidt of Amarillo.

Hooker's death came about seven hours after he had been arrested for driving while intoxicated following a minor one-car accident in which police reports say he left the scene.

That arrest was not the first for Hooker who Copeland said has been arrested "12 times this year on alcohol-related charges."

Hooker's body was sent to Lubbock for autopsy.

His funeral is at 10 a.m. Friday at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with burial in Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Hooker was a lifelong Pampan and was in the oil field business.



Robert Craig (from left), Wayne Ivey and George Wallace are retiring from the Pampa office of the Railroad Commission.

Show features Broadway hits



(Special photo)

Mary Jane Johnson, born and reared in Pampa, will perform this weekend in "The Diva Does Broadway" at the Amarillo Little Theatre (ALT). Johnson is a nationally acclaimed opera singer who has traveled around the world.

Opera star, native Pampan has weekend performance

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

National opera star and former Pampan Mary Jane Johnson will perform at the Amarillo Little Theatre Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2 in "The Diva Does Broadway," - a collection of Johnson's favorite Broadway hits.

This special event will be a fund-raiser for the Amarillo Little Theatre and the Saturday performance will include a pre-show wine and cheese tasting and a post-show reception with the diva herself.

Johnson has performed with major opera companies throughout the world including the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, the Opera Bastille and the Santa Fe Opera Company. She has toured and performed in Milan, Bologna, Australia, Buenos Aires, Chile,

Canada and Japan.

Performing this Broadway "hits" show is a "new medium I'm experimenting with," the opera singer said.

Johnson spent some time and answered a few questions for the Pampa News Tuesday afternoon concerning her upcoming show:

So, you were born and reared in Pampa?

Yes, and I was inducted in May as the only woman so far in the Harvesters Hall of Fame.

Where did you study?

Texas Tech and I got my masters from West Texas.

When did you decide you wanted to be a singer?

I always sang.

What are some of your most memorable experiences as a performer...where are your favorite places to perform?

See OPERA, Page 2

Three veteran area oil field inspectors retiring

It's retirement time for three veteran inspectors with the Railroad Commission Oil and Gas District Office in Pampa and a come-and-go public reception in their honor is Friday from 2-4 p.m. on the third floor of city hall.

Together, Robert Craig, Wayne Ivey and George Wallace represent 51 years of experience - something a commission spokesman said has helped to make the oil fields of the panhandle safer and more productive.

The Railroad Commission has held a leading role in the regulation of oil and gas since the 1930s when it was granted the right to

A public reception in their honor is Friday from 2-4 p.m. on the third floor of city hall.

prorate production to conserve natural resources, protect correlative rights and to prevent pollution. The oil and gas division tracks production of oil and gas well and facilities through Texas to ensure compliance with commission rules and regulations. The

division also works to ensure that water resources are protected from damage by oil and gas field activities.

George Wallace began working for the commission on Feb. 1, 1979. He and his wife, Sherry, are the parents of Debbie Brownlow, Wichita Falls, and Michael Steward of Austin.

Wallace began his career as a Tech 3 field inspector in the Pampa office and is retiring as a Tech 5. He previously worked for the Pampa Police Department.

After retiring, Wallace plans to continue his ranching operation.

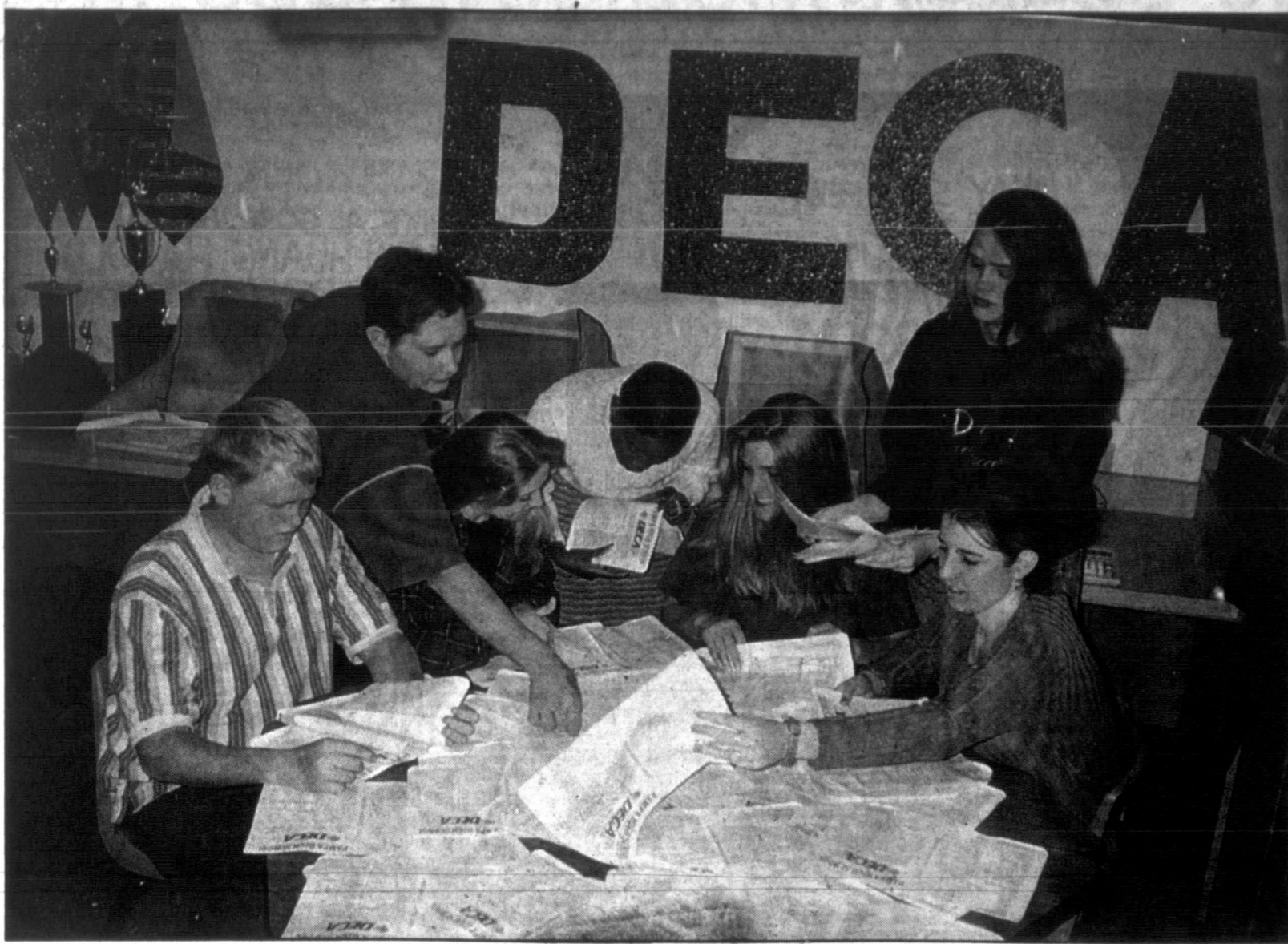
Wayne Ivey went to work in the Pampa office on Oct. 10,

See RETIRING, Page 2

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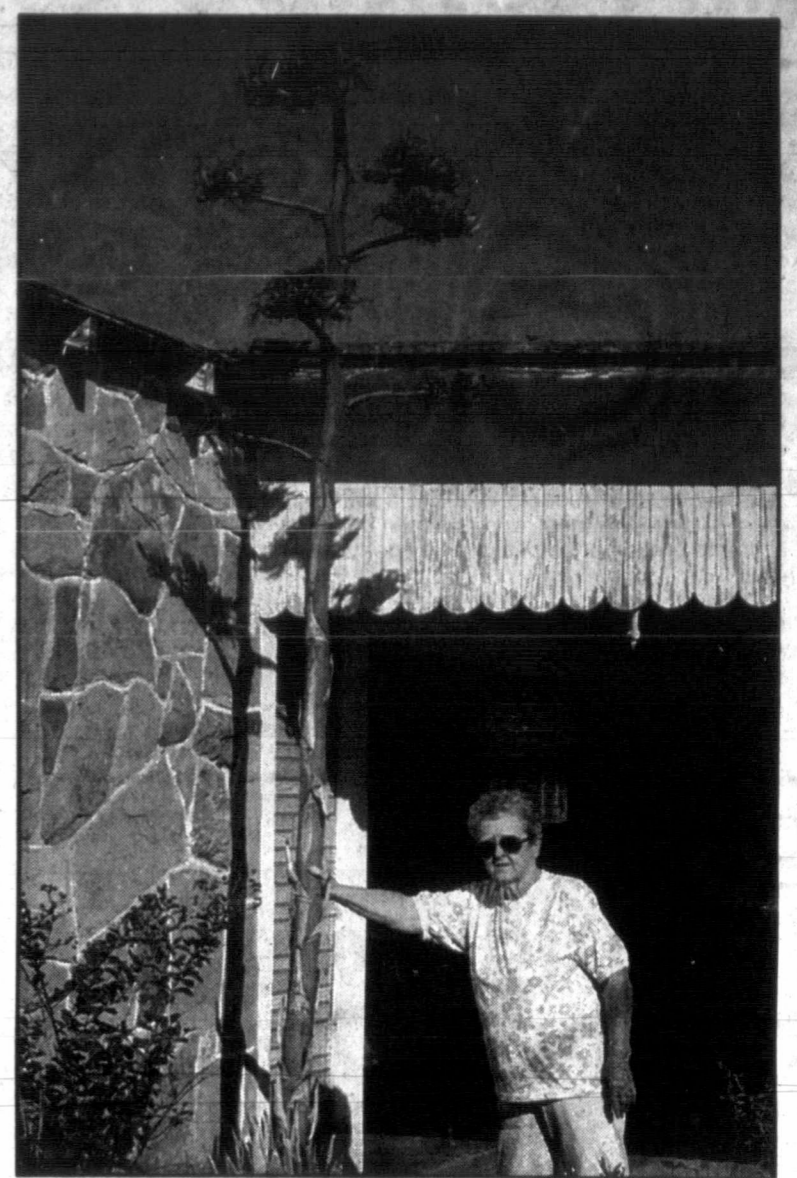
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DECA fund-raising effort



High school DECA members are anxiously trying to sell this year's phone book covers to help raise money for their organization. DECA president Nicole Watson and vice-president Aretha Brown display the covers, while other members Phillip Blythe, Brandon Campbell, Kelly Davis, Melisa Price and Valerie Bruner gather with Watson and Brown to take inventory of the 1,000 book covers they need to sell.

Plant 50-years-old



Local resident Carrie Hughes shows off her enormous 50-year-old century plant.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

AMENDMENTS

taxing unit to grant an exemption or other relief from ad valorem taxes on property on which a water conservation initiative has been implemented.

No. 4 - The constitutional amendment eliminating duplicated numbering in and certain obsolete provisions of the Texas Constitution.

No. 5 - The constitutional amendment authorizing the supreme court to sit to transact business at any location in the state.

No. 6 - The constitutional amendment allowing the Texas growth fund to continue to invest in businesses without requiring those businesses to disclose investments in South Africa or Namibia.

No. 7 - The constitutional amendment relating to the authorization to the Texas Water Development Board to transfer existing bond authorizations for water supply, water quality, flood control, or state participation from one category of use to another category to maximize the use of existing funds and relating to more efficient operation of the bond programs.

No. 8 - The amendment to the Texas Constitution expanding the types of liens for home equity loans that a lender, with the home-

owner's consent, may place against a homestead.

No. 9 - The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to authorize an ad valorem tax rate in rural fire prevention districts located in Harris County of five cents on each \$100 of taxable value of property.

No. 10 - The constitutional amendment designating the purposes for which money in the compensation to victims of crime fund and the victims of crime auxiliary fund may be used.

No. 11 - The constitutional amendment limiting the amount of state debt payable from the general revenue fund.

No. 12 - The constitutional amendment to establish a deadline for supreme court action on a motion for rehearing.

No. 13 - The constitutional amendment to encourage persons to plan and save for young Texans' college educations, to extend the full faith and credit of the state to protect the Texas tomorrow fund of the prepaid higher education tuition program and to establish the Texas tomorrow fund as a constitutionally protected trust fund.

No. 14 - The constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to prescribe the qualifications of constables.

These amendments will also be listed in the Sunday edition of the newspaper.

Study reveals imaging system didn't prevent fraud

AUSTIN (AP) - An effort to prevent welfare fraud by requiring applicants to give fingerprints didn't do much to stem cheating when tested in a \$1.7 million pilot program, according to a University of Texas report.

State officials, however, stood by the fingerprint-imaging program Wednesday. The initiative has been touted by Gov. George W. Bush and was recommended to state lawmakers by Comptroller John Sharp, a candidate for lieutenant governor.

"One of the keys to it working well is going to be when it goes statewide," said Texas Department of Human Services spokesman Michael Jones.

The Lone Star Image System is meant to detect and deter duplicate

receipt of food stamps and Aid to Families with Dependent Children, now known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. It requires a photo and a digital imprint of applicants' index fingers.

Because the program was piloted only in Bexar and Guadalupe counties, cheaters could have gone anywhere else in the state to try to get duplicate benefits, Jones said.

"Somebody committing fraud doesn't have to be a genius to know, 'I can't commit this fraud in Bexar County, but if I drive up the road to San Marcos, I can try to do the same thing and they won't detect me yet,'" Jones said.

The statewide program will cost about \$12.7 million over three years, Jones said.

"Governor Bush believes the use

of finger imaging is a valuable deterrent to help prevent fraud. Once it is expanded statewide, it will prevent people from being able to collect welfare benefits in two different counties," said Bush press secretary Karen Hughes.

Sharp spokesman Ross Ramsey said another comptroller-backed welfare reform, an electronic benefits card that replaced food stamps, already had purged welfare rolls before the imaging system began. But he said both tools are needed to help keep the rolls clean.

The state eventually wants to integrate the imaging system with the benefit card, so a welfare recipient will activate the card with a fingerprint rather than the current personal identification number.

Deanna Schexnayder of the

Center for the Study of Human Resources, which conducted the study under contract with DHS, said the pilot's effect may be smaller than that of a statewide program because duplicate accounts could be outside the pilot area.

The study focused on the 10 DHS offices that serve Bexar and Guadalupe counties and 10 comparison offices, said Ms. Schexnayder. Findings are based on caseload and cost data, plus interviews with welfare recipients.

Former Mexican drug prosecutor slain

MEXICO CITY (AP) - The body of a former federal drug prosecutor in the northern state of Chihuahua was found Wednesday stuffed in an oil drum in the central state of Morelos.

The body of Fernando Pascual Velez, 47, bore signs of torture, the government news agency Notimex reported. Local news media said it appeared the man had been strangled.

A co-worker said Pascual Velez was working as a criminal lawyer in Mexico City when he disappeared a week ago, but may also have been investigating drug trafficking. The body was found by highway police at a garage on the road leading from Mexico City to nearby Cuernavaca.

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PIRATE PRIDE & LEFORS NEWS



Paper designed by Katie Miller



Carnival goers enjoyed such activities as, Roll-a-prize, Face painting, Ring toss, The jail, Sponge toss, Basketball toss, Fishing pond, Auction, Wheel of fortune, Cake walk, Pillow fight, Food Court.

Crowned King and Queen in Elementary was 3rd graders Amanda Hix and Devion Franks, in Junior High was Jennifer Sprouse and Zach Kidd, in High School was Amanda Sprouse and J.W. Maines.

Lefors' Employees get an Unexpected Payday Change

Katisha Jackson staff writer

Lefors' city employees were shocked after receiving the news of a payday change discussed by Lefors representatives.

Bruce Withers stated that he believes that the employees should have been better informed of this decision because it is "our" pay, not theirs.

The employees prior to the change received one large check at the first of every month. They now receive two checks, twice a month which falls on every other Wednesday.

Halloween Helpful Tips to Keep Your Child Safe

1. Wear a Halloween costume that will not cause you to trip or fall and a mask that allows you to see clearly.

2. If you are not wearing light-colored clothes, be sure to attach reflecting tape to your costume. Be careful when crossing streets.

3. If an adult is not with you, make sure that an adult knows exactly where you are going, who is going with you, and how long you will be gone. All small children should be supervised by an adult.

4. Do not walk in the street.

5. Stay away from houses that are not well lit.

6. Accept treats only from people you know.

BANDITS THUMP HIGGINS

Aaron Jones staff writer

First Quarter-Ray Villalon TD 6-0
DeeJ Preston extra point 7-0

Preston TD 13-0
Villalon extra point 14-0

Preston T D 20-6
Caleb Barnes T D 26-6

Preston extra point 27-6
Second Quarter-Preston T D 33-6

Third Quarter-Barnes T D 39-12
Fourth Quarter-Preston T D 46-12

Shaw T D 53-25
Preston T D 59-38
The final score was 59-38

1. Do not eat anything from your bag until it has been checked by an adult.

8. Never eat candy or chewing gum that has been unwrapped.

9. If you put a candle inside a jack-o'-lantern, be sure to place the jack-o'-lantern away from walls or other objects that could catch fire.



Drayton Connell and Koltan Morris dress up for the Halloween Carnival



Penny, Katie, Heather, Tobee, Dana, and Kody pose for a "snapshot".

Gruesome House

Amanda Lawrence Second Grade

Winner of the Halloween Story Contest

On a Halloween night it was foggy and spooky. Two girls and two boys named Jessica, Lea, Kevin, and Joe were trick-or-treating. They stopped by seven people's houses. "It's getting dark," said Jessica and Lea. "Nonsense!" said Kevin and Joe. They were going deeper into the forest. They began to hear strange noises like chirping and squawking.

Then Lea felt a slimy thing slithering over her foot. "Yikes!" said Lea. Kevin said, "You are joking." "No I'm not," said Lea. Joe turned on a light and said, "Lea is not lying. It is true! Its true! It is a viper." They ran as fast as they could away from the snake.

Later on they saw a haunted house with broken windows and shattered doors. They walked up the creaking steps. Then all of a sudden, the steps broke and they fell seven feet to the ground. Joe was unconscious. Lea said, "Joe hit his head on a bottle."

Luckily everyone had a sleeping bag, but Joe was still unconscious. They slept in the sleeping bags. The next day Joe was okay. They climbed out of the hole with a ladder that they found. They were hungry. They found some food in their backpacks. Then they went back up the trail. They ran home happily. Their parents cried with joy!

Dispatch 9-1-1

Gwen Nolte

Winner of Halloween Story Contest

October 31, 1997 2:30 a.m.

Jessie sits up in bed suddenly, unsure of what woke her. She takes a quick glance at the clock on the night stand and sees that she has only been asleep for about three and a half hours. Although it is not unusual for her to awake this early, she senses something is wrong.

On trembling legs she slowly gets out of bed. Unlike her usual self she turns on no lights. Then it dawns on her what has made her edgy this early Halloween morning. The thing that had aroused her from a dead sleep was the screech of the screech of the screen door opened.

Her heart drops to her feet in fear as she hears the sound of somebody wandering quietly throughout her house. Unsure how, knowing for certain it is an intruder, she drops to her knees. As they travel through her house, her worst fear is realized, she is home alone with no protection.

As panic begins to overtake her, she is still enough in control of her common sense to grab her cordless telephone and crawl under the bed. Taking quick shallow breaths she dials 9-1-1, all the while praying someone answers before the people arrive in her bedroom.

"911, what's your emergency?" Jessie hears much to her relief.

"Please help me. My name is Jessie Sholin, and I'm at 1300 Williston, and there is an intruder in my house."

"Okay ma'am. Please stay on the line. My name is Susan, now Jessie where in the house are you located?"

"I'm in the upstairs bedroom under the bed," as she hears footsteps approaching her room she almost loses it. "Oh, God hear he comes. Hurry!"

"Jessie, there is a unit on the way. Are you certain the suspect is male?"

"No."

"Is he in the room?" receiving no answer she tries again, "If he is in the room, breath quietly into the phone."

When she hears Jessie's trembling breath, Susan begins to panic. Almost immediately following this breath, she hears Jessie scream "Oh God please don't hurt me, take whatever you want don't hurt me!"

"Jessie! Jessie, answer me!" All she hears is the tortured screams of pain. Although she was not certain, it sounded as though after dragging her from under the bed he had begun to beat her with something.

"Unit how far are you from 1300 Williston? Suspect has found victim and is beating her!"

"We are about four blocks away," the responding officer replies.

Feeling helpless, Susan begins to pray "Oh God, please let them get there in time to save her!"

Suddenly all is quiet on the other end of the phone line, and Susan releases her breath in defeat. She has failed.

When the police arrive 3 minutes too late, they confirm what Susan already knew.

Jessica Ann Sholin was dead. She was 20 years old, worked at the post office in Lefors, had just moved into the house she had always dreamed of, and she was dead. The autopsy reported her death being due to lack of oxygen. Jessie Sholin had not only been beaten she had been strangled. Although evidence showed that she had struggled, she just wasn't strong enough.

Her murderer was never caught, and Susan Newman soon quit her job at the Emergency Dispatch Offices.

Livin' De Life High School One-Act Play

Len Lock staff writer

Cast

Brer Fox - Tobee Bowman; Brer Bear - Jeremy Pierce; Brer Rabbit - Nikki Bockmon; Brer Coon - Shelly Murray; Brer Tarrypin - Heather Howard; Miss Meadows - Angie Davenport; Aunt Mamma Bammy - Misty McMullen; Sis Buzzard - Katisha Jackson; Miss Goose - Gwen Nolte;

Crew Members

Len Lock, Rebecca Gilbert, Melissa Glass, Aimee Monroe.

Director
Mr. Scott Carothers

4-H Canned Food Drive

Angie Davenport editor

The Lefors 4-H club collected food for a canned food drive on Friday, October 24. The canned food drive is headed by Shepherd's Crook every year. This year the groups collected food on their own and turned it in to Shepherd's on Saturday. The 4-H group collected food throughout Lefors. A pizza party is awarded every year to the group that collects the most food. The Lefors 4-H group won this year. These kids should be recognized for taking two hours out of their busy schedule to help their community.

-High School Question Of The Week-

Shelly Murray yearbook editor

Should the school board change the dress code and "outlaw" baggy clothes?

-Community Question Of The Week-

Should prisoners be able to work at school when students are in class?

-Elementary Question Of The Week-

Should Elementary get a longer recess?

Responses should be brought to the office in the high school or to room 119.

A people that values its privileges above its principals soon loses both.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

26 Gas Leaks Repaired by City After finding 40

Katisha Jackson staff writer
Misty McMullen newspaper editor

Bruce Withers, Lefors City foreman, commented that 26 out of 40 gas leaks have been repaired and that 14 leaks still remain, but will be fixed in the future.

The city is going to continue to work to get the leaks fixed but in the mean time the leaks will just have to be dealt with by the foreman and the other employees of the city.

A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on.

John F. Kennedy

tidbits

Picture Retakes and volleyball, cheerleader, and football pictures will be taken on Tuesday, November 4.

A mother takes twenty years to make a man of her boy, and another woman makes a fool of him in twenty minutes.

Anonymous



Enterprise Fund Established

A special enterprise fund has been established for PIRATE PRIDE & LEFORS NEWS in order to pay for film, camera batteries, and film developing.

Currently the Journalism budget is being used to pay for these items, but the high use of film and film developing is slowly draining the \$1,000 budget that must also be used for yearbook production. Without help from our readers it will not be possible to continue Pirate Pride & Lefors News.

In addition to our film needs we would also, if possible, like to purchase a new camera (we at present take all of our pictures with one camera), and a tape recorder to be used by our staff reporters. We would truly appreciate your help so that we can continue with the newspaper and even make it better. If you would like to help us you may do so by sending a check for any amount to Lefors High School Newspaper Fund, P.O. Box 390 Lefors, Tx. 79054. Make checks payable to L.H.S. Newspaper Fund. Again, we appreciate all the support and comments from our readers - you have helped us make Pirate Pride & Lefors News possible.

Initiation ceremony



(Special photo)
Kappa Mu Epsilon honorary mathematics society recently conducted an initiation ceremony at Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Weatherford, Okla. Included in the ceremony were Pampa residents Marina Ramirez (fifth from left, middle row) and Edith Osborne (eighth from left, middle row) and Joe Antunez (seventh from left, back row) of Canadian.

Navy uses custom of 'plankowning' on carrier currently under construction

PCU HARRY S. TRUMAN — The movement of a ship, in and out of restricted waters, getting underway, or returning to port, can be very exciting. But, Lisa McCoy will experience a more exhilarating event because her ship is one of the largest and most powerful warships in the world.

The daughter of Daniel and Dianna McCoy of Pampa is assigned to PCU (pre-commissioning unit) Harry S. Truman, the newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, currently under construction in Newport News, Va. Aboard, she's part of a team of professionals who performs various duties for naval air activities. She also assists with moving aircraft, loading and stowing equipment and supplies, and a member of plane-handling crews.

As a "Plankowner", McCoy has the distinction of being part of the first crew on the new carrier. The term dates back more than 200 years of shipbuilding, to the days when ships were wooden. According to tradition, members of the commissioning crew were assigned one wooden plank of the ship to be claimed after it was decommissioned and disassembled.

"Being a plankowner on the Truman allows me to take part in bringing life to the carrier. Since the ship isn't completed, I've been able to go on other carriers to receive the training needed like damage control school."

"My main mission now is to do well during a six-month deployment on the aircraft carrier, USS George Washington. I look forward to visiting the different ports. The best part of my job is knowing that I'm a small

part of a big mission," she said.

For McCoy, an interest in the sea service came from her desire to live life on the ocean and travel the world. "There are three main reasons why I joined the Navy. First and foremost, I wanted to serve the country that I love very much. Second, I wanted the experience that only the Navy can provide, which is life on a ship. Finally, I joined for the education and the best hands-on training," explained the 20-year-old airman.

McCoy credits the Navy for the many lessons she has learned throughout her career. "The most important thing I've learned was how to be flexible and patient. I've also learned that working as a team is better than working alone."

"The Navy has really benefited me personally by giving me self-confidence and allowing me to serve my country. When I leave the sea service, I'll take leadership and teamwork skills with me."

Named in honor of the nation's 33rd President, Harry S. Truman, the ship will carry the high-tech Navy into the 21st century, incorporating the latest technology in fiber optic networks and state-of-the-art computer-based weapons.

Truman is to be commissioned in the summer of 1998. Measuring more than three football fields in length and as tall as a 24-story building, the aircraft carrier is the largest and most formidable ship ever put to sea. At the heart of the carrier platform is an airwing consisting of more than 80 aircraft with all-condition, multipurpose strike capability. And that capability will soon be enhanced by the addition of the F/A-18 Super Hornet, the next generation of nightstrike fighter/attack aircraft.

McCoy said she's looking forward to the excitement of commissioning Truman next summer. "I believe nothing can top this. The excitement will continue as time grows closer to the commissioning in July of next year."

McCoy added that she will make the best of every opportunity by accomplishing some of her goals before leaving the Navy. "I plan to apply for one of the many officer programs available and hopefully, obtain a degree in meteorology. After I leave the Navy, I want to continue working as a meteorologist and settle down in Texas and explore the unpredictable weather of the Texas Panhandle."

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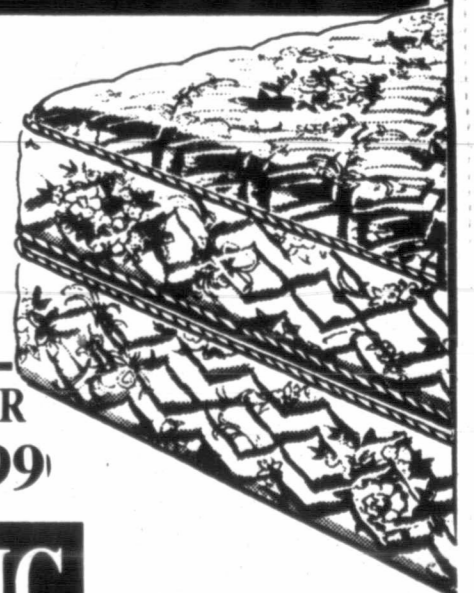
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Mom's Thankful Her Foresight Prevented Injury In Hindsight

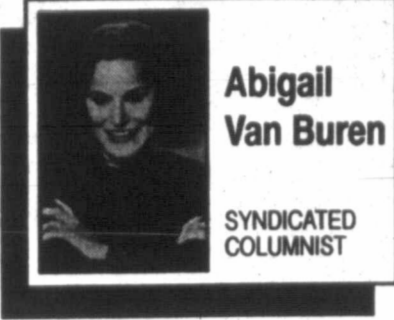
DEAR ABBY: Something happened yesterday that makes me want to stress the importance of bicycle helmets, even on toddlers who ride little ride-on toys. My 2-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son were riding their bikes on our sidewalk when my son accidentally bumped into the back of his sister's bike. The bike slid out from under her and she fell backward, hitting her head on the concrete. Fortunately she was wearing a helmet and was not injured, but I shudder to think what might have happened had she not been wearing one.

I always thought I was a little overprotective making my young children wear helmets when I didn't think they could get seriously injured in a fall from such a small vehicle. But I felt it was a good habit to get into for when they were older.

Now I'm grateful I listened to that "sixth sense" and avoided what could have been a serious head injury. We were lucky we were able to spend the rest of my husband's birthday having fun instead of sitting in the emergency room. I hope this letter will make parents think twice before letting their children, regardless of age, ride without a helmet.

VIRGINIA BRIGGS,
LEWISTOWN, PA.

DEAR VIRGINIA: You are a wise and conscientious mother



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

for realizing that an innocent bike ride can be dangerous for children who aren't wearing bicycle helmets. Helmets can prevent an estimated 85 percent of serious head injuries, and greatly reduce the risk of severe brain injury that can result in death. However, even a minor brain injury can lead to problems with learning and memory.

There are many good helmets on the market today. The easiest way to find one that is well made and reliable is to look for the "SNELL" certification sticker. Helmet models carrying that decal have met rigorous standards in tests performed by the Snell Foundation. Based on three decades of research in the United States and England, a Snell-certified helmet is one of the best.

Bicycle helmets save lives. There's no better reason to

insist that your child wears one. P.S. Helmets are also essential safety gear for other sports such as inline skating, etc.

DEAR ABBY: I've got a big problem. It started when my friend "Raymondo" got a divorce and left for New York with his new wife and his daughter last spring. We kept in touch with them for a while, and Raymondo kept saying he didn't like living up north and he wanted to return.

Finally he left his new wife and returned with his daughter. However, he had no place to live because he has no family here in the United States, and his former wife's family wanted no part of him.

We told Raymondo he could stay with us until he found a job and earned enough money to rent an apartment. A month passed. Two months.

Abby, he is still here with us, using our water and electricity and eating our food. He doesn't pay for anything. How can we tell Raymondo to leave?

FERNANDO IN FLORIDA

DEAR FERNANDO: Tell him in Spanish. If that doesn't work, tell him in English. But whatever language you use, "talk turkey" by making it clear that he has worn out his welcome and he must be out within two weeks. Then stand by your decision.

ning so important that you lower your standards to do so.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Some of your stronger views could offend your audience today. If you see that your words are antagonizing your listeners, back off and change the subject.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Try not to make material requests of others today, even from people who owe you favors. Do the best you can with available resources.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Take care that you're not thrown into the middle of a dispute between two warring factions today. You don't want to be considered a traitor by either party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may be inclined to make an impulsive promise today that you won't be able to fulfill. Do not assume the obligation if you can't deliver the goods.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Have fun and enjoy yourself today, but don't overexert your budget or overindulge yourself physically. You could be out of step in both venues.

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Horoscope

Friday, Oct. 31, 1997

Two significant but unrelated interests may dominate a large portion of your attention in the year ahead. In order to take full advantage of both, it's best to treat them separately.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Do not be in too much of a hurry to finalize an important arrangement today. In your haste, you might not get as good a deal as you could if you're patient. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that will govern you in the year ahead. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing \$2 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.



"Carving them is too cruel."



Marmaduke, can't you finish your dinner?

Maybe the cat would like it.

SHMUNCH LICK LICK LICK LICK SMACK
CRUNCH SHMUNCH LICK LICK LICK LICK



For Better or For Worse



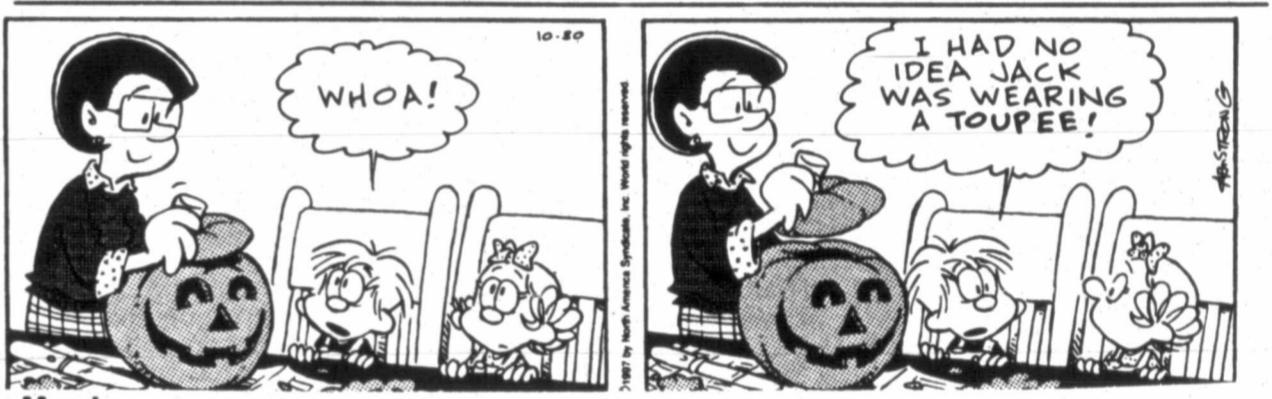
Arlo & Janis



Garfield



Walnut Cove



Marvin



Eek & Meek



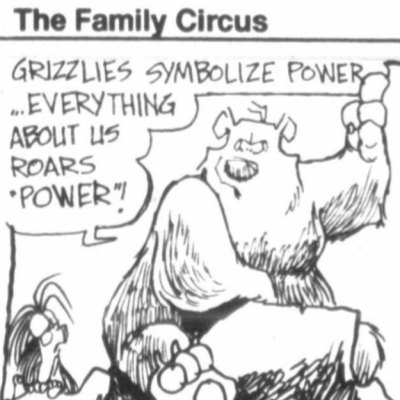
The Born Loser



Frank and Ernest



Mallard Filmore



The Family Circus



Grizzwells



Alley Oop



Peanuts

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Walk, Slither and Sneak on sidewalks, not in the street • Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks and low flying brooms • Cross the street only at corners, not between parked cars • Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing • Plan your route and share it with your family • Carry a flashlight to light your way • Keep away from open fires and candles • Visit homes that have the porch light on only • Accept your treats at the door and NEVER go into a stranger's house • Use face paint rather than masks • Be cautious of animals and strangers • Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating • DON'T eat candy if the package is already opened.

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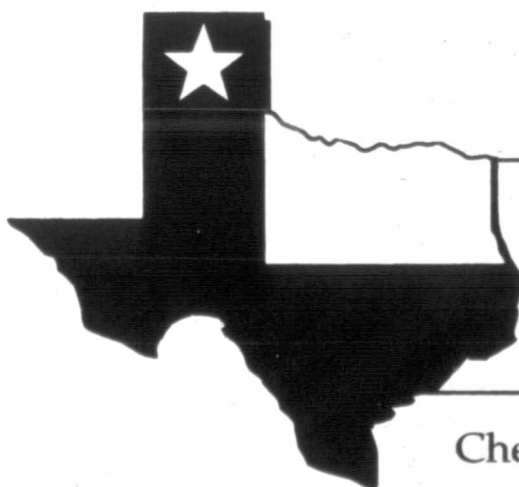
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