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HIGH 80
LOW 45

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, November 12, 2007

Volume 103 • No. 180

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CHAMBER LUNCHEON
NOV. 20
11:45AM

Please join us in the MK Brown Room at the Chamber Building, 200 N. Ballard for a menu of beef & chicken enchiladas, rice, beans, salad, chips & salsa and tea provided by The Plaza III.
The speaker is Jason Pooley with Smithfield Premium Genetics.
Public is welcome, \$8.00 a plate. RSVP at 669-3241 or email harvest@pampachamber.com.
Thank you to the luncheon sponsor: Chamber's Retail Committee.

Donors sought for Harvest Basket campaign

Tralee Crisis Center, a non-profit agency providing crisis intervention services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes, hopes to provide at least 20 ready-to-prepare Thanksgiving dinners for client families with the help of donations from the community.

"Each year, generous donors from our community provide baskets filled with turkey and dressing and all the trimmings so Tralee clients

can prepare a Thanksgiving meal for their family," said Dee Dee Laramore, executive director. "What better way to express our gratitude for our bountiful blessings than to share with those in need?"

Laramore estimates approximately 20 client families served by Tralee will be eligible for a Harvest Basket. Each Harvest Basket consists of a frozen turkey and/or a ham, cranberry sauce, vegetables, bread or rolls,

and desserts. Each basket should be enough food for a family of four or more. Donations to help purchase food items for the baskets will also be accepted.

If interested, donors can prepare one or more baskets and bring to the Tralee office on the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 21. The baskets will be distributed to clients Wednesday afternoon, in time to prepare Thanksgiving dinner on

Thursday, Nov. 22. Baskets for clients from throughout the agency's eight-county service area will be delivered by staff and volunteers before the holiday.

Anyone wishing to prepare baskets or give to Tralee's Harvest Basket project or who would like more information about the project, can contact the Tralee office at 806-669-1131 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by Friday.

City to appoint new city attorney Tuesday

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer
Pampa attorney Don Lane and will take center stage at the Pampa City Commission meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The city commission will go into executive session during their meeting Tuesday to discuss appointing a new city attorney.

Lane said he is retiring from the city but will remain in private practice.

Lane, the former city attorney, will be recognized by the commission for his service. A reception for Lane will follow the commission meeting.

In other business, the commission will consider calling a special meeting at 4 p.m., Friday to canvass the vote from the Nov. 6 special election.

In a work session, the commission will discuss a 'dangerous dog' law, a tax

freeze, tax abatements, water rights, certificate of obligation issues and a subsidy for Freedom Museum.

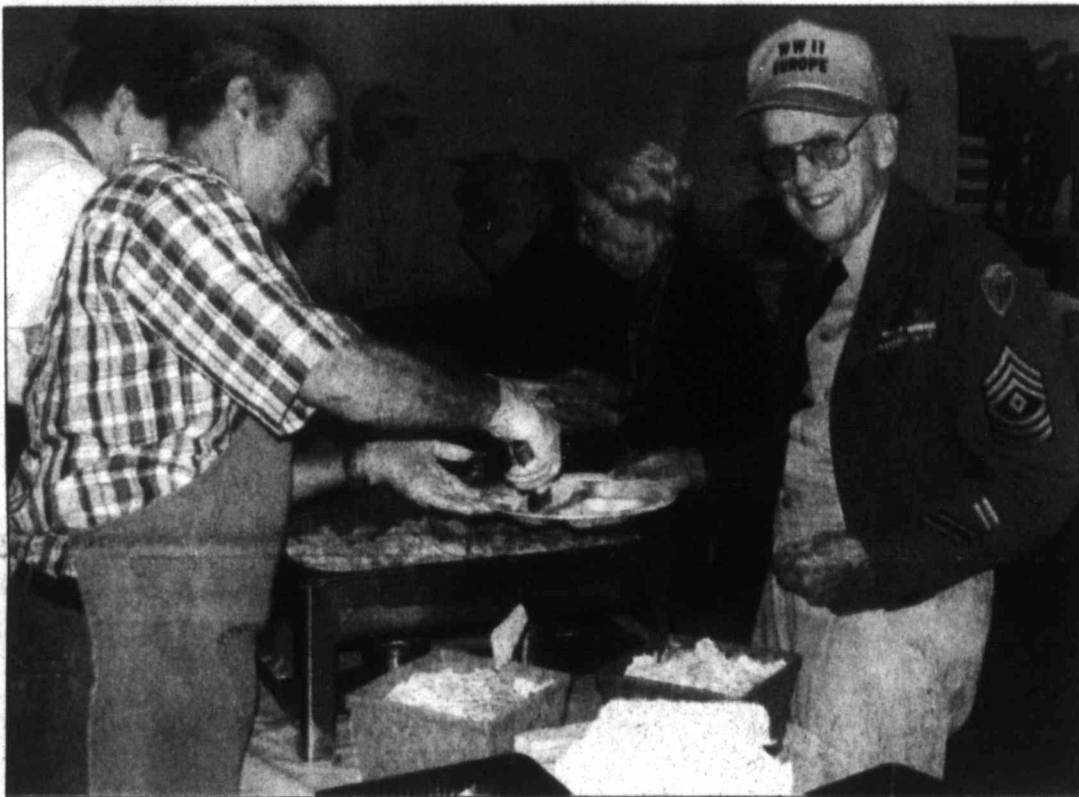
In light of a recent dog attack on a horse, the city commission will discuss a new law, known as Lillian's Law, that went into effect on Sept. 1, concerning dangerous dogs that attack people.

Under the law, it is an offense if a dog's owner, with criminal negligence, fails to secure the dog, and the dog makes an unprovoked attack on another person in a place other than the dog owner's property and causes serious bodily injury.

The offense is a second degree felony if the victim of the attack dies. A second degree felony is punishable by up to 20 years and not less than two years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

See CITY, Page 3

Veterans Day dinner



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
W. H. Monroe, right, a World War II veteran, is served turkey by Larry Stephens during the annual Veterans Day dinner held Friday by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 at the VFW Hall, 105 S. Cuyler. A silent auction was held in conjunction with the dinner, both of which were free of charge and open to the public. Monroe was a first sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII.

PGWCD to consider bids for well permits

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER -- A public hearing on a multiple well permit for the city of Amarillo is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District offices here.

The hearing will follow the groundwater conservation district's monthly board meeting, scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday.

During their regular meeting, the board is expected to make a final review of the 2006-2007 budget and review the 2007-2008 budget and their loan account budget.

The board will also consider participating in the Texas Water Conservation Association Desalinization Coalition.

They are scheduled to also consider the district's investment policy, a bid for tax delinquent land in Donley County, writing off delinquent taxes of a dollar or less

and sharing costs on draw-down tubes in newly drilled wells.

The board will consider ratification of a request by High Plains Underground Water District's request to change the boundaries of the Region A Water Planning Group, which would move the Lubbock-based groundwater district out of the water planning region and Ground Water Management Area.

They will also consider filling an amicus brief in a water lawsuit downstate.

The board will hear a quarterly report on out of district transportation and pumping concerning the city of Amarillo, city of Borger, ConocoPhillips and the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

The board will also consider a one-inch well drilling permit by Billy Dickerson in Potter County, three one-inch wells for Mays Trust in

See WATER, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Ray Collum, left, is serving a cup of chili from the team of CWC Hard Hat Chili during Shepherd's Helping Hands Chili Cookoff, which was held Saturday in downtown Pampa. Serving the chili are Kay West, middle, and Hal West, right.

Chili cookoff winners named

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Shepherd's Helping Hands hosted their second annual Chili Cookoff Saturday in downtown Pampa. Those making chili were divided into three categories, juniors, ama-

teurs and professionals.

A panel of judges was assembled to judge showmanship and also to taste and pick winners from all of the chili that was made.

See CHILI, Page 3

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday Sunny	Wednesday Mostly sunny	Thursday Sunny
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Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
 Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming northwest.
 Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 59. North northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
 Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming southeast.
 Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 56.
 Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39.

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Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
Friday, Nov. 9
 Five traffic stops were made, resulting in at least one arrest.
 A traffic complaint was received from the 200 block of North Christy.
 A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of 19th and Banks streets.
 Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 300 block of North Banks, on two occasions in the 500 block of North Wells, the 2100 block of Lea, the 1800 block of Williston, the 1200 block of Finley, the 2100 block of Duncan and the intersection

Obituaries

of Buckler and Wells streets.
 One attempt to serve papers was made.
 A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.
 A suspicious person call was received from the 100 block of South Starkweather.
 A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 700 block of Murphy.
 Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 2100 block of North Banks.
 Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 2100 block of North Sumner, the 500 block of North Russell and the 200 block of North Cuyler.
 Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1800 block of Chestnut, the 400 block of North Christy and the 400 block of Graham, where an arrest was made in connection with the incident.
 Criminal mischief was reported at Fellowship Baptist Church, 622 E. Francis. Floodlights, a window and plastic piping were broken. Estimated cost of damage is \$60.
 Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson, the 1800 block of North Banks and the 1200 block of North Hobart.
 One alarm was reported.
 Two building checks were made.
 Burglary was reported in the 900 block of Llano. Miscellaneous tools, jewelry and a jewelry box were taken. Estimated value of loss is unknown.

Saturday, Nov. 10
 Four traffic stops were made.
 Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of 23rd and Dwight streets and the 1900 block of North Hobart.
 Traffic complaints which resulted in arrests were received from the 1300 block of North Hobart and the 1800 block of North Zimmers.
 An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 100 block of East 28th.
 Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1100 block of Terry Road, on two occasions in the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 600 block of North Wynne, where an arrest was made in connection with the incident.
 Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1100 block of Seneca, the 1000 block of Sierra, the 1000 block of Neel Road, the 700 block of Malone, the 2200 block of Duncan and the 700 block of Powell.
 A welfare check was made in the 1200 block of North Hobart.
 A runaway was reported in the 1900 block of North Sumner.
 One suicide attempt was reported.
 A civil matter was reported in the 1100 block of South Dwight.
 Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Hobart Street and Municipal Drive, the intersection of Hobart Street and Perryton Parkway, the 1000 block of Varnon Drive, the 800 block of West Kingsmill

and the 1000 block of West Wilks.
 Suspicious person calls which resulted in arrests were received from the intersection of Varnon Drive and Crawford Street and the 100 block of West Foster.
 Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 900 block of Llano and the 700 block of Murphy.
 Purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor was reported in the 900 block of Llano.
 A prowler was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson.
 Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Yeager, the intersection of Randy Matson and Russell streets, the 900 block of Varnon Drive, the 100 block of South Foster, the 300 block of East 17th, the 1800 block of North Christy, the 1800 block of West Harvester and the 2200 block of North Nelson.
 Criminal mischief was reported in the 2100 block of North Faulkner.
 Assault was reported in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.
 A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.
 One alarm was reported.
 One building check was made.
 Theft was reported in the police department lobby. An electric crane hoist valued at \$500 was taken from an unreported location.
 Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1400 block of West Somerville.

Sunday, Nov. 11
 Six traffic stops were made.
 Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1700 block of Duncan, the 1300 block of North Hobart, the police department lobby and the 1400 block of North Hobart.
 Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 500 block of North Sumner, the 400 block of North Faulkner and the 400 block of North Zimmers.
 Agency assistance was rendered in the 1800 block of North Faulkner.
 A welfare check was made in the 100 block of East Foster.
 Civil matters were reported
See RECORD, Page 3

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer.

Wheat	.....	N/A
Milo	.....	N/A
Corn	.....	N/A
Soybeans	.....	N/A

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa

OXY	.....	68.05	-2.73
BP PLC ADR	.....	72.55	-2.58
Cabot Corp	.....	33.00	+0.97
Celanese	.....	39.24	-0.06
Cabot Oil Gas	.....	35.25	-1.59
Coca Cola	.....	60.52	-0.31
VLO	.....	67.83	-0.69
HAL	.....	37.09	-1.38


XCEL	.....	22.18	+0.03
Anadarko	.....	55.62	-1.99
XOM	.....	85.19	-1.00
Nat'l Oilwell	.....	65.81	-5.32
Limited	.....	19.17	+0.51
Williams	.....	34.64	-0.71
MCID	.....	58.95	+0.64
Atmos	.....	26.94	+0.14
Pioneer Nat	.....	49.73	-1.55
ICP	.....	47.41	+0.52
COP	.....	80.43	-2.13
SLB	.....	91.03	-3.73
Tenneco	.....	32.93	-0.08
CVX	.....	84.91	-2.35
Wal-Mart	43.41	-0.51
OKE	49.03	-0.39

New York Gold	834.70
Silver	15.55
West Texas Crude	96.32

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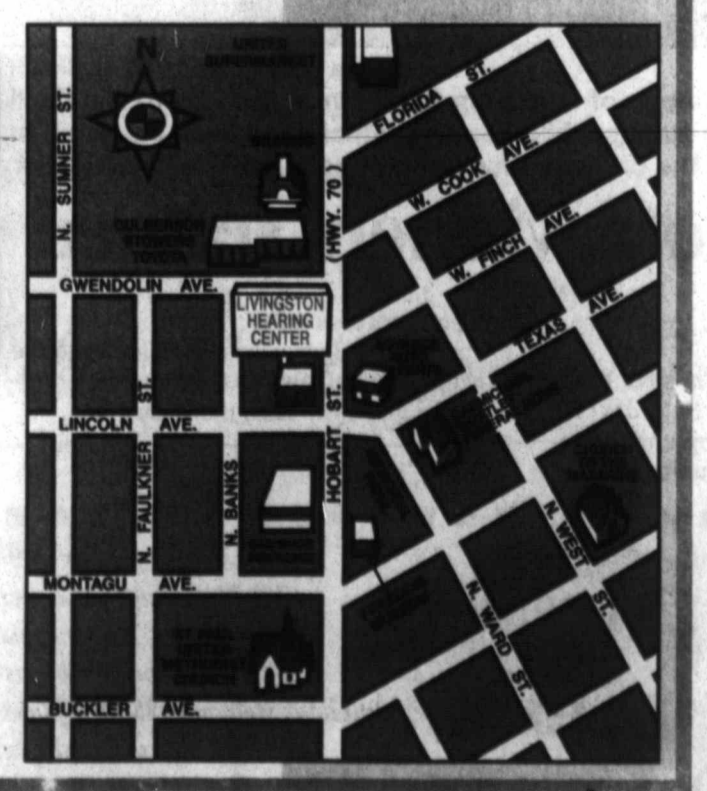
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MARY ELLEN & Harvester Clothing Room now in Church Building. Middle dble. doors on front of the church, watch for signs. Open Tues., Nov., 9-1pm.

WANTED: WILL the witnesses to the accident that happened at the intersection of Duncan/Harvester on 11-5-07 at 10:35 am please contact the Pampa Police.

LOST: SET of GM keys on O.U key ring. 662-9545.

'Cinderella' rehearsal



These members of the Pampa High School Concert Choir go through a dress rehearsal for their annual play, which is "Cinderella" this year. These mice from left are Tonya Kiper, Marii Street, Hilary Acker and Whitney Sherrill. The play will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Crew held for questioning in probe of bay oil spill

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal investigators were considering today whether to file criminal charges against the crew members of a container ship that struck the Bay Bridge and ripped a gash in its fuel tank, creating the San Francisco Bay's worst oil spill in nearly two decades.

The ship was being detained at the Port of Oakland. Crew members of the Asia-based Cosco Busan were questioned on board the vessel beginning Sunday, said Coast Guard attorney Christopher Tribolet.

Any charges would likely fall under the negligence provisions of the Clean Water Act and the U.S. transportation code, Tribolet said.

The Coast Guard notified the U.S. attorney's office Saturday about problems involving management and communication between the officers on the ship's bridge at the time of the crash. Capt. William Uberti, the U.S. Coast Guard commander for the bay region, declined to elaborate, except to say: "It was just the way that everybody interacted" on the bridge.

The bridge personnel included the helmsman, watch officer, and ship's master, as well as the pilot, Capt. John Cota, among the most experienced of the seamen who guide ships through the bay's treacherous waters.

It was unclear how many crew members were still aboard the ship today. Questioning began Sunday and at least six members were found to have immigration or visa issues, authorities said. Foreign crew members on board any ship in U.S. ports need the permission of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol to disembark, Tribolet said.

Darrell Wilson, a representative for Regal Stone Ltd., the Hong Kong-based company that owns the Cosco Busan, declined to comment on the investigation. A call to the U.S. attorney's office for Northern California was not returned today.

The ship struck the bridge early Wednesday, causing no structural damage to the span but leaking some 58,000 gallons of fuel oil into the bay.

Record

Continued from Page 2

ed in the police department lobby and the 1000 block of South Faulkner.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion and resulted in at least one arrest.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1300 block of North Hobart, the 500 block of Maple, the 600 block of West Crawford, the 800 block of North Somerville and the 900 block of South Wells.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from Recreation Park, 1600 E. Highway 60.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1000 block of East Campbell.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of South Gray, the 1600 block of West Somerville, the 600 block of Plains, the 600 block of East Francis, the 800 block of East Francis, the 400 block of Magnolia, the 500 block of North Christy, the 600 block of North Christy and the 700 block of Scott, where an arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of Plains. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of East Francis, the 1900 block of North Wells and the 900 block of East Brunow.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Hill. A brick was thrown at the driver's door of a vehicle. Estimated cost of dam-

age was not included in the report.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of Jean. Two vehicles were hit with eggs. Estimated cost of damage was not included in the report.

A threat was reported in the 700 block of North Banks.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Canadian.

One alarm was reported. One building check was made.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Neel Road.

Monday, Nov. 12
Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1600 block of West Buckler.

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.

Sunday, Nov. 11
William Donald Stanley, 39, of Pampa was arrested in the 600 block of North Wynne by Pampa Police Department for public intoxication.

Cody W. Hopson, 24, of Pampa was arrested in the 1200 block of North Hobart by PPD for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Michael Anthony Tidwell, 47, of Pampa was arrested in the 100 block of West Foster by PPD for tampering with evidence and aggravated assault.

Francisco Moreno Ortega, 19, of Pampa was arrested in the 700 block of East Scott by PPD for consumption of alcohol by a minor, two counts of minor in possession of alcohol and two counts of failure to appear/bail jumping.

Marvin Monrow Finney III, 32, of Pampa was arrested in the 600 block of Plains by PPD for posses-

sion of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Virginia Trusty, 36, of Pampa was arrested in the 600 block of Plains by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia and capias pro fines for expired operator's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear.

Jorge Ruiz, 49, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for failure to identify.

Dillon N. Best, 26, of Dayton was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated.

Erika Doyle, 27, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive by PPD for theft under \$50.

Frederick Antonio Jackson, 30, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a bond surrender for resisting arrest and capias pro fines for failure to identify, public intoxication and assault.

Monday, Nov. 12
Juanita Denise Taylor, 20, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for theft under \$50.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Nov. 10
12:24 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 200 block of Russell on a medical response.

4:06 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 900 block of East Scott on a medical response.

Sunday, Nov. 11
7:11 a.m. — One unit and three

personnel responded to the 1100 block of Crane on a lifting assist.

11:45 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Hobart on a medical response.

1:21 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 12000 block of East Frederic on a medical response.

2:50 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of 18th and Duncan on a motor vehicle accident.

3:03 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to One Medical Plaza on a Life Star standby.

3:10 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 1300 block of North Hobart on a motor vehicle versus a gas meter.

3:26 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to One Medical Plaza on a Life Star standby.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls for the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, Nov. 10
12:20 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Russell and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

4:02 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Scott. No transport.

4:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to FM 749 south of Pampa and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Powell and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Sunday, Nov. 11
1:46 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:17 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:52 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of North Sumner.

1:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of East Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:17 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of Somerville and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the intersection of 18th and Duncan and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the intersection of 18th and Duncan and transported a patient to PRMC.

9 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

City

Continued from Page 1

If the victim suffers serious injuries, the offense is a third degree felony, punishable by imprisonment from two to 10 years and a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

There are exemptions for dogs involved in law enforcement, hunting and farming and ranching activities.

While the law does not deal with attacks on other animals, city officials said they had received requests

for laws dealing with pit bulls. City Manager John Horst said that the city can't pass ordinances outlawing specific breeds.

With regard to water rights, Donald Campbell, representing Campbell Brothers Enterprises, is offering to sell water rights from their land north and east of Pampa to the city.

The commission will again discuss tax abatements for an assisted living facility. The commission has in the past expressed its reluctance to grant tax abatements for new companies that were not extended to existing businesses in

Pampa. "Meredith House didn't ask for or get any tax abatements," Horst said.

The city commission will also discuss putting a tax freeze for disabled citizens and citizens over 65 on the May 10, 2008, general election ballot.

The commission will discuss Freedom Museum's request for a \$500 a month subsidy. Under Homeland Security rules, the museum must have a person watching over the facility.

Horst said the museum averages 25 visitors a day. "It's a really big tourist attraction," Horst said.

Water

Continued from Page 1

Potter County, a one-inch well for Roger Caffee in Carson County, a one-inch replacement well for Marvin Green Jr. in Potter County, a one-inch well for

Tomas Garcia and Antonio Guzman in Potter County, a two-inch well for Rodney Bohr in Donley County, a one-inch well for Dome Development in Potter County, a one-inch well for Steve Wright in Potter County, a one-inch well for Angie Armstrong in Potter County, a one-inch well for Lyndol Carter in Potter

County, and a one-inch replacement well for James R. Armbrister in Gray County.

They will also consider a six-inch well for Lynn Britten in Carson County.

The board will consider an extension request for a six-inch permit for John McDowell in Wheeler County.

Pancho Villa's guns auctioned off

FREDERICKSBURG, Texas (AP) — Three guns linked to Pancho Villa were auctioned for nearly \$29,000, apparently less than what organizers expected the firearms tied to the Mexican revolutionary to fetch.

"That's the fun of auctions — sometimes you get bargains," said Amy McMurrugh, a spokeswoman for the auction, which was held Saturday near San Antonio.

The auction featured about 1,000 Old West items, including weapons that belonged to Old West lawmen, McMurrugh said.

The prize of the auction — Villa's Remington single action revolver with his real name, "Doreteo Arango," engraved on the barrel — sold for \$18,000.

A rifle that Villa reportedly dropped in the Rio Grande during a skirmish with opposition forces sold for \$7,500, and a pistol owned by Villa's bodyguard was sold for \$3,450.

Besides the guns, a Spanish-made sword belonging to Villa sold for \$7,500, McMurrugh said.

Chili

Continued from Page 1

Judges were Matt LeBlanc, Channel 10 News; Kim Powell, Pampa Fire Chief; Ronnie Holmes, Holmes Sporting Goods; Ken Rheams, Rheams Diamond Shop; Danny Seabourn, PHS Principal; Paul Nies, PJHS Principal; Charles Smith, School Board President; Mike Ehrle; KGRO-KOMX; Sgt.

Justin Godfrey, U.S. Army; and Sgt. Elmer Frye, U.S. Army.

Winning in the junior division was Toadstool Chili by Girl Scout Troop 514. In the amateur division, Monkey Butt Chili (Shepard's Crook) won first place, Chili that won the West (Top O' Texas Cattlewomen) won second place and Aloha Chili (Affinity Medical Supply) won third place. The professional placings were Garner Albus, first place; Margaret Lopez, second place; and

Manuel Jimenez and Justin Fuentes (Harvester Chili) third place.

Showmanship awards went to Aloha Chili, first; Hard Hat Chili (CWC and Co.), second; and Good Grazin' Chili by the Cud Chewin' Cuties won third.

Matt Gill won the hot pepper eating contest by eating 13 jalapenos in two minutes. The Little Miss Hot Stuff was Rachel Alonzo, who raised \$326 for Shepherd's Helping Hands.

Viewpoints

Special train in Texas held secret passenger

Special train in Texas held secret passenger (hed?)

The special train rolled through the dark vastness of West Texas toward the coming sunrise along the mainline of the Southern Pacific. Speeding through the night, the train raced through Sanderson, across the Pecos River high bridge, past the ghost of old Langtry and Judge Roy Bean's Jersey Lilly saloon, and in and out of the border town of Del Rio.

Awakened by daylight or wind-up traveling alarm clocks, the passengers in the Pullman cars alighted from their curtained berths and began a new day with steaming coffee served by black porters. A few others, riding in a private car, also began to stir. Soon came breakfast ladled from the steam trays in the train's dining car, though some of the train's occu-

pants had their morning meal brought to them.

One of the men on the train was Merriam Smith, ace reporter for the old United Press news service. Also on board were top dogs with the Associated Press and International News Service. All three were keeping a very big secret.

In his memoir, Smith later remembered Sept. 27, 1942, as a quiet, hot day. When the special pulled into the small Uvalde depot about noon that Sunday, only one man in town, and only a handful in Texas, knew why the train had stopped or who sat in one of the cars.

Smith set the scene very well: "White-haired and then 73 years old, [John Nance] Garner drove from his ranch to the little, deserted railroad station in his rattletrap 1929 roadster. The train arrived

ahead of him, but a few minutes later his little car pulled up in front of the Casey Jones Cafe just across from the depot."

The veteran wire service reporter watched as "Cactus Jack" ducked to walk under a sign boasting of Uvalde's self-proclaimed

distinction of being "The Honey Capital of the World" and hurried down the tracks to board the train. Waiting in a heavily armored special car sat his former boss, President Franklin Roosevelt.

The two had not seen each other in person in two years, Garner hav-

ing been laid off by Roosevelt as vice president and replaced by Henry Wallace when Roosevelt ran for his unprecedented third term. But as Smith later reported, none of that friction was evident that morning on the presidential train as the two Democrats greeted each other.

"Well, what do you know?" Roosevelt said to Garner.

"God bless you, sir," Garner said as he approached Roosevelt. "I'm glad to see you."

The president put his arms on the old man's shoulders and held him off at a distance to take a good look at him.

"Gosh, you look well," Roosevelt said as Smith scribbled the quote in his notebook.

They talked briefly about Texas politics.

"How are things going around here?" the President asked.

Garner took his cowboy hat off

and slapped it against his leg. "They're 100 per cent for you," he said loudly.

The two men, a salty Texan and a patrician New Yorker, joked for a few minutes and politely asked about each other's wife.

With a final handshake, Garner got off the train. Their visit had lasted six minutes. Walking back to his old car, the former vice president saw Dr. Ross McIntire, the President's personal physician.

"Keep that man in good health and all the rest will take care of itself," Garner told him.

The doctor managed to keep Roosevelt going until the spring of 1945, the war finally nearing an end. And the three wire service reporters on the train honored their agreement to keep the President's cross-country trip a secret until he got back to Washington.

See COX, Page 5

Mike Cox

Texas Tales



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 12, the 316th day of 2007. There are 49 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 12, 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Allies ended up winning a major victory over the Japanese.)

On this date:

In 1815, American suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, N.Y.

In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1948, former Japanese Premier Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal.

In 1977, the city of New Orleans elected its first black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, the winner of a runoff.

In 1982, Yuri V. Andropov was elected to succeed the late Leonid I. Brezhnev as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

In 1987, the American Medical

'Private opinion creates public opinion. ... That is why private opinion, and private behavior, and private conversation are so terrifyingly important.'

— Jan Struther
English poet
(1901-1953)

Association issued a policy statement saying it was unethical for a doctor to refuse to treat someone solely because that person had AIDS or was HIV-positive.

In 1990, Japanese Emperor Akihito formally assumed the Chrysanthemum Throne.

In 1996, a Saudi Boeing 747 jetliner collided shortly after takeoff from New Delhi, India, with a Kazak Ilyushin-76 cargo plane, killing 349 people.

In 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, en route from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff, killing 265 people.

In 2004, a jury in Redwood City, Calif., convicted Scott Peterson of murdering his pregnant wife, Laci, and dumping her body in San Francisco Bay. (Peterson, who maintains his innocence, was later sentenced to death.)

Ten years ago: Ramzi Yousef was convicted in New York of masterminding the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. Four U.S. businessmen and a Pakistani were killed by gunmen in Karachi, Pakistan, apparently in retaliation for the murder conviction of Aimal Khan Kasi in the shooting deaths of two CIA employees.



Hidden prejudices hard thing to combat

Some African-Americans have raised the question about Barack Obama, "Is he black enough?" The young senator's problem is that he is not white enough for a lot of Americans who I think are not ready to accept a man of color as president. This is sad. If Obama got the nomination, I would gladly vote for him rather than any of those no-good Republicans.

I may be wrong, and I hope I am, but white racism has been driven underground. Few white people today will voice even a legitimate criticism of an African-American lest they lose their job or get crucified by the press and be branded as a racist. But just because people keep silent or even maintain a facade of tolerance doesn't mean that prejudice has been extinguished. We would be far better off if white people felt free to

express their true opinions. Then, at least, we would know where everybody stands.

There is no genuine debate in America on the subject of race. Like the state of Israel, the subject is forbidden if it involves criticism or dissent from the politically correct views. This is not good. Hidden prejudice is difficult to combat.

Thomas Jefferson said words to the effect that lies or errors are not to be feared as long as people are free to debate them. Prejudice of any kind is, after all, an error in thinking. These days it is equated with hate, but that, too, is an error. A person can be prejudiced but not hate

what he's prejudiced against. People can hate without being prejudiced. The point is that errors in thinking can be corrected if people are free to discuss them. Hate, which is an emotion, is another problem altogether. Haters generally hate everybody, often including themselves.

Sen. Obama was lionized at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. He has become a celebrity and draws nice crowds at his personal appearances. But he remains far behind Hillary Clinton despite the fact that he is twice as intelligent and thoughtful, and, no doubt about it, he would make a far better president.

True, he is jug-eared and

sounds often too professorial, and many Americans today are looking for stars rather than leaders. But I believe the hidden wall is simply prejudice against the idea of an African-American as president.

Right up through and long after the War Between the States, the belief that African-Americans were inferior was universal. The North was as prejudiced as the South. Alexis de Tocqueville, the French observer, noted of America that "The prejudice of the race appears to be stronger in the states which have abolished slavery than in those where it still exists; and nowhere is it so intolerant as in those states where servitude has never been known." Even Abe Lincoln expressed his belief that

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Nov. 5

The Dallas Morning News on security contractors in Iraq:

The State Department's mismanagement of security contractors in Iraq has had deadly consequences, and thankfully the Pentagon is taking over a job it should have had from the beginning.

Protecting diplomats outside war zones should be the job of the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. But in cases like Iraq and Afghanistan, where government convoys require helicopter escorts, armor, platoons of body guards and tailgate gunners swiveling .50-caliber machine

guns, the term "diplomatic" seemed absurdly out of place.

These are military operations, and the State Department has been out of its depth, as was obvious on Sept. 16 when hired gunmen from Blackwater USA fired on civilians in Baghdad. Seventeen Iraqis died so U.S. diplomats could conduct a meeting. But the problem didn't begin there. Such contractors have repeatedly engaged in controversial behavior in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Typically, companies like Blackwater employ retired soldiers and Marines steeped in a culture of military discipline. Once free of that structure, they tend to set their own agenda and rules, often with disastrous results. Rather than bring them to heel, the

State Department has defended their behavior.

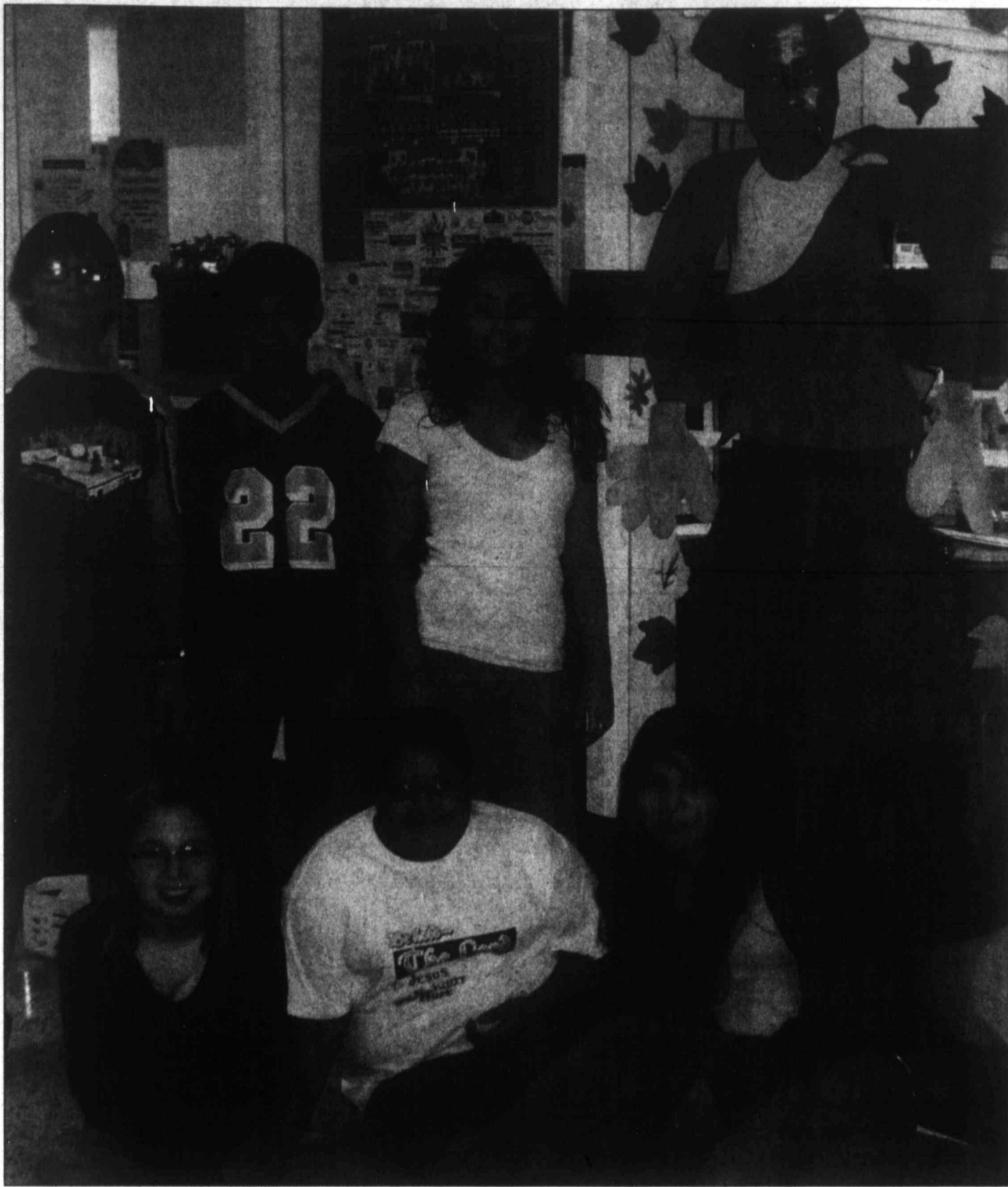
The department's oversight procedures for security contractors have been deficient for years. It bungled part of the Blackwater investigation by offering immunity to the gunmen involved, though it had no authority to do so.

The department's security contracting has grown from \$1 billion four years ago to \$4 billion today. Yet department accounting procedures have failed to keep pace. A recent audit identified serious lapses in oversight of a major police-training contract held by DynCorp International.

Lax accounting created "an environ-

See IRAQ, Page 5

Door decoration



Dylan Parks, back row from left, Chris Howard, Abigail Salazar; Taylor Ranney, front row from left, Gina Avila and Amaris Cruz posed in front of this scary fellow who recently decorated the door of their art class at Pampa Junior High School.

COURTESY PHOTO

Woman wins race again

CHICAGO (AP) — Cindy Harris won the women's division of a race to the top of the nation's tallest building for the sixth straight year Sunday. The 38-year-old has won the race every year it has been in existence. She was among 2,000 people who ran up the downtown building's 103 flights of stairs in the annual Go Vertical Chicago. Harris, of Indianapolis,

finished the race up the 2,109 steps from the lobby to the Sears Tower Skydeck in a time of 15 minutes, 1 second. Eric Leninger, a 24-year-old from Geneva, won the men's race in 13 minutes, 42 seconds. The event was expected to raise \$350,000 for the New York-based Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation.

Iraq

Continued from Page 4

ment vulnerable to waste and fraud," the audit report said, adding that the State Department "does not know specifically what it received for most of the \$1.2 billion in expenditures under its DynCorp contract." These troubling signs

suggest that a broader realignment of responsibilities is in order. It's time for the State Department to stop protecting its contractors and start defending the interests of American taxpayers. If its mismanagement continues, Congress should consider removing the department from the contracting business altogether. URL: <http://www.dallasnews.com>

Reese

Continued from Page 4

African-Americans were inferior and could never live as equals among whites. Such deeply ingrained beliefs are difficult to get rid of, especially if, as we have done, we have created a situation where everyone feels compelled to hide

them. As I said, I sincerely hope that I am wrong about this. Obama would clearly be superior to Mrs. Clinton or to any of the Republicans, with the exception of Ron Paul. Nevertheless, I fear the senator is too white for some blacks and too black for some whites. —Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Cox

Continued from Page 4

Plenty of people recognized a special train when they saw one, but no one outside of a few railroad officials and the key players in his administration knew about the President's trip. The President's next stop came at San Antonio, where he inspected Kelly Field and Fort Sam Houston. From there, the special train moved up the tracks to Fort Worth, where Roosevelt stopped by an aircraft manufacturing plant and later visited his son, Elliott.

Finally back in the Capital on Thursday, Oct. 1, Smith let loose with 18,000 words of copy devoted to the trip, much of the verbiage sent in special reports to the various places the president had visited, including Uvalde. The story of Roosevelt's chat with Garner appeared on page one of the Dallas Morning News and other newspapers on Oct. 2, five days after the fact.

Many newspapers, while acknowledging that presidential security was certainly important in war time, complained about the delay in reporting Roosevelt's defense inspection tour. The president, of course, continued to operate as he pleased.

As for Smith, one day he'd cover another presidential visit to Texas. He trav-

eled to the state in the fall of 1963 with the White House press corps when President John F. Kennedy came on a purely political visit — a trip far from secret. Soon after Lee Harvey Oswald shot the president in downtown Dallas on November 22, Smith got into a fist fight with the AP's reporter over who would get to use the radio telephone in the chase car carrying wire service reporters.

Smith had the phone first and he kept control of it. Only nine minutes after the assassination, the UPI man dictated a bulletin that shots had been fired at the presidential motorcade and within moments the whole world began to find out what had happened in Texas.

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a dozen Texas-related books.

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DOWNTOWN PAMPA

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Please tell people to hang up and drive! This year, five girls who had just graduated from high school in a nearby town were killed in a car crash. The news media carried some stories on the investigation, including the fact that the driver's cell phone had sent and received text messages while the driver was passing a truck seconds before the accident occurred. There is no text message important enough for five people to die for! Unless someone else was using her cell phone, the driver was not paying enough attention to the road. Talking on a cell phone while driving isn't much safer than texting because, unlike someone sitting in the car with you, the person on the cell phone can't see your distractions and will keep demanding your attention as you navigate with half your mind. We're all busy. We all need to multitask at times. But pull off the road to use your cell phone, because nothing anyone has to say or hear is worth dying for. Please, Abby, use your influence to get people to hang up and drive! — **ROSEMARY IN NEW YORK**

DEAR ROSEMARY: I'll try. Readers, the Los Angeles Times recently printed a picture taken on one of our California highways of a young woman who was not only driving while texting, but also had her left foot hanging out of the side window of her vehicle. Needless to say, with her eyes glued to the screen of her cell phone, she was not watching the road. I am truly sorry that five young girls lost their lives because of a driver doing something similar. We hear over and over again how dangerous it is to drive with anyone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A person who is texting is similarly impaired. When, oh when, will people finally get the message?

DEAR ABBY: How do you tell the owners of the company I work for not to bring their dogs to work? These are very big dogs that

bark at the clients when they come in and have eaten people's lunches off their desks. Last week, there was a big to-do when the dogs ate two co-workers' lunches. One of them became very upset. The owners apologized and promised the dogs would "take a break" for a while. A week later, they brought one of the dogs back. How do you get the owners to understand that this is a professional office, not a mom-and-pop antique store, where dogs do not belong? — **BARKING MAD IN OHIO**

DEAR BARKING MAD: Unless it's reflected in their accounts receivable, you don't. Any employee who tries will only wind up in the doghouse. Because you can no longer tolerate the livestock, look for a job in an environment that is less animal friendly. Everyone will be happier — the owners, the dogs and you.

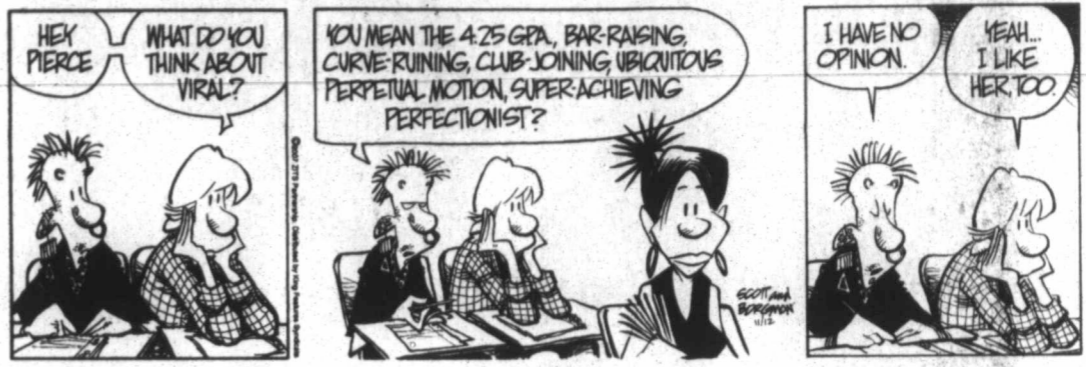
DEAR ABBY: I have looked everywhere, but I cannot find the answer to my question. If you go out to coffee on a first date, is it a courtesy for the woman to call the man and tell him she did or did not have a good time? — **DONNA IN GRANADA HILLS, CALIF.**

DEAR DONNA: If you go out for coffee on a first date and have a good time, it's perfectly acceptable to call the man and tell him so. (Everybody appreciates a good review.) If, however, you did NOT have a good time, it would be extremely rude to call the man and tell him. ("John, I'm calling to say the coffee was too strong, the service was slow and your company was terrible.") The call would probably be unnecessary because most people can tell when the chemistry doesn't "click."

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS — 41 Egg

1 Rotten kid holder

5 Wander

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12 Intensely

13 Compas-

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23 Glue's kin

24 Propor-

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26 Paint buy

29 Calendar

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30 Western

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31 Cover

32 Slopes

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34 Whale's

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37 Kick out

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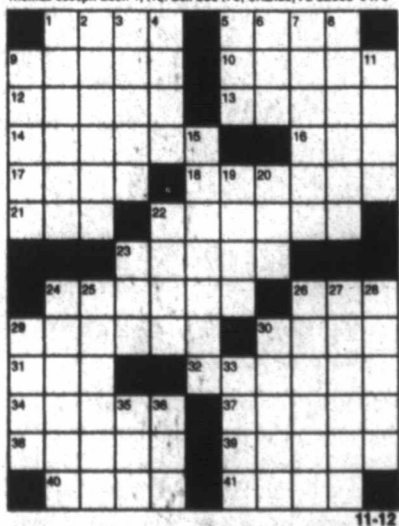
40 Fix text

TAKE FRETTS
ADULT ROYAL
MANOR ADELE
EGG TON FOP
DEFIER RUNT
SUNDEVILS
LOGAN
TEENANGEL
TEXT NESTOR
RAH LOS HOE
AMAZE SENSE
MULES ARIES
SPENT ACRE

Saturday's answer

- 15 Kin of
- 26 Ark
- 16 "Oh,
- measures
- yeah?"
- 27 Lucky
- 19 Feed-bag
- charm
- 28 Christens
- fill
- 29 Spill over
- 6 Count
- 20 Sugar
- 30 Sprite
- 7 Unmoored
- 22 Brit's
- 33 "Show-
- boat"
- 8 Minnie's
- "bye!"
- 23 Cacao
- composer
- 9 Old
- holder
- 35 "Do —
- say!"
- 11 Fabric
- pie
- 36 Badmin-
- ton need
- 25 Zombies

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Peanuts



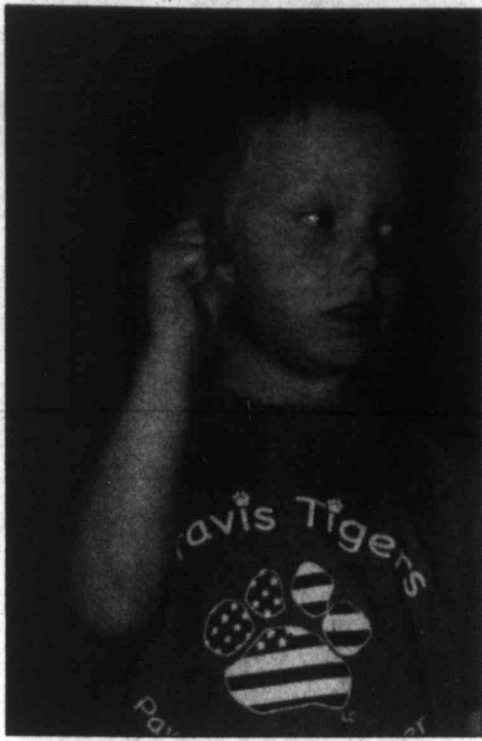
Flo & Friends



Blondie



Veterans Day, a day to honor our soldiers



Jayden Monds does sign language to go along with the words of a song during the program.



Victoria Corbitt, who is in kindergarten, sings "God Bless the U.S.A."

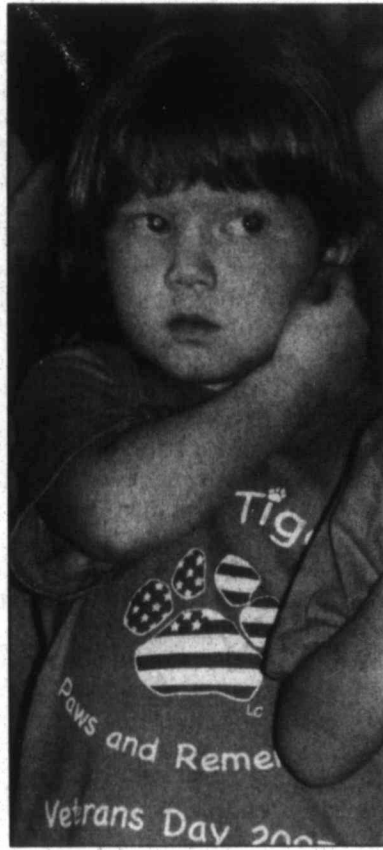


Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Lloyd Waters, right, president of Las Pampas Koi and Water Garden Society, presents a plaque to Danny Martin, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657, for a water feature which was funded by the society and installed at Freedom Museum, 600 N. Hobart. The dedication ceremony was held at 3:30 p.m. Friday. The structure was dubbed the "Fountain of Freedom" and is dedicated to U.S. armed forces of the past, present and future, Waters said. The plaque, which will be mounted on the fountain, notes that the fountain was presented to the museum in memory of Paul Coronis.



Jodi Pingel, left, and Janae Williams show their patriotism during the Pledge of Allegiance.



Kindergartener Hope Loner does sign language with one of the songs.



The Altus AFB Honor Guard present the flags during the program while the students say the Pledge of Allegiance. The Honor Guard from left are Airman 1st Class Carsten Foster, Staff Sgt. Martelli Major, Senior Airman Heather Holihan and Senior Airman Bryan Boder.



These fifth grade students sing "God Bless the U.S.A." during the program. From left are Taylor Patterson, Cheyenne Williams, Ericka Spence, Emily Frost, Tyler Lambricht and McKenzie Parks.



Travis music teacher Kay Pittman gets to sit and enjoy the program after many months of hard work and practice.

Travis Tigers Paws and Remember Veterans Day Program



Pampa High School Band member Michael May plays TAPS during the program.



Travis Elementary students wave U.S. flags during the last portion of the program while they sang "We are Proud of our Veterans" and "We are Thankful for the U.S.A."

Photos by Kerri Smith & Marilyn Powers

Sports

Owens, Cowboys hold off Giants to command NFL East lead

By TOM CANAVAN
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Instead of using a Sharpie or running off at the mouth, a more patient Terrell Owens is letting his play dominate games these days. He's one of the main reasons the Dallas Cowboys are in command in the NFC East and looking like one of the front-runners to challenge for a sixth Super Bowl title.

Owens caught touchdown passes of 25 and 50 yards to break open a tight game in the second half and the Cowboys snapped the New

York Giants' six-game winning streak with a 31-20 victory on Sunday.

"This is why I feel Jerry brought me here," Owens said of Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. "I want to be the playmaker for this team. I brought my level of focus up with this team. I know every play can be a big play. We have teams on their heels a little bit."

The Cowboys (8-1) have the division reeling after sweeping the Giants (6-3).

Dallas leads New York by two games and has the tiebreaker

should they finish tied. The Cowboys also have a three-game edge on Washington (5-4) and a four-game margin on Philadelphia (4-5).

Owens has been a big part of that recently, of course, with the help of Tony Romo. The two hooked up six times on Sunday for 125 yards. It was Owens third straight 100-yard game.

"With this offense, I know we're capable of putting points on the board," Owens said. "Everybody on this team is making plays. I'm a big part of that. I just have to

remain patient."

Owens had three catches for 31 yards in a first half that was more noteworthy for some foolish penalties by Dallas that handed New York 10 points.

In the second half, the big plays came Owens' way. He ran by cornerback Sam Madison on his 25-yard scoring catch to snap a 17-all tie. When New York had to settle for a field goal after losing a TD on a holding penalty, Owens whizzed past safety Gibril Wilson on his 50-yard score.

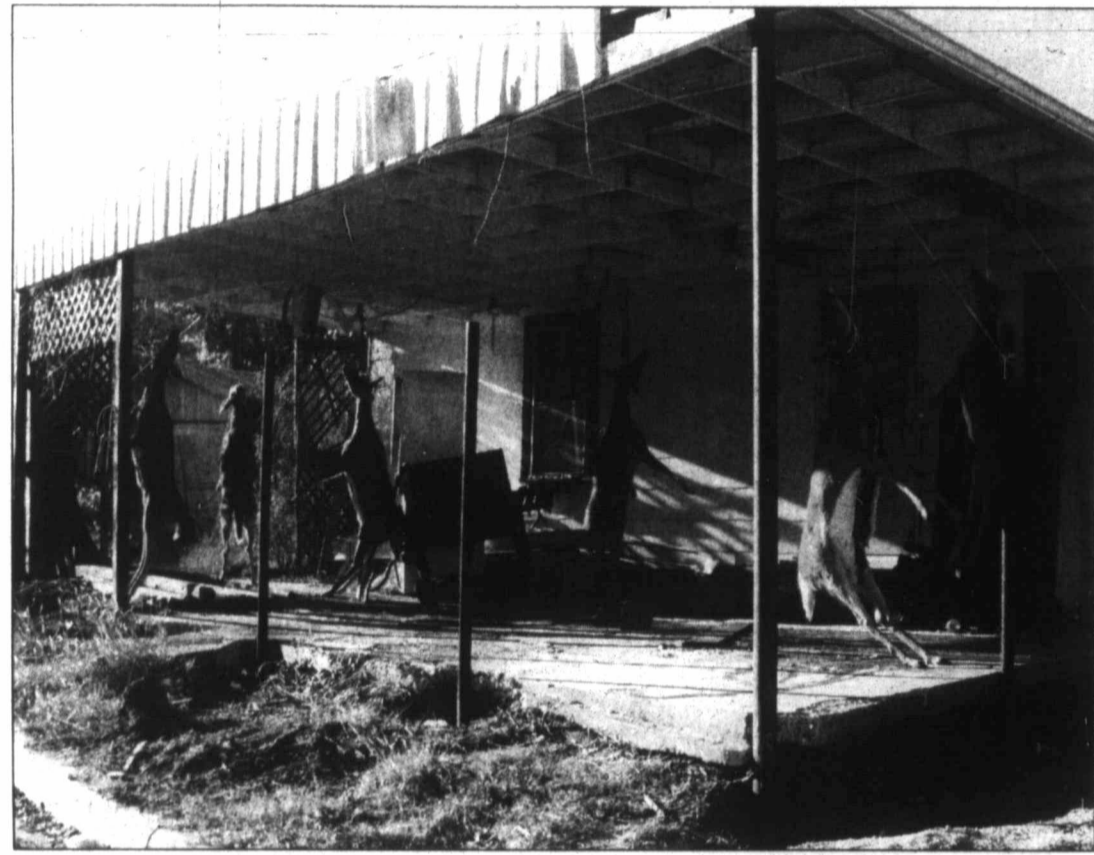
"Obviously today, we had more

penalties than we would like, and we have to eliminate those," T.O. said. "That was everybody's emotions running high. There was a little trash-talking by them. We came here, the game was played and I feel like we made a statement."

Romo was a big part of that statement, too. He completed 20-of-28 for 247 yards, hooking up with Tony Curtis on a 15-yard score and Patrick Crayton on a 20-yarder.

"A win like tonight just adds to your confidence," Romo said.

Deer season



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

A group of hunters went deer hunting and were successful in bringing home six deer. They have them hanging up at a home in the 300 block of Sunset until they can take them to be processed.

Rams finally get a win, but Miami Dolphins still winless

By The Associated Press

The St. Louis Rams found the winning touch at last. The Miami Dolphins? Not yet.

The NFL's two winless teams heading into Week 10 got opposite results Sunday. St. Louis ended its skid by winning at New Orleans 37-29. Miami led most of the way against Buffalo before folding, 13-10.

The Rams are 1-8 — and finally smiling — after not only a long-sought victory, but a decisive one. Marc Bulger had with 302 yards and short touchdown passes to Isaac Bruce and Drew Bennett. Steven Jackson, recovering from a back injury, rushed for a short touchdown and even threw a 2-yard halfback pass to Randy McMichael for a score.

Torry Holt had eight catches for 124 yards, and Rams' blitz-happy defense intercepted Drew Brees twice.

"It feels great to finally get a victory, especially against a team that had won four in a row," Jackson said. "It's a real confidence booster for the rest of the season."

Rian Lindell kicked a 34-yard field goal with 46 seconds left, the Bills earned their fourth consecutive victory and dropped the

Dolphins to 0-9 for the first time.

"Who's the guy from Charlie Brown who has the gray cloud following him around?" defensive tackle Vonnie Holliday said. "Pig Pen? We're like Pig Pen."

Also Sunday, it was San Diego 23, Indianapolis 21; Green Bay 34, Minnesota 0; Dallas 31, the New York Giants 20; Pittsburgh 31, Cleveland 28; Arizona 31; Detroit 21; Jacksonville 28, Tennessee 13; Denver 27, Kansas City 11; Philadelphia 33, Washington 25; Chicago 17, Oakland 6; Cincinnati 21, Baltimore 7; and Atlanta 20, Carolina 13.

On Monday night, San Francisco is at Seattle.

Off this week with the final byes of the season were New England, Houston, Tampa Bay and the New York Jets.

At Miami, the Dolphins controlled the ball for nearly 37 minutes. However, Buffalo scored 11 points in the final 9:46 to improve to 5-4.

Buffalo's only touchdown came after a long drive by the Dolphins put them ahead 10-2.

Kansas remains unbeaten, but LSU tops college poll list

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Beware of Kansas.

LSU moved into the first place in the Bowl Championship Series standings Sunday and Oregon jumped into second place, a day after previous No. 1 Ohio State was upset by Illinois.

But third-place Kansas is the only remaining unbeaten team in the six conferences with an automatic bid to the BCS and history suggests the Jayhawks will play for a national title if they stay perfect.

An undefeated team from a

major conference has never been left out of the BCS national championship game in favor of a one-loss team.

Kansas has a home game against Iowa State on Saturday, then plays Missouri at Kansas City on Nov. 24. Win that one and Kansas goes to the Big 12 championship game, where the most likely opponent will be Oklahoma.

Those games could give the Jayhawks the boost they need in the polls to overtake the Ducks, regardless of how Oregon finishes.

"I think they might even catch LSU," said Jerry Palm, a BCS ana-

lyst who runs www.collegebcs.com. "Why not? You're undefeated in a major conference and beat two top-five teams in your final two games."

LSU can rest easier than Oregon. With three games remaining, including the Southeastern Conference championship game on Dec. 1, LSU will likely reach the BCS title game in New Orleans by winning out.

"I don't see LSU doing worse than No. 2 if they win the way they're supposed to," Palm said. "A 10-7 over Mississippi (on Saturday) could change things,

because margins matter to voters."

The Ducks also have three games left, but they're past the toughest part of their schedule. The Ducks play at Arizona on Thursday night, have a road game against UCLA on Nov. 24 and finish the season against rival Oregon State at home on Dec. 1.

None of those teams is ranked, so if the Ducks struggle to a victory it could open up an opportunity for not only Kansas, but fourth-place Oklahoma or fifth-place Missouri.

Palm said it will be difficult for the Sooners or Tigers to reach the

top two without LSU or Oregon losing.

"I wouldn't expect them to get the same kind of juice an undefeated team would get," he said.

LSU is No. 1 in both the Harris and coaches' polls and top-rated by the computers. The Tigers have a BCS average of .980.

"Our guys understand what being ranked is about certainly at this point in the year," LSU coach Les Miles said. "Now, we are highly ranked again. That ranking happens to be No. 1. They understand what it means."

Heat, Wizards get first wins of year; Sonics fall short in Detroit

By The Associated Press

The previously winless Miami Heat and Washington Wizards got their first victories. For the young Seattle SuperSonics, a second-half rally wasn't enough to get them in the win column.

At New York, Jason Williams made the go-ahead jumper with 19 seconds left, and the Heat earned their first victory of the season, 75-72 over the Knicks on Sunday night.

The Wizards avoided the first 0-6 start in franchise history with a 101-90 win at Atlanta.

But in Seattle, Kevin Durant and Jeff Green weren't enough to help the Sonics overcome a 23-point first-half deficit. Richard Hamilton

scored 10 of his season-high 32 points during a torrid first quarter, and Detroit held off a late charge to prevail 107-103, dropping the SuperSonics to 0-7, their worst start ever.

"When you come from that far behind, you have to play perfect or pretty close to perfect and we didn't do that down the stretch," Seattle coach P.J. Carlesimo said. "We made some bad decisions, we tried some things we shouldn't be trying."

In other NBA games Sunday, it was: New Orleans 93, Philadelphia 72; Houston 85, Charlotte 82; San Antonio 113, Milwaukee 88; and Cleveland 103, the Los Angeles Clippers 95.

Swept in the playoffs, winless in the preseason and 0-5 to start this season, the Heat walked off as winners for the first time since beating Indiana on April 13 in their 80th game of last season.

"I don't like to lose," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "It's not much fun. Not a whole lot of joy as a team when you're in it."

With Dwyane Wade still out and Zach Randolph not here after his grandmother's death, both teams were missing their top players. And it showed with long stretches of inept offensive play on both sides.

But the Heat pulled it out after trailing by five with 2 1/2 minutes left. Udonis Haslem made consecutive baskets, and after Stephon

Marbury threw the ball away, Williams knocked down his jumper for a 73-72 lead.

The Knicks turned it over again trying to get the ball into Eddy Curry, and Williams added two free throws with 9.4 seconds remaining. Marbury then missed a potential tying 3.

"It was a much-needed win for us," center Shaquille O'Neal said. "We have folded under the pressure the last couple of games."

A team meeting led by Caron Butler and Antawn Jamison provided some reassurance for the Wizards after opening the season with five straight losses.

A victory led by Butler and Jamison was even better.

Butler scored 24 points and Jamison added 23 with 15 rebounds for the Wizards, who never trailed while setting a season high with 26 assists and a low with 12 turnovers.

"It feels like you got King Kong off your back," Butler said.

Brendan Haywood, who also had a double double with 13 points and 12 rebounds, said there was no panic at 0-5. Butler and Jamison called the meeting after Friday's loss to Denver.

"We don't have the type of team where you're gonna come in here and everybody's gonna be crying," Haywood said.

Johnson's win wraps up NASCAR title

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — With his 10th win of the season, Jimmie Johnson all but sealed a second, consecutive Nextel Cup title.

A defeated Jeff Gordon even conceded.

But Johnson's victory celebration was subdued. He won't take anything for granted, even after Sunday's win at Phoenix International Raceway gave him a commanding 86-point lead with just one race to go.

"I don't want to act like it's our championship yet," he said. "We have a nice margin in the points right now. But 400 miles (at Homestead), that's my

goal. I have to run 400 more miles, and we'll get nuts after that."

In winning his fourth-straight race, Johnson positioned himself to become the first driver to win consecutive titles since Gordon did it in 1997 and 1998. His season win total is the most since Gordon won 13 in 1998.

But Johnson doesn't want to be compared to his Hendrick Motorsports teammate, a four-time series champion.

"I certainly don't want to be called the next Jeff Gordon. I am Jimmie Johnson. I've always done it my way," he said. "If you look at our driving styles, our setups, look at everything we do, we are on opposite ends. We do have some common interests, we are

close friends.

"But I am not Jeff Gordon, so let's just get that out of the way."

No, he's not Gordon, but his work on the track makes it impossible not to draw the comparisons.

"They're just unbelievably good," said Matt Kenseth, the 2003 champion. "They're as good as any group I've seen, including Jeff in his heyday when he was winning 10 races a year and the championship by over a hundred points."

Johnson needs only to finish 18th or better next Sunday at Homestead-Miami Speedway to win his second championship in just six seasons.

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

11-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

CKPPNKQG NH ENMG K

AGKHF SDGPG FDG QPKTG NH

HLCGFNCGH UGFFGP FDKX

FDG BNXXGP. — T.T. TLEFLX
Saturday's Cryptoquote: ECONOMY IS THE METHOD BY WHICH WE PREPARE TODAY TO AFFORD THE IMPROVEMENTS OF TOMORROW. — CALVIN COOLIDGE

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10 Lost/Found

\$100 Reward Offered! Searching for couple giving away Heeler Mix puppies. Call or stop trailer in Wal-Mart parking lot, July '05. BJ 580-799-3094

13 Bus. Opp.

GREAT investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

SQUARE 1 Roofing, Remodeling, painting, sheetrocking. Free estimates!! No job too big or too small. 663-1673 or 664-0968.

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. Plumbing, repairs, new const., & septic sys.

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy, 665-4392

19 Situations

SUSIE Q's providing home sitting, house cleaning, & cooking meals, helping with the holidays. References & background check avail. 779-8853.

CLEANING LADY. Weekly. Call 486-1126.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

MAINTENANCE Man needed. Must have own tools & transportation. Plumbing exp. a must!! Call 665-1875.

Front Office/ Insurance Team Members Needed In a Busy Chiropractic Office Put Your "People Skills" To Work! Fax resume to (806)665-0537

21 Help Wanted

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for Paint Test Service Technician. Drug test req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401k, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for Welder Fabricators. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401k, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

LAW firm looking for receptionist/legal assistant. Fax resumes to 806-669-0440.

CDL Drivers Needed!!

Night & Day shifts available in Miami, Tx. Must pass drug test. Competitive wages, paid weekly, 401k & insurance, 2 weeks vacation after 1 year. Please call Turner Energy at (806) 898-0414.

PHARMACY Clerk/ Delivery. Must be 18 yrs. old. Send resume to Box 55 c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx.

MANAGER needed in Pampa, for different properties. For more information call 806-665-1875.

21 Help Wanted

MCLEAN CARE CENTER has openings for Nurse Aides and Maintenance Supervisor. Maintenance and Waxed Tile Floor experience preferred. Apply at McLean Care Center or call 806-779-2469

WANTED Construction Workers- carpenters, painters & tile layers. Apply in person, 2219 Perryton Pkwy., 665-5315.

TRIANGLE WELL SERVICE seeking a Qualified Mechanic Please Inquire at 129 S. Price Rd., Pampa NO PHONE CALLS

PART-TIME evening Dietary Helper is needed at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle. Must be able to work weekends. 537-3194.

NURSE Aide Positions 2-10 & 10-6 positions open. Will train & certify. Shift differential paid. Apply in person, 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler, TX. See Donna Cox RN DON or Angie Kincannon, LVN ADON, Wheeler Nursing & Rehab, 1000 S. Kiowa.

21 Help Wanted

NURSERY WORKERS Needed!!! For more info, call Cornerstone Baptist Church, 669-6509.

FULL TIME OILFIELD HAND NEEDED. Apply in person at 1010 S. Price Rd. Pampa

SALES/ CASHIER/ DELIVERY PERSON NEEDED Must Be Honest & Dependable. May Cross train to Pharmacy. Apply in Person Heard-Jones 114 N. Cuyler

LONG John Silver's is now taking applications for all positions. Must be able to work nights and weekends. Apply in person at 1050 N. Hobart.

JANITOR- full & part-time job. No experience needed, will train. To apply call, 665-2667.

PART-TIME Provider needed for Pampa patients. Above average pay. Nurses By Prescription, 806-355-1899.

MECHANIC/ Mechanics Helper needed. Call 669-9661, 8am-noon for aptt.

Unarmed Security Officers needed for local post. Must pass: FBI background check, Texas DPS fingerprint check & drug test. Apply in person at National Oilwell Guard Shack Hwy. 60, Pampa

21 Help Wanted

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hr. or \$57K annually including Federal benefits and OT. Paid Training. Vacation, FT / PT. 1-866-483-6490. USWA.

Immediate opening at a local non-profit organization for House Parent interested in working with adolescents. Applicants must be dependable and possess positive discipline skills. Must be willing to live in home 4-5 days a week and work a flexible schedule. Generous benefit package including Health Insurance. Income averages from \$28,000 to \$30,000 per year. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. Interested persons call (806)665-7123 M-F 8am-5pm and (806)663-1856 aft. hours & weekends EOE

PAMPA Glass & Supply, 1432 N. Banks, now accepting applications for part time receptionist/ picture framer. Will train!

UPS in Pampa is seeking qualified candidates to work as Seasonal Drivers. Apply online at upsjobs.com

SANDBLASTING & painting person. Experienced. prof. \$12/hr up depending on experience. 918-431-5545.

CRALL Wanted: 1-Fabrication Tank Welder, 1-Code Welder and 1-Exp Painter. Weld test required; stick and wire. 2930 Hwy. 152 West Pampa, TX. 806-665-8446

PAMPA Country Club is now hiring for wait staff and kitchen help. Apply in person at Pampa Country Club. No phone calls please!!!

TRUCK DRIVER WANTED Must have current Class A CDL, pass drug test & DOT physical. Good driving & previous employment record. Clear drug & alcohol record. Frequent home time! 100 N. Price Rd. 806-669-1128

OWNER FINANCE! 1018 Duncan 1333 Garland both 2 bdr., 1 ba. EZ Terms Bad Credit Ok! 665-4595

NEWLY remodeled 1700 sq. ft. brick home. 1818 Evergreen. 3/1/75, new appl., roof & flooring. Fireplace. Big back yard. \$112,000 obo. 662-2029.

Owner Finance! 1018 Duncan 1333 Garland both 2 bdr., 1 ba. EZ Terms Bad Credit Ok! 665-4595

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos FOR Sale: 1978 Thunderbird. Runs, new tires, new battery. \$500 OBO. 665-9512.

FOR Sale: 2005 Chevy Impala LS, 4 door. 39k miles, excellent condition. 662-3458 or 662-6723.

1988 Suburban, 4 wheel drive. New tires. 79,000 miles. \$2795. Call 669-4150.

121 Trucks '02 Dodge Grand Caravan EL, 93,000 miles, dual air, power windows, new power steering pump, new water pump. Asking \$6700. 595-0940.

HI-PROFILE 1986 Ford pickup. Will trade for '81 or '82 Chevy pickup in running cond. 669-6629.

21 Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED part time tractor driver to drive new tractor. \$15/hr. 918-431-5545.

50 Building Suppl. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household OAK dining set with 8 chairs, sofa and loveseat for sale. Call 665-2203.

69 Misc. ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

EXPERIENCED HUNTER LOOKING FOR PLACE TO HUNT IN EXCHANGE FOR WORK Call 665-5347 aft. 5pm. or lv. message

MURRAY Tractor / Mower, 20 hp, 2 cylinder. Moving must sell! Call 665-3120.

2 cemetery lots for sale in Memory Gardens. Call 806-878-3601.

LRG. dining table / 6 chairs, bunk beds, nice elec. stove, clean refrig. much more. 1420 S. Barnes, Sat. 10-5. Call anytime, 665-2767.

WELDERS, Jack Stands, 4, Roller head, HD, 2000 lb. cap. \$65 each. 669-4150.

70 Musical PIANO, Wurlitzer, upright, maple. Excellent condition \$700. 669-4150.

80 Pets & Suppl. POMPOO Puppies, 8 weeks old, shots & wormed. \$175 ea. 4 males left. 440-6367, lv. msg. during day or call aft. 6p. or anytime weekends.

FOR Sale: Beautiful female 11 week old fawn & white English Bulldog. Very loving and is good with kids. \$1800. 669-9148 or 440-3047.

FREE 6 week old puppies, 1/2 Blue Heeler, 1/2 ??? Call 806-392-5245.

FREE fe. part long hair Chihuahua, part Shih-Tzu, 1 yr. old. Crate trained. 486-1114, 664-4734

95 Furn. Apts. Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

INVESTORS SPECIAL- 1329, 1331, & 1333 GARLAND, PAMPA. 3 HOUSES TOGETHER/MAKE GOOD RENTALS IN A HOT MARKET. ALL 2 1/2'S IN MOVE IN COND. \$65K CASH OR \$75K OWNER FINANCE. CALL KEITH 806-544-7244

1505 N. Nelson. Nice brick, 3/2/2, 1843 sq. ft., fireplace, 8x12 storage building, 12x18 shop with electric. 806-665-1519, 806-683-8907.

620 Powell, clean 1250 sq. ft. brick, metal trim house, 3/1/1, hdwd floors, big yard/stor. bldg. nice terms, Reduced. \$65,000. 665-7678, 663-3964.

1505 N. Nelson. Nice brick, 3/2/2, 1843 sq. ft., fireplace, 8x12 storage building, 12x18 shop with electric. 806-665-1519, 806-683-8907.

FOR Sale: 2005 Chevy Impala LS, 4 door. 39k miles, excellent condition. 662-3458 or 662-6723.

1988 Suburban, 4 wheel drive. New tires. 79,000 miles. \$2795. Call 669-4150.

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HI-PROFILE 1986 Ford pickup. Will trade for '81 or '82 Chevy pickup in running cond. 669-6629.

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES, TOOLS, GUNS & FURNITURE AUCTION SAT. NOV. 17, 9:33 A.M. Loc.-Miami, TX.- from Inter. Hwy. 60 & FR 282 (Caution Light) take FR 282 (Main St.) 1/2 Blk. South BRYANT ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES Conduit, Copper Tubing, Tools, Tool Boxes, Metal, Duck Work, Stage Lights, Lights, Fixtures, Elec. Supplies (starters, breakers, relays, heaters, fuses & holders, coils, lt. arrestors, plugs, switches, wire, meters & boxes), Guns, Tree Stands, Com. Dishwasher, Lumber, Parts Shelving, Office Furn. & Furn. Full Listing on Web Page www.loydsaction.com Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers 806-826-5850 or 334-0407 Wheeler, Tx. (Lic. Tx. 7119)

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Table with columns for School District (Austin, Lamar, Travis, Wilson), Location, Price, and Date/Details. Includes a list of homes for sale with prices and contact information for Pampa Realty Inc. (669-0007) and Century 21.

Fluid Compressor Partners, Ltd., a growing company in the oil and gas service industry has openings for ASME Code Welders / Welder Fabricators. We offer competitive pay and benefits including health insurance, 125(c), 401k, incentive bonus plan, paid holidays and vacation. Stop by 2538 W. Kentucky Ave. to fill out an application.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007:

This extraordinary year, many events and happenings could punctuate your life. If you want to understand what is going on with someone, walk in his or her shoes. You will gain a greater understanding. Communication — giving, hearing and receiving — will play a big role in your year. Some of you might be looking at a new car or computer. There's no question that many of you will feel that your daily life is a lot better than it has been in a while. If you are single, you'll meet people with ease in 2008. You might be stunned by how quickly a friendship is formed. If you are attached, you will enjoy being together even more than in the past. Let your relationship blossom to its full potential. CAPRICORN can be provocative but also offer a lot of wisdom.

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) You will actually be the same one, as everyone else easily could lose his or her temper. Work through hassles by being understanding. You are coming from a place of security, whereas someone else might not be. Tonight: Could be late. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) How you visualize a situation could easily determine what happens. At first, everything could be a touch confusing. If you get out of your skin and look at the complete story, you will feel better. Tonight: What would look adventurous? GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Let someone else make the first move. You will relax more and also get a better vision of someone else's ideas. With this sense of what works, you will feel much better. Possibilities that you had not considered open up. Tonight: Go along with another's ideas. CANCER (June 21-July 22) You might want to try a different approach knowing that you are getting nowhere. Think positively about what is being put on your plate. Know when you have had enough. Take your time; there really isn't a rush. Tonight: Luxuriate in your popularity. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Listen to what others have to say about a project. Know also that you don't have to make it so. You are only gathering information. You have a lot to smile about. Knowing when to call a halt to a problem could be very important. Tonight: Relax. You need to. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your wilder side emerges. Know when you need to say enough. Understand where others are coming from by listening and imagining their words and feelings. Tonight: With your sensitivity, it could be fun. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Get past an issue that has been revolving around you. Think positively and with understanding. Take care of a personal matter first. You might be uncomfortable with what must happen in order for a bond to flourish. Listen to that voice. Tonight: Happy at home. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You might want to try something very different. Talking and explaining might work, yet action does make a difference. Trust yourself with a deci-

and move forward as need be. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Hang out. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Curb your spending while it still can make a difference. Listen to another's tale of hardship. How you see this person might change considerably. Others might go slightly overboard. Can you understand what is happening? Tonight: Easy does it. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are in the thick of a situation. Though you might want to move through a problem, perhaps you are better off approaching the situation differently. Think positively. You will get different results that way. Tonight: As you like. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You might be surprised by what is happening within your immediate circle. Surprised or not, you could discover that you need to regroup and think through a problem. Think more deeply about a personal issue. Tonight: All is quiet. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Move to the head of the class. Think in terms of gain through a meeting. Friends provide a meaningful outlet as well as a source of multiple suggestions. Let your supporters cheer you on. Tonight: Where your friends are. BORN TODAY Author Robert Louis Stevenson (1850), actress Whoopi Goldberg (1955), actor Chris Noth (1954) Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2007 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Lions Club sweetheart

Marli Street, daughter of Janie and Matt Street and granddaughter of M.C. and Lillian Street and Mary and Ralph Britten, is the Lions Club Sweetheart of the Month for September. Her activities, honors and accomplishments include reading, music, PHS tennis (two years), track (one year), cheerleader (two years), senior cheerleading squad captain, Students Against Drunk Driving, D-FY-IT (two years), D-FY-It advisory board, Wilson Elementary mentor, Special Olympics volunteer, student body parliamentarian and PHS choir officer. Street performed in the PHS musical "Beauty and the Beast" and will be performing in the musical "Cinderella" this year. She currently works in the nursery at First Presbyterian Church and has provided child care through the previous summer months. She has also worked at



Texas Rose Steakhouse. Her future plans are to attend Texas Tech University upon graduation. She is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church and Life Teen Youth Group.

Deadline approaching for historical award nominations

AUSTIN, Texas — The December deadline for nominations for the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) preservation awards is one month away. The THC encourages you to nominate your local historic preservation devotee for one of the major awards presented at the agency's annual historic preservation conference held May 1-3, 2008 in Corpus Christi.

One notable award is the Award of Excellence in Media Achievement. This award recognizes excellence in reporting by print or electronic media on preservation and/or heritage tourism issues, increasing awareness of the state's historic and prehistoric resources. Past recipients of the media award have included reporters at the Houston Chronicle and the San Antonio Express News. In 2006, Lisa Gray received the award for a series of articles that pointed out the lack of tools available to historic Houston neighborhoods for preserving their unique character. Gray's stories brought the issue of preservation before the Houston City

Council, which ultimately added amendments providing an extra measure of protection to the Houston Preservation Ordinance.

Other THC awards include the Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture, the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award and the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology. The top award presented by the THC is the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation, which recognizes an individual's or organization's greatest achievement in preserving Texas' heritage. The Governor's Award is presented separately from the agency's annual conference at a special ceremony arranged with the governor's office.

The deadline for preservation award submissions is 5 p.m., Dec. 14. For more guidelines contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512/463-5853. To obtain a complete listing of awards available and a nomination form for submissions visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

Book highlights LaSalle's voyage

AUSTIN, Texas — Two new tools have recently surfaced relating to French explorer Robert Cavellier, Sieur de La Salle's ship, the Belle, one of the most important shipwreck discoveries in American history. A newly released book and a French documentary film will showcase the significance of La Salle's ill-fated voyage.

The shipwreck of the Belle was located and excavated on the Texas Gulf Coast (Matagorda Bay) by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in 1996-97. The wreck yielded nearly a million artifacts representing a kit for building a 17th-century European colony in the New World. Efforts to preserve the Belle are ongoing.

La Salle in Texas: A Teacher's Guide for the Age of Discovery and Exploration by the executive director of the Texas Archeological Society, Pam Wheat-Stranahan, is a product of the excavation. The book is also accompanied by a DVD containing two documentaries about La Salle by filmmaker Alan Govanar. The book and DVD compliment the award-winning book From a Watery Grave: The Discovery and Excavation of La Salle's Shipwreck La Belle, by the THC's James Bruseth and Toni

Turner.

La Salle's voyage also will be the subject of another documentary, which will discuss the French influence in the United States and Canada. The documentary was filmed for national broadcast television for a French audience by French filmmakers Alban Mino, Jean Dulon and Jimmy Leipold. THC archeologists James Bruseth and Jim Durst accompanied the filmmakers as they traveled to Garcita Creek in Victoria County and Indianola. Coinciding with the 400th anniversary of Quebec's founding, the filmmakers want to show La Salle's link from Quebec and Nova Scotia to Louisiana and Texas. According to the filmmakers, many French residents don't know about La Salle and his Texas exploits. Considered a failed voyage, La Salle's Belle expedition is not even taught in schools. The film will be released January 2008 and its goal is to shed new light on the French influences La Salle left throughout Texas and Louisiana.

For more information about the Belle shipwreck visit www.thc.state.tx.us or contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512/463-6096.

Houston teachers decry paperwork

HOUSTON (AP) — Teacher groups said they will appeal to the Texas Education Agency for relief from the district's paperwork requirements after the school board rejected their complaints.

The Houston Federation of Teachers has lodged three formal complaints with the school board this year over teachers' increasing dissatisfaction with paperwork, especially lesson plans. The board unanimously rejected their entreaties.

"They just want us to do so much paperwork that we don't have time to teach the children," said Sarah Medina, a first-grade teacher with 22 years of experience. "It's just paperwork, paperwork, paperwork."

The federation and the Congress of Houston Teachers say the Houston Independent School District is violating the state's Paperwork Reduction Act, which limits the amount of paperwork that districts can require of teachers.

"Certainly, they are not following the spir-

it, if not the letter, of the law," said Chuck Robinson, executive director of the Congress of Houston Teachers.

District spokesman Terry Abbott said the paperwork requirements benefit students and do not violate the law. He said it's possible that some schools have seen an increase in lesson-plan requirements because their former requirements weren't as diligent as other schools.

"Schools are being much more diligent in making sure that teachers are working from lesson plans, because that's the only way to make sure the appropriate approach is being taken in the classroom," Abbott said.

The state law affirms districts' rights to require a "weekly lesson plan that outlines, in a brief and general manner, the information to be presented."

But teacher representatives said some schools are pushing the requirements too far. Teachers can spend up to 15 hours a week on paperwork, they said.

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