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# THE PAMPA NEWS

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## Haunted House scarily satisfying for former Pampan

by Julie Ann Thompson  
 jthompson@thepampanews.com

Mike Fisher, dressed in a black leotard and holding a demon mask by its white hair, is trying to suppress an eager chuckle as he begins a guided tour of his Amarillo haunted house, Center City Massacre.

"I've been at this for a while now," Fisher said. "It's not so much of a business as it is a lifestyle. I think about this all year long."

Fisher, who once ran an extensive paper route on his bicycle in Pampa, has been running a haunted house for several years. Each year, it has evolved and changed to keep from looking like the other haunted houses in the area which, he says, are constantly stealing his material.



photo by Julie Ann Thompson  
**A scene from one of the rooms at Center City Massacre inspired by the movie "House of a 1000 Corpses."**



staff photo by Julie Ann Thompson  
**Rick Paisley, left, the technician for Center City Massacre, and Mike Fisher.**

He bounces quickly across a squishy floor meant to startle the house's patrons and again, he can't suppress the chuckle. "I can't tell you what's under there, but other houses have been trying to get that same effect this year," he said. "We have a running joke here that we're often imitated, never duplicated."

Center City Massacre was recently ranked in the "Top 24 Haunted Houses in the US" by 13th Hour Magazine. It's an accomplishment he's particularly proud of, considering all the attractions in the house were designed and executed from scratch by his team.

An elaborate set of animatronics and computer operated cues are only half of the appeal to the movie-themed haunted house. There is a tightly constricted maze and real coffins dotting the event, as well as approximately two dozen actors. The key, Fisher said, is their relentlessness in attempting to scare the paying customers.

"I love scaring people. It's an addiction," he explained. "One girl literally tried to crawl away from me while she held onto

See Haunted House, Page 3

## Cedar spraying to continue at Lake Meredith

by David Bowser  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

**FRITCH** - The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority has taken the first steps in condemnation proceedings in order to spray salt cedar, an invasive species of shrub, along the Canadian River.

The water authority's salt cedar control program was instituted a couple of years ago with the idea of eliminating the thirsty shrub from the banks of the Canadian River and allowing more water to flow into the Canadian and eventually into Lake Meredith.

Most ranchers along the river joined the program, but there was one holdout, the Canadian River Cattle Company, doing business as the Canadian River Ranch, a Mississippi limited partnership.

About a year ago, Satterwhite said that the water authority was threatening to launch condemnation proceedings against that ranch over their salt cedar control project. He said that he had been talking to the rancher, David Nutt, about spraying salt cedar on ranch along the Canadian River for a year, but nothing was get-

ting done.

Satterwhite said the water authority was about to file a lawsuit over their right to spray for salt cedar on that ranch, and he had sent letters notifying area legislators of the action and had generally met with encouragement.

"All of them wrote me back and said, 'Do it,'" Satterwhite said.

As the lawyers were about to head to the courthouse, State Sen. Robert Duncan, who represents parts of the Texas Panhandle, including Pampa, called Satterwhite and suggested they try one more time to talk with Nutt.

Satterwhite, Duncan and State Sen. Kel Seliger, who represents the rest of the panhandle, went to the ranch, which runs from the New Mexico state line east for 32 miles of the Canadian River.

"They took a whole day out of their schedules," Satterwhite said. "Sen. Duncan drove all the way from Lubbock."

Satterwhite said the meeting was productive, but there was not follow up.

"He was real agreeable in the meeting," Satterwhite said of Nutt, "but that was

See Lake, Page 3



staff photo by Rachel Stennett

**Volunteers met for the first weekend of set-up for Celebration of Lights last Saturday.** Lunch was provided for volunteers from a number of groups, including Kiwanis, the Rotary Club and R.E.A.C.H. (Responsible Effort and Community Help), a division of Collision, a youth ministry at Trinity Fellowship Church. R.E.A.C.H. members who were involved included (top row, from left) adult leaders Jacque and Randy Burklow and student Garrett Renner, (bottom row, from left) Caleb West, Kenzie Clendennen and Summer Adams. Every Saturday and Sunday from now until season's end of Celebration of Lights, volunteers are welcome to help set up lights starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sundays.

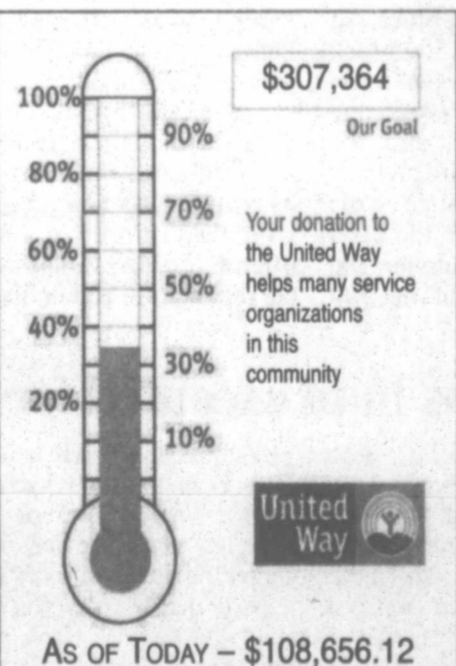
## SADD project on PISD Board agenda

The consideration and action to approve a fund raising project for Pampa High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is one item on the agenda for tomorrow's regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Pampa Independent School District. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in the Carver Center Administration Office at 321 W. Albert.

Other items on the consent agenda are the consideration and action to approve board minutes from previous meetings, spring sports bids and the quarterly financial report.

The board will discuss economic development and a Mesa Wind Energy Project, as well as the Annual Investment Report, the official tax roll, campus plans and budget amendments. There will also be some discussion about the PISD cheerleaders' uniforms.

Board members will hear a report from the PISD Food Services Director regarding meal prices. There will also be reports on the use of common assessments, special programs, guidance services, adult education and community relations.



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# Credit raters get grilled on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON (AP) — There's plenty of blame to go around for the ongoing credit crisis, and a House panel investigating the meltdown Wednesday cast much of it on credit ratings agencies like Standard & Poor's for giving good-as-gold ratings to securities backed by subprime mortgage loans.

Internal company documents revealed by a House investigative panel show that company executives were well aware that there was little basis for giving AAA ratings to thousands of increasingly complex mortgage-related securities but that the companies often vouched for them anyway.

The big credit ratings agencies — Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch, Inc. — made enormous prof-

its as they issued ratings on a ballooning number of mortgage-related securities, many of which were given top ratings so long as housing prices went up. Now, S&P has downgraded more than two-thirds of its AAA-rated securities, while Moody's has downgraded more than 5,000 mortgage-backed securities.

"The story of the credit rating agencies is a story of colossal failure," said Rep. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

The California Democrat said, "Millions of investors rely on them for independent, objective assessments. The rating agencies broke this bond of trust, and federal regulators ignored the

warning signs and did nothing to protect the public. The result is that our entire financial system is now at risk."

The panel heard former ratings agency executives say there's an inherent conflict of interest in the industry because they're paid by bond issuers instead of investors who trust their ratings to make smart investments.

Internal company documents revealed by the panel show executives were aware that credit ratings were inflated.

At a presentation made to the Moody's board of directors a year ago, top executive Raymond McDaniel warned the board that company employees sometimes "drink the Kool Aid" and accede to pressure for undeservedly

high ratings, even as the weaknesses of the securities were becoming apparent.

"It turns out that ratings quality has surprisingly few friends: issuers want high ratings; investors don't want ratings downgrades; shortsighted bankers labor shortsightedly to game the ratings agencies," McDaniel told the Moody's board.

The ratings agencies are so important because the ratings offer assurances to investors that their money should be safe. The inflated ratings awarded to securities backed up by subprime loans led investors to buy them in enormous numbers. But now, most of these securities have been downgraded and the market for them has largely evaporated, contributing to the current crisis.



staff photo by ReDonn Woods  
**Heard Jones Health Mart employees Ruth Bowers, left, and Ada Westbrook flank Brenda Pollard, center, winner of a recent monthly drawing at the health mart downtown. Pollard won an emergency radio.**

## Lake

Continued from Page 1

the end of it. They kept stalling and putting us off, stalling and putting us off."

Soon, the water district was past the season when the spraying would have been the most effective, and that has lagged into missing this past summer.

"We just can't go through that again," Satterwhite said. "We've missed two seasons of spraying now. It's the only stretch of river now that's been untreated."

The salt cedar infestation along that 32-mile stretch of river sucks up an estimated 16,000 acre-feet of water a year. Scientists figure that generally an acre of salt cedar uses about seven acre-feet of water annually. It is water that Satterwhite hopes will flow into the Canadian River and down into Lake Meredith.

"Plus it's a seed source," Satterwhite said. "It's just going to

undermine everything we've done."

Satterwhite said that while he doesn't like the idea of going to court in order to spray the salt cedar on the Canadian River Ranch, it has to be done in order to make the program effective and help provide more water for the Lake Meredith reservoir that provides the precious liquid for 11 member cities from Pampa to Lamesa.

The manager of the water district said he doesn't understand the reluctance of Nutt to spray. The cost of the program is being covered by the Canadian River Municipal Water authority using state and federal funds.

To date, the program has covered \$14,602 acres at a cost of more than \$2.5 million.

Satterwhite said there are still 5,455 acres to be treated. CRMWA has budgeted \$900,000 this next fiscal year for the spraying.

The project should provide more water for the area, he said. That is critical at a time when the flows into the lake have been disastrously low.

The salt cedar is an invasive

species, originally introduced as an ornamental shrub from China decades ago.

Research indicates that the salt cedar poisons the soil, limiting the growth of grass for livestock.

While salt cedar provides some cover for wildlife, there are other native species that provide better cover without the problems associated with salt cedar.

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority Board of Directors approved a resolution to proceed with legal action earlier this month during their quarterly meeting.

"Now we've got to have an appraisal done of the property," Satterwhite said.

Nutt's lawyer told Satterwhite that Nutt planned to sell the ranch, but Satterwhite said he thinks Nutt would get a better price for the ranch without a condemnation lawsuit hanging over it.

Satterwhite said he also thinks ridding the ranch of the salt cedar would make it more valuable.

## Haunted house

Continued from Page 1

her boyfriend's leg. Her boyfriend was just standing there laughing. I loved it!"

The website, (youcantscareme.com) actually boasts that the whole experience is all about "seeing how many people we can make wet their pants, cry or pass out!" Fisher and his team use everything from noise to breaking a person's personal space to illicit a good scare.

"I'll get right up in someone's face," Fisher said. "We don't touch anyone unless we get touched first. Then all bets are off."

There is a safety feature for the weak at heart. A "no scare vest," that

tells the actors to avoid the wearer, can be purchased at the door. It's a concept that Fisher, personally, doesn't quite understand.

"I don't really know why someone would come to a haunted house and buy a vest like that, but we have it for a reason," Fisher said. "Mostly it's for the younger kids. We don't have an age limit but we don't really recommend the place for someone under 12, but if they're brave enough to come through the door we'll scare them the way we scare everyone else."

The house borrows liberally from movies such as Batman, Indiana Jones, Saw and House of 1000 Corpses, but puts a twist on the designs. The story of the house is loosely based around a murderous family called "The McKills." The website states that the McKill family of backwoods Tennessee was

accused of attacking people as they escaped the dust bowl. Eventually, they made their way to the Texas Panhandle where they now take up residence scaring the locals on Van Buren street.

Fisher gathers his troops of bloodied ghouls each night before the house opens and prepares them for the coming hours. They're an adrenaline-fueled bunch and each individual is almost maliciously dedicated to making sure the attraction is sufficiently frightening. As they head to their designated areas, they swap stories of their previous evenings of scaring as if they're badges of honor.

"I had this one girl that came through last night in a small group who literally curled up into the fetal position on the floor," Fisher said with a grin. "I live for that stuff!"

Center City Massacre is located at 816 South Van Buren.

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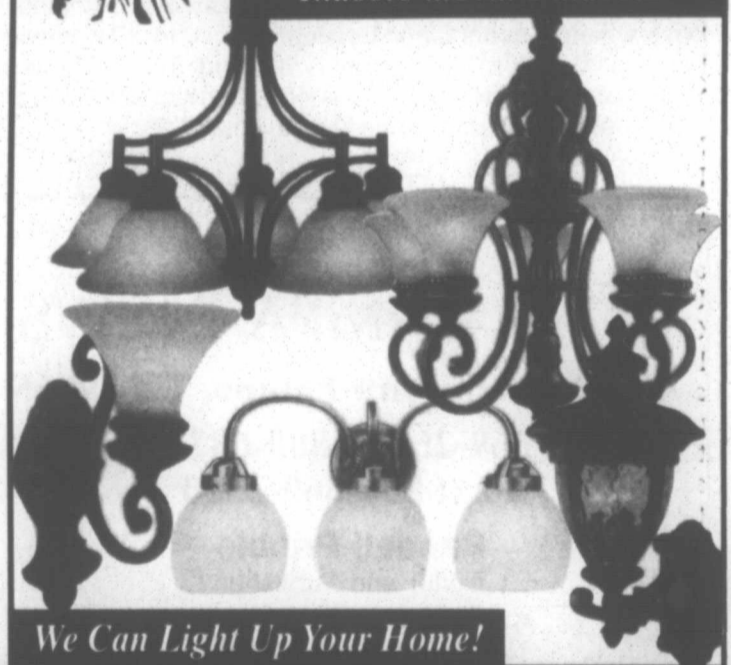
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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 22, the 296th day of 2008. There are 70 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 22, 1962, President Kennedy announced a quarantine of all offensive military equipment shipped to Cuba, following the discovery of Soviet-built missile bases on the island.

On this date:

In 1746, Princeton University was first chartered as the College of New Jersey.

In 1797, French balloonist Andre-Jacques Garnerin made the first parachute descent, landing safely from a height of about 3,000 feet over Paris.

In 1836, Sam Houston was inaugurated as the first constitutionally elected president of the Republic of Texas.

In 1883, the original Metropolitan Opera House in New York held its grand opening with a performance of Gounod's "Faust."

In 1928, Republican presidential nominee Herbert Hoover spoke of the "American system of rugged individualism" in a speech at New York's Madison Square Garden.

In 1934, bank robber Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd was shot to death by federal agents at a farm in East Liverpool, Ohio.

In 1968, Apollo 7 returned safely, splashing down in the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1979, the U.S. government allowed the deposed Shah of Iran to travel to New York for medical treatment — a decision that precipitated the Iran hostage crisis.

In 1981, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization was decertified by the federal government for its strike the previous August.

In 1986, President Reagan signed into law sweeping tax-overhaul legislation.

Ten years ago: The government advised parents to remove the batteries from their kids' "Power Wheels" cars and trucks, made by Fisher-Price, because of faulty wiring that could cause them to erupt into flames.

Five years ago: President Bush defended U.S. policy from the Mideast to Iraq during a frank exchange with moderate Muslim leaders during a stopover in Bali, Indonesia. The Florida Marlins edged the New York Yankees 4-3 in 12 innings to even the World Series at two games each. IRL racer Tony Renner, 26, died after crashing at nearly 220 mph during a test drive at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

One year ago: A federal judge in Dallas declared a mistrial for former leaders of the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation, a Muslim charity accused of funding terrorism. China's Communist Party gave President Hu Jintao a second five-year term. Marie Osmond fainted during ABC's live broadcast of "Dancing With the Stars."

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joan Fontaine is 91. Nobel Prize-winning author Doris Lessing is 89. Actor Christopher Lloyd is 70. Actor Derek Jacobi is 70. Actor Tony Roberts is 69. Actress Annette Funicello is 66. Movie director Jan de Bont is 65. Actress Catherine Deneuve is 65.

*'Happiness is not a horse; you cannot harness it.'*

— Russian proverb



THAT'S THE STOCK MARKET? I THOUGHT IT WAS THE NEW "DOWN" ESCALATOR FOR WALL STREET'S C.E.O.S...

## Kids and the Internet ...

When the weather turns sour outside, many kids immediately jump in front of the television and turn into vegetables. With a few Internet bookmarks, you can change that wasted time into something more "brain-filling."

Many people feel that Web sites are designed for adults. Not so! Quite a few sites are designed with the younger set in mind. Before you gather the kiddies around the computer though, make sure your PC is up to the challenge. Kids demand interaction and multimedia. Before going to any of these sites, make sure you have a high-end AMD computer, Pentium-based computer or newer Macintosh.

The majority of these sites rely heavily on something called "Flash" or "Shockwave." These techy sounding words represent programming languages for the Internet and allow people to play games, watch movies and interact with Web sites. If you need them, your system will give you instructions on downloading and installing these free pro-

grams. Now, on to the sites! For the youngest kids, check out Crayola (<http://crayolakids.com>). Offering hundreds of activities, parents will tire out before kids do. One of my favorites is the "Coloring Pages" area. Here, you can find hundreds of pictures, ready to print and then color. If interactivity is more their style, have them head to the "Games and Fun" area. I found an addictive game called "Rainbow, the Spouting Trout." Think of it as "Space Invaders" for the younger set.

Another game, Monster Mixer, allows your budding mad scientist to create their own unique "creature." By picking various tops and bottoms, they can design, print and then color their own creepy creation. Finally, under the "Craft Ideas" section, kids will receive step-by-step instructions on creating their own Crayola projects. Cowboy

outfits, headbands and paper ponies are just a few of the options. Numerous illustrations make these projects extremely easy to follow.

Another great site is Nick Jr. (<http://nickjr.com>). Based on the cable television channels of Nickelodeon, this site is perfect for the youngest of Web surfers. Online games are available with the characters from "Blue's Clues," "Lazy Town," "Franklin," "Dora" and "Oswald."

For example, in the Blue's Clues game, kids are asked to determine whether certain items "float" or "sink" when placed in water. Using the mouse, kids can drop the items in one by one, performing their own science experiment of sorts.

To play the games, you will need the "Flash" plug-in. If you have the newest versions of Firefox or Internet Explorer, don't worry. But if you need to

download it, go to <http://macromedia.com>. The plug-in facilitates many of the interactive sections of the games and also adds some great audio.

The Children's Television Workshop (creators of Sesame Street) also have a great Web site (<http://www.ctw.org>). Your kids can play with Big Bird, Elmo and the Cookie Monster in a variety of games.

Warner Brothers, not to be outdone by its rivals, has also created an interactive site (<http://kidswb.com>). Show schedules, message boards, and games are available. My favorite activity, of course, is the games. The Scooby Doo "Look and Find," akin to "Where's Waldo," is very addictive and great for strengthening pattern-matching skills.

Speaking of Warner Brothers, their dedicated site, Looney Tunes (<http://www.looneytunes.com>) is packed with games and activities. However, the one offering that sets them apart

See Spell, Page 8

Eric Spellmann  
Columnist



## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Oct. 12

The Houston Chronicle on new Texas driver's license requirements:

Debate about last week's stealth introduction of a new Texas driver's license has focused on the impact of requiring applicants to prove they are citizens or legal residents of the state.

We fear the move may have consequences beyond what its creators intended. A thorough public airing before the policy was implemented by the Texas Department of Public Safety could have eased those concerns.

Under a regulation that went into effect Oct. 1 — but wasn't announced until more than a week later — foreign nationals must prove they are in the United States legally before receiving or renewing a state driver's license or identification card.

Cards issued to noncitizens will look dramatically different than those issued to citizens, allowing people to discern residency status at a glance. Those whose temporary residency permits expire in less than six months will not be eligible for a license or identification card at all.

DPS officials say citizens won't be affected, although how smoothly the changes will be implemented remains to be seen. All noncitizens will be required to show government-issued proof of legal immigration status.

Texas legislators have rejected similar

changes over the years, but the four-member Public Safety Commission adopted them last summer.

Previously, the state allowed immigrants to get a license by offering proof of identity — such as a foreign passport — and of a local address, such as a utility bill. Applicants are required to supply a Social Security number but had been able to sidestep that by signing an affidavit stating they had been deemed ineligible. The DPS estimates as many as one in eight licensed Texas drivers are noncitizens, many of them in the country illegally.

The chairman of the Public Safety Commission, which oversees the DPS, defends the new regulations as an attempt to increase public security and safety. Allan Polunsky, a San Antonio lawyer, said the proposal isn't intended to push the state into enforcing federal immigration rules but to help bring Texas into compliance with the federal REAL ID Act, which requires states to create specially marked licenses for some immigrants.

DPS officials also contend the new cards will discourage identity theft. But it stands to reason that any measure making it more difficult to legally obtain identification cards will increase the demand for fraudulent documents.

Reaction has generally fallen along predictable lines. The president of Texans for Immigration Reform, a group supporting tighter immigration laws, endorsed the move, describing it as a sensible restriction and a way "to know

who's here."

Supporters of immigrant rights suggest it will simply increase the number of unlicensed motorists on Texas roads by preventing undocumented workers from taking driving tests. The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas made that argument in calling for lawmakers to address the issue, contending that more unlicensed — and therefore, uninsured — drivers is bad news for everyone.

That makes sense. But because of the surreptitious way in which the rules were implemented, it's difficult to know what other unintended consequences there may be.

The proposed changes were posted in the Texas Register on July 4, and received no reaction during a 30-day public comment period. The Public Safety Commission adopted them during a public meeting in August and they were posted on the DPS Web site Oct. 1, the day they went into effect.

But many legislators and other members of the public were unaware of the new regulations until Gov. Rick Perry announced them last week.

That appears perfectly legal, but it doesn't necessarily pass the smell test. If Polunsky and other members of the commission, all of whom are appointed by Perry, are confident that the regulations are needed and won't cause additional problems, they should have ensured that the public knew about them ahead of time.

URL: <http://www.chron.com>

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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# Dear Abby...



By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in my 70s, on Social Security and in my second marriage. My wife, "Irene," is in her early 50s and holds a good job. She also holds the purse strings, and allows me \$5 a week for coffee with my friends. I drive a little scooter, and Irene has given me a gas credit card so I can get around. Last week, I told her that I need some underwear and asked her for her store credit card. She said she has a drawer full of nylon panties and that I should wear them instead. She said when they are worn out she will buy me some new men's underwear. She also said she didn't want to waste any money on me since the panties are still wearable. What if someone finds out? Irene says that since I'm over 70 it doesn't matter. Do you think this is right? -- **PREFERS BRIEFS**

**DEAR PREFERS BRIEFS:** No, I do not think it is right. Regardless of your age, your feelings matter a great deal. You should wear underwear in which you feel comfortable without having to worry about anyone "finding out." Because your wife is so tight-fisted, please consider finding a part-time job so you will have spending money of your own. Your wife may be the wage earner in the family, but that doesn't mean she should be the only one "wearing the pants."

**DEAR ABBY:** Yesterday I ordered a taco salad and an iced tea at a popular fast food restaurant. I sat down and proceeded to eat when I noticed a couple sitting on one side of a table. Neither of them was skinny. Another couple joined them, and the women began staring at me. I am 55 years old and 250 pounds. They were over 35 and plus-sized themselves. They may have been thinking my meal was inappropriate because of my size, but they were no different from me. I packed up my food and ate in my car. Was there a better solution? -- **SALAD LOVER IN OHIO**

**DEAR SALAD LOVER:** Yes, you should have remained at your table and enjoyed your meal. The people at the next table were in that fast food restaurant for the same reason you were. Some folks stare because there is a lull in the conversation and they have zoned out. If you were certain they were looking AT you instead of THROUGH you, another way to have handled it would have been to have made eye contact, smiled and said, "Do I know you?"

**DEAR ABBY:** I helped raise my husband's son, "Scott," from the age of 9 to his present age of 19. I devoted my energy, love, money and time to all his activities, while his own mother sat by and did next to nothing to participate in any of it. Scott has now become "best friends" with his mom, and I am all but forgotten. The way he treats me now, you would have thought that I'd beaten him with a stick. If I had it to do over again, I would never have stepped into that family situation. Thank goodness Scott has moved out. His dad and I are having the time of our lives. I hope there is a special place in heaven for good stepmoms, because I have gotten no credit at all. -- **IGNORED IN OREGON**

**DEAR IGNORED:** I know you feel hurt and angry right now, but the story isn't over yet. Regardless of how little your husband's ex gave to their son, she is still Scott's mother. You have been a generous and loving friend to that young man, and I am sure your husband loves you all the more for your caring heart. So enjoy your second honeymoon and realize that Scott still has some growing up to do. This will probably sort itself out. But if it doesn't, you will be able to go forward knowing you did the right thing and so will the man you love.

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



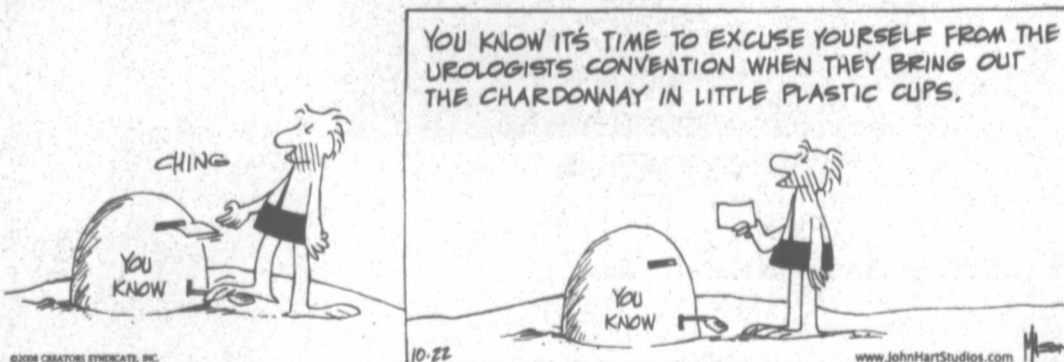
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



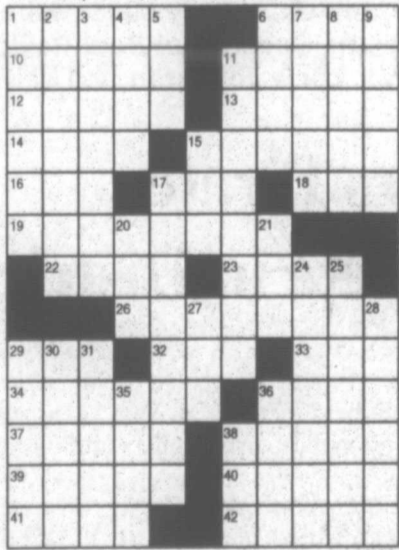
## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 One-sided wins
  - 1 Nautical call
  - 6 Sports period
  - 10 Oven feature
  - 11 Allude
  - 12 Like the sea
  - 13 Undermine
  - 14 Coup d'
  - 15 Fall guy
  - 16 Long sandwich
  - 17 Pitch's kin
  - 18 Slugger Williams
  - 19 They sell goods on account
  - 22 Spring
  - 23 "Waterloo"
  - 26 In an intellectual way
  - 29 June honoree
  - 32 Distress call
  - 33 Pamplona cry
  - 34 Left
  - 36 Singer Ives
  - 37 Biased fellow
  - 38 Cooking herb
- DOWN**
- 1 Optimally
  - 2 Simulated
  - 3 Friendly
  - 4 Dis-
  - 5 Attempt
  - 6 Long sandwich
  - 7 Underway
  - 8 Pigeon's Abbr.
  - 9 Emancipated
  - 11 Hide-aways
  - 15 Frodo's friend
  - 17 Composes for print
  - 18 Hightail it
  - 19 Jazz group:
  - 20 Fashion tops
  - 21 Court-room order
  - 27 Silent OK
  - 28 Hollered
  - 29 Messing on TV
  - 30 Principle
  - 31 Discover ones
  - 35 Young ones
  - 36 Rum-soaked cake
  - 38 Move up and down

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### Answers to Yesterdays Sudoku

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

### Sudoku

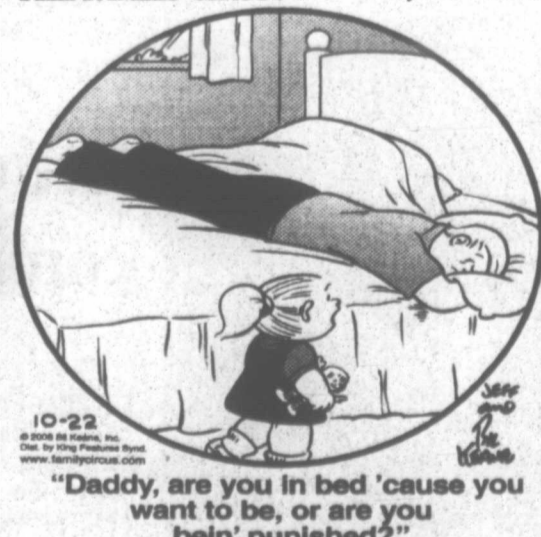
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6		5		1				2
2					3			5
			8		9			7
								4
	4				2			
		2	1					9
	9	8				5	7	
3				2				

Level: Intermediate

## The Family Circus

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

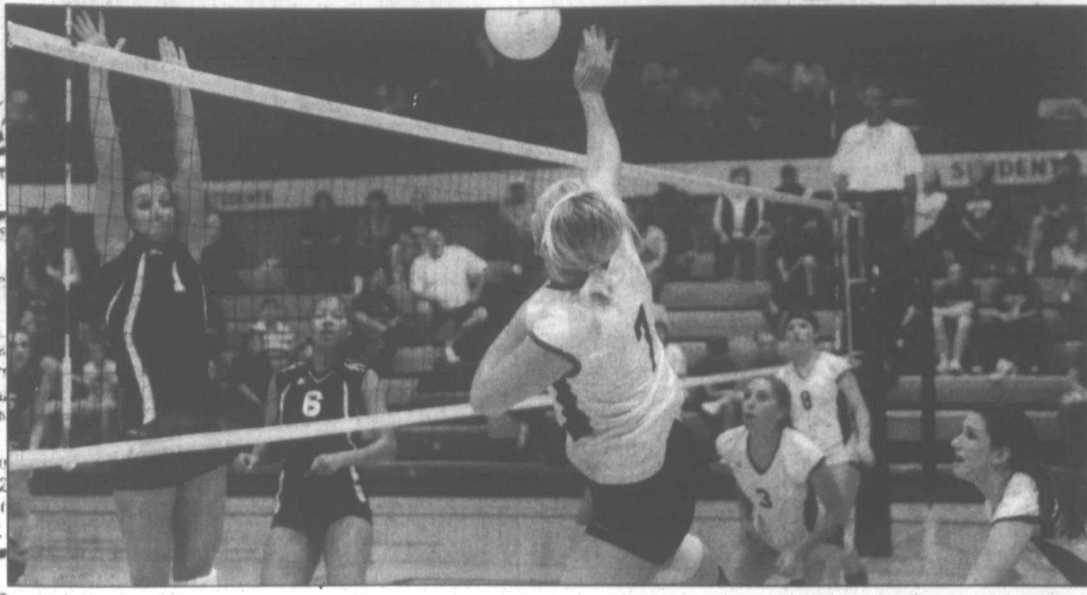


## Flo & Friends



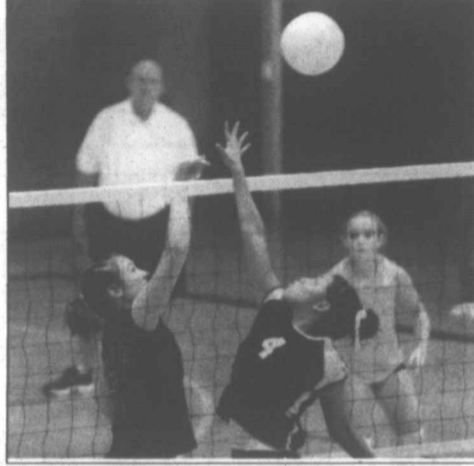
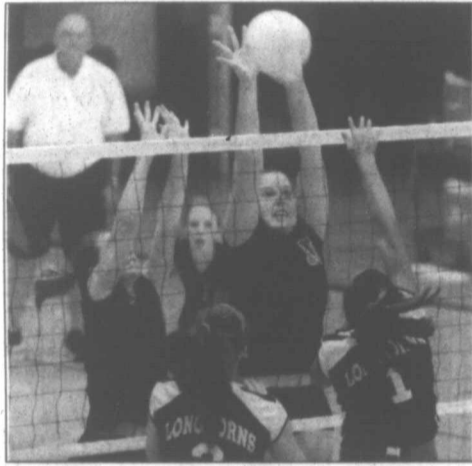
# Sports

## VB team defeats Caprock



staff photos by David Bowser

**TOP:** Chelsie Douglas, #7, slams the ball over the net during the Pampa High-Amarillo Caprock game Tuesday night at home. Pampa won the first two games 25-20, 25-17, then lost the next two 25-17, 25-23, then won the the deciding game 15-13. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Natalie Parker, #15, blocks the ball during the junior varsity game between Pampa and Amarillo Caprock. Pampa won 25-10, 25-14. **RIGHT:** Ashlee Holland, #5, slaps the ball past a Caprock defender during the junior varsity game.



## Zenyatta, Curlin heavy favorites at Breeders' Cup

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP) — John Shirreffs doesn't want to talk about whether his brilliant 4-year-old Zenyatta can snatch Horse of the Year honors from Curlin.

If the undefeated filly can hold off a strong field of eight in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic at Santa Anita on Friday, Shirreffs might not have a choice.

Zenyatta is a perfect 8-for-8 in her career, and if she makes it nine straight against the girls while Curlin struggles on Santa Anita's synthetic Pro Ride surface in the \$5 million Classic, there's a chance she could ruin Curlin's shot at becoming the first horse since Cigar in the mid-1990s to win consecutive Horse of the Year awards.

Not that her trainer wants to talk about it, even after odds-makers made Zenyatta the overwhelming 3-5 favorite in the Ladies Classic, formerly the Distaff, over a field that includes last year's winner Ginger Punch.

Instead, Shirreffs would rather focus on simply getting through the day, though even he allows there haven't been many bad ones since Zenyatta made her way to his stable last fall.

"Usually a horse has a little bit of an Achilles' heel or something that may bother them later on or cause them not to run as well, but

Zenyatta, she doesn't have any of those things," Shirreffs said. "She's a great racing athlete."

Whether she's the best in North America this year could depend on her ability to win from the rail after drawing the No. 1 post, and whether Curlin can handle a talented 12-horse field that may be the best in the Classic's 25-year history even without Big Brown.

Curlin drew the No. 9 post and was made the early favorite at 7-5. Raven's Pass, starting alongside Curlin in the No. 8 post, is the second choice at 6-1, the only other horse in the field under 10-1.

Call the odds a tip of respect to horse racing's all-time leading money winner, even if he remains unproven on a synthetic track.

Trainer Steve Asmussen and majority owner Jess Jackson said all summer they weren't sure if having Curlin defend his Classic title was in the horse's best interest. They sent him to Santa Anita anyway after he won the Jockey Club Gold Cup at Belmont last month, despite concerns about the recently installed Pro Ride surface.

If the mixture bothers Curlin, he hasn't shown it. The colt turned in a solid four-furlong breeze on Monday and appears to be primed to take on a talented field, though one that won't include Kentucky Derby and Preakness champi-

on Big Brown, who was retired last week after injuring his right front foot during a workout at Aqueduct.

"We're trying to put him in a position where he can best represent himself and I don't think we'll be positive of that until Saturday," Asmussen said.

Even if he is, it might not be enough against a deep field that includes Irish star Duke of Marmalade, who has won five Grade I races — though all on turf — this year.

"We've always wanted to take on a good field, and this is a great field, especially with all the international horses," said Jackson's wife, Barbara Banke. "We have confidence in Curlin but we know there are good horses in the field (and) we're looking forward to the challenge."

So is Shirreffs, though there have been few horses able to match Zenyatta's toughness. While not exactly dominant in victory — her biggest winning margin is just 4 1/2 lengths — her size, determination and furious closing kick have made her unbeatable.

"Not only does she quicken but she lengthens her stride," he said. "She gets longer and lower and really reaches out. ... You can just see her head get that little bob and she lengthens and she strengthens."

## Cross Country



submitted photo

▲ Lefors High School girls cross country team placed third at the district meet held Monday in Canyon. From left: Valerie Miller, Amber Shephard, Emily Jackson, Coach Tory Peet, Taylor Overstreet, Story Pairsh, Lacie Johnston and Kaittlyne Porter.

## Lefors Pirates compete in District 8-A

The Lefors Pirates competed in the District 8-A Cross Country Meet held recently at West Texas A&M University. There were 50 varsity girls runners and 24 total varsity boys runners.

For the high school girls: Taylor Overstreet placed first (13:32), Valerie Miller placed fourth (13:51), Emily Jackson placed sixth (14:20), Lacie Johnston placed 28th (16:21), Amber Shephard placed 29th (16:35), Story Pairsh placed 30th (16:37), and Kaittlyne Porter placed 44th (18:31).

For the high school boys, Gabriel Miller placed fourth with a time of 19:57.

For the junior high girls: Jaide Mundell placed second (15:16), Khori Lott placed 27th (18:28) and Tycee Overstreet placed 30th (19:22).

All the high school runners will advance to compete at the regional meet in Lubbock on November 8.

submitted photo

◀ Lefors High School cross country runner Gabriel Miller with Coach Tory Peet.

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## Feds strike at heart of Mongols gang

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An undercover investigation in which federal agents infiltrated the notorious Mongols motorcycle gang has ended with dozens of members arrested in six states and prosecutors say it could herald the end of what they call a criminal group.

"This is one of those celebrated investigations in which the organization from top to bottom has been charged and targeted," said Michael Sullivan, acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "It puts a stake in the heart of the Mongols."

At least 61 Mongol Motorcycle Club members were arrested under a racketeering indict-

ment. Agents served 110 arrest warrants across Southern California and in Nevada, Oregon, Colorado, Washington and Ohio.

Members of the Mongols, a Southern California-based group of 600 or so members, claims it is a social club but prosecutors say it's a criminal gang involved in murder, torture, drug trafficking and other offenses.

The 177-page indictment describes a tightly organized group routinely engaging in violence. It alleges the group, which is mostly Latino, sometimes attacks black people and commits robberies, steals motorcycles, and funds itself in part by stealing credit card account information.

## 'Hallowed House'



submitted photo

Danny Cowan as Legion during a previous performance of Calvary Baptist Church's original production "Hallowed House." The show will open three times nightly Oct. 29-30. Reservations are available for groups of 15 or more. For more information, contact the church at 665-0842. Show times are 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

## Events calendar

• **Harvester Lanes** will host a regional Special Olympics tournament from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 25 at the bowling alley in Pampa. Volunteers are needed. For more information, call 665-3422.

• **Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild** will host a quilt display from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 25-26 at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.

• **Timeless Treasures Quilt Guild** will meet at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 25 at First Christian Church Disciple Center in Guymon, Okla.

The meeting will feature the quilt challenge of the year. Visitors and guests are welcome.

• **Panhandle Twenty/20**, Amarillo College, Amarillo Chamber of Commerce

and Celebrate Education will sponsor Developing the Workforce of the Future, a follow-up report to Panhandle Twenty/20's "The Panhandle Imperative," from 11:30

a.m.-1:30 p.m. Oct. 31 at AC's Business & Industry Center. Learn the latest about the challenges facing the region as well as actions being taken to improve the region.

Presenters will include Tom Pauken, chair of the Texas Workforce Commission, and Dr. Karl Eschbach, Texas State demographer. Lunch will be provided. Seating is

limited. To RSVP, call (806) 376-4521.

• **Briarwood Full Gospel Church** of Pampa will hold its Fall Festival from 6-9 p.m. Nov. 1 at the church. The event will include booths, a cake walk, hay rides, food, games and more. Open to the whole family. For more information, call 665-7201.

• **Pampa Book Club** is scheduled to meet at Lovett Memorial Library on the following date(s): Nov. 12 ("Mother of Pearl" by Melinda Haynes).

## Spell

Continued from Page 4

from the rest is their free cartoons. Yes, that's right: Actual Looney Tunes cartoons you can watch on

your PC. You'll find a collection of old favorites as well as some Internet-only features. (Attention adults: While these may be a blast to watch at work, make sure your speakers are turned down...)

Each of the previous sites gives links to many more, great kids' areas, so don't worry about this activity get-

ting "old." Remember, a computer is not a babysitter. Enjoy these activities WITH your children. You never know; in all of that fun, they may just learn something.

I'll see you in Cyberspace!



## PAMPA V.F.W. POST 1657 2008 VETERANS DAY PARADE

We would like to invite everyone to join V.F.W. Post 1657's Veteran's Day Parade on Saturday, November 8th at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate Veteran's Day and the visit of the VietNam Wall Replica.

The Parade Theme this year is  
"PATRIOTS GOING TO THE WALL"

The parade will begin forming at 9:00 a.m. in the area bounded by Cuyler Street on the West, Houston Street on the East, Tyng Avenue on the North, and Brown Street on the South. When you arrive at the Queuing area, please report to the intersection of Tyng Avenue and Ballard Street to get your parade number and instructions on where to go. Put your number on the left-hand side of your unit. THE PARADE WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 10:00 A.M.

TROPHIES WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WINNER AND RUNNER-UP OF EACH CATEGORY LISTED ON THE ENTRY FORM BELOW. Also, feel free to throw candy and advertising specialties but be careful that children do not get too close to your unit.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the Pampa Chamber of Commerce by no later than November 3, 2008. We look forward to your participation.

**ALL ENTRIES ARE FREE AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO BE A PART OF THIS VETERAN'S DAY PARADE.**



Please Cut On This Line

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Entry: (i.e.float, dancers, pickup, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the appropriate category for your entry:

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