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M & H Leasing

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by David Bowser dbowser@thepampanews.com T. Boone Pickens plan is

to use natural gas to run the trucks of the nation and use wind, instead of natural gas, to generate electricity.

That may sound good, but the devil may be in the details.

The Pampa Independent School District tried using natural gas in their fleet of school buses, but they had only mixed success.

Sam Haynes, transportation director for the Pampa Independent School District, said the school district tried using CNG, Compressed Natural Gas, on some of their school buses in the 1980s.

That was about the time Gib Winton, transportation supervisor for the school district, joined the school district.

Winton joined the school district about 20 years. Before that he worked at a Kerr McKee natural gas plant near Pampa.

"They were already on natural gas when I came down," Winton said of the school district.

He said natural gas just didn't have enough power.

"If you headed to Amarillo in a bus with that CNG," Winton said, "you were lucky to get 35 to 40 miles an hour out of it with a head wind. There wasn't any power."

Winton noted that there's usually a wind in the Texas Panhandle.

He said the buses that were powered by natural gas were all right on the bus routes in town.

"You were running in lower gears all the time," he said. "You were stop-Green - cont. on page 3

Recycle those old phone books

Delivery of new phone books will continue through through the end of March.

In connection with the delivery of the new phone books, Keep Pampa Beautiful will be collecting used telephone books through Sunday, March 29, at four sites in Pampa.

Old phone books can be taken to Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston; Pampa Recycle Center at Street Park; Hobart Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd, or Trinity

Fellowship Church, 2225 N. Hobart for recycling.

Melodie Dosch of Keep Pampa Beautiful said that each year Americans throw away over 13 million pounds of phone book material into the nation's landfills.

"Each pound we toss costs us employee time, transportation costs, landfill fees and ever-shrinking landfill space," Dosch said. "On the other hand, recycled phone books are

Recycle - cont. on page 3

come see us for

all your concrete

& landscaping need



file photo by Betsy Phillips

The FAA grounded 2,800 helicopters for inspection Wednesday, but thanks to quick response by Med-Trans, LifeStar's helicopters were cleared in a matter of hours.

Fast work prevents LifeStar service break

by David Bowser dbowser@thepampanews.com

Fast work by the company that supplies the helicopters for LifeStar prevented an interruption of medical air service for Pampa and the panhandle.

The Federal Aircraft Administration grounded 2,800 Bell helicopter for inspection Wednesday, but the quick work by Med-Trans Corporation, the provider of air medical services, had the LifeStar helicopter checked and

ready for flight within hours. "Our contract is with Med-Trans," said Caytie Martin with Northwest

Texas Hospital. She said Med-Trans sent out the FAA notice Wednesday.

"They grounded ours and did the inspection," Martin said. "We had no issues." Martin said the Bell 407

LifeStar helicopter was up and flying Thursday.

"It didn't take long," Martin said of the inspection. "They followed all the protocols. They were on it immediately."

The move by the FAA was the result of a report of improperly installed bearings that could cause the co-pilot controls to malfunction, according to the Associated Press.

Aviation Federal Administration spokeswoman Laura Brown said the agency wanted operators of three types of helicopters to visually inspect a bearing in the co-pilot cyclic controls and replace the part if it was improperly installed. The helicopters were Bell models 407 and 427, and the 206 A, B and L series.

Greg Hubbard, a spokesman for the Fort Worth, Texas-based Bell Helicopter, said the com-

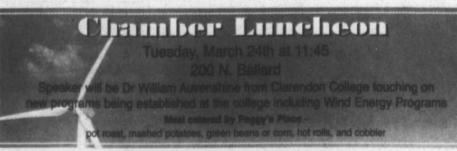
pany discovered the problem last week when trying to deliver a new helicopter. He said he expects FAA to issue a new advisory limiting the grounding to less than 110 newer helicopters.

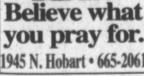
Martin said an inspection of the Bell 407 helicopter stationed at Pampa Regional Medical Center resulted in a clean bill of health.

The LifeStar started in 1993 as Medivac-1. The name was changed to LifeStar in 1998.

April 1, 2008, LifeStar and Med-Trans Corporation joined Northwest Texas Hospital to provide critical care air transport to the Texas Panhandle and surrounding states.

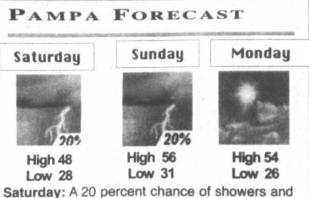
LifeStar flies the Bell 407, which is stationed in Pampa, and the EC135. stationed in Amarillo.







2 — Friday, March 20, 2009 — The Pampa News



thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 70. Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. Windy, with a south wind around 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

() This information brought to you by...



Texas Two Step results

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 17-6-33-25. Bonus Ball: 5.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Number matching four of four: 11. Prize: \$1,153. Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball:

30. Prize: \$52.

Number matching three of four: 1,218. Prize: \$17. Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 617. Prize: \$22.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 4,238. Prize: \$7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 7,661. Prize: \$5.

Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing:

For the Record

Obituaries

Bernice "Nana" Rippetoe

Pampa-"Nana" Rippetoe, 72, died March 19, 2009, in Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, Paul Pastor with Nachtigall of Highland Baptist Church, officiating. Burial

will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Rippetoe was born April 25, 1936 in Herring, Oklahoma. She attended

Bernice Erick High School in Erick, Oklahoma. She married Gene Rippetoe on October 21, 1952 in Carter, Oklahoma. Bernice had been a resident of Pampa since 1962. She worked for Cabot as a payroll timekeeper, retiring after 26 years of service. She was a Baptist. Bernice never met a stranger. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and especially great-grandmother. Survivors include her

husband, Gene Rippetoe of the home, one son, Roy Rippetoe and wife Connie of Pampa, one daughter,



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Rippetoe

Williamson. MEMORIALS: BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, Texas 790105.

John

and a

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichaelwhatley.com

Gary Craig Richardson, 58

brother,

Throckmorton

Texarkana- Gary Craig Richardson, 58, died March 18, 2009 in Winchester, Texas.

Friday.

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Thursday

mational calls.

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sage delivered

SERVICES: Pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Emergency Services

SHERIFF

PAMPA PD

There were three infor-

Police reported 10 ani-

There were three wel-

They also responded to

fare checks and one mes-

one alarm in the 1500

block of North Hobart and

Officers followed up on

investigations in the 1000

block of North Hobart and

500 block of North Naida.

Officers made 10 traffic

provided one escort.

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests. Thursday

Valerie Marie Vigil, 23, was arrested by Gray County deputies on charges of possession of a controlled substance and failure to appear.

Colby Wayne Scott, 21, was being held in Gray County jail awaiting transfer to the Texas Criminal Justice System.

Thomas Rom Brown, 30, was arrested by Gray County deputies for probation violation and on a motion to revoke probation in connection with a driving while intoxicated conviction.

Aaron Scott Lucas, 18, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charge of being a minor in possession of alcohol.

block of North Hobart. The Pampa Police Friday Department reported the There was a report of a following calls between 7

suspicious vehicle in the a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. 400 block of North Wynne. A phone threat was reported in the 2200 block There were seven medof North Duncan.

A prowler was reported in the 900 block of North Hobart.

Officers made a traffic stop in the 1300 block of North Duncan.

Gabriel Chavez, 33, was arrested for possession of controlled substance and two traffic violations after being stopped near the intersection of Lefors and Harvester.

AMBULANCE

Center. 11 a.m. — A mobile ICU transported one person from the Pampa

Regional Medical Center to a local nursing facility. 8 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 8000

block of FM 749 and took one person to the Pampa Regional Medical Center. 8:06 p.m.

mobile ICU responded to the 2800 block of Charles and took one person to the Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road and to one person to Pampa Regional the Medical Center.

FIRE

The Fire Pampa Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. Friday. 8:01 a.m.— First responders to a medical call in the 1500 block of W. Kentucky. 4:20 p.m. Motor vehicle accident at 25th and Peeryton, no injuries, hazmat spill. 9:50 Structure fire, 720 E. Murphy, six units and nine personnel.

Police officers investi-

Pat Gibson of Pampa,

Graham of San Angelo,

Pat Omernik of Plover,

Wisconsin and Diann

Bullard of Amarillo, seven

grandchildren and seven

great-grandchildren.

Bernice was preceded in

death by a daughter, Eva

Rene Fritz in 2003, a

granddaughter, LaDonna

three sisters;

gated a report of a narcotics violation in the 1400

\$300,000

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 26-9-10-21-8. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$23,899 Winning ticket purchased in: Bay City Matching four of five: 77. Prize: \$140 Matching three of five: 2,703. Prize: \$9 Matching two of five: 26,938. Prize: \$2 Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Military nurse tied to stroke victim's death

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 74-year-old stroke victim was likely among the patients an Air Force nurse is accused of intentionally overdosing at Wilford Hall Medical Center's intensive care unit.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Friday that medical examiner records show Dorothy "Dottie" Gray of Natalia died on Aug. 5 of an overdose of the painkiller morphine and lorazepam, an anti-anxiety medication. The drugs caused complications from Gray's stroke and led to her death.

She died the same day Capt. Michael Fontana, 35, was removed from patient care on suspicion that he had intentionally caused a patient's overdose death.

Fontana was charged Monday by the Air Force with the murder of three "terminally ill" patients and with altering a medical record.

Air Force officials have declined to identify the victims or describe how they were allegedly overdosed but did sav Fontana was relieved of duty on Aug. 5, the same day a patient's death triggered an investigation.

The Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office says Gray died at Wilford Hall, and Air Force investigators indicated that the nurse who treated her may have overmedicated her, the records show.

"The circumstances of the death suggest that the medications were administered to purposefully precipitate death; therefore, the manner of death is homicide," the autopsy report states.

The report showed Gray had diabetes, coronary artery disease and a history of hypertension. She had a "hemorrhagic stroke" on the left side of her brain, the report said.

Gray's family, through the Hurley Funeral Home in Devine, declined comment.

Fontana has not returned requests for comment left at his home or at Wilford Hall, where he continues to work away from patients and records.



Friday Jason Dewey Kysar, 34, of Wellington, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charges of possession of a constrolled substance, not having a valid driver's license and tampering with evidence.

Gabriel Chavez, 33, was arrested by Pampa police officers on charges of possession of a controlled substance and not having a valid driver's license.

stops They worked one accident at 25th Street and Perryton Parkway.

Police officers responded to a disorderly conduct report in the 800 block of East Francis and a disorderly conduct report in the 1000 block of North Duncan

Officers responded to a structure fire at 720 E. Murphy.

There was a report of a theft in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Guardian EMS Ambulance Service reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Thursday and 7 a.m. Friday.

Thursday 7:46 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of West Albert and took one person to the Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of East Browning and took one person to the Pampa Regional Medical

eficiaries at Fort Hood.

struction is set to begin in 2016.

Fort Hood to get new hospital

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) - U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards says \$621 million in federal stimulus money will pay for the first phase of a new military hospital at Food Hood.

A statement yesterday from the Waco Democrat says the first phase of the new hospital is expected to break ground in September 2010 and take about three years to complete.

The Darnall Army Medical Center, which opened in

Woman dead, daughter and grandson saved from fire

safety.

determined yet.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) - A 51-year-old woman died overnight and her newborn grandson suffered minor injuries in a fire that swept through her Corpus Christi apartment.

The fire happened about 8:30 p.m. Thursday at the Woodbury Place Apartments, about 5 miles south of downtown Corpus Christi.

Neighbor Nathan Hatley tells KRIS-TV in Corpus Christi that the woman's daughter went to the family's second-floor balcony and passed her 3-week-old son

Dallas County deputy to plead guilty in drug case

DALLAS (AP) - Federal prosecutors say a veteran Dallas County sheriff's deputy has agreed to plead guilty for his role in a cocaine trafficking conspiracy.

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Friday that 36-yearold Standric Choice is expected to formally enter his plea next week.

Court documents indicate he will plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess and distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine, possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, and possessing with the intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine.

A criminal complaint alleges Choice and two codefendants conspired to steal cocaine from a dealer. Choice would seize the cocaine by faking the arrest of an informant

LAST MINUTE **CLASSIFIED LINE ADS**

1965 and was expanded in 1984, is inadequate to serve

the 55,000 active duty soldiers and 176,451 eligible ben-

phase of the hospital will cost \$350 million, but there are

no federal funds designated for it. Edwards said con-

down to a neighbor. Hatley says he then placed filled

trash bags beneath the balcony and the woman jumped to

pulled her from the apartment, but CPR didn't revive her.

atives can be notified. No cause for the fire has been

Fire Capt. James Brown says firefighters eventually

Officials are withholding their identities until their rel-

The Austin American-Statesman reports the second

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

PHOTO CONTEST at the Pampa News-Deadline has been extended thru 5pm., Friday, March 20th!!

PRIVATE CARE Home has opening for a Client. Have good ref. Been in business for 10 yrs. Call 669-2271

PROM / Banquet dresses. Size 4. 662-5569.

REWARD LOST Male Min Pin, (micro-chip). Black / brown dog. Family pet, last seen Fri. 13th east of Pampa. ·663-0766.

RICHARD SMITH Student & Contemporary of Chet Atkins , will be at the Woody Guthrie Center, Mar. 21, 5pm., \$10 at the door.

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Dallas school accused of staging student fight

Dallas school system was rocked by allegations Thursday that staff members at an inner-city high school made students settle their differences by fighting bare-knuckle brawls inside a steel cage.

The principal and other employees at South Oak Cliff High knew about the cage fights and allowed the practice to continue, according to a 2008 report by school system investigators.

"More than anything, I'm in shock and disbelief — shocked that this could ever occur and shocked that it would be condoned by a professional administrator," said Jerome Garza, a member of the Dallas school board.

Superintendent Michael Hinojosa told the newspaper that there were "some things that happened inside of a cage" and called the fights "unacceptable."

No criminal charges were ever filed, and there was no mention in the report of whether anyone required medical attention or whether any employees were disciplined. A district spokesman would not comment.

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School board trustee Lew Blackburn, whose district includes South Oak Cliff, said the alle-"disturb me gations greatly. My initial reaction is that it seems that adults were not only

DALLAS (AP) — The allowing students to fight, but encouraging students to fight. That shows irresponsibility on the part of adults in the building."

Blackburn said no parent had ever brought up allegations about fighting in cages and he was unaware of the allegations until the newspaper article.

It appears the fights were more widespread than first thought.

The newspaper reported Thursday in its online edition that Angela Williamson, a parent, said she was ignored when she attempted to bring the matter to the attention of district administrators after her son, Cortland, told her that students stood around clapping and screaming while watching a fight he participated in. He and another student fought for five to ten minutes in the cage in 2004. She said the students acted as if they were in an arena.

Williamson said she took her son out of the school and moved to another district shortly after he came home with a swollen hand.

"I said enough is enough, and we just left." she said. "This was the norm. My son said this is what they do — let them fight in 'the cage.""

Cortland Williamson, who is now a 21-year-old college student in East Texas, ended up in the cage after he was struck

in the face by another boy that he did not get along with, Angela Williamson said.

She said she met with a football coach who had encouraged the fights.

"He told me this is how they settled disputes in his day," she said.

Angela Williamson said she wrote a letter to district administrators and made phone calls but was ignored.

In the report, a teacher was quoted as saying Moten told security personnel to put two fighting students "in the cage and let 'em duke it out.

The report said a hall monitor, Gary King, told investigators he witnessed the head of campus security and an assistant basketball coach place two students in the cage to fight.

Another hall monitor, Reno Savala, told investigators he came upon two students fighting in the cage "bare-fisted with no head or eye protection." Savala said the assistant coach was watching the fight and broke it up when Savala told him to.

"It was gladiator-style entertainment for the staff," Frank Hammond, a fired counselor who has filed a whistle-blower lawsuit against the district, told the newspaper. "They were taking these boys downstairs to fight. And it was sanctioned by the principal and security.'

PISD buses Green- cont. from page 1

ping and going a lot." Winton said they had a lot of trouble freezing up.

"They finally went to injecting methanol into the fuel," he said, "to keep it from freezing up on them."

The school system was running diesel and gasoline at the time. "They were dual fuel," he said. "We could switch

from natural gas over to gasoline." The big buses, the road

buses that they used for out of town trips, carried four bottles of natural gas.

"That's the most we could get on them," Winton said. "We couldn't round trip to Amarillo in them."

He said all the coaches would get mad because they couldn't get to the games on time.

"They'd have to leave an hour early to get there on time," Winton said. He said the district has

taken all their buses off natural gas. Most of the buses today are diesel.

"I think we have two big buses that's still on gasoline," Winton said, "but everything else is diesel." He said that while com-

pressed natural gas didn't seem to work, propane is still a possibility. It has more vapor pressure.

"It's a liquid when it's filled up," Winton said. "The vapor off of it is what we burn."

Propane would allow for dual fuel, too, Winton said. "If you run out of propane," he said, "you could flip a switch and go to gasoline."

"Last fall," Haynes said, "we looked at propane." He said they were look-

ing at trying a bus on propane in an effort to save money on fuel, but fuel prices went back down so that project was put on hold.

"We've put that on hold for now," Haynes said. But he said there appeared to be problems with converting the buses they were going to try it on.

One of the initial problems with CNG was finding it on the road.

As long as the buses were running their routes in and around Pampa, the CNG supply at the PISD bus barn was fine, but if an athletic team or some school organization took a trip out of town that required a bus, there were problems finding natural gas elsewhere.

Haynes said he thinks it would be easier now finding supplies of propane on the road.

"It seems like there's more places that sell propane," Haynes said.

"Propane you can usually get," Winton said. "That natural gas, you can't hardly find a place to fill one."

He said that when he worked for Kerr McKee, he drove a pickup that was powered by propane and never had a problem.

"My company pickup was on propane and gasoline," Winton said.

Haynes said the only place he knows that sells CNG is a 24-hour shop in Elk City, Okla.

"That wouldn't help us a whole lot," Haynes said. The head of the school

district's transportation division said that if they did make a change to propane or some other fuel, they would probably use the buses just for their routes around Pampa.

"That way," Haynes said, "it wouldn't be a problem."

The other problem that the school district faces in converting the buses to natural gas would be that most of the buses have diesel engines rather than gasoline engines.

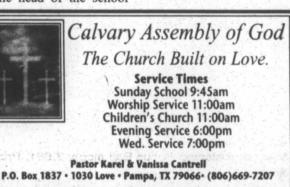
Haynes said there are some new buses coming out now with diesel engines that use a mixture of diesel and propane, but he said he's just read about them.

"They are making propane buses at the factory," Haynes said. "I'm sure that would be a little different situation, but as far as converting the diesel engines that we have now, it would be difficult."

Haynes said moving to propane or even natural gas isn't totally off the board at some point in the future.

"We're still going to have some gasoline-powered buses," he said. "There's a couple that we're still using on routes right now. We could look at getting a kit to convert them where they could burn propane, but we'll just have to see."

He said the driving factor would be the price of fuel.



Pickens Texan of the Year

NEW BRAUNFELS, Texas (AP) — Dallas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens received the 2009 Texan of the Year award Thursday night, recognized in part said.

world forever. That's the type of vision, that's the type of innovation, that's the type of leader that the world needs now," Perry Pickens was recognized for his ongoing campaign to promote alternative energy sources as well as his vast contributions to charitable causes both in Texas and around the country, said Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce President Michael Meek.

given to an individual who has most contributed to the progress of Texas, Meek said.

Pickens' plan, released in July, calls for offsetting

but that none had laid out a plan.

"My dad said a fool with a plan can beat a genius with no plan," Pickens said

for an alternative energy plan that Gov. Rick Perry said "could change the world forever." "He's a Texas legend of

almost untold stature," Perry said in presenting the award to Pickens during the 43rd annual Texas Legislative Conference.

"The energy plan he laid out ... could change the

The annual award is

half of the nation's foreign oil demand with natural gas and wind energy, a task he contends could be accomplished within 10 years, given the right subsidies.

Pickens said Thursday that for 40 years he watched presidential candidates make promises to become oil independent

tions of The Herald-Zeitung.

"We are importing now almost 70 percent, and a great part of that is coming from people that hate us. Purchasing oil from international enemies has driven the credibility of the U.S. down," he said. "We need to be independent of foreign oil."

lexas company moving to

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - A Texas-based background investigations company is moving its headquarters to Alamogordo and could end up with a work force of about 250 workers.

The company, PreCheck, investigates and verifies the background and credentials of workers and medical professionals in the health care industry.

Gov. Bill Richardson announced Thursday the company was moving its main operations to Alamogordo from Houston.

"Solid good paying jobs are critical to the future of our smaller communities," said Richardson.

Glenn Woolsey, the company's CEO, joined the governor, Rep. Nathan Cote, D-Las Cruces, and several company workers at a news conference to announce the economic development project.

"Boy, I love to beat Texas," Richardson said. "We love Texas, but this is a great move for us and for Alamogordo and for southern New Mexico."

Currently, the company employs about 80 people in the southern New Mexico community and will hire about 75 employees in the next several months. Ultimately, the company could have a work force of about 250, Richardson said.

Entry-level workers earn from \$11 to \$13 an hour at the company's operation in Alamogordo.

About 40 workers will remain at the company's computer center in Houston and about 20 employees have been let go.

PreCheck first moved part of its operations to New Mexico in 2007. The company has qualified for a range of economic development incentives, including subsidies for training workers, a tax credit for creating "high wage" jobs and the state expects to provide about \$400,000 in capital improvement money for infrastructure and a building expansion.

Until They Return Home We Keep The Men And Women **Of Our Nation's Armed Forces** In Our Thoughts And Prayers



Senate panel hears ultrasound

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) ---Doctors would be required to perform an ultrasound before performing an abortion, but the woman could refuse to view or discuss the findings, under a bill given a hearing in the Texas Senate on Thursday.

Giving the woman the option to not be told about the findings is a significant change in what could be the first major abortion bill to be passed in Texas since 2005, when lawmakers required unmarried girls under 18 to have a parent's consent.

When first introduced by Sen. Dan Patrick, a Houston Republican and conservative radio talk show host, the bill required doctors performing abortions to perform an ultrasound at least two hours before the procedure, describe the fetus and its development, make the heartbeat audible, and show the woman the ultrasound images.

The new version introduced to the Senate State Affairs Committee still requires the ultrasound, but it now only requires the doctor to offer to share the information, which can be refused.

Patrick said he wanted to "take off the table" the idea that a woman is being forced to see something she doesn't want to.

"We want to be sure it is clear that she has the option," Patrick said. "The more information she has, we believe, helps her make a better decision."

Sixteen states already have laws related to abortion ultrasounds, some requiring they be performed and others requiring a woman be told where she can get a free ultrasound.

The Texas bill faces opposition from abortion rights activists, who say it assumes women don't put much thought into their decision, and two large medical groups.

The Texas Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists say the bill could violate a woman's right to refuse an ultrasound, a procedure that may not be considered a medical necessity.

"There's no other law in this state that I know of that requires a physician to perform a medically

unnecessary procedure, or a requirement for a patient to submit to a medically unnecessary procedure," said Michael Hull, an attorney representing TMA.

Recycle

cont. from page 1

used for the next year's allotment of names, numbers and coupons; therefore, saving time, cost and landfill space. So toss your old phone books in the truck and recycle them at the community's phone recycling sites.

For more information on recycling telephone books call Dosch at Keep Pampa Beautiful at 665-2514 ot 664-2775.

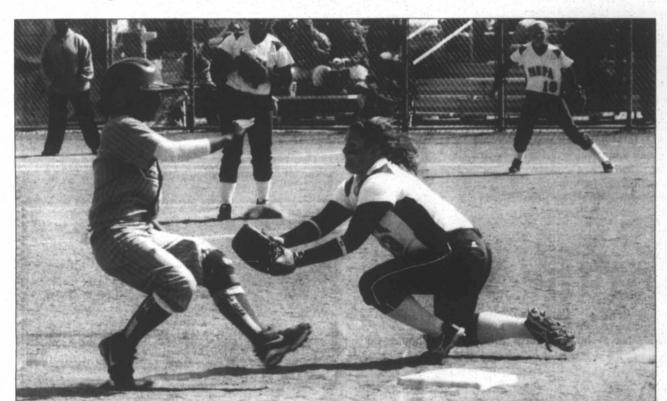


4 — Friday, March 20, 2009 — The Pampa News

Lady Harvesters down Dons



Lady Harvester Jordan Mayhew, 3, tags a Lady Don sliding into third during the Pampa-Palo Duro softball game Thursday in Amarillo. Pampa won 5-3.



Next game Saturday in Plainview

The Lady Harvesters softball team exploded with three runs in the ninth inning to win 5-3 over the Palo Duro Lady Dons Thursday afternoon at Amarillo's Palo Duro High School.

The first three innings were scoreless. In the fourth inning, Pampa's Libby Dyson crossed home plate for the Lady Harvesters' first run.

Palo Duro answered with two runs.

The Lady Harvesters caught up and tied the game in the sixth inning as Dyson crossed the plate one more time

The score stayed tied at 2-2 until the ninth inning when the Lady Harvesters score three runs to finish the game

The junior varsity won their game earlier Thursday at Palo Duro 18-8.

The Lady Harvesters are on the road again Saturday, playing in Plainview. The varsity plays at 3 p.m. The junior varsity plays at 1 p.m.

Jones, Rangers extend deadline for free agency

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) - Andruw Jones will remain with the Texas Rangers at least through the weekend.

Jones says he and the team agreed Friday to extend by three days a deadline in his minor league contract that would allow the 10-time Gold Glove center fielder and five-time All-Star to become a free agent if the Rangers don't put him on the big league roster. The new deadline is Monday

Most of the Rangers regulars were already gone for a game at Tucson on Friday morning when Jones dressed in the clubhouse to prepare for workouts at the spring training complex.

Jones hasn't played in a Cactus League game since last Friday, but expects to play for the Rangers on Saturday.

Armstrong to smooth things out with Contador

MILAN (AP) - Lance Armstrong was only trying to help Alberto Contador when he said last week that the Spanish rider "still has a lot to learn."

"I didn't mean it as a criticism per se," Armstrong said Friday in a news conference ahead of the Milan-San Remo, his first race in Europe following 3 1/2 years of

Last week. Contador lost 3 minutes and the vellow

jersey on the penultimate day of the Paris-Nice.

Contador said he ran out of energy, forgetting to eat in

"He's the best multi-day racer in cycling. There's no one

better, myself included. I like Alberto. He's on our team

Contador, the 2007 Tour de France winner, to smooth

things out before the pair race together for the first time as Astana teammates in next week's Vuelta of Castilla

and it's my job as an older rider to help him."

"I have a ton of respect for Alberto," Armstrong said.

Armstrong added that he planned to sit down with

THE PAMPA NEWS

Randall Pribble

Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

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staff photo by David Bowser

Lady Harvester Callie Preston, 22, tags a Lady Don player sliding into third duirng the Pampa-Palo Duro softball game Thursday in Amarillo.

Blalock, Nippert hurt in Rangers' victory over A's

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) four runs and four hits The Texas Rangers' latest win was a painful one.

Third baseman Hank Blalock tumbled into the Oakland dugout while chasing a foul ball Thursday, causing cuts above his left eyebrow and on the bridge of his nose. Relief pitcher Dustin Nippert left in the seventh inning with tightness in his upper back.

Still, the Rangers got a two-run homer from Marlon Byrd and beat the Athletics 8-5 for their fourth straight victory. Omar Vizquel had three of Texas' 12 hits, including a two-run single.

Rangers starter Kris Benson faced 10 batters in before he toppled over the the first inning, allowing

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP)

Ivan Rodriguez's \$1.5

million, one-year contract

with the Houston Astros

was finalized Friday after

the catcher passed his

"We're very happy to

have him here," general

manager Ed Wade said.

"Obviously it's a huge

upgrade to our ballclub to

have somebody with his

ability and experience and

we think it's another step

in the direction we want to

go to bring a World Series

The 13-time Gold Glove

winner hit .276 with seven

homers and 35 RBIs in 115

games last season with

physical.

to Houston.

including Ryan Sweeney's two-run triple. He also walked one and hit two batters with pitches. But the right-hander settled down from there and lasted four innings, giving up only a single the rest of the way

"He got the ball up in the first inning and they whacked him around," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "We weren't sure he was going to get out of the first inning and he ended up giving us his four innings. That was a great recovery.

While chasing a fifthinning popup, Blalock couldn't stop himself railing and into the dugout.

Detroit and the Yankees,

who acquired him in July.

He expects to make his

spring debut for the Astros

on Sunday, and he should

be in good shape after

playing for Puerto Rico in

Houston needed a veter-

an catcher to replace Brad

Ausmus, who became a

free agent and signed with

the Dodgers. Last year, the

Astros used Ausmus,

Humberto Ouintero and

J.R. Towles behind the

Rodriguez will likely start

in Houston, moving

Quintero, who had been

Baseball

37-year-old

World

the

Classic.

plate.

The

Pudge passes physical, officially an Astro

"I had a bead on it," he said. "I was right there. I just had too much momentum.

Back from a series of injuries, Blalock said he felt a little rusty at the hot corner.

"I haven't played third since July," he said. "If the rust is gone and I'm used to my surroundings, I would have been able to break it down a little bit more and not go in the dugout and just lean over the rail, but it didn't happen. I just want to make sure the effort was there, but I didn't make the play."

Blalock did a face-first dive onto the metal bench, with his flip-down sunglasses causing the cuts. "The ball hit him in the

projected to start, into the

backup role. Rodriguez

didn't play as much as he

game on an everyday

basis," he said "That's the

reason that I came to the

Astros, because it was the

only team that offered me

to get a new team was dif-

he said. "Now it's official

that I'm going to be with

the Astros for this 2009

season, and I just look for-

ward to having a great year

and make this ballclub be

in the playoffs. That's

Rodriguez said waiting

"I'm glad that it's over,"

the everyday basis job."

ficult.

"I still can play this

wanted to last season.

glove and he lost his balance," Washington said. "He fell over, landed and hit his head. I thought it was going to be worse than that.

mound by Washington and a trainer in the seventh with a 2-0 count on Cliff Pennington.

"He has some tightness under his right arm in the shoulder blade area," Washington said. "We didn't need to send him out there any longer than that. He was just a little inconsistent. Maybe the tightness was the reason. He tried to pitch through it."

going to be my goal."

He will wear No. 14

during spring training and

No. 12 for the season, the

same number he wore in

New York. His longtime

No. 7 was retired by the

Astros last year for Craig

respect that No. 7 here is

untouchable," he said.

"Craig Biggio used this

number for years, and I

respect that. But No. 12, I

like that number. But it

doesn't matter to me the

number. Right now I just

look forward to play and

use whatever number in

the back and do my best in

"I love No. 7, but I

Biggio.

the field.'

Nippert was led off the

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retirement.

the excitement of the key stage.

and Leon in Spain.

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rstennett@thepampanews.com **Marcus Elkins**

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Press Supervisor Chico Ramirez Circulation Supervisor

Today in History

Today is Friday, March 20, the 79th day of 2009. There are 286 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 20, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte returned to Paris after escaping his exile on Elba, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

On this date:

In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V.

In 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London.

In 1828, poet-dramatist Henrik Ibsen was born in Skien, Norway.

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published in book form after being serialized.

In 1899, Martha M. Place of Brooklyn, N.Y., became the first woman to be executed in the electric chair as she

was put to death at Sing Sing for the murder of her stepdaughter. In 1956, union workers

'I am I plus my circumstances.' stepdaughter. In 1956, union workers ended a 156-day strike at Westinghouse Electric

— Jose Ortega y Gasset,, Spanish philosopherr

Corp. In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.

In 1977, voters in Paris chose former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to be the French

capital's first mayor in more than a century. In 1985, Libby Riddles, of Teller, Alaska, became the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race.

In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the poisonous gas sarin were leaked on five separate subway trains by Aum Shinrikyo cult members.

Ten years ago: Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of Britain became the first aviators to fly a hot-air balloon around the world nonstop. The Yugoslav army, taking advantage of the departure of international monitors from Kosovo, launched a furious offensive against outgunned ethnic Albanian rebels.

Five years ago: Hundreds of thousands of people worldwide rallied against the U.S.-led war in Iraq on the first anniversary of the start of the conflict. The U.S. military charged six soldiers with abusing inmates at Abu Ghraib prison. The Rev. Karen Dammann, a lesbian Methodist pastor, was acquitted of violating church doctrine in a trial held in Bothell, Wash. Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian narrowly won re-election. Former Dutch Queen Juliana died at age 94.

One year ago: In a setback for Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, a drive for a second Michigan presidential primary collapsed as the state Senate adjourned without taking up a measure calling for a do-over contest. Mao Asada of Japan won the women's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Goteborg, Sweden.

Today's Birthdays: Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 87. Actor Hal Linden is 78. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney is 70. Country singer Don Edwards is 70. TV producer Paul Junger Witt is 66. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 63. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Orr is 61. Blues singer Marva Wright is 61. Blues singer-musician Marcia Ball is 60. Actor William Hurt is 59. Rock musician Carl Palmer (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 59. Rock musician Jimmie Vaughan is 58. Country musician Jimmy Seales (Shenandoah) is 55. Actress Amy Aquino is 52. Movie director Spike Lee is 52. Actress Theresa Russell is 52. Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway is 52. Actress Holly Hunter is 51. Rock musician Slim Jim Phantom (The Stray Cats) is 48. Actress-model-lifestyle designer Kathy Ireland is 46. Actor David Thewlis is 46. Rock musician Adrian Oxaal (James) is 44. Actress Liza Snyder is 41. Actor Michael Rapaport is 39. Actor Alexander Chaplin is 38. Rock singer Chester Bennington (Linkin Park) is 33. Actor Michael Genadry is 31. Actress Bianca Lawson is 30. Rock musician Nick Wheeler (The All-American Rejects) is 27.

Hidden Hills results

Seniors Scramble Hidden Hills Golf Course

1st Place (60)

J. Brashears B. Millican

O. Sargent B. Richardson

2nd Place (64) H. Knutson

J. Hervey G. Owens H. Malone

G. Brewer J. Jensen **5th Place** (64) J. Stroud H. Wells N. Lancaster D. Butler

3rd Place (65)

R.D. Stephens

J.L. Furgason

4th Place (63)

J. Gilbert

R. Porter

C. Johnson

J. Lee

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Mike," and I have been married for 18 years, but for the last few we have been growing apart. Mike has recently expressed a desire to quit work and sail around the world. He bought an expensive sailboat, took lessons, and is teaching our kids to sail. I tried it, but I'm afraid of the water. I have, however, been supportive of my husband's dream.

I knew Mike was looking for a "crew" for the boat because he couldn't sail with just the kids. Today he told me he has found someone. This crew consists of a married woman and her two kids. Mike invited her to crew after she first asked her husband. He did not ask ME first, He simply announced he had found a competent sailor.

I expressed vehemently that I am against this. I have never met the woman or her kids, and I'm hurt that I wasn't consulted. Mike says he is hurt because I "don't trust him."

By the way, the sailboat is only 37 feet long, and they're planning their first two-week trip this fall. What do you think? -- LANDLOCKED IN NORTHERN CALI-FORNIA

Because it happened to be my cousin's 24th birthday, all of my aunts, uncles and cousins decided to sing "Happy Birthday" to her. I did not join in and later said something about it to my mother, who assured me that no one was being rude.

Abby, was it inappropriate to publicly celebrate the birth of one person while mourning the death of another? -- REFRAINED FROM THE CHORUS

DEAR REFRAINED: Some extended family get together only at weddings and funerals -- and you stated that the general atmosphere was like a "family reunion." If your great-uncle had been ill, it's possible that the family accepted that his death was a kind of release.

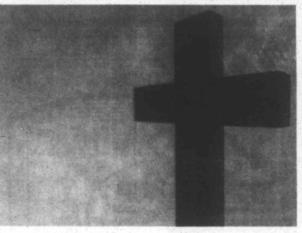
Funerals are for the living. Obviously the majority of your relatives wanted your cousin's birthday not to be forgotten. I respect that -- and so should you.

DEAR ABBY: It disgusts
t me to see dog owners take
t their dogs out for a walk on

The Pampa News — Friday, March 20, 2009 — 5

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

Level: Intermediate



"The Real Meaning of the Cross"

Pastor Richard Bartel's sermon this Sunday

Morning Worship - 10:45 am

www.calvarypampa.com 900 E. 23rd Street • 806-665-0842





Astronauts successfully install solar wings

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Spacewalking astronauts installed the last set of solar wings at the international space station Thursday, accomplishing the top job of shuttle Discovery's mission.

Steven Swanson and Richard Arnold II struggled with some cable connections, but managed to hook everything up.

"It wasn't quite as smooth as we had hoped, but those guys did a great job," astronaut Joseph Acaba told Mission Control.

Mission Control radioed its praise: "We're delighted to accept delivery and installation."

The next milestone will be Friday, when the folded-up solar wings are unfurled.

Manpower was needed inside and out to attach the \$300 million segment to the space station. Swanson and Arnold helped their colleagues inside the shuttle-space station complex cautiously move the 31,000-pound, 45-footlong girder into position with a robotic arm.

he hs. /s,

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to

ole be "Keep coming," one of the spacewalkers said. "It really looks good to me." The actual attachment

occurred an hour into the spacewalk, and the hookups were completed two hours later. Discovery delivered the new wings earlier this week. It's the final set of solar wings to be installed at the 10-year-old space station and will bring it to full power. It's also the last major American-made piece of the space station. DEAR LANDLOCKED: I think you should start taking sailing lessons immediately. For the sake of your marriage, I advise you to remember that YOU are first mate, so haul anchor and get moving. If you think you and Mike are drifting apart now, it will be nothing compared to when he starts living his dream and sets sail without you.

DEAR ABBY: My mother and I attended the funeral of my great-uncle "John." Afterward a reception luncheon was held for everyone who attended. The general atmosphere was like a family reunion, but under unfortunate circumstances. a leash for the sole purpose of letting them dirty someone else's lawn. To add insult to injury, my newspaper boy sometimes throws our paper on top of a heap of fresh delivery of these "jewels." This has continued even after my posting signs asking people not to walk their dogs on my property. Is it too much to expect folks to be consider-

ate of their neighbors and clean up after their pets? I'm sure I'm not alone with this annoying experience. -- DISGUSTED IN HOUS-TON

DEAR DISGUSTED: You're not alone. The 11th Commandment should read: "It is the 'doo-ty' of conscientious pet owners to pick up after their dogs."

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 21, 2009: This year, you make waves, especially if.

you remain open to networking and making new friends. Establish your goals early on, and you will have time to reach them. Focus could make the next 12 months even more fulfilling. Consider different opportunities with an eye to your ultimate goals. If you are single, a friendship, ould evolve to more this year. Friendship, in any case, will be a strong base to build on. If you are attached, the two of you will love hanging together more often. Be friends and lovers too. AQUARIUS comes through for you.

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)

**★*★ Friends surround you. What you decide to do easily depends on those around you, as you are gregarious and happy to be with others. It is times like these when many forget that you can be abrupt. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: Where the crowds are. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★*★ Others often look to you as a role model. Though you could be tired and wanting to take a timeout, you'll meet expectations. Stop and consider what you want for yourself. Build your inner trength and reserve feeding it more

expectations. Stop and consider what you want for yourself. Build your inner strength and reserve, feeding it more often. Tonight: A force to be dealt with. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Take off if you want. Be willing to defer to others. Your vision of the

ing to defer to others. Your vision of the world could be changing greatly, allowing new options and encouraging you to close off from others. Try to empathize

with a remorseful friend rather than judge him or her. Tonight: Let your mind and imagination soar. CANCER (July 22) you

**** A key partner comes forward and asks for feedback and insight. You don't have to see everything his or he way, but sharing more often creates an understanding bond. Meanwhile, don't CAP

forget that project! Tonight: An intense encounter or chat. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Others clearly have plans, and they seem to include you! However,

being everywhere at the same time could be challenging, to say the least. You might have to make some choices. Be as diplomatic as you can, for everyone's sake. Tonight: Out and about. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** Some of you might be up for

some spring cleaning, whereas others want to finish off or start their taxes. You could be overwhelmed by everything that you would like to do. Stop. Just do one item at a time, Tonight: Make it easy — order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Many consider you the pro in relating, flirting and making someone feel appreciated. Could these skills help you in other ways too? Perhaps you could help a business associate, neighbor or acquaintance feel good about him- or nerself. Tonight: The fun begins. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Be home without any great expectations of what you think needs to happen. You might consider inviting some friends over for the first barbecue of the season or to celebrate some other event. Any reason works. Tonight: At

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Make calls and touch base with friends, relatives and anybody else you might have been neglecting. Don't allow icy waters to separate you. Conversations are animated and a source of fun. Meet a friend for a late dinner. Tonight: Out and about. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Before you decide on an important item — needed or frivolous — do some price comparison. Ultimately, you will

be much surer of yourself. Your instincts might tell you one thing while facts tell you another. Listen to the facts. Tonight: Enjoy yourself with others. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Recognize how good you feel,

and then decide if you want to keep your plans or make a change. Either works, but you need to make yourself the centerpiece for a while, instead of perpetually giving and giving. Tonight: Wishupon-a-star time. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Know when to pull back and let others do their thing. You won't jeopardize a relationship. In fact, you might enhance the bond as a result. Someone has much to share. Listen. Use your intuition. Tonight: Shhh ... you don't need to tell anyone.

BORN TODAY Composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685), Broadway producer Florenz Ziegfeld (1867), actress, comedian Rosie

Ziegfeld (1867), and a start of the start of

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 In 1999, approximately 7,000 patient deaths were linked to errors in the prescribing and administering of medications.

One person dies each day, and 1.3 million people are injured each year due to medication errors. — Head and the administrative

Adverse Drug Effects (ADEs) may rank between the 4th and 6th leading

The annual cost of drug-related morbidity and mortality is estimated to be \$177 billion in the U.S. — convertise to some annuality to relation.

It greatest risk for medication-related problems are America's seniors. Phile medications are probably the single most important factor in improving he quality of life for seniors, this population remains especially susceptible to redication-related problems.⁴

aking four or more of the same medications increases the risk for falls

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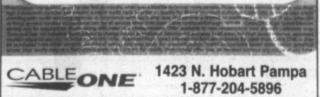


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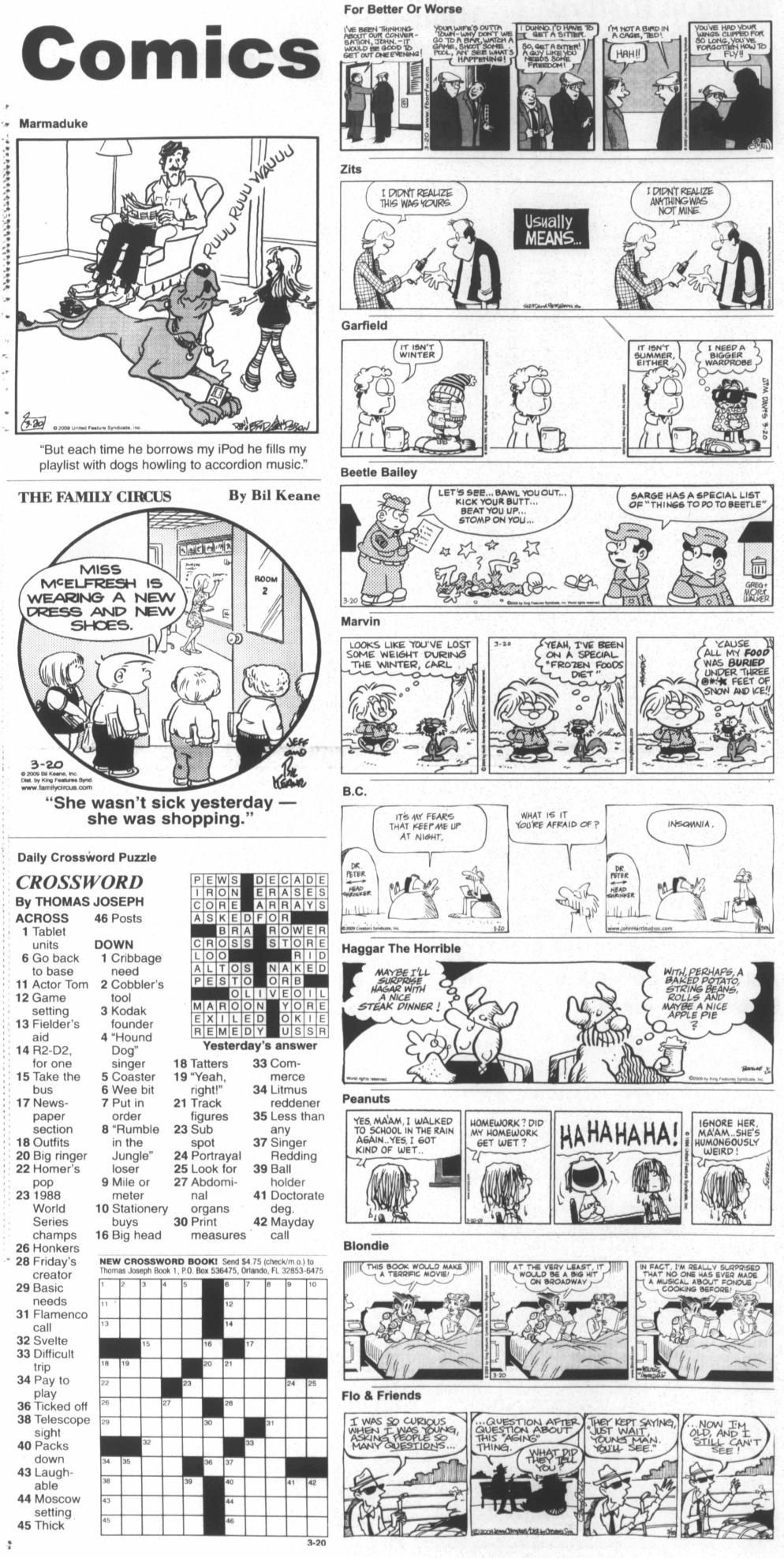
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– Friday, March 20, 2009 — The Pampa News 6-



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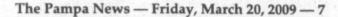
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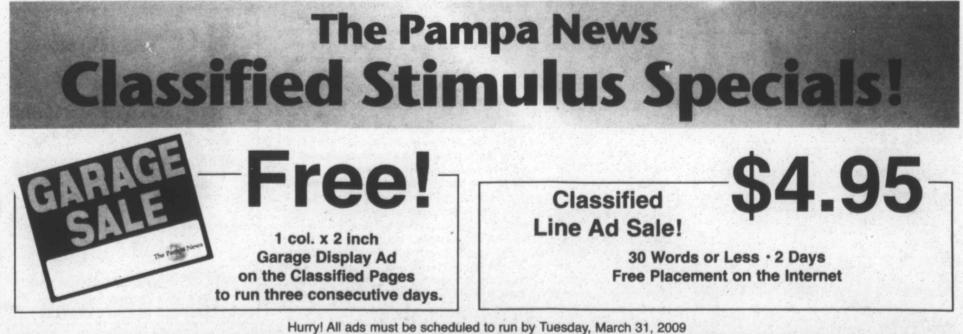
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Russ Tapp

On Sunday, March 22 and Monday, March 23, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 727 W. Browning, will host their annual Lenten Preaching Mission. "Worship and the Church," will be presented by Organist/Choirmaster Rick Land and Music Leader Russ Tapp. Both are career church musicians and have served at large churches in Dallas, Ft.Worth and Amarillo, including First Baptist Church and Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, First Baptist Church and Harvest Baptist Church in Fort Worth and First Baptist Church in Amarillo

Russ is one of the foremost worship pastors and innovators in the field of authentic worship based on the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

These musician have combined over 65 years of experience in the field of church music and spiritual leadership. Both bring a totally unique level of expertise and capability to all forms of church music and denominational practice. You will want to take advantage of this opportunity to hear these gifted musicians lead worship and speak from their hearts. Sunday presentations will be during regular worship at 8 and 10 a.m. There will be a traditional Evensong at 6 p.m., followed by a discussion. On Monday there will be a lecture and demonstration at noon and at 6 p.m. in the church. the public is invited to a reception in the Parish Hall following the 6 p.m. presentation.



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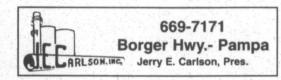
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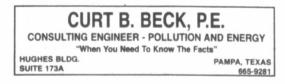






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God's Guiding Hand

Proverbs 16:9: In their hearts human beings plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. TNIV

Ps 37:23-24 The Lord makes firm the steps of those who delight in him; 24 though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord upholds them with his hand.

It was the second semester of our daughter's senior year. Everything was set. Christina was going to attend Columbia Christian College in Portland, Oregon for her first two years. We were sure that it was the Lord's will. After all we had been praying about this for years. Don't you know that the Lord get a big belly laugh when we think we have Him all figured out?

Then February rolled around and Columbia Christian announced that they had lost their accreditation. That threw everything about Christina's future in a tailspin. She was confused, we were confused. So we started praying, seeking guidance. My wife's father had always said that he wanted one of his grandkids to go to Texas A & M so badly that he would pick up the tab. About that time we heard about a fabulous group at A & M called Aggies For Christ and once again we thought we were sure we had located the Lord's will. So I called A & M and they sent the admissions pack. When we got the papers I discovered that Christina was Ω a credit short in Science and it was too late in the semester to sign up. I called A & M and they said that this was a common problem and that we should just call Blinn College and go there for a semester, get the science credit and then transfer over to A & M.

We were all excited again. I called Blinn and they said they would mail out the admissions packet that day. Two weeks later it still hadn't arrived. So I called again. They said they would send another packet and that the first one must have gotten lost in the mail. I should have been suspicious at this point. Two more weeks passed and again it had not arrived. I called again and they sent a third packet and guess what? That's right, two weeks later it hadn't arrived either. Christina kept asking, "What are we going to do?" I was frustrated with only being able to say, "Sorry, sweetie, I don't know."

So I got on the phone and called three other Christian Colleges and asked for admission packets. One of them never sent anything, another sent a brochure that arrived a couple of weeks later, but the third one handled it completely differently. By the time Christina came home from school to get ready for work at 2:00pm Oklahoma Christian University had called 5 times. Everything was on track and she was even registered for her summer visit. I didn't know why all of this had happened, but even I could understand this display of God's guiding hand.

But just in case I wasn't sure, you want to guess what was in the mailbox the next day? That's right, the admission materials from Blinn College that had been sent more than a month ago. God sometimes even stops the mail just so His children won't miss His guidance.

That was a confusing time for our family, but He finally showed us the way and we got the point. Then we all understood His leading even more clearly one night a little over a year later when Christina called home one night to tell us about her day. She mentioned that she had met a boy. That wasn't a new topic of conversation, but as her dad I heard something different in her voice. I asked her, "Do do you think that this one could be the one, baby?" She got teary and said, "Yes, dad, I think Adam just might be the one." And he was. And then it all made even more sense. God's guiding hand always makes sense. So keep your eyes pealed for God's guiding hand in your life. Mike Sublett

