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# PAMPA NEWS

## King's fate in Lubbock jury's hands

BY DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

LUBBOCK - Eleven women and one man will decide the fate of Levi Alexis King. King, 27, pleaded guilty last

month to killing Brian Conrad, 31, his pregnant wife Michell, 35, and her 14-year-old son Zach Doan on Sept. 30, 2005.

The jury in the punishment phase of the trial began their deliberations shortly after 8 a.m. today the Lubbock County Courthouse. The trial was moved to Lubbock on a change of venue.

Calling for the death penalty, 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer told the jury during her closing arguments Monday afternoon that King kicked open the door of the Conrad home shortly. before dawn that cold September morning and walked into the Conrad's bedroom where he shot Brian, Michell and their dog with an AK-47 assault rifle that he had stolen from his father's gun case in Pineville, Mo., the day before.

King then walked through the house to the room of Michell's daughter, Robin Doan, and fired one round at her while she huddled beneath the blankets on her bed.

Walking across the hall, King fired a burst from his assault rifle into the sleeping body of Michell's son, Zack Doan.

What King didn't know, Switzer said, was that he'd missed Robin

Robin Doan, who had testified earlier in the trial, was in the gallery during the closing arguments with tears streaming down her

Defense attorney Maxwell Peck III told the jury, however, told the jury that the case was not about guilt or innocence. King pleaded guilty. The case, Peck said, was about an appropriate punishment for the crime.

"I'm pleading for Levi King's life," Peck said as he asked the jury to spare the defendant's life. JURY cont. on page 3



Levi King



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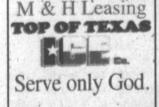
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LEARNING FIRE SAFETY



staff photo by Andrew Glover

It's not Darth Vader! Pampa firefighter Bryan Johnson shows the students at Community Christian School what a firefighter would look like if he were coming into their home to save them.

## "Bra Talk" program at WDLM Thursday

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Gray County, White Deer Land Museum, Pampa Regional Medical Center and Altrusa International Club of Pampa are hosting Bra Talk, a program that addresses women's breast health. The program will take place at the White Deer Land Museum located at 116 Cuyler in Pampa at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 8. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend.

The Amarillo Area Breast Health Coalition will present the program. The program will share three steps for early detection of breast cancer. Presenters will use bra art to share facts about breast health. The bra art is part of an exhibit that is currently on display at the White Deer Land Museum and will be there until October 17. One observation that has been made by viewers of the Bra Talk exhibit is that they are surprised by the positive outlook that cancer survivors can share after dealing with breast cancer.

Since the early 1990's there

BRA TALK cont. on page 3

## Feds: Texas needs food stamp chief

- Texas should appoint one official to eliminate food stamp application backlogs and fix high error rates, a top federal official said.

William Ludwig, a Dallas-based regional administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, told the Austin American-Statesman that food stamp programs in all states "are feeling the pinch right now because of the economic recession." He said, however, he was "not aware of any state that is having it to

the degree that Texas is." Ludwig blamed the state's food stamp pro-gram woes on a "whole series of missteps, mismanagement over the last

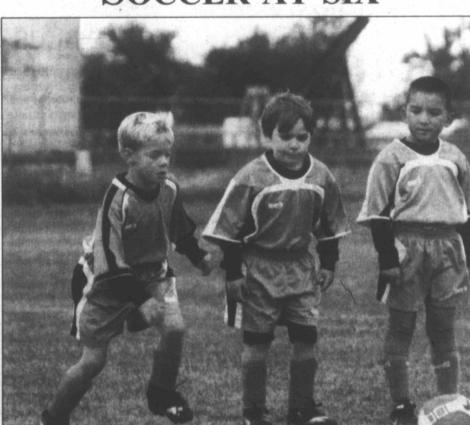
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) four years," starting with the firings of thousands of state workers before a massive effort to priva-

> tize the program. Texas failed to process 41.4 percent of applications in September by the federal deadline of 30 days for regular applications and seven days for emergency applications, the newspaper reported Tuésday.

The state needs "a controller who's responsible for fixing this problem, and that would be their sole job," Ludwig said.

Some Texas families wait for as long as five or six months for food stamp benefits, Ludwig said. He has warned the state that federal food stamp funds could be jeopardized if the processing time does STAMPS cont. on page 3

## SOCCER AT SIX



Hayden Henson, Huston Skinner and Armando Miranda get ready to kick off after scoring Saturday morning in the U6 soccer division.

Who built the original food booths for the Country Fair? The first correct answer will win a Country Fair t-shirt.

Call Holly at the Chamber 669-441.



## For the record

### PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday







High 60 Low 55 High 74 Low 44

High 65 Low 40

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Thursday Night: A chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east. Winds

high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is

could gust as high as 20 mph. Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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## eulogize Borlaug

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are to eulogize Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug at his memorial.

The Tuesday ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. at Rudder Auditorium on the Texas A&M University

campus in College Station. Borlaug died Sept. 12 at his Dallas home of complications of cancer. He was on the Texas A&M University faculty

when Gates served as the school's president. Vilsack is a former governor of Borlaug's native Iowa.

Known as the father of the "green revolution," Borlaug won the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in combating world

In a career dating to the end of World War II, Borlaug developed disease-resistant varieties of wheat that produced much more grain than traditional

## Limos bog down at swank benefit ball

DALLAS (AP) — One of the most glittering events on the Dallas social calendar turned into a trial by mud for its black-tie crowd.

Heavy rain Saturday night left about 1,000 cars and limos of revelers at the Cattle Baron's Ball mired in mud up to their axles.

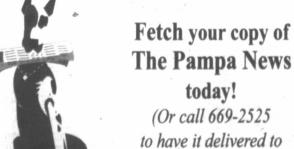
The ball at a ranch near Kaufman, 32 miles southwest of Dallas, was a benefit for the Dallas-based American Cancer Society.

The rain left many partygoers drenched and offering up to \$1,000 to have their cars pulled from the mud.

Kaufman tow-truck operator Al Luna tells The Dallas Morning News that Kaufman County sheriff's officials told him 500 to 1,000 cars were stuck.

Ball Chairwoman Katherine Wynn LaLonde says ball organizers and the American Cancer Society are discussing with insurers how to reimburse ballgoers for their towing expenses.

your door.)



## **Obituaries**

### Kate Dudley, 93

Pampa, TX passed away with her loving family by her side on Monday, October 5, 2009 at West Gate Nursing Center of King's Manor Methodist Retirement Home in Hereford, TX

Celebration of life services are under the direction of Parkside Chapel Funeral Home of Hereford, TX and will be held 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, TX with Paul Carruth officiating.

Kate was born February

Kate Dudley, 93 of 16, 1916 in Kinta, OK the daughter of Robert and Zuella Cox. She married Ray Dudley on February 13, 1934 in Pampa, TX, was a homemaker and a member of the First Christian Church of Pampa.

> Kate was known to her children as Mom, but to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, she was "Maw Maw". Many a Sunday diner included the entire family at her home as she cooked her famous polish sausage, red beans and cornbread, fried cabbage and corn, sweet tea

and homemade blackberry

Survivors left to cherish her memories are two sons: Ed Dudley and wife, Naomi of Plainview, TX, Gary Dudley and wife, Tammy of Pampa, TX, one daughter: Glenda Marcum of Hereford, TX, one sister: Sybil Smith of McCurtain, OK, seven grandchildren: Scott Dudley and wife, Nancy, Kayla Sherman, Mat Dudley, Mark Dudley, Gracie Dudley, Shelly Edwards, Dave Anderson and wife, Nicky, four greatgrandchildren: Mason



Dudley

Dudley, Berkley Sherman, Jesse Edwards and Jason Edwards. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ray, twin brother, Emmitt, four sisters: Mary Kathryn, Nell, Bessie and Bertha.

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The family requests memorials to King's Manor Retirement Methodist Home, 426 Ranger, Hereford, TX 79045.

### Brian Davis Huddleston, 25 Whatley Funeral Directors.

Pampa— Brian Davis Huddleston, 25, died October 4, 2009, in Pampa, Texas.

Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday. October 7, 2009, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Pastor Ronnie Ferguson of the Cowboy Church of McLean, Arena of Life, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-

Mr. Huddleston was born April 17, 1984 in Pampa. He was a lifelong resident of Pampa, graduating from Pampa High School in 2003. He was an Eagle Scout. He was very fun loving and was the joker of the family. Brian was always willing to help anyone and was a loving uncle.

Survivors include his daughter, Taylor Leanne

A 911 hangup was

Theft was reported in the

Harassment was reported

Violation of city ordi-

nance was reported in the

700 block of N. Dwight

in the 200 block of W.

reported in the intersection

Lost property was report-

ed in the 200 block of W.

Kingsmill Avenue. A purse

containing jewelry, wal-

let, credit cards, driver's

license and social security

An accident was reported

in the 200 block of W.

900 block of S. Wells. A

reported in the 1000 block

of S. Banks Street.

bicycle was stolen.

Kingsmill Avenue.

Kingsmill Avenue.

An injured anima

of 19th and Sumner.

Huddleston of Pampa; parents Donald and Linda Huddleston of Pampa; brother, Kevin Huddleston of Logan, Oklahoma; sister, Stacy Hext and husband David of Pampa; paternal grandparents, Irving and Patricia Huddleston of Logan, Oklahoma; maternal grandparents, Jack and Peggy Hyer of Guymon, Oklahoma.

Sign the on-line register



Huddleston

at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Christy

Street.

### PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Monday, October 5 to 7 a.m. Tuesday, October 6.

Monday Animal Control Officers responded to nine calls or

Pampa Police Officers made nine traffic stops, had eight ongoing investigations, and responded to two requests for information.

the 900 block of N. Hobart

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of E. Harvester Avenue.

An alarm was reported in the 800 block of W. Kingsmill Avenue.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of N. Wells Street. A house was egged.

An alarm was reported in the 1000 block of E. Frederic Avenue.

A civil matter was reported in the 1000 block of S.

Oil prices climbed

Tuesday as the combina-

tion of a weaker dollar and

stronger stock market out-

weighed concerns about

weak demand and vast

Benchmark crude for

November delivery rose

\$1.37 to \$71.78 on the

New York Mercantile

Exchange. The contract

gained 46 cents to settle at

Meanwhile, the gov-

ernment said in its annual

winter outlook Tuesday

that lower fuel costs and

an expected milder winter

for much of the nation will

cut average winter heating

costs by 8 percent from

The dollar fell on

Tuesday toward year lows

against the euro and yen

after Britain's Independent

newspaper reported that

Arab states, China, Russia,

Japan and France were

meeting secretly to end the

dollar's role in pricing oil.

Several countries denied

such talks had taken place.

in dollars it becomes

cheaper when the dollar

falls. Some investors also

use commodities such as

Because crude is priced

winter:

last year to about \$960 this ...dant.

\$70.41 on Monday.

supplies of crude.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of N. Sumner Street.

card is missing.

Weak dollar, strong

stock market push

oil prices higher

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of E. Browning Avenue.

Theft was reported in the 1800 block of N. Nelson

oil and gold as a hedge

against inflation and dol-

lar weakness. Gold hit a

record \$1,037 an ounce

on Tuesday from \$1,4647

Monday, and the dollar

slipped to 89.04 yen from

er as U.S. stock markets

climbed more than 1 per-

cent for a second day, driv-

ing hope that the econo-

my is recovering and that

demand for crude will

demand remains weak

because of the recession

and supplies remain abun-

Administration releases

its weekly supply report,

which is expected to show

crude placed into storage

grew by nearly 2 million

barrels and that supplies

of gasoline and distillates

used for heating oil and

diesel also climbed for

the week ended Friday,

according to a survey by

Platts, the energy informa-

tion arm of McGraw-Hill

investors say

Wednesday, the

Information

Oil also pushed high-

The euro rose to \$1.4726

Tuesday.

89.53.

grow.

Still,

On

Energy

Cos.

Street.

Phone harassment was reported in the 900 block of S. Faulkner Street. A traffic complaint was

taken in the 900 block of S. Finley Street. Phone harassment was

reported in the 2217 block of N. Christy Street. A suspicious person was

reported in the 1100 block of N. Hobart Street A building check was made in the 1200 block of

N. Hobart Street. A suspicious person was reported in the 1800 block

of N. Coffee Street. A suspicious person was reported in the 1800 block

of N. Chestnut Drive. Public intoxication was reported in the 1100 block

of N. Hobart Street. An alarm was reported in the 600 block of E. Frederic Avenue.

An open door was reported in the 300 block of N. Roberta Street.

### SHERIFF

According to Gray County Sheriff Officials the following people were booked into Gray County Jail during the period between 7 a.m. Monday October 5 and 7 a.m Tuesday, October 6.

Dustin Tilmon Hinson 31, of Fred, TX was booked Monday on a charge o theft of service greate than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.

Dennis Brian Johnson 29, of Austin, TX was booked Monday on a charge of violation of pro bation unauthorized use o a motor vehicle.

Jessie Darlene Mabry 42, of Pampa, TX, was booked Tuesday on charg es of possession of a con trolled substances less than one gram and possession o drug paraphernalia.

### Hutchison disagrees with Perry on commission move

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchisor says she disagrees with Gov. Rick Perry's decision to remove three members of the forensic science commission right before they were to hear evidence in an arson capita. murder case.

Hutchison says the hearing that was to have been Friday but was canceled could have shed light on whether arsor was involved in the case of Todd Willingham, who was executed for the deaths of his three daughters." Hutchison said Monday she supports the death penalty

but said all evidence should be examined. Questions have been raised about whether Willingham

committed arson, as was alleged.

Perry spokesman Mark Miner said terms were expiring for the members of the commission who were removed He said new members will investigate the case. He said Hutchison doesn't have all the facts.

### LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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CLASSIFIED LINE Ad Specials for Sept., Oct. & Nov. 4 lines 5 days \$20.50, 6 lines-6 days, \$23.50. Call for deadlines 669-2525.

TIME TO Service That Heater! Call H.M. Hall Heating & A/C, 669-2437, Borger Hwy.

He asked for compassion, noting that King grew up in a dysfunctional family and was often on his own.

Calling it a failure of love, Peck asked the jury to sentence King to life without parole, one of two penalties they could assess.

"Every day," Peck said, "he will be reminded of what pain he has caused."

Peck said it was the penalty assessed by a Missouri jury in the deaths of Orlie McCool, 70, and his daughter-in-law Dawn McCool, 47, the two people that King killed in his hometown of Pineville the day before killing the Conrads and Doan.

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9-2437,

wa:

"Levi King has committed the ultimate crime,' Peck admitted, "but we're asking for less than extreme punishment."

He asked them to resist the natural call for revenge. "It won't bring the victims back," Peck said.

Peck acknowledged that Brian Conrad was a hardworking man. Michell Conrad was full of life, Peck said. Zach Doan was full of promise.

"Levi will pay for his crimes," Peck said.

King, Peck said, will be in prison for the rest of his life and contemplate his crimes daily for the rest of his life.

"He will die in prison," Peck said pointing to his client. "He is a dead man sitting.'

Peck said King has expressed regret and asked forgiveness.

"He will answer to God Almighty," Peck said.

Noting King's life, Peck said his client had made cries for help.

"No one ever heard him," Peck said.

Peck said King had been

cont. from page 1

thrown away by his par-

"He worthy of your mercy," Peck told the jury. The other defense counsel, Joe Mar Wilson, told the jury that King stopped living as a free man at 9:41 p.m. Mountain Daylight Savings Time on Sept. 30, 2005. That's when he was stopped by border inspec-

back into the United States after driving into Mexico. Wilson painted a bleak picture of prison.

tors in El Paso as he crossed

"He must pay," Wilson said. "Levi pulled that trig-

"This is about justice," said Switzer. "Not retribution.'

She said he killed the McCools in Missouri and then drove all night to turn off Interstate 40 and stop at the Conrads' home where he killed three more peo-

"Enough is enough," Switzer said.

Switzer noted that King was not on drugs or alcohol when he committed the murders.

"He was stone cold sober," she said.

As she closed she flashed grisly photographs of the bullet-riddled bodies of Brian and Michell Conrad and Zach Doan lying in their beds after being shot by King and started the 911 tape of Robin Doan's call to the Gray County Sheriff's Office in Pampa.

A sobbing voice could be heard saying, "I want my mommy."

## Texas woman sentenced in distracted driving case

state district judge has sentenced a woman to 30 days in jail, 10 years probation and ordered her to pay a \$10,000 fine for criminally negligent homicide in connection with a case of "distracted driving."

Twenty-four-year-old Jeri Montgomery was sentenced Monday for a March 2008 three-car crash

Stamps

Ludwig said he was

arranging for food stamp

officials from states with

successful programs to

**Human Services Executive** 

Commissioner Tom Suehs

said he was doing all he

can to reduce the back-

log. He said he already has

a deputy executive com-

missioner for social ser-

vices to run the food stamp

Texas Health

not improve.

visit Texas.

that killed 25-year-old Chance Wilcox. Wilcox was thrown from a car that crashed after Montgomery illegally changed lanes trying to get on a freeway she had missed.

Montgomery can't drive until further notice. Judge Herb Ritchie ordered to pay Montgomery Wilcox's funeral expenses. Assistant District

cont. from page 1

program, and "I'd rather

hold my senior executive

However, he said the two

suggestions Ludwig made

to streamline the process -

eliminate an asset test and

stop fingerprinting appli-

cants - are required by

state law. "I can't do any-

thing until the Legislature

comes back," Suehs said.

The Legislature will not

meet in special session

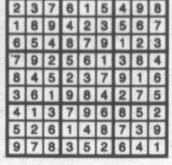
until a year from January.

accountable."

Attorney Brent Mayr said talking on it just before the

Montgomery wasn't on her

cell phone, but had been



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	-			-		3		6
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6		7		9	8.35.2			
8			2	1	4			
7		4						
					5	8	2	

## Bra Talk

has been an increase in the number of breast cancer survivors. Breast health education and the increased use of mammograms for screening are some of the reasons for more survivors. However, there are indications that older, lowincome rural women are at a greater risk for surviving because they are less likely to use early detection practices. The program will address how to access mammogram screenings in

the Pampa area, how to

access funding if needed

and how to educate all the

cont. from page 1 women in our rural communities about the need for early detection of breast cancer. The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Greater Amarillo Affiliate is providing funding to promote early detection of breast cancer in the 26 Texas Panhandle counties. Texas AgriLife Extension along with the Amarillo Area Breast Health Coalition is working with them through educational means to make a difference in breast cancer detection and early treatment in our rural communities.

For more information about the program, contact Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Gray County by calling 806.669.8033

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## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY: "Pillow** Talk in Abilene" (July 24) had to have been written by my husband, Dick. I went looking for him and asked if he had written to you. When I held up your column, he was shocked. We laughed so hard I had trouble reading the piece to

This scenario must be universal. I make the bed with the pillow opening on the outside; Dick makes it with the opening on the inside. We always thought it was funny because we do many things differently. Thanks for the dose of morning humor. -- PAT AND DICK IN SPRING HILL, FLA.

DEAR PAT AND DICK: I'm pleased to have started your morning on a light note. Read on for more -- as well as some practical explanations:

DEAR ABBY: There's a very good reason why the open end of the pillow faces the inside of the bed. When I was 3 or 4, I realized that placing the open end toward the inside would prevent monsters from getting into my pillow. It has worked like a charm for 55 years. -- RESTING EASY IN

KANSAS DEAR ABBY: I was in the military, and bedmaking is one of the things you learn in boot camp, in addition to how to properly fold T-shirts, underwear and bras -- yes, folding bras. The mantra for placing pillowcases is, "Seam and Slack to the Center of the Rack," open end to the left (which indicates the outside edge of the bed). So there you go -straight from Uncle Sam himself. -- SHELLIE IN CHICAGO.

DEAR ABBY: It sounds to me that "Pillow Talk" and his wife have too much time on their hands. If all they have to do is debate which way to turn the pillows when they make the bed, how

do they feel about the epidemic of belly-button lint? What difference does it make which way the pillow edges are turned? They're usually hidden by a comforter or spread anyway. -- PRACTICAL IN WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: In nursing school we were taught that the opening of the pillowcase should face away from the entrance

to the room. The reason is when you walk, germs and particles from the floor are kicked up and can enter the side of the pillow, which increases the potential for infections and disease through the capture of microorganisms in the pillow opening. -- SANDY IN ARIZONA

Childbirth **Education Class** Four Week Session October 8, 15, 22, 29 Thursdays 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm 1. Pregnancy Topics/Pain Theories/ Pre-Labor Signs Stages of Labor/Comfort sures/Labor Itions Interventions/ ain Medications/ Cesarean Birth 4. Postpartum/ Newborn Procedures & Appearance/Basic Breastfeeding Call Terry Barnes at 663-5874 to enroll AMPA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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Subscription must be paid in full to receive discount This offer cannot be combined with any other discount



## Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 6, the 279th day of 2009. There are 86 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 6, 1939, during World War II, as remaining military resistance in Poland crumbled, Adolf Hitler delivered a speech to the Reichstag in which he blamed the Poles for the Nazi-Soviet invasion of their country and denied having any intention of war against France and Britain.

On this date:

In 1683, 13 families from Krefeld, Germany, arrived in Philadelphia to begin Germantown, one of America's oldest settlements.

In 1884, the Naval War College was established in Newport, R.I.

In 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer," starring Al Jolson. In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed the

"There are plenty of fools in the world; but if they had not been sent for some wise purpose, they wouldn't have been here; and since they are here they have as good a right to have elbowroom in the world as the wisest."

 Susan Edmonstone Ferrier, Scottish novelist

Mutual Defense Assistance providing \$1.3 billion in military aid to NATO countries. U.S.-born Iva Toguri D'Aquino, convicted of treason for being Japanese wartime broadcaster "Tokyo Rose," was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years in prison. (She ended up serving more than six.) In 1969, the New York Mets won the first-ever National League Championship Series, defeating the

Atlanta Braves, 7-4, in Game 3; the Baltimore Orioles won the first-ever American League Championship Series, defeating the Minnesota Twins 11-2 in Game

In 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria attacked Israel during the Yom Kippur

In 1976, in his second debate with Jimmy Carter, President Gerald R. Ford asserted there was "no Soviet domination of eastern Europe." (Ford later conceded he'd misspoken.)

In 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was shot to death by extremists while reviewing a military parade.

One year ago: As Wall Street reeled and global markets plunged, President George W. Bush said the U.S. economy was going to be "just fine" in the long run, but cautioned that the massive rescue plan would take time to work. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped to 9,955, its first close below 10,000 since 2004. Congress began investigating what went so wrong on Wall Street to prompt a \$700 billion government bailout.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcaster and writer Melvyn Bragg is 70. Actress Britt Ekland is 67. Singer Millie Small is 63. The president of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams, is 61. Singer-musician Thomas McClary is 60. CBS chief executive officer Ises Moonves is 60. Rock singer Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon) is 58. Rock singer-musician David Hidalgo (Los Lobos) is 55. Former NFL player and coach Tony Dungy is 54. Actress Elisabeth Shue is 46. Singer Matthew Sweet is 45.

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## THE TOP TEN SUBTECTS RETECTED BY LETTERMAN'S TOKE WRITERS

10.SEX 9. POLITICIANS AND SEX 8. SHOWBIZ SHENANNIGANS 7. HARASSMENT FOLLIES 6. FAVORITISM AT CBS 5. EXTORTIONISTS IN THE NEWS 4. BACKSTAGE CANCODLING 3. SARAH PALIN'S FAMILY 2. HYPOCRITES IN THE HEADLINES 1. DAVE

### A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas:

The Austin American-Statesman on Gov. Rick Perry and his stay of scientific evidence:

To claim that Gov. Rick Perry may be playing politics with the Texas Forensic Science Commission is to level a serious charge.

And, considering what's at stake here, it might understate the case. Politics would be trivial compared to what's on the line.

It is not overstating the case to say the future of the death penalty in Texas -- and perhaps nationwide could be determined by this relatively new, prettymuch-unknown state panel. Here's why. In 1991,

Cameron Todd Willingham of Corsicana was convicted of setting a house fire that killed his three young children. He was sentenced to death and was executed Feb. 17, 2004 -- number 320 of 441 killed since Texas resumed executions on Dec. 7, 1982.

"Yeah," Willingham said when asked if he had any final words. "The only statement I want to make is that I am an innocent man, convicted of a crime I did not commit. I have been persecuted for 12 years for something I did not do. From God's dust I came and to dust I will return -so the earth shall become my throne."

The transcript is on the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Web site. It ends with this note: "Remaining portion of statement omitted due to profanity."

For all the world, it looks like yet another guilty man's final and profane

declaration of innocence. But Willingham's case came up for review long after he was executed in the name of the State of Texas. In August, Craig Beyler, a fire scientist hired by the Texas Forensic Science Commission, reported that Willingham was convicted based on bad science, unproven theories and arson investigators' personal bias.

Beyler said the evidence fell short of proving arson. And if there was no arson, what proof was there that Willingham killed his kids?

The next portion of this troubling drama had been scheduled for Friday's meeting of the Texas Forensic Science Commission. But the meeting was scrapped Wednesday shortly after Perry -- who has said he sees no reason to doubt the conviction -- shook up the board.

Perry intervened by Williamson naming County District Attorney John Bradley -- a pros-

ecutor with an as-toughas-they-come reputation -to replace Austin defense lawyer Sam Bassett as chairman.

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Bassett's term ended Sept. 1, as did two other commission members replaced Wednesday by Perry

Keith Hampton of Austin, vice president of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, said Perry's decision to put Bradley in charge of the commission at this crucial time "looks an awful lot like a governor who's interfering with a science commission because the science demonstrated that we've executed an innocent person.

"To pick one of the most partisan people in the state and just anointing him as presiding officer is rather breathtaking," Hampton said.

Yes, it is. But state Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-McAllen, an author of the legislation that created the commission, is willing to give Bradley the benefit of the doubt.

"He's tough and very pro-prosecution, but I also know him to want a criminal justice system that people can believe in. And if he thinks that someone was wrongfully convicted, my sense is that he will say so," Hinojosa said.

State Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, a Senate leader in criminal justice issues, expressed concern about the timing of the appointment but added that Bradley should work hard to silence the doubters. "I'm sure (Bradley) is cognizant of the taint this process has put on the forensics commission and will work hard to restore its credibility.

"Otherwise," Ellis noted "the Forensic wryly, Commission Science will become known as the Political Science

Commission." Bradley, who has shown aggressive dedication to all posts he has held, called forensic science "a great gift to 21st-century criminal justice, both in the way that it has shown us who is innocent as well as convicted the guilty."

Bradley said he canceled the Friday meeting, including Beyler's scheduled appearance, so he could get up to speed on the agency's work. Sadly, as it pertains to Willingham, there is no reason to rush, but the investigation should continue.

And for the other inmates on death rows around the country, there is good reason to make sure Texas gets this one right -- even if it is ex post facto.

Perry recently dismissed Beyler's report with a comment about "the latter-day supposed experts" on arson. Perry said his review of the case before

the execution showed "overwhelming evidence that he was in fact the murderer of his own children."

If science proves otherwise, though, more than one Texan might want to blurt out the kind of profanity-laced statement that Willingham opted for in his final moments.

The Dallas Morning News on the politics of health care reform:

Ask former President Bill Clinton, who saw his first term crippled after meeting his health care Waterloo, a defeat the in part to the historical 1994 Republican takeover of Congress.

Ask President Barack Obama, who finds himself fighting a defensive battle after irate citizens beat him up at town hall events this summer and stopped Democratic momentum on the issue. This fall, Congress is engaged in a fierce struggle over what kind of health care reform we will have if we are to have health care reform at

This newspaper firmly believes that America cannot wait for reform. Few people can credibly defend the current system. Even U.S. Rep. Jeb Hensarling, the Dallas Republican who is one of the most conservative members of the House, tells us the status quo is unsupportable.

But how much reform can the country take? And how should it be done? If it's true that politics is the art of the possible, health care reform backers must reconcile their ideals with hard realities.

Chief among them is legitimate and widespread public anxiety over a massive overhaul of the health care system, especially in a time of skyrocketing deficit spending. Americans really are uncertain and divided. It would be risky and unwise for Democrats to attempt to pass a sweeping reform bill that dramatically reshaped one-sixth of the U.S. economy with few or zero GOP votes.

Yet 15 years after the collapse of Clintoncare, it would be unacceptable for Congress to fail again to do anything serious to reform America's bloated and inefficient health care system, which costs too much and covers too few. Limited, incremental reform is better than no reform at all.

Obama and congressional Democrats deserve full marks for taking on health care reform, especially with so many other huge issues on Washington's plate. But they would be wise to take a lesson from their party's costly failure the last time they took this

An ambitious Clinton misread his mandate and pushed too far, too fast. He ended up with nothing.

Even though Democrats again hold both houses of Congress and the White House, there are serious divisions within their own party over how far reform should go.

Obama must not overreach as his Democratic predecessor did. Public support for a maximalist reform agenda simply doesn't exist. The American people want change, yes, but not a spendthrift health care rev-

olution. As for congressional Republicans, we are not impressed with their bull-headed naysaying on health care. They had plenty of opportunity to reform the system under President George W. Bush and a GOP Congress but did nothing.

Republican engagement would make any bill better; leaving it to the Democrats alone would almost certainly make the legislation worse. The GOP should put the common good ahead of partisan politics and meet Democrats on grounds of workable compromise.

With urgent issues of economic stability and national security confronting America, we cannot afford a vicious duel-tothe-death over health care, compromising the ability of the executive and legislative branches to work together to deal effectively with other crises.

What's good for a particular political party is not the same thing as what's good for the nation.

According to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll last month, 66 percent of adults disapprove of the job Congress is doing. Barely half -- 51 percent - approve of the president's job performance. Almost half -- 48 percent - believe the country is on the wrong track. Only 41 percent have a positive view of the Democratic Party, while the GOP is looked upon favorably by merely 28 percent.

No doubt about it, Americans are in an antiestablishment mood.

Failure to deliver meaningful but fiscally responsible health care reform will further erode the public's confidence in Washington's ability to get anything done. A sensible, middle-of-the-road compromise would not only be good for the public, but also politically intelligent for both parties.

As perilous as the politics of doing something on health care may be this year, they're not as dangerous as doing nothing at all.



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Marmaduke



"How deep do you think he's planning to dig?"

By Bil Keane THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"We filled the birdbath but forgot the soap."

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Daily Crossword Puzzle

### **CROSSWORD** By THOMAS JOSEPH

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7 Turn to slush

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send 18 School

member 21 Pump or mule

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24 Ventilate

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27 Repressed 29 Life partner

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31 Plants 32 Respond

to stimuli 34 Game official

40 "Dear me!" 41 Besotted

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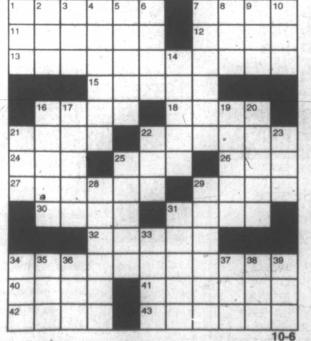
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For Better Or Worse



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HE'D NOTICE THE SWARM OF FLIES?

Garfield



**Beetle Bailey** 



Marvin





Haggar The Horrible



**Peanuts** 



**Blondie** 



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AXYDLBAAXR

is LONGFELLOW

for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters,

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

**CRYPTOQUOTE** 

GVJYVJW O GPF OU P FNHAD XW

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Yesterday's Cryptoquote: GOOD INTENTIONS

WILL ALWAYS BE PLEADED FOR EVERY

ASSUMPTION OF ALTHORITY — NOAH WEBSTER

- VPUZ PPWXU

hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CJJNOUK MPTNI XW

FGOUKOUK.

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

Oct. 7, 2009:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday,

This year, you make waves in many of

your friendships and other relationships.

You could pioneer a totally different

view, and open up to quite a bit of

change. Others will need to adjust as you

transform. You might not always feel as

together or connected to people as you

have in the past. Listen to your inner

voice more often. If you are single,

someone easily could pull the wool over

your eyes - this person cuts a very

handsome or charming figure. Do some

reality checking. If you are attached, the

two of you could fall deeply in love again. GEMINI helps you detach.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll

\*\*\* Surprising insights point you in

a different direction. How you view a sit-

uation could change radically. You might

want to pinch yourself before buying

someone's incredible fairy tale about a

key situation. Get your own facts.

\*\*\* Use the daylight hours to the

max, Someone might actually shock you

with his or her reaction. Your version of

what is going on could change. Creativity could easily merge with

another's perception, perhaps causing a

different perspective and a problem. Don cynic's clothing. Tonight: Curb any wild-

\*\* Much goes on behind the scenes,

Tonight: Work as late as need be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

4-Positive;

5-Dynamic;

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used

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another approach or be more upbeat. Do

needed research. Hunt out the facts.

\*\*\* Take a hint from Taurus.

Emphasize groups, meetings and sup-

porters while focusing on your goals.

The right mix is close to unstoppable and

the smart way to go. If you want more,

out of a situation, ask for suggestions and

listen to them. Tonight: Take some much

\*\*\* Accept your role in work, and

you'll accomplish a lot. Your creativity

surges when dealing with unexpected

events. You might not be getting the

complete story or all the facts. Loosen up

and flow. You see success ahead.

\*\*\* Try to gain an overview before

you take a stance. In fact, the more infor-

mation you gain now, the better equipped

you will be. Understand what is needed

before you assume responsibility. A must

appearance later today cannot be avoid-

\*\*\* Listen to a partner and get much

needed feedback. Though you might not

agree, you can and will find a point of

agreement if you want to. Respect your

differences rather than stress over them.

Be direct with someone at a distance. Tonight: Don't judge what you see.

\*\*\* Defer to others and get ahead of

the game. You might want to rethink a

decision as you get stunning input. You

have many ideas, but first clear out con-

fusion. One-on-one relating wins some-

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

ed. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

Tonight: Where your friends are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Tonight: Suddenly you are energized.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

needed personal time LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **GREAT Investment op** portunity Howardwick

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\*\* Your style and way could

make a big difference in what is occur-

ring. Listen to news that heads first

through work then though others you fre-

quently share with. Confusion surrounds

communication. Tonight: Defer to oth-

\*\*\* Share more of what is going on.

You might find that someone has surpris-

ing news or feedback. Incorporate more

of what is important to you. Realize that

you might be best off postponing a

money decision. Tonight: Put your feet

\*\*\* If you can work from home,

please do. You have a way of seeing cer-

tain situations that is quite unique. Others

like your feedback, though in some way

you could be confusing to many who

don't understand your avant-garde open-

ness. Tonight: Time to kick up your

\*\*\* You might want to rethink a talk

or several conversations. The more you

hear, the more confused you become.

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to handle pressure. Someone delights in

hearing from you. Tonight: Home is

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Yo Ma (1955), prime minister of Russia

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# Sports PHS team teaches future Harvesters

BY ANDREW GLOVER agiover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvester tennis team put on a minicamp for children from kindergarten to fifth grade Thursday at the Harvester Tennis Courts.

Synda Foreman mother of Harvester Myles Foreman, helped put the event on. Synda Foreman said they have been doing the mini camp for five years, and do it to bring awareness to the community about the tennis program.

"The high school tennis players share their skills with the K-5th graders in hopes that they will enjoy the game and come back each year," Foreman said. "We are also hopeful that they will play in junior high and then continue in the program in high school."

The varsity tennis players showed the children different strokes, ball han-

ball for prizes. The team set up Gatorade bottles and tubes of tennis balls on the

court and set up boxes with

won if they knocked the each of them having a dif- bottle and tube over, and if ferent prize. The children they hit the box or bounced

the ball into the box. Senior Garrett Couts has done this for four years and

enjoys it more each year. "Little kids have a lot of energy and lot of enthusiasm," Couts said. "They just have a great time coming out here and just learn about the game and just have a great time. It's a lot of fun for us high schoolers too."

Couts said getting to teach the children the skills they learn is good because it helps the future of the

Harvester Tennis program. "We think that it is really important here in Pampa that system continues," Couts said. "Which means that every level of play from elementary to middle to high school is connected. We're all teaching each other and learning. It's really great to teach the little kids what we learned."



staff photo by Andrew Glover

dling but the highlight of Landon Karbo works with a couple of girls on their strokes in Pampa's tennis team's the night was hitting the minicamp Thursday at the Harvester Teniis Courts



Garrett Couts tosses balls to kids as they try to hit the ball to one of the boxes for a prize. This event ended a minicamp the tennis team put on. (submitted photo Synda Foreman)



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2201 N. Hobart St.

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## 9th football falls to 'Dogs

BY ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters freshman football team lost 18-0 to the Plainview Bulldogs Thursday at Plainview.

Coach Kaleb Snelgrooes

said the team played hard but just came up short.

"We drove twice inside the redzone but couldn't finish the drive," Snelgrooes said.

Snelgrooes was pleased with how Tyler Powell played on defense.

XCountry has two runners

"Tyler Powell had the game of a lifetime defensively," Snelgrooes said. "Every time I looked up he was making a play."

The freshman are 2-2-1 and will start district 10 a.m. Saturday at Randall.



ou take care of everyone else... be sure to take care of yourself.

in top 10 at Canadian meet Pampa High School cross and Ramon Portillo ran country had two runners finish in the top ten in thèir meet Saturday at Canadian,

J'Cee Holmes finished fourth in the varsity girls two mile race with a time of 12:16. Miguel Tapia finished eighth in the varsity boys three mile race with a time of 17:37.

Weatherford Brittney finished 21st in the junior varsity girls two mile race with a time of 14:51 and Lyndi Whitson finished 27th with a time of 15:16.

Steven Botello finished 12th in the junior varsity boys three mile race with a time of 22:40. Flavio Gonzalez, Enrique Mier,

### PHS golf finishes third

The Pampa Harvesters boys' golf team finished third in a tri-meet at the Amarillo Triangular at the Comanche Trail Golf Complex.

Borger and Amarillo High School Team B competed in Pampa's tri meet. Amarillo High was first scoring a 296, Borger was second with 324 and Pampa finished one stroke more than Borger with 325.

in the varsity boys race. Gonzalez finished 13th with a time of 18:28, Mier finished 21st with a time of

The cross country team's next meet is Saturday at Canyon High School.



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