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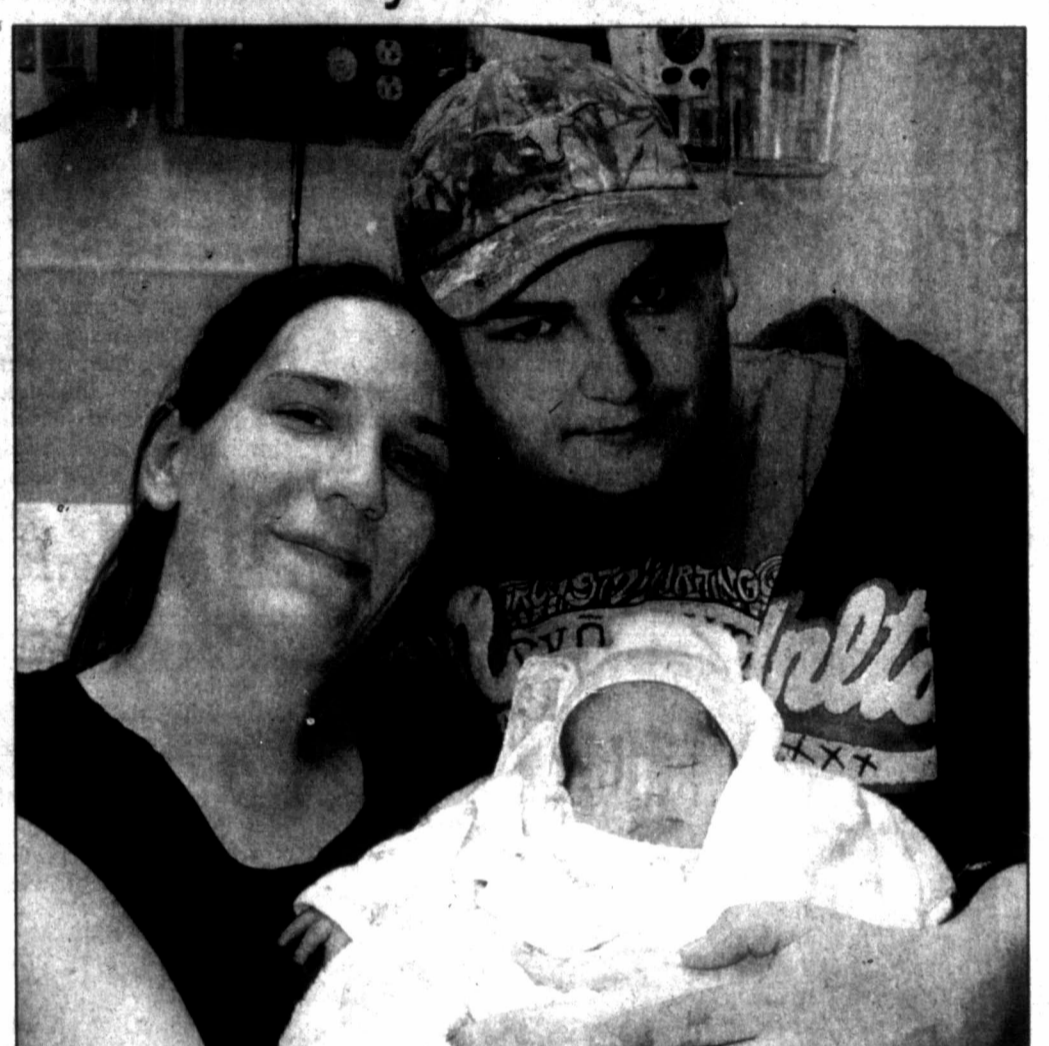
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First baby of the decade



Anabell Lee Staab was the first baby of the year and the decade born at Pampa Regional Medical Center. Anabell was welcomed by parents Dawn Julseth and Anthony Staab of Pampa at 2:42 a.m. New year's Day 2010. She weighed six pounds 14 ounces and 20 inches long at birth. She was also welcomed by brothers Sean and Daniel.

Landfill tops 2009 feats for Morris

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 The landfill was and is at the top of the list for Richard Morris. When Morris was named Pampa City Manager a year ago, he moved from the Public Works Office across the office suite to the city manager's office in city hall. Morris' responsibilities broadened. In addition to the multiple landfill projects, Morris said the selection of veteran law enforcement officer Kelley Rushing as Pampa's Police Chief and a new ambulance service for the city, Pampa EMS, were the major stories for him in 2009. Rushing was selected from 41 candidates and took over the department this past fall. Pampa EMS, a locally formed not-for-profit company, assumed responsibility for the city's ambulance service about the same time, signing contracts with both the city and the county. "We had a busy year," Morris said in reflection. He said there were a number of important decisions made last year, but it's difficult to list them in priority. The landfill may not be as glamorous as the lights and sirens of emergency workers, but they are just as critical to the operation of the city. In other areas, Morris said city officials



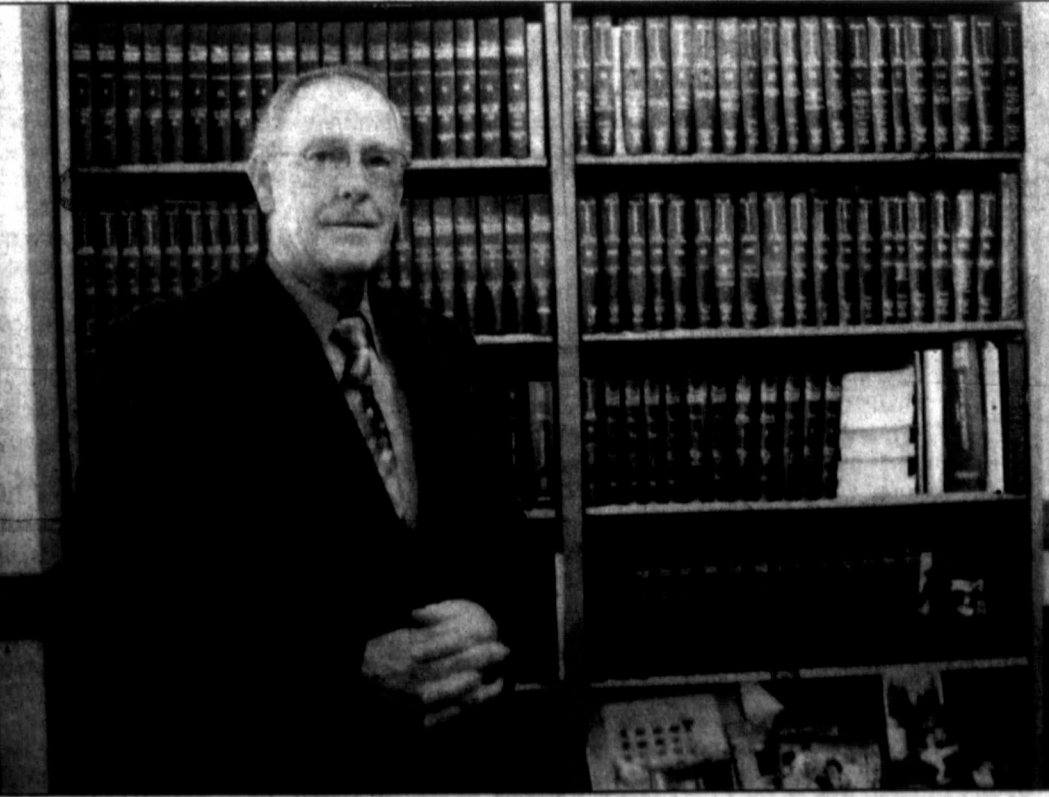
Pampa City Manager Richard Morris

Judge: surviving 2009 an accomplishment for county

Residents resilient, diligent, Peet says
 BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 With 2009 in the history books, Gray County Judge Richard Peet, a former history teacher, took time to reflect on the year past. "This year has been a year of maintaining," Peet said, "yet at the same time, we're trying to do some things that would enhance quality in education and medical services." He said that since the nation has slipped into a serious recession, Gray County like other government entities is just trying to survive. "As with many counties and counties in the state and across the country," Peet said, "we're just trying to maintain." With the downturn in the economy over the past year and a half, the Judge said the county was just trying to maintain services and use the taxpayer's money properly. "To me," he said, "that in itself is an accomplishment." One of the big blows that Gray County suffered last year, he said, was Celanese closing its Pampa plant. "We lost a great employer with Celanese," Peet said. "That really impacted us financially." In addition to being a good corporate citizen, Celanese was one of the top taxpaying entities in the county, not to mention its workforce. On the positive side, Peet said that the Gray County Commissioners Court has worked with Clarendon College's expansion very closely. "It's a great asset to our county," he said. Peet also said that the county

Judge Peet running again

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Judge Richard Peet says he's running again. Peet has served as Gray County Judge for 14 years. "I have had the honor of serving you and your families in Gray County since 1995, and I believe that together we have done a lot of good," he said. "Gray County is blessed with the best employees, and we all work hard to take care of your tax dollars while still providing essential services." Prior to his election as county judge, Peet served as Mayor for four years and Pampa City Councilman for two years. He taught government and history at Pampa High School for 24 years and taught government at Clarendon College for over 20 years. As county judge, Peet serves as the chairman of the Gray County Commissioners Court and as the county's chief financial officer
 PEET cont. on page 3



Gray County Judge Richard Peet is running for re-election again this year. staff photo by David Bowser

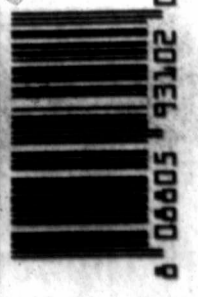
Pampa man allegedly assaults officer

Pampa police officers Derek Peters and Craig Merritt responded to the 300 Blk of N Banks January 1, in reference to a domestic disturbance. Officers made contact with Michael Dean Williams, 45, and were advised that he had an active warrant. When officers effected Williams' arrest, he allegedly assaulted one of the officers. Williams was transported and booked into the Gray County Jail for assault against a public servant and resisting arrest.

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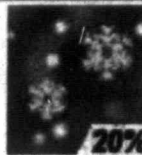

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 48 Low 24	High 36 Low 10	High 19 Low 7
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Wind chill values between 16 and 21. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.		
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Wind chill values between 15 and 25 early. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.		
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. Wind chill values between 17 and 22. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest.		
Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. Windy, with a north northwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.		
Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 10. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.		
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 19. Windy, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.		
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 7. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.		

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Collecting Toys for Toys for Tots

Bus offers special view of wildlife refuge

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — For 15 miles Bayside Drive at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge winds through grasslands interspersed with brush, a waterside confection for nature lovers.

And the panorama is even better atop the refuge's 60-passenger, open-air tourist tram now open for business this season.

"It is just really nice when someone else is driving, so you can enjoy the view," said Ricardo Ruiz, an elementary school-teacher from Houston aboard the bus Saturday with friends.

At \$4 for adults and \$1 for children 12 and under, the tour lasts about two hours, covering the history of the land and facts about wildlife. Passengers can catch a glimpse of a wide variety of birds and animals, from caracaras to ocelots and on warmer days, even alligators.

"You can drive it yourself, but the narrative, the tour, is fantastic," said John A. Nechman, an attorney from Houston who was riding the tram with Ruiz and his mother. "We noticed so many things, we would not have looked for ourselves."

The forest green tram was donated to the park by the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and has been in operation now for more than two years.

It travels through "one of the most biologically diverse areas in the United States," said Geri Hamilton, who developed the Bayside Wildlife Drive tour and has worked as a guide for 25 years throughout the country and abroad. Passengers get a feel for four climate zones,

including desert, coastal, subtropical and temperate. The refuge has about 275 identified species of butterflies, and more than 110 identified species of birds that's more than half of the identified species of birds in the country, says Hamilton.

From Winter Texans to Rio Grande Valley natives, the refuge tram tour draws crowds from across the country, with one ride departing at 10 a.m. and the next at 2 p.m.

On Saturday, Judy Bowen, who lives at Palm Dale RV Park in Los Fresnos, was hoping to catch the afternoon ride with her husband and friends visiting from Arkansas.

"We have four binoculars and four pairs of eyes ready," she said. "We want to see some deer and ocelots, big alligators and lots of birds."

LAST MINUTE ADS

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

PAMPA ROTARY Club is selling tickets for \$100 of groceries a week for a year. Tickets are \$2 ea. or 3 for \$5. You can purchase tickets from NBC Bank, Don Whitney Ins., Albracht Chiro. Clinic, One Stop Flooring, Brown, Graham & Co., Panhandle Plains Land Bank, Richard at Culbertson Stowers, Jeff Boyd at N.O.V., and Pampa United Way.

Obituaries

Sheila Standish, 62

Fritch—Sheila Standish, 62, died December 30, 2009, in Fritch, Texas. Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 2, 2010, at Alanreed Cemetery in Alanreed, with Pastor James Bible of Alanreed Baptist Church. Arrangements were under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Ms. Standish was born May 2, 1947 in Pampa to

Jack and Ann Standish. She attended schools in Alanreed and McLean. She had been a resident of Fritch for the past 12 years. Sheila loved animals, and owned The Exotic Pet Shop in Fritch for several years. She was a Baptist. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Survivors include two daughters, Sonja Williams and husband Brent of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Cecilia

Norwood of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; one brother, Sam Standish and wife Donna of Monahans; four grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and numerous friends. Sheila was preceded in death by her parents; and a daughter, Rhonda Herndon. MEMORIALS: to any local ASPCA. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com



Standish

Ray Leon Allen, 82

Pampa—Ray Leon Allen, 82, died January 1, 2010, in Pampa, Texas. Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at Memory Gardens Cemetery with Teddy Powell, nephew, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Mr. Allen was born

March 15, 1927 in Vinson, Oklahoma. He has been a lifelong resident of Pampa. He was veteran of the Merchant Marine and Coast Guard from 1942 to 1945. He married Minnie Lee Bass in 1948 at Hobart, Oklahoma; she preceded him in death on November 30, 1999. He was a loving father and grandfather to many and will be greatly

missed by all. He enjoyed being raised on a farm where he had many interesting stories to share. Survivors include one son, Donald Allen and wife Lucy of Oklahoma City, OK; one daughter, Brenda Bridwell and husband Lynn of Pampa; six grandchildren, Chris Bridwell and Fiancé Jessica Watson, Waylon Bridwell, and

Jamie Shook and husband Carl all of Pampa, Angie Abshire, Becky Balthrop, and Ysroel Allen all of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and 14 great grandchildren. MEMORIALS: BSA Hospice or Children's Miracle Network. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

EMERGENCY SERVICES

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests over the holiday weekend. Thursday, Dec. 31. Manuel Olivas-Venzos, 25, was arrested by Gray County deputies on charges of driving without a license, not having insurance and furnishing alcohol for a minor. Nikki Shalyn Marcum, 21, was arrested by deputies on charges of theft under \$50 and failure to appear.

Jose Miguel Retana, 20, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on charges of burglary of a motor vehicle and criminal mischief.

Friday, Jan. 1. Gary Glen Cady, 27, of Lefors, was arrested by Pampa police on charges of driving without a driver's license, failure to appear and seat belt violations.

Artie Cyrenus Sailor III, 50, was arrested by deputies on charges of assault of a family member.

Christopher Knowlton, 25, was arrested by police on charges of public intoxication.

Jeremy Blake Jones, 24, was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Christopher Robert Driscoll, 23, was arrested by police on charges of public intoxication.

Eric Eli Gamez, 23, was arrested by police on charges of public intoxication.

Matthew Brian Driscoll, 26, was arrested by police on charges of public intoxication.

Garland Glenn Gleghorn, 33, was arrested by police on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Shane Daniel Smith, 30, of Amarillo, was arrested on theft by check in another county.

Michael Dean Williams, 45, was arrested on charges of assaulting a public servant, resisting arrest and possession of less than two ounces of marijuana in another county. Saturday, Jan. 2. Rodrigo Lopez-Rodriguez, 29, was arrested by police on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Peter Joseph Garcia, 44, was arrested by police on charges of failure to identify himself as a fugitive and on a bond surrender on theft charges. John Hardy King, 58, was arrested by deputies on a warrant charging him with theft under \$50 and failure to appear.

Sunday, Jan. 3.

Jacob Wayne Jenkins, 19, was arrested by police on charges of driving without a license.

Claudia Solis Campos, 30, was arrested by police on charges of not having a valid driver's license and not having liability insurance.

Ashley Lynn Cornish, 23, was arrested by police on charges of not having a valid driver's license, failure to appear, and theft under \$50.

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported 184 calls from 8 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 31, to 8 a.m., today.

There were 62 traffic-related calls and four accidents reported.

Animal control officials reported eight animal-related calls.

There were 10 medical calls.

Thursday, Dec. 31. Officers had escort duty in the 2400 block of West 23rd.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster.

Identity theft was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

A threat was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

A gas drive off was reported in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1900 block of North Faulkner.

A theft was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Building checks were made in the 100 block, 600 block and 400 block of Foster.

A burglary was reported in the 600 block of North Dwight.

Friday, Jan. 1. The city reported the violation of city ordinance in the 300 block of North Faulkner.

A prowler was reported in the 800 block of North Wells.

Violation of city ordinances were reported in the 1100 block of South Faulkner, at 18th and Lynn, 1100 block of South Christy, 100 block of South Marie and the 800 block of North Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon.

A suspicious person was reported in the 700 block of North Hobart.

Officers performed a welfare check at Wells and Somerville.

Suspicious vehicle was reported in the 2200 block of North Lea.

A violation of city ordinances was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson.

Officers assisted another agency in the 100 block of West 30th.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 1100 block of North Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of North Zimmers.

Officers had escort duty in the 100 block of West 30th.

Water officials were called to the 1100 block of West Sandlewood.

A theft was reported in the 1100 block of South Farley.

A burglary was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson.

Officials reported a violation of city ordinances in the 900 block of South Reid.

Found property was reported in the 100 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of North Banks.

Harassment was reported in the 1100 block of North Juniper.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of North Christy.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of Juniper.

A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of South Hobart.

Saturday, Jan. 2. A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of West Foster.

A suspicious person was reported at Crawford and Varnon.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of North Faulkner.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of South Wells.

City water officials were sent to the 500 block of West Brown.

A theft was reported in the 2600 block of North Dogwood.

A theft was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

An alarm was reported in the 600 block of North Hobart.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 1000 block of West Harvester.

A sewer choke problem was reported in the 300 block of South Miami.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

A theft was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 800 block of East Murphy.

A fire investigation was launched in the 100 block of North Wells.

A burglary was reported to police.

Officers checked buildings in the 600 block of West Foster, 400 block of West Foster, 100 block of West Foster and the 100 block of East Craig.

Sunday, Jan. 3. A suspicious person was reported at Atchison and Starkweather.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block of East Kingsmill.

A suspicious person was reported in the 300 block of East Starkweather.

Burglary of a motor home was reported in the 600 block of North Lefors.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Wells.

Lost property was reported in the 1400 block of Lynn.

A burglary was reported in the 900 block of East Barnard.

A warrant was served in the 600 block of Short.

A suspicious person was reported at Graham and Frederic.

A theft was reported in the 400 block of Foster.

Carbon Monoxide was reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of North Perry.

A fire investigation was launched at U.S. Highway 60 and Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of East Malone.

An alarm was reported in the 700 block of North Magnolia.

A prowler was reported in the 1400 block of North Christy.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of East Foster.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Monday, Jan. 4. A prowler was reported in the 1100 block of South Finley.

A burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 500 block of East Kingsmill.

You drink,
you drive,
you lose.

County

is working with the medical community.

The county has been heavily involved with LifeStar, the medical helicopter now stationed in Pampa, and with Pampa EMS, the new ambulance service for Gray County.

"We're trying to work with those organizations to provide again for that educational service, that medical service," Peet said, "and still at the same time trying to maintain."

He said that he's concerned with the national level. Peet, running as a Republican, said he hears more complaints from citizens in Gray County about national politics than state and local politics.

"The unemployment rate in Texas is 5.8 percent," Peet said. "Nationally, it's seven percent or more. We're closer to 10 per-

cent." This area, he said, has the lowest unemployment rate in the state.

"I think that just shows the diligence of the people," Peet said, "and their willingness to get out and secure a job, even when times are tough."

He said that like a lot of the people that with whom he's been talking, he's concerned about what the federal government is going to do.

"We're passing \$12 or \$15 trillion dollars in debt now," Peet said.

He said the national debt has almost tripled since last year when the country went into a recession at the end of the Bush administration.

"Those things are frightening."

The Judge said, however, that he thinks the people

of this area, and across the state are very resilient.

"They don't look for handouts," Peet said. "I think the people here look and say, 'What can I do for you?'"

He said that to him, it's a plus for this area.

"That's a positive for our future," Peet said. "We've very innovative and entrepreneurial."

He said those are great assets to have.

But there are shadows in the future, Peet acknowledges.

The State of Texas will begin redistricting next year, dividing up line for elected state officials. More than half the state's population is now east of Interstate 35, which may mean that West Texas, including the panhandle, may get short shrift in Austin.

cont. from page 1

Show preparation



Pampa FFA And 4-H members held a work day to paint the bleachers and prepare the barn for the upcoming Gray County Livestock Show and Sale January 16, 2010. The public is invited to come out and show support for local children and their projects.

City

participated in Panhandle Days at the State Capitol in Austin, explaining their needs to legislators.

Also in February, Morris said the rate case involving Xcel Energy, which provides electricity to Pampa, was settled, but the city was notified of new rates from Atmos Energy, which provides natural gas to the city.

In March was the ground breaking for the new middle school.

It's not a city project, Morris said, but the city was involved in the planning because of the utility and annexation of the land into the city limits.

The city also sent off a letter of support concerning state tax credits for Hampton Village, a new subsidized housing development for Pampa. By August, the tax credits were approved.

In April, the city began drilling test holes for a new water well for the prison complex east of Pampa.

The city and the county were awarded a \$58,000 law enforcement grant in April.

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority opened bid in April for their Phase 3 well field expansion north of Pampa.

"That's a big deal because we were committed to funding our share of the project," Morris said.

Pampa is one of the 11 cities that make up the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

The city completed the new scale house, shop and

office out at the landfill last spring.

"Landfill Cell No. 4 was scheduled to be completed in April," Morris said.

But due to weather problems, the completion date was pushed back into May. Still it was completed, along with new Xcel Energy power lines running to the landfill.

Morris said several housing contractors looked at sites in Pampa during the Spring for future use.

Monty Montgomery was named Animal Control Supervisor.

The city commission and economic development corporation began working diligently in May on building an aquatic park.

But May also saw a devastating hail storm and small tornado hit the northeast and east side of Pampa, damaging the golf course, landfill and wastewater treatment plant.

By June, electricity was in the wind as Cross Texas Transmission Company held its first meeting in Pampa at Trinity Church.

"That meeting gave a general description of planned electrical transmission lines in our area," Morris said.

It's part of a bigger project to take electrical power from the panhandle electric grid to the electrical grid downstate.

Locally, June was when there was a review of the plans for water line replacement program.

"That's still on-going," Morris said.

The starting completion

date for the \$1.2 million project will be later this year.

A \$250,000 block grant for a \$357,000 water line replacement project in Prairie Village was approved.

"That's the first time ever that Pampa has received a grant for this type of a project," Morris said.

Late in the summer, a FEMA contractor was upgrading insurance maps for the city and county, and AT&T had installed an enhanced 911 system for Pampa.

October saw the ground breaking for the new additions to Clarendon College.

In November, plans were submitted to the city for a new assisted living facility in the Northcrest Addition. Construction should start, Morris said, this year.

Also in November, city officials met with consultants on a needs assessment for a new animal shelter.

A lot of the groundwork for projects expected to be undertaken this year were laid in 2009, Morris said.

The wind generation facilities and transmission lines are moving forward to take panhandle wind power downstate in the future.

The Hampton Village complex is scheduled to begin construction in February.

A number of smaller projects are expected to be complete in the new year, Morris said.

The new year should be busier than last year, he said.

cont. from page 1

Peet

overseeing a multi-million dollar budget each year. He also serves as Director of Emergency Management Gray County and chairman of the county's juvenile board. He presides over half of the county's juvenile cases.

Peet presides over all probate matters, guardianships, mental hearings, civil matters up to \$10,000 and over wine and beer permit cases. He also presides over all Class A and B misdemeanor criminal cases.

As county judge, he's

responsible for all county buildings and grounds.

A member of the Panhandle Regional Housing Finance Corporation for the past 14 years, Peet also serves as secretary-treasurer for the Panhandle Judges and Commissioners Association.

He's a member and past chairman of the Panhandle Workforce Consortium Board and has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to serve as chairman for the past 11 years on the Panhandle Community

Block Grant Review Committee and served for four years on the state's Community Block Grant Review Committee.

Peet was recently named as a Fellow to the Texas Judicial Academy for the third time.

A graduate of Midwestern State University with a major in government and history, Peet has been married to his wife Carol for 41 years. The couple has three sons and eight grandchildren.

cont. from page 1

Cowboys playoff tickets on sale

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Attending the first Dallas Cowboys playoff game in the team's new \$1.2 billion stadium in Arlington will cost as much as \$500 a ticket.

A link from the team's Web site indicated tickets were to go on sale Monday morning, to the general public, for Saturday

night's game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Individual ticket prices were listed as ranging from \$85 to \$500.

Dallas on Sunday wrapped up the regular season by shutting out the Eagles 24-0 at the retractable-roof Cowboys Stadium. Both teams finished 11-5.

Filing period ends, primary season begins

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Candidates for the Texas Republican and Democratic primaries have one last day to decide to run.

Monday was the final day of the month-long filing period for the March 2 elections. The major anticipated candidates already have entered their respective primaries.

Well-known hopefuls for governor on the Republican side are incumbent Rick

Perry and U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Among the Democrats, former Houston Mayor Bill White is running for governor, as is wealthy businessman Farouk Shami.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, Attorney General Greg Abbott and Comptroller Susan Combs are among the Republican incumbents in statewide office who have filed for re-election.

Annise Parker sworn in Monday as Houston mayor

HOUSTON (AP) — Annise Parker has taken over as Houston's mayor, making her city the nation's largest to be presided over by an openly gay person.

The 53-year-old Parker was sworn in over the weekend in a private ceremony as chief executive of America's fourth-biggest city. She repeated the oath of office Monday as part of public inaugural ceremonies and celebrations.

Parker received almost 54 percent of the vote in a December runoff, defeating former city attorney Gene Locke in a race to succeed term-limited Bill White. Democrat White is now running for Texas governor.

Parker, a three-term former city controller, has never made a secret or issue of her sexual orienta-

tion in her runs for office.

Her lifestyle drew attention after anti-gay activists and some religious groups endorsed Locke and sent out mailers condemning her.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, Jan. 4, the 4th day of 2010. There are 361 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1762 - Britain declares war against Spain and Naples.

1797 - Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Austrians at Rivoli, Italy.

1885 - The first successful appendectomy is performed in the United States.

1908 - Mulai Hafid is proclaimed sultan of Morocco at Fez.

1918 - France's former Premier Joseph Caillaux is arrested for treason after he opposes involvement in World War I. He is later found guilty of committing "damage to the external security of the state" but is pardoned and becomes finance minister.

1919 - Russian Bolsheviks capture Riga, Latvia.

1932 - Indian government introduces emergency powers as Indian National Congress is worsening as the 2010 political season opens.

1938 - British postpone plan for partition of Palestine.

1944 - Allied forces launch attack east of Cassino, Italy, in World War II.

1948 - Britain grants independence to Burma.

'Our civilization is still in a middle stage, no longer wholly guided by instinct, not yet wholly guided by reason.'

— Theodore Dreiser, American author

1951 - North Korean and Communist Chinese forces take Seoul, South Korea.

1961 - Nationalist rebels attack Portuguese military and civil targets in Luanda, Angola, the opening shots in a 14-year colonial war.

1967 - Britain's proposal for an international peace conference to end the war in Vietnam is rejected by North Vietnam and by the National Liberation Front.

1973 - Montreal Museum of Fine Arts is robbed of \$2 million worth of art, including a Rembrandt valued at \$1 million.

1974 - U.S. President Richard Nixon refuses to hand over tape recordings and documents subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.

1983 - The Colombian government bans imports into Colombia of ether, acetone, hydrochloride and other chemicals needed to purify cocaine paste.

1990 - Worst rail disaster in Pakistan's history kills 307 people and wounds 700 when a passenger train crashes into stopped freight train in Sangi.

1991 - Salvadoran leftist rebels deny having murdered three American airmen after forcing down their helicopter two days earlier.

1993 - An outbreak of fighting kills at least 19 people in the Georgian republic of Abkhazia.

1994 - The U.S. National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke approves a \$4.5 million grant for three institutions to measure the success of implanting fetal tissue into brains of patients with Parkinson's disease.

1995 - Israeli troops, escalating their struggle against Palestinian extremists opposed to the peace process, shoot and kill four men in the occupied West Bank.

1996 - After pressure from NATO, Bosnian Serbs release 16 Bosnians who had been detained outside Sarajevo in violation of the Dayton peace agreement.

1997 - A 99-year-old Parisian woman who refused to leave her unheated home is the 225th person to die during a cold snap across Europe.

1998 - Swedish police arrest 314 people after violence erupts at a neo-Nazi concert outside Stockholm.

1999 - Europe's new currency, the euro, makes a strong debut on the financial markets.

2003 - Islamic militants ambush a military convoy in northeast Algeria, killing 43 soldiers and wounding 19 others in the deadliest attack on Algerian troops in five years.

2005 - The governor of the Baghdad region, known for cooperating closely with American troops, is assassinated along with six bodyguards as he drives to work in yet another bloody day of insurgent attacks that expose grave security flaws in Iraq with elections less than a month away.

2006 - A suicide bomber kills 32 mourners and wounds dozens more at a funeral held north of Baghdad for the nephew of a Shiite politician. It is one of several attacks across Iraq that kill a total of 53 people.

2007 - About 100,000 North Koreans rally in the communist country's capital to defend their government's right to have nuclear weapons.

2008 - DNA analysis indicates a 3-year-old boy living in a Bogota foster home is the child of a woman held captive by leftist rebels for nearly six years. The results suggest that the leftist rebels misled the world when they promised to release the boy and his mother.

2009 - A female suicide bomber strikes Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad, killing 38 people.

Today's Birthdays:

James Usher, Irish churchman-scholar (1581-1656); Isaac Newton, English physicist (1643-1747); Jacob Grimm, German author (1785-1863); Louis Braille, French inventor of writing for the blind (1809-1852); Jane Wyman, U.S. actress (1914-2007); Dyan Cannon, U.S. actress (1937-); Michael Stipe, U.S. singer w/rock group R.E.M. (1960-); Julia Ormond, British actress (1965-).



IN THE BEGINNING, THE FIRST UNDERWEAR BOMBERS HAD A MORE DIFFICULT TIME SLIPPING PAST AIRPORT SECURITY.

2010 situation grows more difficult for Democrats

LIZ SIDOTI
AP NATIONAL POLITICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — An already difficult situation for Democrats in Congress is worsening as the 2010 political season opens.

To minimize expected losses in next fall's election, President Barack Obama's party is testing a line of attack that resurrects George W. Bush as a boogeyman and castigates Republicans as cozy with Wall Street.

Four House Democrats from swing districts have recently chosen not to seek re-election, bringing to 11 the number of retirements that could leave Democratic-held seats vulnerable to Republicans. More Democratic retirements are expected.

Over the holiday break, another Democrat, freshman Rep. Parker Griffith of Alabama, defected to the GOP. "I can no longer align myself with a party that continues to pursue legislation that is bad for our country, hurts our economy, and drives us further and further into debt," said Griffith, who voted against Democrats' three biggest initiatives in 2009: health care, financial regulation and reducing global warming.

In the Senate, at least four Democrats — including Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and five-term Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd — are in serious trouble. The party could also lose its grip on seats Obama held in Illinois and Vice President Joe Biden long occupied in Delaware.

Going into 2010, Democrats held a 257-178 majority in the House and an effective 60-40 majority in the Senate, including two independents who align themselves with Democrats.

But they face an incumbent-hostile electorate worried about a 10 percent unemployment rate, weary of wars and angry at politicians of all stripes. Many independents who backed Democrats in 2006 and 2008 have turned away. Republicans, meanwhile, are energized and united in opposing Obama's policies.

House Democrats began an ad campaign in December assailing Republicans for opposing legislation restructuring federal financial rules and recalling the final days of the Bush presidency, when the economy tanked.

"Remember? We all know we should never let this happen again."

The ad says. It lays into Republicans for voting "to let Wall Street continue the same risky practices that crippled retirement accounts and left taxpayers on the hook for \$700 billion."

Maryland Rep. Chris Van Hollen, who heads the House Democrats' campaign arm, said his party wants to remind voters who was on their side at a difficult time. "The Republican Party in Washington today is no different than the Republican Party that ran the Congress before," he said.

But that was three years ago. Democrats have been in control since, and Bush is long gone. This is Obama's country now. Democrats tried to use Bush against Republican Chris Christie in the New Jersey governor's race in November — and Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine still lost.

A top Democratic priority is minimizing losses among nearly four dozen seats the party now holds in moderate-to-conservative districts that Republican John McCain won in the 2008 presidential race. The most vulnerable in that group include Democratic Reps. Mary Jo Kilroy in Ohio, Harry Teague in New Mexico, Frank Kratovil in Maryland, Tom Perriello in Virginia and Travis Childers in Mississippi.

Reps. Bart Gordon and John Tanner, both of Tennessee, were in that group until they chose to retire. So was Griffith, before he switched to the GOP. Retirement announcements from Reps. Dennis Moore of Kansas and Brian Baird of Washington put two more Democratic seats in swing-voting districts on the GOP's target list.

Democrats insist that Gordon, Tanner, Moore and Baird are leaving for personal reasons and are not the first ripple in a wave of retirements akin to 1994 when 28 Democrats chose not to run, and Republicans won control in part by winning 22 of those seats.

Republicans don't agree. "Democrats are beginning to see the writing on the wall, and instead of choosing to fight in a difficult political environment, they are taking a pass and opting for retirement," said Ken Spain, a spokesman for the House GOP's campaign arm.

The GOP will be defending at least a dozen open seats because of retirements, with several lawmakers leaving the House to run for higher office.

The situation for Democrats in the Senate is nearly as grim as it is for them in the House.

Democrats crowded after six Senate Republicans — four from swing states Florida, Ohio, Missouri and New Hampshire and two from GOP-leaning Kansas and Kentucky — announced retirements.

Spirited GOP challenges are now expected in all six states, and Republicans say they are optimistic they can retain the seats. An emboldened GOP also is looking to put a pair of senior Senate Democrats out of office.

Reid, who is seeking a fifth term, is faring poorly in surveys in a hypothetical matchup with Nevada GOP chairwoman Sue Lowden, one of several Republicans competing for a chance to challenge him.

Dodd, the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee chairman who has taken heat for a discounted VIP mortgage loan he got from a subprime lender, has been consistently behind potential GOP

challenger Rob Simmons in Connecticut polls. Simmons, a former House member, has his own challenger in World Wrestling Entertainment co-founder Linda McMahon, who also is seeking the Republican nomination for Dodd's seat.

Also vulnerable are Sen. Blanche Lincoln, a moderate Democrat in GOP-leaning Arkansas, and Sen. Michael Bennet in Colorado, who was appointed when Ken Salazar became Obama's interior secretary.

Republicans have high hopes for picking up Senate seats in Illinois and Delaware that were held by the president and vice president, respectively. Neither of their appointed successors is seeking election to the seats.

Early polling shows GOP Rep. Mark Kirk leading among Republican candidates in Illinois. Veteran GOP Rep. Mike Castle, a former two-term governor, is running for the Senate in Delaware.



THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348
Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble
Publisher
rpribble@thepampanews.com

<p>ReDonn Woods Advertising Manager rwoods@thepampanews.com</p> <p>Sue Pribble Advertising Representative spribble@thepampanews.com</p> <p>Beverly Taylor Classified Advertising classified@thepampanews.com</p> <p>Kera Kent Circulation circulation@thepampanews.com</p> <p>Carrie Hair Accounting bookkeeper@thepampanews.com</p>	<p>Betsy Phillips Editor bphillips@thepampanews.com</p> <p>David Bowser Reporter dbowser@thepampanews.com</p> <p>Andrew Glover Reporter aglover@thepampanews.com</p> <p>Marcus Elkins Press Supervisor press@thepampanews.com</p> <p>Chico Ramirez Circulation Supervisor</p>
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Rebecca Ann Fatheree Weathersby

Fatheree, Weathersby exchange vows

Rebecca Ann Fatheree and Scott Edwin Weathersby, both of Denver, Colorado, were married August 22 at First Presbyterian Church in Canadian with Worley Kennedy of Faith Bible Church in Pampa and Hank Harmon of Dallas, officiating.

The matron of honor was Jennifer Fatheree Shepard, sister of the bride of Durham, North Carolina. The bridesmaids were Dinah Jane Harriger of College Station, Sarabeth Nicole Hirschfeld of Dallas, and Collin Lewis Rains of Pampa. The honorary bridesmaid was Amanda Jacqueline Frithiof who is serving on the mission field.

The best man was Nick Hostad Weatherford of Dallas. The groomsmen were Brian Edward Spence of Dallas, Robert Roland

Lundy of Nashville, Tennessee, Craig Andrew Fusch of Dallas, and Daniel Stanford Mangham of Birmingham, Alabama.

Scripture reader was Jana Weathersby Funderburk, sister of the groom, of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The bell ringer was Ruthie Tagesech Funderburk, niece of the groom, also of Addis Ababa.

The ushers were Michael Van Funderburk, brother in law of the groom, of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Taylor Hill Shepard, brother in law of the bride, of Durham, North Carolina, Matthew Collins Harmon, and Scott Hostad Weatherford both of Dallas.

Members of the house party, who registered guests and handed out programs, included Shelby Lanae Chillion of Colorado Springs, Kristen Stowers Curtis of Pampa,

Allie Augusta Marchman and Sarah McKenzie Marchman of San Antonio, Neely Jarrett Shenloogian of Tulsa, Amber Ford Newman, and Claire Fatheree Wright both of Dallas.

Music was provided by organist Norman Goad and violinist Diana Goad, both of Amarillo. A reception was held following the service at The Citadelle in Canadian.

The bride is the daughter of Sue and Tim Fatheree of Pampa and the granddaughter of Ann and Hobart Fatheree of Fort Worth and Louise Smith and the late Andrew Smith of Pampa.

She graduated from Pampa High School and holds a Bio-Environmental science degree from Texas A&M University in College Station. She is a member of Kappa Alpha

Theta and is currently a doctoral student in the Physical Therapy program at the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver.

The groom is the son of Margaret and William Weathersby of Plano and the grandson of Caroline Weathersby, and the late Scott Weathersby of Ruston, Louisiana and the late Gladys Leidecker of Longview, Texas. He graduated from Trinity Christian Academy in Addison and holds a degree in Biology from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. He is a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and is currently employed by Video Jet in Denver.

The couple plan to take a honeymoon trip to Hawaii at a later time. They are making their home in Denver, Colorado.

TPWD's Top 10 conservation news stories of 2009

1. Drought

The seven-year drought of the 1950s may be the longest on record for Texas, but the dry heat of 2009 garnered notoriety as arguably the most intense. Fueled by a combination of record-setting heat waves and record-low rainfall during spring and summer, the impacts from drought to the state's natural and cultural resources make it the top news story of the year for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

In central and south Texas, the regions hit hardest, nearly 80 counties were considered to be in "extreme" or "exceptional" drought condition. The U.S. Department of Agriculture in April designated 70 of those counties as primary disaster areas due to drought, associated wildfires and above-normal temperatures.

As aquifer and reservoir water levels shrank under a blistering sun, concerns from biologists grew. Stresses on wildlife populations, specifically wild turkey and deer, negatively affected health and reproduction. Low dissolved oxygen levels created by stratified water columns caused fish die-offs and salinity levels in bays and estuaries rose dramatically. Salty bays and other poor habitat conditions caused by drought may have contributed to a bad year for the world's only wild flock of endangered whooping cranes. Flock numbers declined in 2009 for the first time since 2001.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service estimated losses to land-based outdoor recreation opportunities, such as hiking and hunting, in excess of \$100 million.

2. Invasive Species

As if naturally-driven

impacts to the Texas landscape weren't enough, threats from non-native invasive species compound problems like drought and pose a larger threat over the long-term. Several invasive species took on new urgency in 2009.

Arguably the most problematic aquatic vegetation in Texas, giant salvinia has been present in Texas over 10 years and is confirmed in 11 reservoirs across the state, but its spread in 2009 signaled a heightened challenge. The fate of Caddo Lake is, at best, uncertain due to the expansion of giant salvinia.

Another invasive, zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), was confirmed to have spread from Lake Texoma into the head waters of Lake Lavon in August, and experts fear the exotic species could eventually spread throughout the Red River and Trinity River watersheds.

Since 2006 there have been five documented cases of zebra mussels being found on boats at Lake Texoma that were trailered in from other states. All five boats were quarantined and cleaned of all mussels prior to being allowed to launch into Lake Texoma. However, April 3 of this year marked the first time that an adult zebra mussel was documented as living in Texas waters. Since that time, additional live specimens have been reported in Lake Texoma and are now believed to be well established.

3. Ike Recovery

Less than a year after Hurricane Ike's massive storm surge leveled Galveston Island and sent a destructive wave across southeast Texas, recovery efforts illustrate both the cost and complexity of

repairs and restoration and the resilience and value of the state's cultural and natural resources.

Galveston Island State Park, whose beachside facilities were obliterated during the storm, reopened to campers thanks to support from the Friends of Galveston Island State Park, and hard-hit San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site made great strides in repairs.

Galveston Bay's fertile oyster grounds, which were scoured by the storm, are in the recovery process and massive debris cleanup efforts at sites like the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area are helping restore critical wetland habitat along the upper coast.

4. Texas Outdoor Family

The Texas Outdoor Family program reached new heights this year in bringing hundreds of families into the world of nature and the outdoors at Texas state parks. As the program expanded across Texas in 2009, the innovative weekend, how-to workshops reached about 2,000 kids and adults this year, up from 500 people when the program began in state parks in 2008.

The program appears not only to be removing barriers to enjoying camping and the great outdoors, but also to be reaching into urban communities to attract a diverse clientele.

5. Hunting/Fishing Regulations

TPWD implemented sweeping changes in 2009 to the state's white-tailed deer hunting regulations, as well as significant revisions to ensure a healthy future for flounder and alligator gar.

One of the biggest chang-

es involves further expansion of the department's successful antler restriction regulations into 52 additional counties where biologists have identified a need to provide greater protection of younger buck deer.

The department also reduced the bag limit on flounder in an attempt to reverse a long-term downward trend in the abundance of southern flounder. TPWD Coastal Fisheries Division data shows that the relative abundance of flounder has fallen by about 50 percent since the early 1980s.

TPW Commissioners also passed the state's first measure aimed at protecting alligator gar, which can live up to 75 years and are the largest freshwater fishes in Texas. The commission changed harvest regulations from no length or daily bag limit to one fish per day.

6. Fee Increases

The TPW Commission approved in 2009 increases to hunting and fishing licenses, as well as boat titling and registration fees.

A bigger increase had been contemplated, but after considering the economic recession and other factors, most fees increased by five percent. Hunting license fees rose from \$23 to \$25, while the popular Super Combo all-inclusive license increased from \$64 to \$68. The biggest increase in license fees approved by the commission affects lifetime licenses. The resident lifetime fishing and hunting licenses increased to \$1,000 and the lifetime combination license increased to \$1,800. The decision marked the first license fee increase in five years.

7. Game Warden

Training Center

Phase one of construction on a new Texas Game Warden Training Center was nearing completion in late 2009. TPWD officials and partners from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the Police Activities League and the Texas Game Warden Association broke ground April 9 on the planned \$20 million training complex in Hamilton County.

8. East Texas Fish Hatchery

TPWD made substantial progress in 2009 on construction of the new \$27 million John D. Parker East Texas State Fish Hatchery, despite weather delays and infrastructure challenges. One year into the construction phase, work is about 30 percent complete.

9. Big Bend Ranch Public Access

TPWD celebrated expanded recreational opportunities at Texas' largest and wildest state park, Big Bend Ranch State Park, during 2009, including a free, daylong

Fiesta for the public Nov. 14.

The recently acquired Fresno Ranch, a significant addition to the park, paved the way for greater public access to remote parts of the park and features wild canyons, stunning vistas, historical roads, rich riparian habitat and Rio Grande frontage.

10. Wildlife Expo Suspended

Suspension of the annual Texas Parks & Wildlife Expo in Austin for the first time since 1992 created opportunities for organizers to plan expo-type events in major urban centers by partnering with selected stock shows, rodeos and events to present the new Life's Better Outside® Experience in 2010.

Events are planned for 2010 during the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Buc Days Celebration in Corpus Christi and AlleyFest in Longview.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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Level: Beginner



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 40-year-old single mom who shares a close relationship with my 12-year-old son, "Troy." I earn a decent living, but I can't afford extravagances like yearly vacations.

My mother and sister are considerably better off financially than I am. They constantly suggest great ideas for vacations -- theme parks, cruises or skydiving -- in front of Troy. I always feel terrible when I must explain to him that we just can't afford it.

I provide for my son and he doesn't want for much, but when Mom and Sis bring these things up, I feel like such a failure. How can I handle this without feeling like the bad guy? -- MOM ON A TIGHT BUDGET

DEAR MOM: Your mother and sister may not fully realize your financial situation, so here's how to handle it: Have a private chat with them and TELL them that what they are suggesting is not within your budget. Then ask them to please stop doing it in front of Troy because it is hurtful to him and embarrassing to you.

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for regularly advising counseling for

readers who are dealing with emotional issues. Your message is heard in mainstream America and has an impact on those who are willing to hear it.

I grew up in a small town. My mother's family was of Irish-German descent; Dad's parents came from Czechoslovakia. Mom's family showed its love by teasing, criticizing and ridiculing.

I never saw my parents show any affection toward each other or to us, although we knew we were loved. They gave us a stable, comfortable home, a solid basic education, a strong work ethic and moral values.

Counseling was only for "crazy" people, and confiding anything to Mom set us up for becoming the topic of conversation with extended family. Nothing was confidential.

When I became an adult, I desperately needed to work with a therapist because I had strong negative feelings, depression and communication issues. Abby, one reason I was brave enough to seek counseling was because I had read your consistent advice to seemingly "normal" people to see a counselor. Another factor was being 300 miles away from my hometown.

Counseling was a godsend for me.

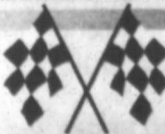
It saved my life, and I recommend it freely to friends who need help. A wise professor said: "Everyone can benefit from counseling, and it's the person who says 'not me' who probably needs it the most."

My sister and brothers never left our small town. They are afflicted with the same issues I dealt with. One brother committed suicide at 41, and my mother lives in an isolated world full of physical and emotional pain.

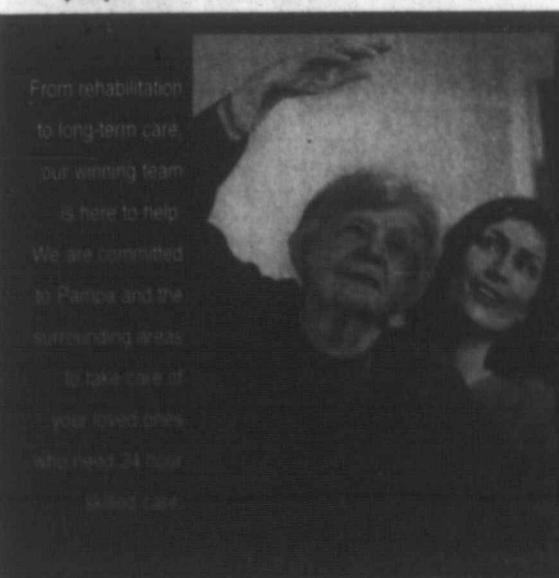
Talking to a mental health professional when life feels overwhelming can make the difference between life and death. I'm grateful I had the opportunity, and comforted knowing it's an available resource if I need more. Thank you again, Abby, for making a difference in my world. -- LAUREN IN VIRGINIA

DEAR LAUREN: You're welcome. I have received occasional criticism for telling readers to discuss their problems with a licensed therapist. But when I hear from someone whose problem is so serious (or complicated) that it can't be adequately dealt with in a letter or a newspaper, advising the writer to seek counseling is the most direct and honest advice I can offer.

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Comics

Marmaduke



"I'd like you to fetch the paper to me, not fetch me to the paper."

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"I forgot to give this to you and Daddy. I made it at school before Christmas."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Pickling herb
- 5 Corrosive stuff
- 9 Zellweger of "Chicago"
- 10 Co-host with Kelly
- 12 "What's in —?"
- 13 Garlic unit
- 14 College studies
- 16 Singer Ritter
- 17 Scheme
- 18 Verses
- 21 Person in a computer world
- 22 One always working out
- 23 More cold and damp
- 24 Lord of the jungle
- 26 Plead
- 29 Face, in slang
- 30 Dread
- 31 Owns
- 32 Compare
- 34 Come up
- 37 Loosen, as laces
- 38 Said with a twang
- 39 Operative
- 40 Go under
- 41 Bell sound

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Saturday's answer

- 19 Portent
- 20 Bungle
- 22 Intent look
- 23 B. & O. and Reading: Abbr.
- 24 Pageant crowns
- 25 St. Francis' home
- 26 Whipped
- 27 Chowing down
- 28 Say "hi" to
- 29 Genghis —
- 30 Mold and mildew
- 33 Campus area
- 35 —
- 36 Caribou's cousin

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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THE PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

CALL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

1 Public Notice

RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL OIL AND GAS DOCKET NO. 10-0262520 IN RE: CONSERVATION AND PREVENTION OF WASTE OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

Austin, Texas December 21, 2009

NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF BLUE DOLPHIN PRODUCTION LLC TO ADOPT TEMPORARY FIELD RULES FOR THE LAKETON, EAST (ARBUCKLE) FIELD GRAY COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the public and to all interested persons that under the legal authority and jurisdiction of Title 3, Oil and Gas, Subtitle A, B, and C of the Texas Natural Resources Code, Chapters 26, 27 and 29 of the Texas Water Code, and TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. art. § 2001 et seq. (2009), the RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS will hold a hearing on JANUARY 27, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the William B. Travis State Office Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. This hearing will be conducted in conformity with the TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. art. § 2001 et seq. (2009). For room assignment, on the date of the hearing please check the bulletin board in the 1st Floor lobby.

1 Public Notice

Persons planning to attend this hearing are urged to contact the applicant (see service list) immediately prior to the hearing date to be sure that the hearing will proceed on the scheduled date.

This hearing will be held to consider the application of Blue Dolphin Production LLC to adopt temporary field rules in the Laketon, East (Arbuckle) Field, Gray County, Texas. The proposed rules are as follows:

1. Reservoir Internal from 11,444' to 12,199' as shown on the Array Compensated Resistivity Log of the Blue Dolphin-Thomas Lease, Well No. 1, See 62, Blk. A-6, H&GN Survey, Gray County, Texas.
2. Spacing of 1320/2640';
3. 320 acre gas protraction units, 10% tolerance provision, maximum diagonal of 6000';
4. 100% acreage allocation formula.

If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, Dale Miller, at (512)478-3456. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the railroad Commission, Office of General Counsel, at (512)463-6848. IF A CONTINUATION IS NECESSARY, this hearing will proceed at the William B. Travis State Office Building, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas. This hearing will be conducted in conformity with the TEX. GOV'T CODE ANN. art. § 2001 et seq. (2009). For room assignment, on the date of the hearing please check the bulletin board in the 1st Floor lobby.

1 Public Notice

in this proceeding and recorded with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, Railroad Commission of Texas.

PURSUANT TO SAID HEARING, the Commission will enter such rules, regulations, and orders as in its judgment the evidence presented may justify.

ANY REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT of this hearing must be received no later than five (5) working days prior to the scheduled date shown above. Copies of such request must be forwarded to all parties shown on the service list.

TO APPEAR IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THIS PROCEEDING, a party other than the applicant must file with Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date, a notice of intent to appear. A copy of the notice of intent to appear should be served on the applicant and any other parties of record.

IF ANY PARTY DESIRES A WRITTEN TRANSCRIPT of the hearing by a Court Reporter, that party should notify Docket Services, Office of General Counsel, at least five (5) working days in advance of the hearing date. If a written transcript is requested, the Commission may assess the cost of the transcript to one or more parties. Unless any party requests a written transcript, the record will be made by audio recording.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY who needs auxiliary aids

1 Public Notice

and services in order to have an equal opportunity to effectively communicate and participate in this hearing must request such aids or services at least two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing by notifying the Personnel office of the Railroad Commission of Texas by mail at P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, or by telephone at (512)463-7327 or TDD No. (512)463-7284.

ALL EXHIBITS FIELD AS A PART OF THE RECORD in this cause must be submitted in duplicate. Data in Commission records may be incorporated by reference, but the reference must be specific, and if it includes exhibits filed in prior proceedings before the Commission, a copy of such exhibit properly identified shall be submitted with this record.

THE APPLICANT MUST review this notice and the attached service list for accuracy and completeness. The applicant shall immediately notify Docket Services, Office of General Counsel of any discrepancy or omission THIS HEARING REQUIRES NOTICE BY PUBLICATION.

E-13 12/21-28-09, 1/4/11, 2010

14d Carpentry

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

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

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FOUND approx. 4 mo. gray/wh stripe kitten. Has a collar. Dwight st. 661-4123, 669-7611

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GREAT investment opportunity Howardwick Convenience store. 665-1875, 806-383-1986

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

1-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z DNAPN JAHNTQZS DATDFA.

Z FZGA QT MAKN NHLIFZJRV

IAJAKQM QMA VHNPKSA.

— VQADMAJ VTJYMAZL

Saturday's Cryptoquote: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: TO TOLERATE FOOLS MORE GLADLY, PROVIDED THIS DOES NOT ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE UP MORE OF MY TIME. — JAMES AGATE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010:

This year, events encourage you to let go and see the big picture. Instead of a situation being right or wrong, look at it as changeable. Sometimes the resolution will be quite dynamic. The unexpected runs through your day-to-day life. Note if there is a theme that tells you that you can no longer depend on the status quo. If you are single, you could meet someone out of the blue. Don't anticipate that this relationship will be long-term. Just enjoy getting to know the person. If you are attached, neither of you can complain about boredom. However, a little more stability and mutuality could evolve if you let go of the status quo. Learn to flow. VIRGO pushes you to look at situations differently.

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)

**** Dive into your work knowing what you want to accomplish. Even under pressure you'll get way ahead. Listen to news, and see a situation for what it is. The unexpected, though difficult, has a way of booming in on the real issues. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

**** You might want to continue to clear up a situation, but you inevitably you encounter a roadblock. Learning to work with this type of event and head in another direction could be strategic to your well-being. Your ability to adjust and do something very differently could mean the difference between success and failure. Tonight: Let the fun and games

14s Plumbing/Heat

BROWNING Heating & Air Cond., 665-1212. Free esti. on new equip. We service all brands!

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115.

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19 Situations

PROFESSIONAL TRANSLATIONS English / Spanish. Verbal or Written Form. Call 662-4098

21 Help Wanted

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FULL & Part-time Providers needed for Pampa area for adult patients. Part-time Provider needed for Berger & Fritch patients. Above average pay. Nurses By Prescription, 355-1899.

ENTRY-LEVEL PRESS ASSISTANT

We are looking for a local person to train as a Press Operator. Job requires a clean record, good work ethic, high school diploma or GED, and must be able to lift 70 lbs. No experience required, but a mechanical aptitude would be a plus. 35 hours per week, Monday thru Saturday.

NO PHONE CALLS

Apply in person or send your info. and references to The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa, Tx. 79065

SECRETARIAL - Clerical

Great Job - hard worker, self motivated, honest, communication skills, computer knowledge, efficient typing, office exp. Pay based on ability! Send your resume to Law Firm, P.O. Box 1420, Pampa, TX. 79066. No calls.

NEED mature person to clean make ready.

Apply 800 N. Nelson. F-T LVN's, F-T CNA's and F-T Marketter needed. Call McLean Care Center, 779-2469, Candy Branscum, Adm.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

69 Misc.

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

1/2 Off 1st Mo. Rent

1/2 Off 1st Mo. Rent, 1&2 BR starting at \$390 / mo. On-site laundry & w/d hookups in all 2 bdr. apts. Caprock Apts., 665-7149.

3 BR for only \$649/mo.

1/2 off 1st mo. rent. W/d hookups & on-site laundry. Caprock Apts., 665-7149.

1 Bedroom Apts.

Reasonable Rate Coffee Street Apts. 665-4274

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Titan SPECIALTIES, LTD. MACHINISTS / ASSEMBLERS

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77 Livest./Equip.

CRP GRASS HAY FOR SALE CALL 806-886-3565

80 Pets & Suppl.

PUPPIES to give away. Call 835-2805 or 595-0205.

FREE Puppy to good home.

Call 664-7096

6 wk old pups for sale. Mother is full blood Pit. Dad is 1/2 Rot, 1/2 Mastiff. 669-5995.

KITTENS (free) ready for loving homes!

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95 Furn. Apts.

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

1 bdrm's avail. starting at \$445/mo. 1/2 Off 1st mo. rent w/7 mo. lease. Corp. units: utilities, linens, base cable. Caprock Apts. 665-7149

96 Unfurn. Apts.

NEED mature person to clean make ready. Apply 800 N. Nelson.

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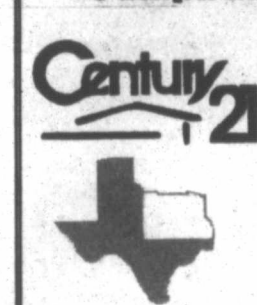
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1819 Evergreen.....\$145,	

Sports

PHS dominated by Dons in Caprock Tourney

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Palo Duro Dons took an early lead on the Pampa Harvesters and never looked back defeating Pampa 118-69 Thursday, in the Caprock Tournament at the Monterey Old Box gym in Lubbock.

Pampa's Head Coach Dustin Miller said Palo Duro's speed was a little

overwhelming but thought it gave his team good experience.

"It's something you have to experience to understand it (Palo Duro's speed)," Miller said. "So, from that aspect it was good for some of our younger kids to see it before district."

At the start of the game, Pampa played close with Palo Duro, exchanging baskets with the Dons.

With Palo Duro leading 8-6 they started to pull away. The Dons went on a 15-9 run to expand their lead to 23-15. Pampa cut it to 23-18 with a three-pointer but Palo Duro went on a 14-3 run to close the quarter with a 37-21 lead.

In the second quarter the Harvesters didn't close at all. Palo Duro opened with a 9-0 run to expand their lead to 46-21. The Dons

outscored the Harvesters 27-14 to expand their lead to 64-35 at halftime. Miller said turnovers were the key to his team's loss.

"Not just turnovers, correctable turnovers," Miller said.

The Dons continued expanding their lead in the second half. Palo Duro outscored Pampa 26-12 widening the gap to 90-47. In the final quarter the

Harvesters were outscored 28-22. Alex Clendening led the team in scoring with 15 points and Ryan Jimenez had 13. Miller said one of the positives was he felt his team wasn't intimidated by them.

"A lot of teams are beat before they even take the floor against them," Miller said. "I felt we attacked them like they were anybody else."

The Harvesters (8-8) start district play 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Dumas. Miller said he thinks his team is ready.

"Ready to get in a routine (Tues. - Fri.). I think our seniors are peaking at the right time, they are the ones who have been here before and understand how the intensity goes thru the roof."

Lady Lions hand Pampa their sixth straight loss

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Lady Harvesters played competitively with the No. 11 (4a-private school) Lubbock Trinity Lady Lions, but lost their sixth consecutive game 68-53 Wednesday in the Caprock Tournament at the Monterey New Gym in Lubbock.

Head Coach Gene Valentine thought his team played well for who they were playing.

"We played the way I feel this team can perform. They played

together well," Valentine said.

In the first quarter, the Lady Harvesters got off to a slow start as Trinity jumped out to a 10-1 lead. Besides the beginning of the game the closest Pampa would get was within four points as they trailed 17-13 towards the end of the first. The Lady Lions led 21-13 at halftime.

In the second quarter, Pampa got back in the game. The Lady Harvesters went on a 9-1 run to tie the game at 22. But the Lady Lions took the lead the back,

going on a 11-4 run to lead 33-26 towards the end of the quarter. Lubbock Trinity led 39-33 at halftime.

The third quarter was very competitive. The Lady Harvesters opened the quarter with a three-pointer to cut the lead to three. Pampa would tie the game at 46 towards the end of the third quarter. The Lady Lions would score the last four points of the quarter to lead 50-46 at the end of the third.

In the final quarter, the Lady

Lions would put the game out of reach. Lubbock Trinity scored the first nine points of the quarter to expand their lead to 59-46.

The Lady Harvesters were limited to seven points in the fourth quarter as they were outscored 18-7. Taryn Eubank led the team in scoring with 15 points. Kirsten Kuhn had 11, Ashlee Holland had four points, Liz Hoelting had three and Andi Hutto had two.

The Lady Harvesters (5-13, 0-2) will resume their district schedule Tuesday at Dumas. Valentine

said he feels good about where they stand going into the rest of their district schedule.

"We just (need to) continue to keep the turnovers down, be more aggressive on the rebounds and have the confidence in shooting," Valentine said. "The biggest thing they learned in this tournament was go out play together and have fun. I believe good things will start to happen for this team."

Cowboys win NFC East with 24-0 win over Eagles

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — A simple phrase uttered by Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones to coach Wade Phillips perfectly described where they are now.

"A long way from this time last year," Jones said, smiling.

Instead of another regular-season-ending debacle against Philadelphia, the Cowboys got a measure of payback Sunday by clinching the NFC East with a 24-0 victory over the Eagles, who will get a quick rematch.

The Cowboys (11-5) will play the first playoff game in their new \$1.2 billion showcase stadium Saturday night against Philadelphia, which a year ago made it to the NFC title game after beating Dallas 44-6 in a regular-season finale that determined which made the playoffs.

"We just refused to allow another sequel," linebacker Bradie James said. "It's their turn to hear something, 24-0. We've got to come back to win the next one, but they'll be hearing it all week."

At least the Eagles (11-5), who could have clinched a No. 2 seed and a first-round bye by winning Sunday, won't have to wait as long for a chance to redeem themselves.

"I didn't expect to come

down here and play like this," said Eagles tight end Brent Celek, who called their performance embarrassing. "We're lucky we have another opportunity to play again. That's all we can ask for."

There was plenty of fallout for the Cowboys after the way last season ended, and many questions about whether Phillips should remain coach.

Jones stuck with Phillips, who during the offseason took on the additional role of being his own defensive coordinator. Now it seems likely that Jones will pick up the team's option for a fourth season, a very iffy proposition only weeks ago.

"It's always been about that arrow going up," Jones said. "At this particular time, he's looking good."

The Cowboys wrapped up the regular season with consecutive shutouts for the first time in the team's 50 seasons, and being the first NFL team to do so since Tennessee in 2000. And even after consecutive losses to start December, they posted a winning record after Dec. 1 for the first time since 1996 — the last time they won a playoff game.

Dallas has three impressive victories in a row, knocking off the Saints when they were 13-0, shut-

ting out Washington on the road and now blanking the Eagles after their six-game winning streak in which they had averaged 31.2 points a game.

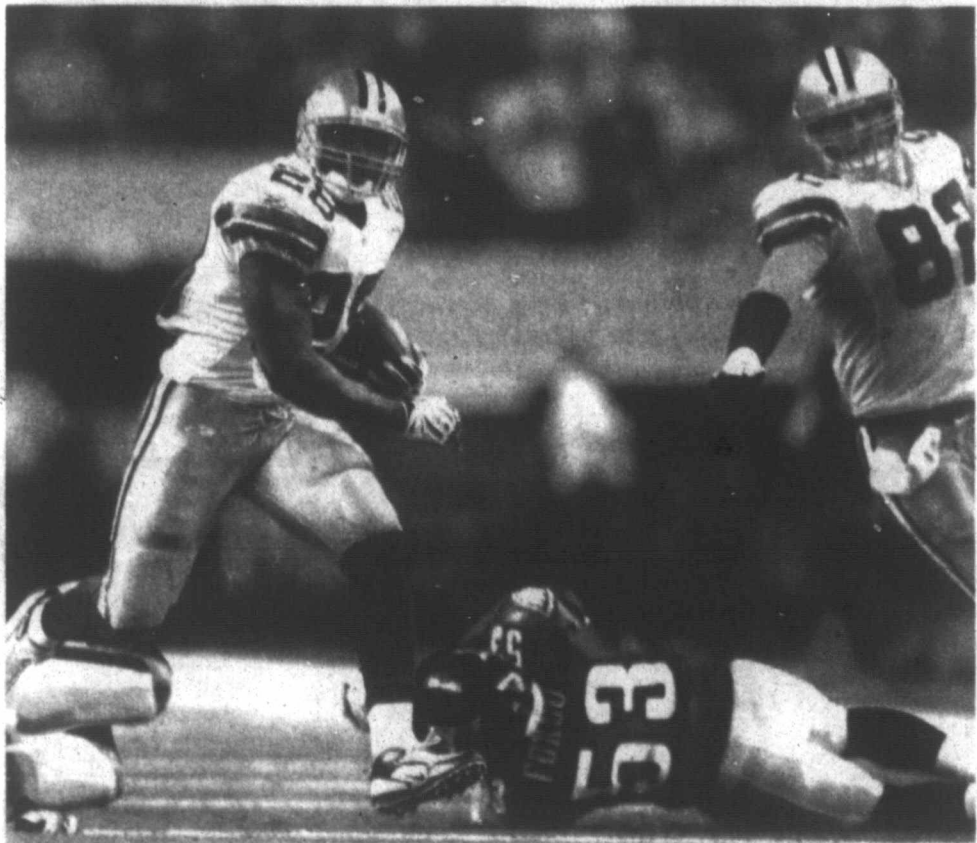
"That's the way to go into the playoffs," Phillips said. "We certainly couldn't go in on a higher note."

Philadelphia had already scored a franchise-record 429 points, but gained only 228 yards against Dallas.

The Eagles' best drive reached the Dallas 14 in the second quarter before Donovan McNabb fumbled a low snap from new center Nick Cole. Their best scoring chance after that was a missed 53-yard field goal by David Akers when it was already 17-0 early in the fourth quarter.

"This is a wake-up call. You don't want to go into the playoffs playing the way we did," receiver Jason Avant said. "I think we're going to be much more fired up next week."

Tony Romo completed 24 of 34 passes for 311 yards, his eighth 300-yard game this season. He threw touchdown passes on his first and third drives and finished with single-season team records for passing yards (4,483), completions and attempts. He broke his own marks for completions and yards set in 2007, and surpassed Danny White's 533 attempts set in 1983.



Dallas Cowboys running back Felix Jones (28) sprints past Philadelphia Eagles safety Quintin Mikell (27) and linebacker Moise Fokou (53) on his way to the end zone for a touchdown Sunday, in Arlington, Texas. (AP Photo/Mike Fuentes)

Felix Jones broke loose for a 49-yard touchdown run for the only score after halftime.

He got a clearing downfield block from Doug Free, the young tackle thrust into the lineup after Marc Colombo broke his left leg two months ago.

The Cowboys gained 474 yards against Philly to finish their most offensive season, surpassing 6,000

total yards for the first time (6,390).

"This ballclub has done a good job of putting its best foot forward when it has to," Romo said. "We haven't arrived and we haven't accomplished anything. This is a step in the process to continue to get to where we want to go."

The Cowboys won the division two years ago,

then opened the playoffs at home against the New York Giants, a division rival they'd beaten twice that season — and lost. Dallas, which won 20-16 at Philadelphia on Nov. 8, will have to beat the Eagles a third time in the playoffs.

"We can't let up now," tight end Jason Witten said. "We can't even breathe for a second."

Still hope for Texas Tech football after Leach era

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

On Saturday, the Texas Tech Red Raiders put a week of distractions behind them and defeated the Michigan State Spartans 41-31 in the 2010 Valero Alamo Bowl in the Alamodome at San Antonio. Led by Ruffin McNeill Saturday gave hope for Texas Tech fans after former coach Mike Leach was fired Wednesday. So, I am encouraging Texas Tech fans to continue to support Red Raider football even though Mike Leach is no longer coach.

Leach did an amazing job at Texas Tech in his last 10 years now the all-time winningest coach at Tech with 84 wins. However, Saturday's game showed a couple of things that Tech is still going to fare well after the Mike Leach era. Tech is still going to run a similar system and they

still have good players.

First, the Red Raiders are still going to run a similar offense. In Saturday's game Texas Tech set an Alamo Bowl record with 579 total yards with wide receivers' coach Lincoln Riley calling the plays. So, the Red Raiders didn't skip a beat. In fact, they exceeded their season averages from their 12 regular season games that were coached by Leach. Therefore, if the Red Raiders show they are still running the same system they ran under Leach and still having success, offensive recruits may still feel good about going to Tech even though Leach is not the coach.

Secondly, the Red Raiders still have good players. While Leach is a great coach, it takes players to execute the game plan. Tech had those last night while their counterparts were missing some of theirs due to discipline problems.



Andrew Glover

Taylor Potts set an Alamo Bowl record with passing yards and completions. Running back Baron Batch had over 100 yards rushing, 85 yards receiving and two touchdowns. Receiver Detron Lewis had over 100 yards receiving and the game-winning touchdown. Quarterback Steven Sheffield completed nine of 11 passes and one touchdown. On defense, Jamar Wall had one interception. Daniel Howard blocked a field goal. The nice thing for Tech is most of these

players are returning next season. So, this will be a great help for whoever the next Red Raiders' coach is.

The main reason I am writing this is to encourage Tech to keep supporting their team no matter who the coach is. Now, the Red Raiders might have a couple of down seasons depending on who they hire as coach but they will return to the level they are at now. When I started following Texas Tech football, I didn't start following them because Mike Leach was the coach but because I wanted to support Texas Tech. That's the same for my other teams. All my favorite teams have changed coaches at least once but I'm still a fan of the team.

For example, I was a junior at Texas Tech when Bob Knight resigned as men's basketball coach and Pat Knight took over the program. I will be honest

a big reason I started following Tech's men's basketball was because Bob Knight was coach. I always joked with my friends that we'll see a good game either way, either we win, or we get to see Coach Knight explode and sometimes we got both. So, when Pat Knight took over I thought we were going to lose the entertaining aspect of his dad's tantrums. Nevertheless, I still went to almost every home basketball game and I really didn't miss watching Bob Knight's temper flare at players or referees.

Even if all relationships were fine with Leach and the administration, at some point Leach wouldn't be the coach of the Red Raiders. Next season will be the first time in 35 years that Florida State will be coached by someone other than Bobby Bowden. This year in the NFL season was the first time we didn't

hear John Madden's voice broadcasting football. But the NFL and Florida State will start moving past those past Eras.

Also, I'm not going to lie I am very disappointed with the Texas Tech administration for making that move to fire Leach. However, that's not going to change my support for the Red Raiders. Athletic director Gerald Meyers, President Guy Bailey and chancellor Kent Hance aren't the ones wearing the Under Armor jerseys or wearing headsets on the sideline. I have a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech which I am still very proud of it and will always be. I'm unashamed of wearing my Texas Tech class ring also.

So when the 2010 football season rolls around, I will still have my guns up and support the Red Raiders and I hope other Tech fans do the same.

Tuesday's schedule

JV and Varsity Lady Harvesters Basketball at Dumas 6:00 p.m.
JV and Varsity Harvesters basketball at Dumas 7:30 p.m.