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Peet, Banks answer questions at forum

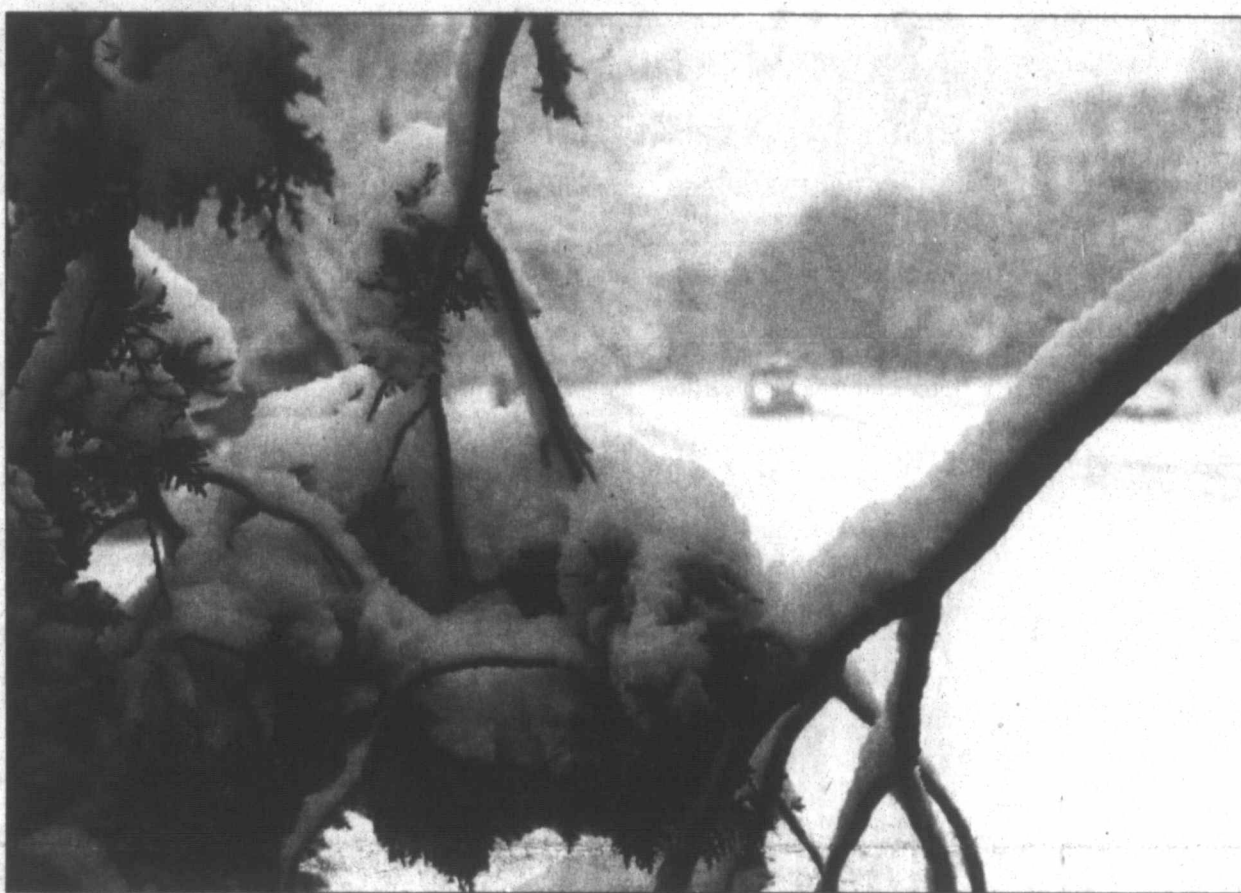
BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Two of the three candidates for Gray County Judge stood before a candidate's forum and answered questions from voters earlier this week. The questions were directed at incumbent Richard Peet and challenger Robert Banks.

the race, Steve Hall, failed to show up for the forum. With regard to training and law, Banks, a minister by trade, said his training has been working with people, budgets and problem solving. "I'm not coming here saying I have all those credentials," Banks said. "I am saying I'm teachable, chemical free and willing

to learn." Peet, a former high school teacher, said he had been asked to run initially by the previous county judge, Carl Kennedy, because of Peet's training and education in government. "I taught local, state and national government," Peet said. He said he also served on the Pampa City

Commission for two years and as Pampa's mayor for six years. Peet said he has a lot of experience working with people. "My job is more than in a courtroom," Peet said. He also has administrative duties in addition to civil court and criminal court. He's also on 24-hour call for mental cases.

Peet also does probates all wills, hears guardianship cases and half the juvenile cases. "The district judge does the other half," Peet said. He also chairs the commissioners' court. "There's a lot of administrative responsibilities," he said. As Pampa's mayor, he



staff photo by David Bowser

Traffic was moving slowing across the Texas panhandle this morning as snow covered streets and highways.

Next snow event on the way

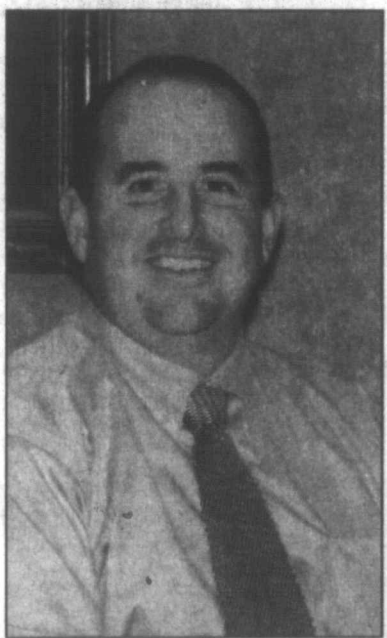
Roads slippery, travel discouraged

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Pampans awoke to white landscape this morning as another winter storm moved through the Texas Panhandle. City trucks were out this morning clearing streets, but city officials indicated that the going was slow. An official with the city said they were trying to get around with sand trucks, but the city streets were still pretty bad.

SNOW cont. on page 2

CEO Lorenz promoted, leaving PRMC

Pampa— Signature officials announced today that current Pampa Regional Medical Center CEO Todd Lorenz is assuming the position of Director of Operations Analysis at the Signature corporate office, effective February 15. Lorenz said leaving Pampa is bittersweet. "I'm excited to have a new opportunity and at the same time we're saddened to leave such a wonderful community," Lorenz said this morning. "I take comfort in knowing that the facility is being left in the hands of an accomplished and talented leader." The company has conducted a national search for the new CEO for the hospital. Stephen Pitts, a 32-year healthcare veteran, will be serving as CEO on an interim basis for a limited period before potentially assuming the permanent position of CEO, and will be working with



Pampa Regional Medical Center CEO Todd Lorenz

Lorenz to facilitate a smooth transition. Miller said, "After a thorough search, we were fortunate to locate Steve. He has excellent credentials and glowing references. Right now he is our leading candidate for the full-time CEO position. "This is a critical decision for Steve and the constituents of Pampa Regional Medical Center. We feel having an interim period of one to three months will serve the best interests of Steve and his family, as well as the medical staff, employees of the hospital, and the community. However, during that period Steve will have the same authority and decision-making prerogatives as if he were the permanent CEO." Pitts has served as CEO on an interim and permanent basis at four Texas hospitals, both not for profit and investor-owned. For

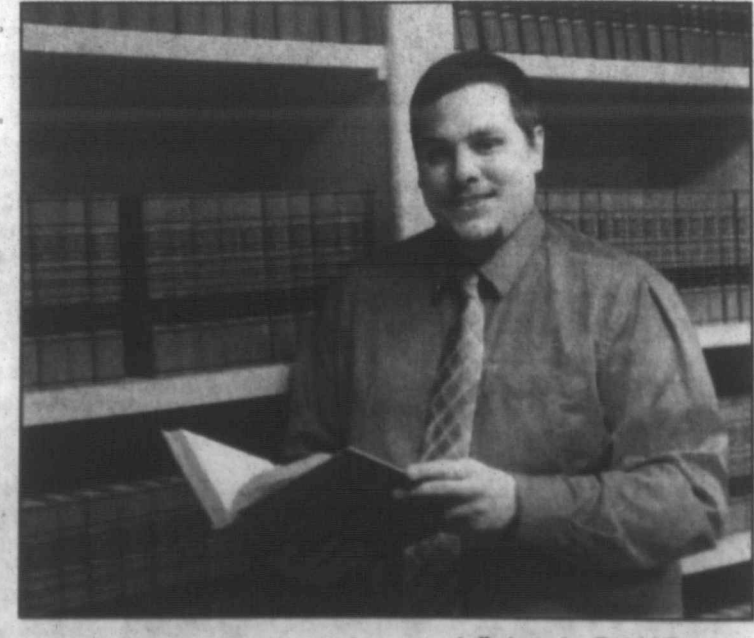
seven years he was CEO of East Texas Medical Center in Mount Vernon, Texas. A Respiratory Therapist by training, he holds an Associate of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy from Miami Dade Junior College, Miami, Florida. He later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's in Business Administration from Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas. "We are truly grateful for Todd's service to Pampa Regional Medical Center since he became the hospital's CEO," said Charles R. Miller, Chief Executive Officer of Signature Hospital Corporation. "We look forward to having his expertise at the corporate level." "Pampa Regional has made excellent strides in the qual-

LORENZ cont. on page 2

Amarillo attorney joins Warner law firm

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 An Amarillo attorney has joined a Pampa law firm. Travis Tidmore is the newest addition to the John Warner Law Firm. Tidmore graduated from Tascosa High School in 1999, before heading to Abilene Christian University for his bachelor's degree. He moved back to Amarillo where he went to work at Amarillo National Bank for a year and a half before attending law school at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif. "My wife and I moved to Austin for about a year and a half after law school," Tidmore said.

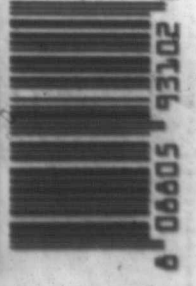
There he worked for the Texas Attorney General's Office in the Open Records Division. He also spent a couple of months with the Texas Racing Commission, filling in for one of their attorneys. "The main reason they hired me," Tidmore said, "was that they had a big open records request." "Why law?" "Growing up," he grinned, "I watched a lot of legal shows. That probably had something to do with it." In college, he combined business management and photojournalism for



Travis Tidmore, a new member of John Warner's Law Firm, in the firm's law library.

ATTORNEY cont. on page 2

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 43 Low 20	High 40 Low 28	High 42 Low 25

Tonight: Occasional flurries before midnight. Patchy fog after midnight. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 26. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

Friday: Patchy fog before 9 am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 43. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. Calm wind becoming southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 28. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: A chance of rain or freezing rain before 10 am, then a chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 42. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Sunday Night: A chance of rain and snow. Cloudy, with a low around 25. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

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Lorenz

cont. from page 1

ity of care offered to the community, including its recognition in 2009 for having the lowest surgical infection rates in the Panhandle," continued Mr. Miller. "We're confident

that the dedicated team of employees and physicians at Pampa Regional will continue to offer the same level of service and quality healthcare."

Attorney

cont. from page 1

a major. "My intention was to do television or film work," Tidmore said.

"John's had me doing estates and divorces and custody cases."

But one of the required classes was communications law. That set him off in a new direction.

While a lot of his work has been in family law, he's also done some criminal law.

"That class was probably my favorite class," he said. After graduating from ACU and going to work at Amarillo National, Tidmore said that communications law class still rolled around in the back of his head.

"I enjoy it a lot," he said. "My wife and I really enjoy Pampa."

"I decided to take the LSAT (the entrance exam for law school)," Tidmore said.

They already had some friends here. Tidmore and his wife Jeri had met Kenny Rigoulot, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church here and his wife Jennifer in Abilene.

After passing the test, he chose Pepperdine because he wants to eventually practice entertainment law.

"They were the ones that told me that John was looking for someone," Tidmore said.

For now, Tidmore is in general practice in Pampa. He joined the Warner Law Firm late last fall.

Jeri is teaching at St. Matthew's Episcopal School.

"I do just a little bit of every thing," he said.

"We have one son named Owen, that just turned two," Tidmore said.

He admitted that it's different to go from Los Angeles to Austin to Pampa.

"We're enjoying the change of pace," Tidmore said.

Obituaries

Bea Wortham, 71

Pampa — Bea Wortham, 71, died January 29, 2010, in Pampa, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Wortham was born October 3, 1938 in Waco, and attended schools in Hamlin. She married David Wortham, Sr., on June 6, 1957 in Hamlin. He preceded her in death on May 1, 2005. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1965. Bea worked as a nurse's aide at Highland General Hospital and was the director of the Southside Senior Citizens Center. She was a member of St. Mark CME Church. In her spare time, Bea liked

to crochet and care for her family.

Survivors include two sons, William D. Wortham, Jr., of Pampa, and Billy Dwayne Wortham and wife Michele of Borger; a sister, Carline Starks and husband Sterling of Aspermont; one grandson, Kaiden Rae Wortham of Borger; one granddaughter, Kaisha Dawn Wortham of Borger; nephew, Milton Laury and wife Sheila of Aspermont; two nieces, LaVendia Styles of Aspermont, and Millicent Poole of Ft. Worth; three grand-nephews, Anthony Styles, Demitric Styles, and Deundrey Styles, all of Aspermont; two grand-

nieces, Dimetria Styles and Jamyah Keeper, both of Aspermont; aunt, Ethyl Bryant of Abilene; dear friends Melissa Stevens and Casey Taylor; special cousins Louise Gardner, Joe Bass, and a host of other nieces, nephews and cousins; three sisters-in-law, Willie Fay Owens, Jackie Gaiter and Beverly Stokes, all of Ft. Worth; four brothers-in-law, Otis Stokes, Orr Lee Stokes, Jason Stokes and Lorenzo Williams.

Bea was preceded in death by four brothers, A.C. Johnson, Arthur Lee, Johnny Ray and Donald Ray; her parents: A. P. Johnson and Ollie Taylor



Wortham

Johnson; her mother-in-law, Lorene Williams; and four brothers-in-law, Charles Mitchell, Ollie Chapman, Richard Chapman and Gregory Williams.

MEMORIALS: Southside Senior Citizens Center, 438 W. Crawford, Pampa, Texas 79065.

STATE BRIEFS

Texas Motor Speedway gets later start times

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Texas Motor Speedway is where the West begins as far as starting times for NASCAR Sprint Cup races.

NASCAR has adopted more consistent and earlier starting times for races this year. Both Texas races, April 18 and Nov. 7, will begin at 3 p.m. Eastern time (2 p.m. Central).

The Texas races had originally been slated for two hours earlier, but TMS

officials wanted the later time.

Of the 36 Sprint races this season, 19 will begin at 1 p.m. Eastern and there will be 10 night races — nine at 7:30 p.m., with the Coca-Cola 600 on Memorial Day weekend at 6 p.m.).

West Coast races are in the 3 p.m. Eastern slot, and Texas is the only track outside California, Arizona and Las Vegas that got that starting time as well.

Church fire in Wills Point

WILLS POINT, Texas (AP) — The seventh church fire this year in east Texas destroyed the sanctuary of Russell Memorial United Methodist Church in Wills Point.

Van Zandt County Fire Marshal Chuck Allen told The Associated Press that no injuries were reported in Thursday morning's blaze.

Allen says the cause of the fire is sought. He says the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has been summoned to Wills Point, about 50 miles east of Dallas.

ATF has said six church fires since Jan. 1 in east Texas are blamed on arson.

The 37-year-old Allen, who was baptized in the Wills Point church, said

the fire continued burning nearly three hours after

Snow

Gray County officials said the roads are snow packed and icy.

"We're discouraging travel," said Deputy Sheriff Joe B. Hoard.

At least one accident due to weather was reported in Interstate 40 and another was reported on U.S. Highway 60, Hoard said.

Wheeler County officials reported roads in the eastern panhandle.

"We've been above freezing so we're all right," reported an official with the Sheriff's office.

Roberts County officials in Miami reported road

it was reported and "this building's a total loss."

A Van Zandt County Sheriff's Office dispatch-

er told AP that the fire was reported at 5:23 a.m. Thursday.

About \$300,000 in Texas no-win BCS items for Haiti

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Nearly \$300,000 worth of clothing ready for sale if Texas had won the BCS championship over Alabama will be sent to Haiti as earthquake relief.

University Co-op spokeswoman Casey Ellis says the 13,000 shirts and 1,000 caps were to be shipped Friday.

Ellis told The Associated Press that the items, printed to hail a UT victory, were made a day or two before the Jan. 7 game in

which Alabama beat the Longhorns 37-21.

Ellis says the shirts retail for \$20 each, while the cap price was \$22.

She says the University Co-op is working with charitable groups to have the donated apparel transported from Austin and distributed in Haiti, which was devastated in the Jan. 12 quake.

The co-op is the main distributor of UT Longhorn merchandise and apparel.

cont. from page 1

The snowy skies were forecast to clear this afternoon and tonight.

Today's forecast was for a high of 35 degrees. Tonight's low is forecast to be 22 degrees.

It should be sunny and warmer on Friday with a high of 42 degrees.

Saturday should see temperatures in the low 40s before the next winter storm moves through beginning Sunday. It will bring more rain and snow. That storm is forecast to last through Monday.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: You missed an important clue in the letter from "Must Choose in Maryland" (Nov. 30), who is considering moving to improve her daughter's school life. Abby, the child is only 7. She has been in public school for three years, so the private school where she "flourished" was PRESCHOOL.

Many children encounter problems when school becomes more difficult and grading is involved. Before moving and losing her "great job, wonderful friends and comfortable lifestyle," that mother should try more options.

"Must Choose" should consider having her daughter tested for learning disabilities or physical problems. She needs to work with her daughter's school and teachers, and maybe employ private tutoring or counseling to find methods that improve the way her daughter learns. It's possible that if they move, they will only take their problems with them. — FORMER PRESCHOOL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER

DEAR TEACHER: I appreciate your offering your insight. Many readers pointed out how important it is for this mother to be proactive during any transition in her child's life. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Most children are successful in school at age 4. Before uprooting her family, "Must Choose" should meet with the school's principal and teachers to determine exactly why her daughter "hates" school.

What criteria, other than her daughter's feelings, is she using as an indicator that the schools are awful? Test data, facilities, community support, teacher qualifications, etc. should be reviewed. Moving won't ensure a successful educational experience for her daughter. Understanding and dealing with what's at the root of the child's failure will. — CAROL IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: "Must Choose" needs to examine

her daughter's situation more carefully. In preschool, children generally learn social skills, with some introduction to letters and numbers. From kindergarten to second grade, classroom instruction in mathematical and reading skills carry expectations of mastery.

Comparing the enthusiasm and success of preschool to grade school achievements is like comparing apples to oranges. Her daughter may be exhibiting signs of learning disabilities much before second grade because children develop at different rates. It is when they begin to learn to read and do mathematical computations that these difficulties are recognized.

I encourage this mother to talk with her daughter's teacher. She may find an ally there who is as invested in her daughter's social and academic success as she is — and not an enemy. — JENNI IN WARRENTON, MO.

DEAR ABBY: If "Must Choose" keeps moving, a new group of educators will have to start from scratch to evaluate the issues. As a public school teacher in a diverse district, I often see parents run from the school rather than work to help their children succeed. That mother needs to work with the professional educators in her district to get to the bottom of her child's problems. — OHIO TEACHER

DEAR ABBY: "Public" education should not automatically translate to "substandard." Good teachers in public or private schools encourage and support students at multiple stages of development.

"Must Choose" should spend time in her daughter's classroom to observe, volunteer and ask questions. If there's a problem, intervention needs to happen sooner rather than later. Open, honest and constructive feedback directed toward a solution is in order. — EDUCATIONAL SOAPBOX, U.S.A.

LAST MINUTE ADS

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Forum

was involved in developing the golf course, Recreation Park and the prison.

Peet said he didn't do it alone.

"I was working closely with Judge Kennedy at the time," Peet said.

He said the county and city should work together.

"I'd like to see the county and city work together to clear some of these streets of this snow in the residential areas," he quipped.

He said county equipment has a lot of down time that could be put to use.

"I'm not in favor of the water park," Peet said. "I can't work with you on that."

Peet said the experiences he's have over the years helped train him to be a county judge.

"I'm confident that I can do the job," he said.

With regard to maintaining a budget, Banks said he's always had to.

"I raised three children working on a salary of \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year," Banks said.

They all went to universities and are productive citizens today, he said.

"We're virtually debt free," Banks said of his family.

"I don't have an accounting degree," Peet said. "I don't have a degree in business."

But the county has a very fine financial staff, he said, in the County Treasurer Scott Hahn and County Auditor Elaine Morris.

"They're the ones that help keep us straight," Peet said.

Peet said, however, that as Pampa's mayor, he helped put together a \$12 million to \$15 million budget for six years.

As county judge, Peet is the county's chief financial officer.

"I'm not the chief financial wizard," he said.

Peet said he works with other people to put the county's budget together.

The decisions that Peet make, he said, are based on the legal requirements of the office, not personal preference.

"As a judge," he said, "we do have a legal system that we do go by. We have a set of laws that we as judges help to try to administer. We don't make up our own rules."

He said when he has to make a very difficult decision, he seeks God's guidance.

"But ultimately," Peet said, "I have to see what the law says."

He admitted that it might not be what he likes.

"I may not agree with that law," Peet said.

He said he may work with legislators to change the law, but as a judge, he must work within the confines of the laws on the books regardless of how he might feel.

"Ultimately, we are a society ruled by law," Peet said.

"I would concur with Judge Peet that ultimately

as a people, we need to seek God's guidance," said Banks.

He said he, too, would seek God's wisdom.

"Also as well," Banks said, "you have rules and regulations you have to go by."

He said that he has always worked with other men who have gifts and abilities that were different than his.

"We hopefully would compliment each other," Banks said. "I don't have all the gifts that are necessary to make every decision."

He said he would rely heavily on other people's advice.

"I believe that there's wisdom in a multitude of councils," Banks said.

Peet said that one of the accomplishments of which he is most proud is the Gray County Courthouse restoration.

He said he's very excited about it and has worked with the county commission on the restoration of the 70-year-old courthouse.

"We have a little bit left to do on it," Peet said, "but we were able to get a \$3.8 million grant from the State of Texas, the largest so far of any county in the state."

The county, he said, put up \$1.5 million to make it a \$5.3 million project.

"We're very proud of that project," Peet said.

He said he is also proud of the fact the county has maintained a balanced budget, regardless of the public might read in his opponent's campaign ads.

"We have at least a \$1.5 million reserve," Peet said.

The judge said that when he first came into office, the county had only a \$250,000 reserve.

"That's hardly enough to operate on," Peet said.

"It takes about \$500,000 a month to run all functions of the county."

For most of Peet's time in office, he said, the county has maintained a reserve of \$1.3 million to \$1.8 million.

"You must have a balanced budget," he said, "if you've got a reserve. You can't have a reserve and not have a balanced budget."

Peet said when the county builds its budget, he presents the county commissioners with a proposed budget.

"They don't accept it and just rubber stamp it," Peet said. "I assure you."

He said he relies heavily on County Auditor Elaine Morris during the budget-

ing process.

"She's a gem when it comes to a financial person," Peet said.

"I'm very pleased and proud of the fact that we do have a balanced budget," he said, "and have had over the past 15 years."

Taxes, he admitted, have varied.

In the last 15 years, county taxes have gone up four cents.

Peet said he is committed to keeping taxes as low as possible and still provide the citizens of Gray County with the services they want.

"I don't like paying taxes," Peet said.

He said his wife is in the ministry. Her ministry group meets in the Peets' home.

"We pay taxes on that house," Peet said. "It's not a parsonage. It's not a church. We pay taxes on it just like every other citizen."

Spending those tax dollars is another matter.

Faced with a complaint that local bids on expansions at the airport would have saved the county \$5,000, Peet indicated that was a small price to pay for the county's partnership with the state.

"It didn't happen overnight," he said. "This commissioner's court does plan ahead." Peet commended the county commission for being so diligent.

Violence awareness



On February 1, 2010, Mayor Lonnie Robbins signs a proclamation in observance of Dating Violence Awareness Month as Connie Wildcat, Primary Prevention Coordinator and Cinthia Cordova, Volunteer Coordinator of Tralee Crisis Center for Women, Inc., look on. Tralee Crisis Center provides services to 8 surrounding counties. Victims are provided with 24-hour safe shelter, 24-hour hotline, crisis intervention, hospital and court accompaniment and advocacy. For more information or to receive services call Tralee at 806-669-1131. Tralee Crisis Center is a United Way funded agency.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2010. There are 330 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1585 - France's King Henry III refuses sovereignty of the Netherlands.

1783 - Britain declares a formal cessation of hostilities with its former colonies — the United States of America.

1789 - George Washington is elected president of the United States.

1874 - British forces under Garnet Wolseley burn Kumasi, Ghana, ending Ashanti War.

1887 - The Interstate Commerce Commission is established to regulate the transport of passengers and goods across state lines by land and water.

'No human creature can give orders to love.'

— George Sand, French author

1899 - Filipinos stage revolt against United States because independence is not granted.

1922 - Japan agrees to restore Shantung to China.

1938 - Adolf Hitler assumes office of

German war minister and names Joachim von Ribbentrop foreign minister.

1945 - U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin begin a wartime conference at Yalta.

1948 - Ceylon — now Sri Lanka — becomes self-governing dominion in British Commonwealth.

1969 - China's representative in the Netherlands, Liao Ho-Shu, arrives in United States and requests political asylum.

1970 - U.S. President Richard Nixon orders all federal agencies to stop polluting the air and water.

1972 - Britain and nine other nations recognize East Pakistan as independent nation of Bangladesh.

1974 - Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is kidnapped in Berkeley, California, by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

1990 - Terrorists ambush bus carrying Israeli tourists in Egypt, killing nine people and wounding 20.

1991 - Iraqi forces overrun one Syrian position and fire artillery at another as they occupy territory in northeastern Saudi Arabia.

1992 - Rebel troops attempt overthrow of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. The coup leader, Hugo Chavez, wins the presidential elections in 1997.

1993 - Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi of Zaire — now Congo — comes out of hiding to call for international military intervention to force President Mobutu Sese Seko to surrender power.

1994 - Mortar shells kill nine people waiting in line for food in Sarajevo.

1995 - Chechen rebels shoot down first Russian jet fighter of the war, downing an Su-25 with anti-aircraft guns near Grozny.

1996 - Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu escapes unharmed when a motorcycle carrying two men lunges toward him as he rides horseback in Antigua, Guatemala.

1997 - In Israel's worst-ever military air accident, 73 soldiers die when two CH-53 Sikorsky transport helicopters ferrying elite troops to Lebanon collide in heavy fog and rain.

1998 - A 6.1-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tremors in Afghanistan's remote northeast kill at least 4,500 people.

1999 - A Russian project to reflect a beam of sunlight from orbit onto dark cities on Earth is foiled when the mirror fails to unfurl properly.

2000 - Despite international opposition, Austria's president swears in new government that includes right wingers loyal to Joerg Haider — a man known for praising aspects of the Nazi era.

2001 - Israel's powerful ultra-Orthodox religious bloc throws support behind hard-liner Ariel Sharon, giving another boost to the front-runner in election for prime minister.

2002 - Argentina's government says it will completely sever the peso's link with the U.S. dollar within a few days, creating a key test for both the currency and a new economic crisis plan.

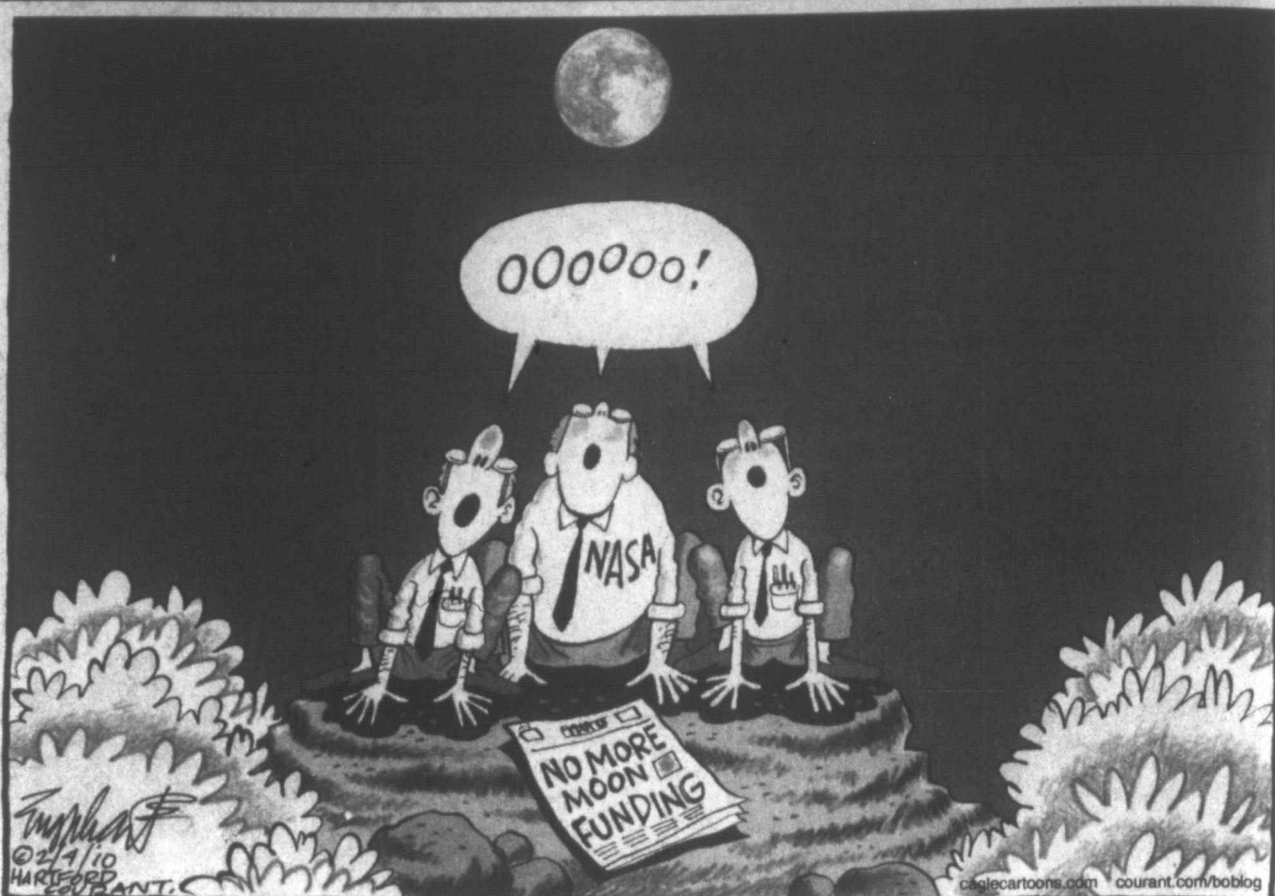
2004 - The Massachusetts high court declares that gays are entitled to nothing less than marriage and that Vermont-style civil unions will not suffice, setting the stage for the first legally sanctioned same-sex weddings in the U.S. by the spring.

2005 - Ukraine parliament confirms Yulia Tymoshenko as the country's new prime minister and gives the firebrand of the country's "Orange Revolution" protests the go-ahead to set the ex-Soviet republic on a new, westward course.

2007 - NATO-led troops kill a senior Taliban leader in a precision airstrike near a southern Afghan town overrun by militants. U.S. Gen. Dan McNeil takes over command of the 35,500-strong force of NATO-led troops in Afghanistan replacing British Gen. David Richards.

Today's Birthdays:

Fernand Leger, French painter (1881-1955); Charles A. Lindbergh, U.S. aviation pioneer (1902-1974); Isabel Peron, former Argentine president (1931-); Dan Quayle, former U.S. vice president (1947-); Alice Cooper, U.S. rock singer (1948-); Clint Black, U.S. country singer (1962-); Natalie Imbruglia, Australian singer (1975-).



Educators building a fire within

By Barry Haenisch
PISD Superintendent

Recently I was visiting with a friend who has always said, when asked, that he and his family were in the "cattle business".

The last time we visited, he told me that his son had mentioned to him that for years the family had been wrong about their work.

The young man told his father, "We are not in the cattle business, we are in the grass business." He explained that without grass, their work could not be profitable. So, in effect, he pointed out, cattle raisers spend more time protecting the grazing land and growing grass for grazer and hay than they really do working with the cattle.

My friend said that his son's statement forced him to look at their work in a new way and to realize how much the business had changed over the years.

My friend's thoughts are a wonderful analogy for the work of educators today. When I began working in the field of education many years ago, we were concerned about teaching. The focus of our work was

"the sage on the stage". Information was delivered to students through lecture most of the time unless a science teacher used a lab experiment in science. Professional development was framed around how teachers could prepare more interesting lectures so that students would learn. During my years in the classroom, I did all of the work, and my students were expected to sit passively and absorb what I had to tell them. I considered myself to be in the "teaching business".

Today we know so much more about the way students learn, how the brain works, and effective strategies for engaging students in the work. Educators have come to realize that learning is not a passive activity.

We know that for real learning to occur, a person must be involved in the work — must make a personal commitment to the task.

Learning is more than being able to replay information back to the teacher on a test. Real learning is demonstrated; it is the

ability to do something important with the knowledge that one has. Today's educators spend time preparing lessons and activities that involve students in their learning.

Now, do not misunderstand what I am saying. I am not even implying that a teacher's work is to entertain students. But I am saying that with the knowledge we have regarding the act of learning, teachers today do look for multiple ways to keep students involved actively in their learning. While being able to repeat answers to multiple choice tests is still an important skill in our nation's educational system, real learning is much deeper and richer than that. Our goal in the Pampa Independent School District is to provide students with a chance to actually use the knowledge they have received in productive and important ways.



Barry Haenisch

Educators today are aware that our core business has changed over the years.

We are no longer in the "teaching business". Our work has evolved into the "learning business". Educators have realized that, in the words of the author Bob Nelson, "You get the best efforts from others not by lighting a fire beneath them, but by building a fire within."

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

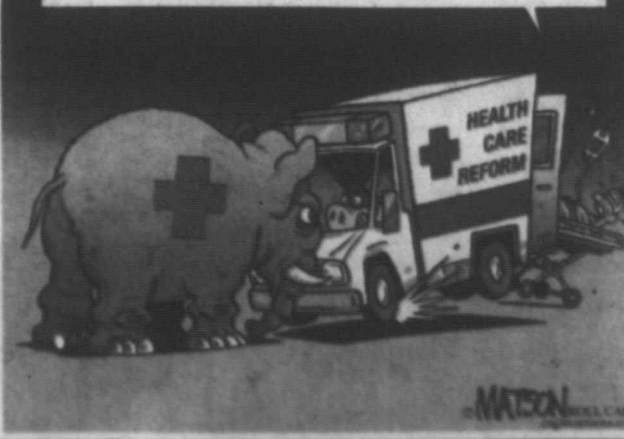
- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

- Defamatory comments will not be published.

- E-mail submissions are welcome. Send to editor@thepampanews.com

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MEMBER 2010

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

TPWD to hold Wheeler meeting to review hunting and fishing regs

WHEELER — Expansion of mule deer hunting opportunities tops a short list of proposed changes to the state's hunting and fishing regulations the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is considering for 2010-2011.

TPWD is recommending an open general season for mule deer in Dawson and Wheeler counties, and adding a day to the season across the Trans Pecos region. Department staff presented the proposals to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations Committee. The proposals address a priority goal in TPWD's Land and Water Resource Conservation and Recreation Plan to increase access to and participation in the outdoors.

The public is invited to provide comment during an upcoming open meeting in Wheeler on Feb. 24. The meeting is set for 7 p.m. at the Wheeler County

Courthouse. Currently there is no open season for mule deer in Dawson or Wheeler counties. Implementing a nine-day, buck-only season in Dawson County and a 16-day, buck-only season in Wheeler County would offer increased hunter opportunity without adversely impacting mule deer reproduction or distribution.

According to TPWD wildlife biologists, mule deer populations in these counties are limited, but are present in some areas having suitable habitat and implementation of a buck-only season will not have any measurable impact on herd productivity or expansion.

Traditionally, big game hunting seasons in Texas open on Saturday to give hunters a full weekend of opportunity. Because the mule deer season in the Trans Pecos starts on the Saturday after

Thanksgiving, the TPW Commission asked the Wildlife Division to explore an option to open a day earlier to take advantage of the long holiday weekend. This proposal would add a day to the current 16-day season and create an opening day on the Friday following Thanksgiving each year.

Wildlife biologists suggest adding a day to the season in the Trans Pecos will not negatively impact the mule deer resource.

In addition to hunting regulation proposals, TPWD staff presented an abbreviated slate of potential changes to fishing regulations and, based on input during recent public scoping meetings, removed from consideration a proposal to lower the length limit on snook from 24 to 22 inches.

The department had considered the drop in length limit on snook to allow additional harvest of fat

snook. Opinions expressed during scoping meetings reflected concern about potential impacts to common snook resources under reduced length limits and TPWD coastal fisheries officials opted to table the recommendation.

Fisheries staff will be seeking public comment on proposals strengthening commercial reporting requirements and separating commercial and recreational regulations, as well as a clarification of rules regarding catching and possessing fish within protected length limits or in excess of bag limits.

Official proposals will be available for review and comment during a series of public meetings in February, as well as online. The TPW Commission will make final determination on proposed changes at its April 1 public hearing.

Pampa Book Club

The Pampa Book Club will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 at Lovett Library to discuss "Tea Time for the Traditional Woman" by Alex McCall Smith. The book for March 10 is "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant. The April 14 discussion will be "City of Thieves" by David Benioff. The discussions are open to the public and include sharing additional books members are reading.

Civic choir auditions

All Singers Invited to join together in Re-forming the Pampa Civic Chorus in a special city-wide performance of the Requiem by Gabriel Faure sponsored by St. Mathews Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 1. The choir will be under the direction of Russ Tapp, conductor and Rick Land, organist.

Auditions begin at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Feb. 14, with rehearsals and auditions continuing at 2 p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

Call 806-204-0579 or E-mail rick@mrffusion.com for more information.

Having an event?
E-mail information to
editor@thepampanews.com

Super Bowl prize winner



Dr. Lance W. Krogh along with Ford Family Chiropractic Team Members Melissa Post and Michelle Hendrick present Charles Owens of Pampa with a Super Bowl XLIV Party Pack to enjoy while watching the game. Ford Family Chiropractic Team Members wore the jerseys of their favorite NFL Teams leading up to Super Bowl XLIV and each patient reporting for treatment during January had a chance to win.

Sudoku

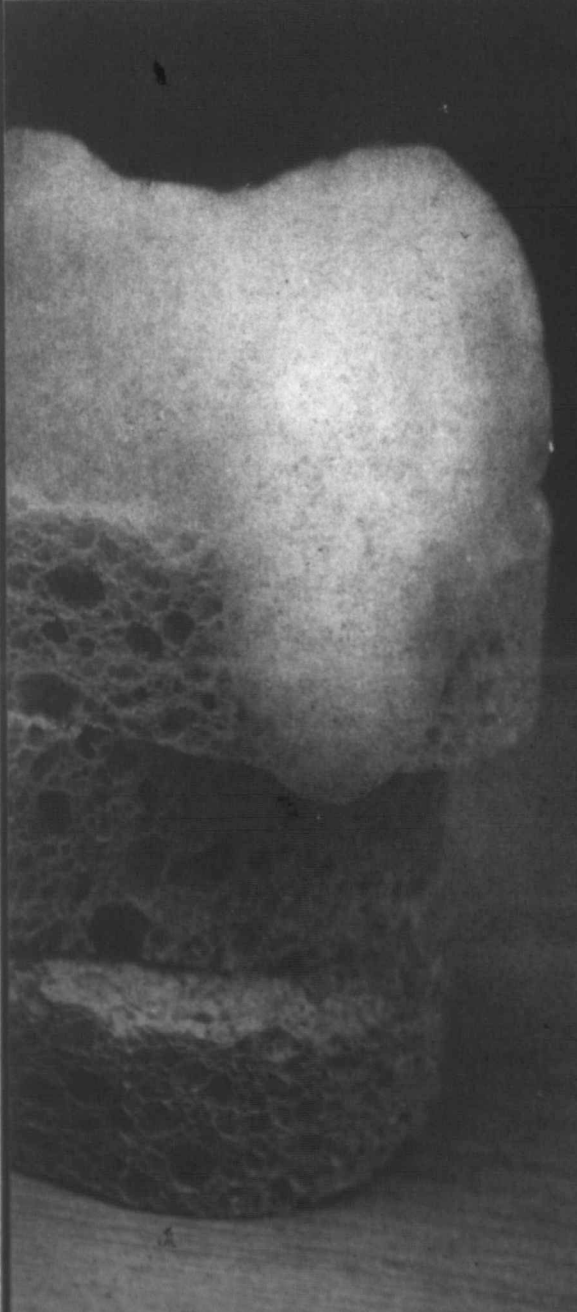
Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

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Sports

PHS swim team wins 11th straight district title

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa boys and girls swim teams won their eleventh straight district title Monday at the Pete Ragus Aquatic Center in Lubbock and almost all of them will compete in the regional meet.

The boys scored 161 points in the meet, beating second place Seminole High School who had 97. Caprock finished third with 70, Lubbock Estacado finished fourth with 23 and Palo Duro finished fifth with 16.

The girls scored 165

points beating second place Seminole High School who had 101. Caprock finished third with 84 and Palo Duro finished fourth with 22. Head Coach Edward Garvin said it was great to win their eleventh straight.

"At the first of the year I asked each swimmer what their goals for the season were," Garvin said. "Their most important goal from every swimmer was winning number 11. That kind of attitude makes my job easy."

The top six finishers in each event qualified for regionals. Both the boys and the girls won the 200

medley relay. The girls finished with a time of 2:16.34 only nine seconds slower than Pampa's 2001 record of 2:07.75, earning 18 points. Kendle Ramey, Brittany Covil, Jessica Gutierrez and Jessica Covil were the swimmers. The boys finished in 1:54.43 only four seconds from their record time of 1:50.94 in the 2008 District meet earning 18 points. Spencer Estes, Ethan Addy, Kelly Stoffle and Christian Hinkle were the swimmers.

Ramey won the girls 200 yard freestyle relay finishing in 2:28.03, which was within 16 seconds of the

district meet record and earning nine points for Pampa. Treyci Carroll finished in fourth advanced to regionals with a time of 2:40.81, earning five points for Pampa. Christina Hart also advanced to regionals and finished sixth with a time of 2:43.08 earning three points. Kendall Aikin finished seventh with a time of 2:58.38 earning two points.

Nate Towry won the 200 yard freestyle with a time of 2:06.97 which was nine seconds shy of the district meet record. Also qualifying for regionals was Karl Pfitzner who finished sec-

ond with a time of 2:08.24 and Ramon Portillo finished fourth with a time of 2:26.68.

Gutierrez won the 200 yard individual medley with a time of 2:48.72 which was 26 seconds from breaking the 2001 district record. Lindsay Cole finished third with a time of 3:00.97 to qualify for regionals. Kelly Stoffle won the boys 200 yard individual medley with a time of 2:16.82 which was nine seconds shy of his record time last year of 2:07.53.

Jessica Covil won the 50 yard freestyle with a time of 29.65 which was four seconds shy of the 2008 district record. Elisabeth Cahill qualified for regionals also, finishing with a time of 31.84 for fourth place.

Three boys swimmers qualified for the regionals in the 50 yard freestyle. Christian Hinkle finished second with a time of 23.97. Estes had a time of 25.32 and finished fourth. Scott Kelly finished sixth with a time of 27.89.

Two Pampa girls qualified for regionals in the 100 yard butterfly. Jessica Covil had a time of 1:18.58 and finished second. Brittany Covil finished third with a time of 1:22.83. Stoffle broke the district record with a time of 56.53 in the 100 yard butterfly.

Gutierrez won the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 1:05.53. Cahill also qualified for regionals finishing fifth with a time of 1:12.93. Janie Jackson finished ninth with a time of 1:23.97. Hinkle won the boys 100 yard freestyle with a time of 52.92. Also

qualifying for regionals in the event was Addy with a time of 1:00.96 finishing fifth, Kelly finished sixth with a time of 1:04.90.

Cole won the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 7:12.92. Hart qualified for regionals with a time of 7:13.13. Towry won the boys 500 yard freestyle with a time of 5:54.66. Pfitzner also qualified for regionals with a second place finish and time of 6:03.93. Portillo qualified with a fourth place finish and time of 6:47.90.

The girls won the 200 yard freestyle relay with a time of 2:01.64. The boys won the 200 yard freestyle relay with a time of 1:39.54. Ramey won the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:14.07. Brittany Covil qualified for regionals with a third place finish with a time of 1:31.20. Estes won the boys 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:05.62.

Aikin qualified for regionals with a time of 1:33.62 finishing third in the 100 yard backstroke. Addy finished second in the 100 yard backstroke with a time of 1:13.62 qualifying for regionals.

The girls won the 400 yard freestyle relay with a time of 4:48.24. The boys won with a time of 4:09.74. Hinkle won male swimmer of the year in district and Garvin won district coach of the year. To advance to state you have to win your event. Garvin is hopeful that Stoffle will make it to state in the 200 individual medley and the 100 fly.

The regional meet is February 12 through the 13 in Andrews.

Senior Day Friday



Pampa Lady Harvester and Harvesters basketball seniors will be honored before Friday's game. Seated from left to right is Shelby Watson, Andi Hutto, and Emilie Troxell. Standing left to right is Ryan Jimenez, Alex Clendening, Travis Hagerman and Nathan Webb. Friday is Pack the Pit night the girls game starts at 6 and the boys at 7:30 p.m. (Submitted Photo).

Deja vu for Harvesters, fall in overtime to Caprock

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

For the second consecutive game the Pampa Harvesters basketball team went to overtime and again they lost. This time 67-60 to the Caprock Longhorns Tuesday in Amarillo.

The Harvesters went to overtime Monday against the Dumas Demons. Head Coach Dustin Miller said this game was completely different than their 68-44 loss to the Longhorns January 8 in Pampa.

"(I) felt like we were in control from the beginning, we just let it slip away in overtime," Miller said. "We probably allowed to much penetration against

our zone, we wanted to make them beat us from the perimeter."

Pampa led 25-19 after the first quarter. Caprock outscored the Harvesters 12-11 in the second but Pampa led 36-31 at half-time. The Longhorns won the third quarter 13-8 to tie the game at 44. Both teams scored nine points in the final quarter keeping it tied. Caprock outscored Pampa 14-7 in overtime.

Latigo Collins led the team in scoring with 18 points. Garrett Ericson had 17 and Alex Clendening had 13. Pampa had to play two overtime games in two days. The Harvesters made up their game with Dumas on Monday. Miller said his

team may be a little tired from that.

"The back to back (games) might have wore on us, maybe with 2 or in a row but no excuses," Miller said. "We have to find a way to win instead of wondering how are we going to let it slip away. Back to drawing board."

The Harvesters (9-15, 1-7) have lost seven in a row and face the fourth place Hereford Whitefaces (10-14, 5-4) Friday in Pampa for senior night. Miller said it will be a big game for them.

"If we play well we should have a chance to win, hopefully we finish it off," Miller said.

Pirate coaches excited about new district foes

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Lefors Pirates will have new district opponents next season after the UIL realignment Monday.

Lefors competed in six man division two district one last season with Miami, Groom, Samnorwood and Hedley. The next two seasons the Pirates will still be in the same district and Miami is still in their district. Darrouzett, and Briscoe Fort Elliot will join the district. Groom, Samnorwood, and Hedley moved to district two with Happy. Head Football and Boys Basketball Coach Joey Czubinski said he was not surprised how their dis-

trict was realigned.

"It went exactly as I thought it would go," Czubinski said. "We talked about it and I told everybody when they asked me the last two months, regardless of how many teams I think us, Fort Elliot, Miami and Darrouzett will be in the same district based on the geographic location."

The Pirates could meet one of their former district opponents in the bidistrict round of the playoffs. Czubinski said they will play some of them in non-district.

"Hedley and Groom we're playing in non-district," Czubinski said.

The Pirates will still be in District 4-1A division two.

for basketball. The UIL added Shamrock to the district. Head Girls Basketball Coach Tory Peet said he thinks his team will compete well with Shamrock.

"My junior high played their junior high in the Miami tournament," Peet said. "My seventh graders played their seventh graders and my eighth graders played their eighth graders. We were very competitive with them. Which is a good sign...I think Shamrock is a good team. Bigger school more kids I don't think it will be them coming in a running away with the district. I think it will be them coming in and making the district more competitive."

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Sports

Hagerman signs for West Texas A&M football

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Senior defensive end Travis Hagerman signed his letter of intent to West Texas A&M Wednesday in the Ready Room.

Hagerman lettered in football, basketball and track in his high school career. The senior defensive end said he is excited to play for the Buffs.

"I've grown up around WT," Hagerman said. "They've always had a

really good program well I've been here. Even the years they didn't have a winning program they still had the heart and all that I feel is home to me."

Hagerman said he chose West Texas A&M because it felt right to him.

"I had other offers," Hagerman said. "It just felt more right than the other schools. The other school was only a two-year school and WT's five-year plan felt more like a plan for

me." Head Football Coach Heath Parker said signing a letter of intent is a really exciting time of a student athlete.

"We wish Travis all the luck in the world," Parker said. "Selfishly we're glad it's close so we can see him play."

Hagerman will be playing defensive tackle for the Buffaloes. In his senior season, Hagerman earned second team all-district.



Travis Hagerman signs his letter of intent to West Texas A&M with his grandma Freda Hagerman left and his father Billy Hagerman right. Head Football Coach Heath Parker and assistant football coach Tad Smith behind.

Final wrestling matches complete, district next

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters wrestling team competed in their final two matches before district.

Pampa competed in the Hugoton Tournament in Hugoton, Kansas and finished fourth in the team standings. Jared Miner, Joseph Slattan, Robert Radke, Stephen Bortello and Joseph Dencklau finished second in their weight classes with a 4-1 record. Dencklau won all four of his matches by pins. Tyler

Montgomery finished third in his weight class. Josh Bagley and Jason Martinez finished fourth.

Pampa competed at Borger January 26 and faced Borger and Caprock. The Harvesters lost both matches but had some key individual wins. Radke and Dencklau won their matches by pins against Borger. Bortello won by forfeit and Martinez won 8-7.

Against Caprock Bortello and Robert Douglas won by pins. Radke won 11-3, Dencklau won 8-2, and

Martinez won 9-4. Pampa competes in the district meet 3 p.m. Saturday at McNeely Field House.

8th grade girls basketball teams fall in final games

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Junior High eighth grade basketball teams end their seasons Monday with losses to Plainview.

The B team lost 51-2. Coach Jim McDaniel said the team had 30 turnovers, made one of 27 field goal attempts, missed both three pointers and did not attempt a free throw. Macy Cochran made the only basket for Pampa. Jazmyn Hair led the team in rebounds with four. Ashton Standerfer and Lacey Dodson each had two. Dodson had one assist. Hair led the team in steals with three. Mattie Eldridge had two and Taylor Giles had one. The B team finished the season with a 2-11 record.

The A team lost 40-13.

McDaniel said the team had 20 turnovers, shot 17 percent from the field, made three of six free throws and missed their only three-pointer. Jessie Dixon led the team in scoring with four points. Savanna Mertz and Alexa O'Brien each scored three. Krysten Miller scored two and Ashlee Keith scored one. Kylee Metts, Bailey Dixon, Miller, and Keith led the team in rebounds with three. Jessie Dixon had two and Mertz and O'Brien each had one. Bailey Dixon, Miller and O'Brien each had one assist. Bailey Dixon and Keith led the team in steals with two each. Miller, Samara Cummins and Dixon each had one. The A team finished with 4-9 record.

Miami boys lose, girls win against Ft. Elliot cats

SUBMITTED BY RON CARR

Second half shooting woes spelled disaster for the Warriors Tuesday night as they fell to Ft. Elliott 55-34.

Miami was able to handle the Cougar pressure pretty well in the first half to give Ft. Elliott all they could handle. After taking an early lead the Warriors found themselves down 16-9 after one and 28-22 at the half.

Ft. Elliott stepped up the defensive pressure in the second half and it began to wear on the Warriors. The combination of pressure and cold shooting by Miami led to a 43-27 Cougar lead after three. The Warriors opened the fourth with a 6-2 run but the Cougars closed with a 10-1 spurt.

Candido Mejia led Miami with 12 points and 6 rebounds while David Mejia scored 9 points to go along with 9 rebounds. Ian Smith contributed 6 points, 2 assists, 9 rebounds, Cole Booze had 4 points, 2

assists and Jared Roberts chipped in 3 points and 5 rebounds.

Miami surged into a second place tie in the district race by avenging an earlier loss to the Lady Cougars. The 58-38 win was the lady Warriors second consecutive road win over a district contender and improved their district record to 4-2, 18-7 overall.

Miami held a slim 11-8 lead after the first quarter and used three, three point shots in the second to take a 28-17 lead to the half. An 11-6 scoring advantage by the Lady Warriors opened a 39-23 cushion after three and they led by 23 at one time in the fourth. The Lady Warriors, defense was outstanding and they enjoyed another good night from the free throw line by hitting 13 of 17.

Shaylie Thompsons' 17 points, 2 assists, 6 rebounds and Danielle Nelsons' 15 points, 3 assists, 4 rebounds led the Lady Warrior attack. Kendall Wheeler chipped in 9 points, 3 rebounds.

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Larry Ingram *Area Manager*

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Larry Ingram has been the area manager for the Pampa area since August 1997. The Pampa office covers 9 counties, which include Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Carson, Gray and Wheeler. On average, Larry drives over 50K miles yearly. Barbara Brogdon, secretary/agent since November 1999 handles the paperwork and backup for Larry. Together they make a great team to serve all your bail bond needs.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Feb. 5, 2010:
This year, you break past tradition when looking for new solutions. Don't hesitate to take the lead and move forward. Others, probably because of a fear of change, could toss boomerangs in your path. Worry less and head forward. If you are single, you'll meet people wherever you are, but you need to choose someone who works well with your energy and need for diversity. If you are attached, avoid disagreements by recognizing that you both can be right. In this acceptance, understanding will evolve. SCORPIO pushes you hard to achieve.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
**** You might not believe what is happening behind the scenes. Consider your options more carefully than in the past. What you hear and what occurs could be quite different. Don't worry about the discrepancy. Let others worry about the difference between expectations and reality. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Defer to others knowing full well what is happening behind the scenes. You have a feeling about a family member or a domestic issue that you need to follow through on. Take a stand with a boss or older relative. Tonight: On top of your game.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** What you need to do is mellow out and slow down. You don't always have all the choices you want. Your ability to

Daily Horoscope

read between the lines can make a big difference. Loosen up and consider your options. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Your creativity surges, and you could be most uncomfortable. Your fatigue with a family member or domestic matter could throw you into a tizzy. Pressure builds, and you might wonder which way to go. Tonight: Paint the town red.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Deal with the moment and become anchored. You might decide it would be much better to let go of a need to control. Loosen up and work with a situation. Investigate options that surround a personal matter. Tonight: Make it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Keep communication flowing. Listen to the options that come through a discussion. You can get through a problem, but don't swallow your anger. Know how to deal with your feelings more clearly. You can accomplish much through sheer effort. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** Curb a tendency to be possessive and a bit difficult. You understand far more than in previous periods. Realize what is expected of you. Be willing to let another person lose his or her expectations. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Your personality seems to create tension but also melts barriers. You challenge others far more than you realize. Know when enough is enough. Know how to ease some of the tension in a problem. Tonight: As you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Know when to pull back and change gears. Your ability to stay on top of your game emerges. You know what is necessary, but right now a low profile works just fine. Listen well to what is being shared. Tonight: Go for an early bedtime.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** You could worry beyond belief over a project or friendship. Don't. You need to move past an immediate problem. Your abilities help others know that they can do it. The how and why is another issue. Tonight: Where the action is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** You must look forward, not backward. If you attempt to deal with a situation and head in a new direction, you might have to jump over a hurdle or two. Others naturally seem to stand in your way. Tonight: Could be late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** Keep listening to what others are saying. Don't lock in on an idea; rather, keep stretching to see more. You might not have any enduring solutions, but you continue to look beyond the obvious. Find an expert as well. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

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BORN TODAY Artist H.R. Giger (1940), comedian Red Buttons (1919), actor Michael Sheen (1969)

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FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Suffering well: Pastor's faith tested by cancer

DALLAS, Texas (AP) — Matt Chandler feels nothing when the radiation penetrates his brain. It could start to burn later in treatment. But it has not been bad, this time lying on the slab. Not yet, anyway.

Chandler's lanky 6-foot-5-inch frame rests on a table at Baylor University Medical Center. He wears the same kind of jeans he wears preaching to 6,000 people at The Village Church in suburban Flower Mound, where the 35-year-old pastor is a rising star of evangelical Christianity.

Another cancer patient Chandler has gotten to know spends his time in radiation imagining that he is playing a round of golf. Chandler on this first Monday in January is reflecting on Colossians 1:15-23, about the pre-eminence of Christ and making peace through the blood of his cross.

Chandler wears a mask with white webbing that keeps his head still as the radiation machine delivers the highest possible dose to what is considered to be fatal and incurable brain cancer.

This is Matt Chandler's new normal. Each weekday, he spends two hours in the car — driven from his suburban home to downtown Dallas — for eight minutes of radiation and Scripture.

Chandler is trying to suffer well. He would never ask for such a trial, but in some ways he welcomes this cancer. He says he feels grateful that God has counted him worthy to endure it. He has always preached that God will bring both joy and suffering but is only recently learning to experience the latter.

Since all this began on Thanksgiving morning, Chandler says he has asked "why me?" just once, in a

moment of weakness. He is praying that God will heal him. He wants to grow old, to walk his two daughters down the aisle and see his son become a better athlete than he ever was.

Whatever happens, he says, is God's will, and God has his reasons. For Chandler, that does not mean waiting for his fate. It means fighting for his life.

At a hospital, Chandler gets a CT scan, followed by an MRI.

Not long afterward, the ER doctor delivers the news: "You have a small mass on your frontal lobe. You need to see a specialist."

It was Thanksgiving. Chandler had not seen his kids — Audrey, 7, Reid, 4, and the baby — for hours.

He had collapsed in front of them. For whatever reason, those grim words from a doctor he'd never met did not cause his heart to drop. What Chandler thought was, "OK, we'll deal with that." Getting the news meant he could go home.

Chandler can be sober and silly, charming and tough. He will call men "bro" and women "mama." He drives a 2001 Chevy Impala with 144,000 miles (232,000 kilometers) and a broken radio.

One of Chandler's sayings is, "It's OK to not be OK — just don't stay there."

Chandler's long, meaty messages untangle large chunks of Scripture.

His challenging approach appeals, he believes, to a generation looking for transcendence and power.

After college Chandler became a fiery evangelist who led a college Bible study and traveled the Christian speaking circuit.

He was hired from another church in 2002 at age 28 to lead what is now The Village Church, a Southern



In this Jan. 3, 2010 photo, pastor Matt Chandler sits while receiving treatment for brain cancer in Rowlett, Texas. Whatever happens, he says, is God's will. For Chandler, that does not mean waiting for his fate. It means fighting for his life. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

Baptist congregation that claimed 160 members at the time.

The church now meets in a renovated former grocery store with a 1,430-seat auditorium; two Texas satellite campuses are flourishing in Denton and Dallas, and Chandler speaks to large conferences.

"What Matt does works because it resonates with the deep longing of the soul the average person can't even identify," said Anne Lincoln Holibaugh, the church's children's ministry director.

Tuesday, five days after Thanksgiving, Chandler and his wife, Lauren, meet with Dr. David Barnett, chief of neurosurgery at Baylor University Medical Center.

Barnett delivers the news that he found saw what appeared to be a primary brain tumor: a tumor that had formed in the brain. It was not contained. It had branches.

Chandler is facing brain surgery. He schedules it for

that Friday, Dec. 4.

Questions start to haunt him. Am I going to wake up and be me? Am I going to wake up and remember Lauren?

The surgeon is aggressive, pushing to remove as much of the mass as possible.

"You cannot be a timid neurosurgeon when you deal with these things," Barnett says later. "Your first shot is your best shot at treating this."

Seven hours after entering surgery, Chandler is wheeled to intensive care. He wakes to Barnett's voice.

"Matt ... Matt ... Who am I?"

He knows the answer. Relief. His left side is numb. His facial expressions are frozen and his voice has no pitch, what doctors call a "flat affect."

Each day after the surgery, Chandler gets better, stronger.

"The first four days were just ... not scary, but hard," Lauren says. "I'm wondering, 'How much of this

will stay? ... How much of this will be the new normal?'"

Tuesday after surgery, Barnett meets with Lauren and Brian Miller, chairman of the church's elder board. Barnett tells them the tumor was malignant. Such tumors send tiny fingers of cells beyond their borders — and eventually a branch will reach back and grow another brain tumor, Barnett says.

On Dec. 15, Barnett shares the pathology results with the Chandlers. Tumors are designated by grade, Grade 1 being the least aggressive and Grade 4 the most.

Chandler's tumor is a Grade 3.

The average life expectancy, Barnett says, is two to three years. The doctor says he believes Chandler will live longer because of the aggressive surgery, treatment and Chandler's otherwise good health. There also is a chance the cancer goes into remission for years.

Before the meeting ends, Matt prays that his children and others do not grow resentful.

"Lord, you gave this to me for a reason. Let me run with it and do the best I can with it."

Chandler says learning he had brain cancer was "kind of like getting punched in the gut. You take the shot, you try not to vomit, then you get back to doing what you do, believing what you believe."

Monday, Jan. 4, a month after surgery. Morning breaks with Reid singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Chandler sits at his laptop in the dining room, nursing a cup of green tea.

He is preparing to drive to a clinic for an infusion of Vitamin C to bolster the immune system, followed by radiation in downtown Dallas. He is in the midst of a six-week program of

radiation and chemotherapy, to be followed by a break and more treatment.

Chandler never thought such a trial would shake his faith. But until now, that was just hope.

"This has not surprised God," Chandler says on the drive home. "He is not in a panic right now trying to figure out what to do with me or this disease. Those things have been warm blankets, man."

Chandler has, however, wrestled with the tension between belief in an all-powerful God and what he can do about his situation. He believes he has responsibilities: to use his brain, to take advantage of technology, to walk in faith and hope, to pray for healing and then "see what God wants to do."

"Knowing that if God is outside time and I am inside time, that puts some severe limitations on my ability to crack all the codes," he says.

"If he suffers well, that might be the most important sermon he's ever preached," said Mark Driscoll, pastor of Seattle's Mars Hill Church and a friend of Chandler's.

Chandler is drinking life in: watching his son build sandcastles at the park, preaching each sermon as if eternity is at stake, feeling a heightened sense of reality.

"It's carpe diem on steroids," he says.

At the dinner table on the sixth day of radiation, new normal looks like this: Reid in Spiderman pajamas. Peanut butter and jelly dipped in honey for the kids, turkey chili for the adults.

And peppermint ice cream.

It is a diaper changed, dishes done.

Matt Chandler takes his chemo pills and goes to bed, grateful for another day.

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