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The PAMPA NEWS

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NEW ACQUISITION



staff photo by David Bowser

The City of Pampa is taking steps to buy the abandoned National Guard armory from the state. The city had sold the land in 1953 for \$10 upon which the armory was built.

City to purchase abandoned armory

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com
 The City of Pampa will purchase the abandoned near-by Texas Military Army Facility from the state, as decided by unanimous vote at yesterday's City Commission meeting.

The armory, located at 12065 E. Frederic Ave. (adjacent to E. Hwy. 60), has been unoccupied since being vacated by the National Guard in 2006. The facility was appraised at \$85,000 and includes a 15,540 square foot building surrounded by a pair of gravel parking lots and enclosed with a barbed wire fence.

The armory sits on a lot that the city had originally sold to the state in 1953 for \$10. By law, the city now gets the first crack at reacquiring the land; had the city not moved on the purchase, the facility would have been put up for auction.

The purchase will be paid for by income from rental and lease property to Caprock Transport Trucking

and ProPetro.

The City Commission is optimistic that the new acquisition can be a beneficial asset to the community. The building has value as a multi-purpose facility, and City Manager Philip Morris suggested a variety of possible uses for the space, including a community activity center, a new home for the animal shelter and property to be leased to new businesses.

"There's a real broad range," Morris said. "It's a real sound building. It's there adjacent to our recreational park, so there's some great opportunity there for community use. Whether it's that or as a place to lease) for potential business to bring jobs into the city, I think that this is something that can be really good for the city."

Morris estimated that it can take up to three to five months for the sale to be finalized, but was happy to take the first steps towards the city's fill ownership of the facility.

"I'm excited," said Morris. "It's going to be a long process, but I'm glad to get it started."

In other City Commission business:

The commission held preliminary discussions toward the adoption of a front yard parking ordinance for the city. The initiative, spearheaded by Building Official Danny Winborne and spurred by complaints from Pampa residents, is aimed toward the community's aesthetic improvement and would curtail the use of residential grass lawns as parking areas. The ordinance would target the owners of vehicles, not property owners.

Winborne said that he has researched similar regulations enacted by Perryton and Fort Worth that have met with success and is hopeful that a local ordinance would be just as effective.

"Right now, we're just looking at it," said Winborne. "I know I've gotten three or four complaints on it myself. We thought it would be a good chance to enhance the community some, so it's COMMISSION cont. on page 5

Canadian River Music Festival lineup announced

On May 8, six bands will take the stage at Jones Pavilion in Canadian, Texas, to entertain audiences during the inaugural event of the Canadian River Music Festival. Music in its infinite variety will be the star of the one-day-festival—from Red Dirt to Texas Swing, with healthy dollops of dance hall twang, western folk, cowboy poet and brash young bluegrass thrown in the mix.

Festival organizers promise a full day of family entertainment, with plenty of food, fun and music on deck for what they hope will eventually become a full-blown multi-day festival.



Stoney LaRue will headline this year's festival. LaRue is a Texas native raised in southeastern Oklahoma whose distinctive Red Dirt style of music blends elements of country, blues and soulful rock. Released in 2005, LaRue's "The Red Dirt Album" hit the Billboard sales charts in its debut week and established his triple threat status as a truly gifted vocalist, player and performer. In 2006, he released an addition to the "Live at Billy Bob's" series. His live single, "Oklahoma Breakdown," topped the Texas charts for over four weeks and ignited his growing cadre of fans. LaRue's shows are infused with an uplifting quality, described as "a cathartic barroom brand of spirituality."

LaRue performs close to 300 dates a year at top festivals and venues around the world, sharing venues with renowned acts like Lee Ann Womack, Gary Allan, Dierks Bentley, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Willie Nelson, Rodney Crowell and others. For one very special night this May, he will light up the stage at Jones Pavilion in Canadian, Texas.

Leading up to LaRue's performance is a lineup of bands that promises a distinct local flavor.

Spring Creek will bring its contemporary, progressive brand of bluegrass back to Canadian, the hometown of one of its members, Taylor Sims. The award-winning Colorado bluegrass band has broken onto the national scene in the last year, following the release of their third album and back-to-back Best Band conquests at the famed Telluride and RockyGrass Festivals in 2007. Additionally, the band's original crowd favorite, "High Up in the Mountains," won the Vox Populi Award for Best Americana Song at the Independent Music Awards.

MUSIC cont. on page 3

Skinner continues to ask for DNA testing reprieve

MICHAEL GRACZYK
 Associated Press
 LIVINGSTON (AP) — Texas death row inmate Hank Skinner doesn't deny he was in the house where his girlfriend was fatally bludgeoned and her two adult sons stabbed to death in 1993, but he insists that DNA testing could exonerate him.

Skinner, scheduled to die Wednesday in Huntsville for the New Year's Eve triple slaying more than 16 years ago, visited with his French-born wife as he waited for the U.S. Supreme Court or Texas Gov.

Rick Perry to decide whether to stop his execution.

He and his attorneys contend his lethal injection should be halted for DNA testing on evidence from the crime scene in the Texas Panhandle town of Pampa. Results of those tests could support his innocence claims, they said. "It's real scary," Skinner, 47,



Skinner

"I didn't commit this crime and I should be exonerated."

— Hank Skinner

said recently from death row. "I've had dreams about being injected."

"I didn't commit this crime and I should be exonerated."

The former oil field and construction worker contended a toxic combination of vodka and cocaine left him incapacitated and he had neither the mental

capacity nor physical strength to kill his girlfriend, Twila Jean Busby, 40, and her two adult sons, Elwin "Scooter" Caler, 22, and Randy Busby, 20.

Prosecutors have argued that Skinner isn't entitled to testing of evidence that wasn't tested

SKINNER cont. on page 2

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PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 55 Low 36	High 67 Low 41	High 50 Low 37

Tonight: Snow. Areas of blowing snow. Low around 34. Wind chill values between 22 and 30. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%. New snow accumulation of less than 1 inch possible.

Thursday: Occasional flurries and areas of blowing snow before 1pm. Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 55. Wind chill values between 22 and 32 early. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. Wind chill values between 28 and 33. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south southeast.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 67. Windy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Windy, with a south wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. Windy, with a south wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Saturday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 37. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

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Heuston, Winegeart, Buck named Pampa Lions Club's March sweethearts

The Pampa Lions Club's March sweethearts are Rachel Heuston, Erin Buck and Kaitlin Winegeart.

Rachel Heuston is the daughter of Treasa and Bill Heuston. Activities include mixed choir for 1 year, concert choir for 3 years, show choir for 3 years, and mentoring 4th and 5th graders at Wilson Elementary. Honors include top 20% of her class maintaining a 3.52 GPA, senior representative for Students against Destructive Decisions, and Advisory for Student Council. Rachel enjoys spending a large portion of her time with the youth of First Baptist, working at the Coffee Shop and being a caregiver for the Pingle family. Future plans are to attend Midwestern State University majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Psychology. After achieving her undergraduate degree, Rachel would like to pursue a Masters in Psychology. Erin Buck is the daughter of

Dr. William and Mrs. Shannon Buck. Activities include varsity tennis team, Diamond Dolls serving the Harvester baseball team, two year member of show choir, and Spanish club. Honors include honorable mention district doubles this fall in tennis, vice president of the concert choir, treasurer for Astra, National Honor Society, Who's Who, National Society of High School Scholars, ACT and SAT Wall of Fame high scorer. Erin has enjoyed a lifetime of dance under Jeanne Willingham and Deanna McGill as a member of the Pampa Civic Ballet in addition to working at The Coffee Shop and as a lifeguard at the Pampa Country Club. She is a member of Faith Bible Church and is an active member of the First Baptist Church Youth serving on many mission trips. Future plans are to attend Texas Christian University majoring in graphic design.

Kaitlin Winegeart is the daughter of David and Lisa Winegeart. Her activities include ASTRA president, Choir treasurer, Spanish club officer, Student council representative, dance for twelve years, and a letterman in varsity tennis. Honors include National Honor Society and she is ranked in the top 20 percent of the graduating class of 2010. Kaitlin plans to attend Abilene Christian University and major in Nursing.



Rachel Heuston



Erin Buck



Kaitlin Winegeart

Obituaries

Billie Elaine Allen, 67

Pampa—Billie Elaine Allen died March 21, 2010 in Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Allen was born January 22, 1943 in New Castle. She died in Oklahoma City after a long battle with brain cancer. Billie had been a resident of Pampa since 1969. She married Jimmie Allen on September 8, 1972 in Pampa. She owned and operated Texas Bail Bonds. Survivors include her husband, Jimmie Allen

of the home; two sons, Jason Allen of Pampa and Jeff Allen of Tennessee Colony; a daughter, Amber Patton of Claude; five grandchildren, one great-granddaughter; a brother, Stanley Tuthill of Idaho; two sisters, Louise Barnes of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Betty Garcia of Amarillo. Billie was preceded in death by a son, Tony Allen in 2009, and two sisters.

es will be at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, March 25, 2010 at Fairview Cemetery, with Rev. David Brooks, pastor of Christ's Legacy Church of Oklahoma City officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Memorials may be made to OU Medical Center, Oncology Department, 700 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73104.



Allen

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Officers reported 25 traffic-related stops and two accidents.

Animal control officers reported 20 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported two ambulance runs.

Tuesday, March 23. An alarm was reported in the 800 block of South Hobart.

An assault was reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of East Foster.

A narcotic violation was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1900 block of North Russell.

A theft was reported to police.

A grass fire was reported on Loop 171.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 800 block of South Barnes.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2100 block of North Sumner.

A threat was reported to police.

Officers assisted a motorist at Brown and Cuyler.

City officials turned off the water in the 300 block of Tignor.

Officers assisted a motorist in the 100 block of East Foster.

A threat was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Officers assisted a motorist in the 1100 block of South Huff.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of West Alcock.

A suspicious person was reported in the 600 block of West Foster.

A suspicious person was reported at Francis and Gray.

Wednesday, March 24. A domestic disturbance was reported in the 2100 block of North Williston.

A burglary was reported in the 300 block of Henry.

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 23. Christopher Lee Allred, 36, was arrested by deputies on charges of theft of property.

Rolando Robledo Jr., 23, of Memphis, Tex., was arrested by a constable on charges of driving while intoxicated, a violation of probation.

Wednesday, March 24.

Angela Diane Anderson, 33, was arrested by police for disorderly conduct involving language.

French ambassador seeks Skinner pardon

PARIS (AP) — France's ambassador to the U.S. has asked Gov. Rick Perry to pardon a Texas death row inmate married to a Frenchwoman.

Hank Skinner faces execution Wednesday night in Huntsville for the killings of his then-girlfriend and her two adult sons in 1993 in Pampa, Texas.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero says "our ambassador in Washington has asked the

governor of Texas to pardon Skinner" or to suspend the execution and heed Skinner's request for further investigation.

Skinner maintains his innocence. Valero told an online briefing Wednesday that President Nicolas Sarkozy has offered "France's support" to Skinner's wife, Sandrine Ageorges-Skinner.

France is firmly opposed to the death penalty.

Republicans in final drive to stall health bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a final drive to thwart President Barack Obama's health care remake, Republican senators plan to force Democrats to run a gantlet of politically dicey votes before they can finish a companion bill to the landmark law. Voting was expected to start late Wednesday on a long list of Republican amendments to a "sidecar" bill making changes Democrats agreed to in the main legislation already signed by Obama.

Major components of the "fix" legislation include scaling back a tax on high-cost insur-

ance plans opposed by labor unions, closing the coverage gap in the Medicare prescription benefits, and higher taxes on upper-income earners.

But Republicans have other ideas. Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., wants a vote on his amendment to prohibit coverage of Viagra for sex offenders. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-NH, wants savings from Medicare cuts plowed back into the health care program for seniors, instead of being used to expand coverage to the uninsured. Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., wants to gut penalties on employers whose work-

ers wind up getting taxpayer subsidized coverage.

Democrats are vowing to bat down the GOP amendments one-by-one, and also hope Republicans won't succeed with any procedural objections.

"All of the amendments we'll take care of. Points of order — we'll see what they do," said Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

"How serious could they be offering an amendment on Viagra for rapists?" Reid said.

Should the GOP prevail on any point, the bill would have to go back to the House. Speaker

Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has put members on notice they may be needed to vote on any changes that get through the Senate, though House leaders also say they don't expect any to be made.

Meanwhile, the Senate's second-ranking Democrat accused Republicans of refusing to accept the finality of the health care overhaul.

"This is a political exercise for too many on the other side of the aisle," said Sen. Dick Durbin. "We're going to tell our people back home, 'It's time to govern. It's time to lead.'"

cont. from page 1

Skinner

before his 1995 trial. Courts over the years since his conviction have rejected similar appeals.

Texas is the nation's most active capital punishment state and a target for death penalty opponents. The state executed 24 prisoners last year and Skinner's would be the fifth this year.

Criticism escalated in the past year amid questions about evidence that led to the 2004 execution of convicted arson-murderer Cameron Todd Willingham. Prosecutors

insist evidence in that case was solid. But an arson expert concluded the investigation was so flawed its finding the fire was set deliberately could not be supported. And when the Texas Forensic Science Commission was to take up the expert's report, Perry — under whom 212 Texas inmates have been executed — replaced most members of the panel.

Among evidence presented to jurors in Skinner's case was the blood from two victims on his clothing. His bloody handprints also were found in the bedroom of Busby's slain

sons and on a door leading out the back of the house. Prosecutors also suggested Skinner, who had a serious hand wound, cut his hand when a knife slipped during one of the murders. Skinner said he cut it on broken glass.

Police were summoned when the mortally wounded Caler appeared on the front porch of a neighbor's home. The bodies of his mother and half brother then were discovered in their home. Officers followed a blood trail four blocks to a trailer home of a female friend of Skinner. He was in a closet.

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Pampa Animal Control searching for stray dog

THE PAMPA NEWS

Pampa Animal Control is on the lookout for a stray dog connected with an incident last Thursday, according to Pampa Animal Control Supervisor Monty Montgomery.

The dog, a red pit bull of indeterminate sex, bit a man's leg at 2 p.m. on the 600 block of Kentucky Avenue, Montgomery said. It was last seen running with a brown boxer.

If you see the dog, contact Montgomery and Animal Control at 806-669-5775. Montgomery stressed that the animal is considered dangerous and should not be approached or fed.

Red Cross to host pile-on fundraising event tomorrow

In continuance of the commemoration of March as Red Cross Month, the Eastern Texas Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross will be hosting the Third Annual Youth Fundraiser Mexican Pile-On at 6 p.m. tomorrow at 108 N. Russell.

The price is \$6. Carry-out is available. For more information, contact Jana Gregory at 806-669-7121.

After apology, Neugebauer running ad against abortion

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Randy Neugebauer, who apologized to a fellow House member for shouting "baby killer" during debate on the health care bill, is now running a campaign ad vowing to continue speaking out against abortion.

"You know what, I am never going to quit speaking on behalf of the unborn," the Texas Republican, flanked by his wife, says in the 80-second video posted on his campaign Web site.

"I will continue to speak with the same passion that I spoke last night, maybe in a little bit different forum, but still with the same intensity," he says. The video runs above the box "donate today."

Neugebauer, during the often-raucous debate leading up to passage of the health care overhaul bill Sunday night, yelled out "baby killer" while anti-abortion Democrat Bart Stupak of Michigan was speaking.

Just hours before the vote, Stupak reached an agreement with the White House under which President Barack Obama would issue an executive order confirming that the legislation would not allow federal funding of abortion. With that, Stupak and other anti-abortion Democrats voted for the bill, sealing its passage.

Neugebauer apologized to Stupak while saying he was attacking the agreement reached with the White House and not Stupak personally.

Neugebauer's office did not immediately comment on response to the video message, but a similar outburst by fellow House Republican Joe Wilson of

South Carolina last year paid dividends.

Wilson — who like Neugebauer, was relatively unknown before he shouted out "you lie" last September during an Obama speech to Congress on health care — raised \$1.5 million in the week after the incident; his likely opponent in November received a similar amount. Wilson also became a favorite guest at fundraisers for other Republicans and appeared in national GOP fundraising efforts.



submitted photo

Country artist Stoney LaRue will be headlining the First Annual Canadian River Music Festival. A Texas native, LaRue will be bringing his unique blend of country, blues and soulful rock to Jones Pavillion in Canadian on May 8.

Music

cont. from page 1

Night Life has released one album, Shot in the Dark, and is working now on its second, with a planned spring release.

Filling out the festival's music line-up are cowboy entertainer Dave Stamey, Fiddlin' Pete Watercott, and Jody Nix & the Texas Cowboys.

Cowboys and Indians Magazine has called Dave Stamey "the Charley Russell of Western Music." He has twice been voted the Western Music Association's Entertainer of the Year, three times Male Performer of the Year, and twice Songwriter of the Year. He received the Will Rogers Award from the Academy of Western Artists. His latest release is titled "Come Ride with Me."

Fiddlin' Pete Watercott has been playing his own brand of high energy, traditionally-based Western

Folk music for over thirty years. He performs original compositions and Western and Folk ballads, along with instrumental music using violin, viola, mandolin, guitar and harmonica. He has been described by Mark Bedor in Western Horseman as a violinist version of western music legend Don Edwards.

Jody Nix & The Texas Cowboys are well known from their extensive travel across the country playing major rodeos, clubs, and conventions to large audiences. Nix has recorded seven albums and was a guest artist with Asleep At the Wheel on their tribute album to the legendary Bob Wills. He was a Country Music Association nominee for "Album of the Year" honors at the CMA Awards Show in 1994. In October of 1996, Jody was inducted into

the Western Swing Hall of Fame in Sacramento, Calif.

To purchase tickets, an online ticketing system is in place and will be pressed into service for purchasing the tickets which will provide access to festival events. Visit the Canadian River Music Festival website www.canadianrivermusicfestival.com to find out more about tickets and festival information. Tickets may also be purchased in advance by calling 806-323-6234 or coming by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce office, located at the Canadian Visitors' Center on the corner of Second (Highway 60/83) and Kingman Streets. Tickets prices are \$15 when purchased in advance and \$20 at the door for an all-day wristband. Kids under 12 are admitted free.

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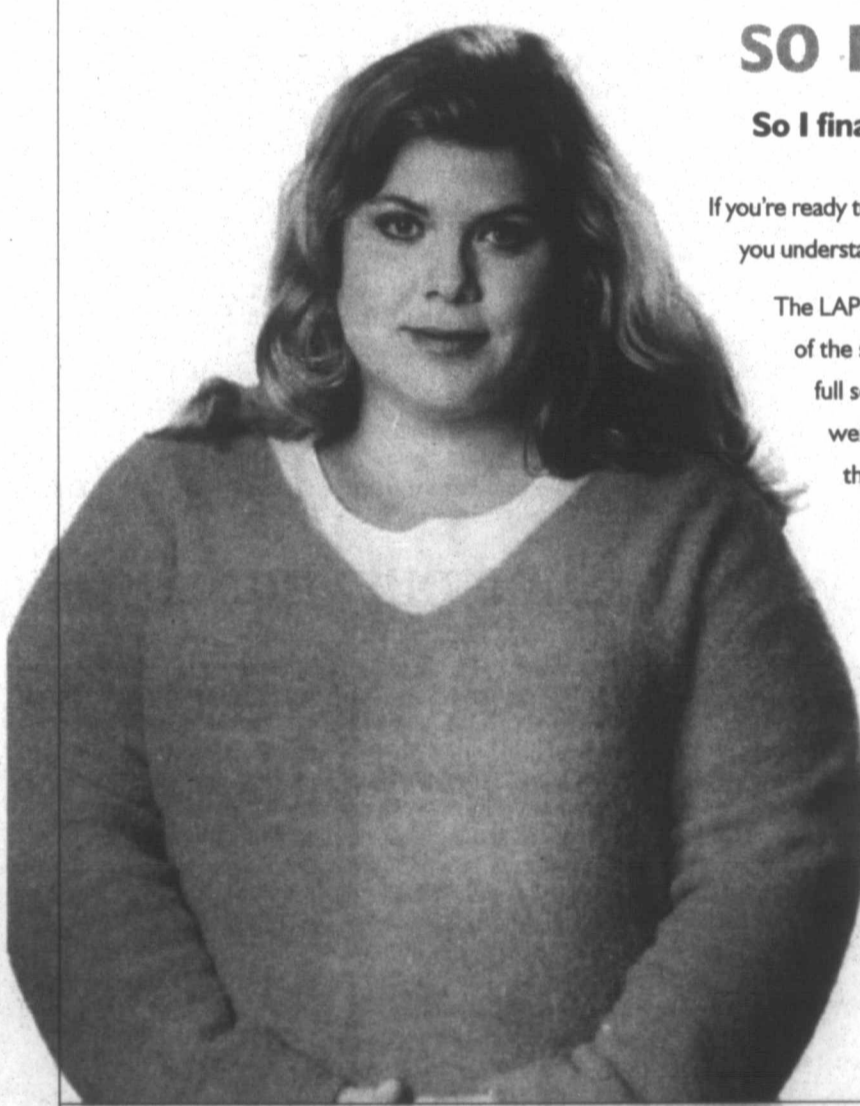
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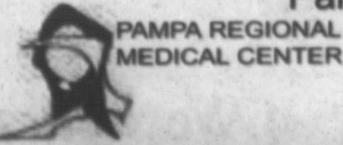
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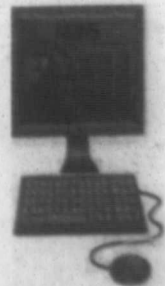
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 24, the 83rd day of 2010. There are 282 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 24, 1980, one of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by a sniper as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

On this date:

In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1882, German scientist Robert Koch (kohk) announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

In 1958, rock-and-roll singer Elvis Presley was inducted into the Army in Memphis, Tenn.

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.

In 1989, the supertanker Exxon Valdez (vahl-DEEZ') ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound and began leaking 11 million gallons of crude oil.

In 1999, NATO launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country. Thirty-nine people were killed when fire erupted in the Mont Blanc tunnel in France and burned for two days.

Ten years ago: A federal judge awarded former hostage Terry Anderson \$341 million from Iran, holding Iranian agents responsible for Anderson's nearly seven years of captivity in Lebanon. (Anderson later received \$26.2 million in frozen Iranian assets.)

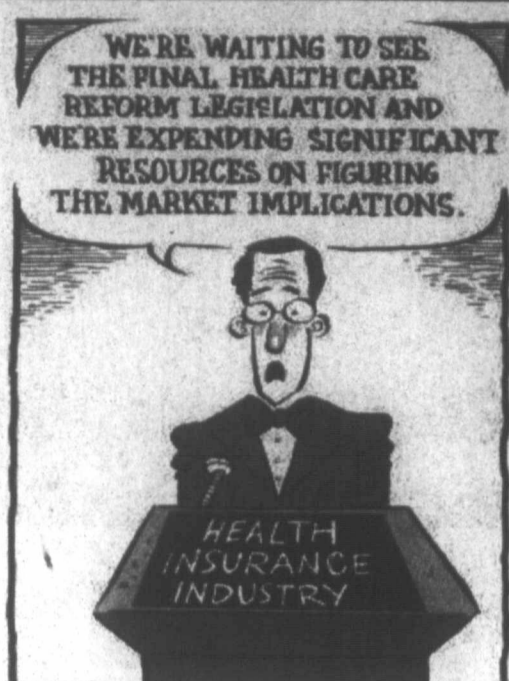
Five years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court denied an appeal from the parents of Terri Schiavo to have a feeding tube reinserted into the severely brain-damaged woman.

One year ago: Citing the AIG debacle, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, in a rare joint appearance before a House committee, asked for unprecedented powers to regulate complex nonbank financial institutions.

Today's Birthdays: Poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti is 91. Actor R. Lee Ermye is 66. Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire is 63. Rock musician Dougie Thomson (Supertramp) is 59. Fashion designer Tommy Hilfinger is 59. Comedian Louie Anderson is 57. Actor Robert Carradine is 56. Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer is 54. Actress Kelly LeBrock is 50. TV personality Star Jones is 48. Country-rock musician Patterson Hood (Drive-By Truckers) is 46. Actress Lara Flynn Boyle is 40. Rapper Maceo (AKA P.A. Pasemaster Mase) is 40. Actor Jim Parsons is 37. Actress Alyson Hannigan is 36. NFL quarterback Peyton Manning is 34. Rock musician Benj Gershman (O.A.R.) is 30. Actress Keisha Castle-Hughes is 20.

Thought for Today:

"The history of almost every civilization furnishes examples of geographical expansion coinciding with deterioration in quality." — Arnold Joseph Toynbee, English historian (1889-1975).



Consequences of new health bill clear

MAC THORBERRY
U.S. Representative, 13th Congressional Dist. of Texas

Health care reform has now passed. The path it took has really has been extraordinary. It started with an issue that touches every single American and represents one-sixth of the U.S. economy. Then came 2,000 plus page bills to overhaul the system and give vast new powers to federal regulators. That led to public outrage and concern and to increased political interest and activism throughout the country. It all culminated in the use of unusual procedures to limit debate and prevent amendments. And now it has passed, despite the clear opposition of a majority of the American people.

It would be hard to find another example of legislation this significant which has become law in spite of the clear objection of the American people. No Member of Congress could have failed to hear the concerns that people had. Those who voted for the bill simply chose to ignore them.

My view is that we need reform. But Congress has a better chance of getting it right and of maintaining the trust of the American people if it takes reform in

bite-sized chunks, starting with one or two reforms and building on them. That was not the path chosen by President Obama and the Democratic leadership of the Congress. They chose to do it all at once.

What does it all mean for you?

Some of the consequences are clear from the words of the bill. Every person in the country will be required to have health insurance. If you do not have it, you will be fined. Every employer who has at least 50 employees will have to provide health insurance to its employees or pay fines.

The government will create "health exchanges" from which people can buy insurance. There are tax credits and other subsidies to help some people buy insurance through the exchanges.

Medicare spending will be reduced by \$500 billion, much of it from the Medicare Advantage programs which serve about one-fourth of Medicare beneficiaries.

Tax increases of about \$569 billion will be imposed, making job creation even more difficult.

Other consequences are just as clear to those who have studied the bill. Those who currently have

health insurance will pay more. One study estimated that premiums will be 10 to 15 percent more than they would have been without this bill because of the new mandates, regulations, and taxes on insurance companies.

The national debt will rise even higher. The new programs and benefits will cost more money, not less. The cost estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office considers ten years of tax increases and Medicare cuts but only six years of benefits. If we look at an equal amount of time for revenue and benefits, the bill will undoubtedly increase debt and put an even greater strain on Medicare, a program already in financial trouble.

The federal government will be more intimately involved in decisions that are made on your health. The bill creates a number of new offices and commissions with powers to affect and even regulate some part of your health care.

We are guaranteed to face constant political battles over health care. As the government gets more involved and controls more decisions about insurance and about care, it is inevitable that Congress will be drawn

into disputes about coverage and payments.

I am often asked whether this law can be repealed or modified. Of course, it can. But doing so will require the consent of the President or an overwhelming number of votes in Congress to override the President's veto. That will be difficult to accomplish, at least for the next two years of President Obama's term. But, most of the provisions do not take effect right away. There is some time to modify them if a bill to do so is signed into law.

I know of no country that has ever gone down the path of government-run health care that has ever reversed course, but I know of no country on earth like the United States of America. Many of the people in our area are very disappointed that this bill has passed. I am too. But if people stay engaged to make their views known, it can be changed.

In 1988 Congress passed an expansion of Medicare that infuriated seniors across the country. They made sure that their elected representatives at every level knew their views. A year later, the law was repealed. It can be done. We should work to make sure that this bad health bill meets the same fate.

Still wary of filling out your 2010 Census form?

TOM PURCELL
CaglePost.com

"I'm a busy person. Why do I have to fill out this U.S. Census form anyhow?"

"The U.S. Constitution says that every 10 years, the federal government must count every resident in the United States. It sounds simple, but what it really comes down to is politics and money."

"How does it involve politics?"

"There are 435 seats in the U.S. House. The government uses the population count to determine the number of seats your state will have. In 2002, after the 2000 census results were tallied, 12 seats moved across 18 states."

"Change happens. What's the big deal?"

"When a state gains or loses seats, the political party in power redraws congressional districts with hopes of making it impossible for the other party to win."

"Politicians would do that? I'm shocked. But what does the census have to do with money?"

"It determines, says the census form, the 'amount of government money your neighborhood will receive.' The idea is that the more people the census determines to be living in a region, the greater percentage of federal dough that region will receive. You

better fill out the form to get your fair share."

"Wait a second. I work hard and pay taxes to the federal government. The government skims off its share, then sends what is left back to me based on the number of people who live in my neighborhood?"

"You're beginning to understand. The government sends your neighborhood money to fix roads, build bridges and fund all kinds of government programs — so that your House member can take credit."

"That doesn't sound like a very efficient way to use my money."

"It's much worse than that. Our government is spending hundreds of billions more than it is taking in. It is borrowing that money. Your children and grandchildren will be saddled with the cost of that debt."

"People not yet born are already in debt? But how

does this tie into the census?"

"If the people in your neighborhood don't complete the census form, some other neighborhood will receive your children's and grandchildren's hard-earned money — that would be immoral!"

"I'll complete the form as soon as I get it. Is it difficult?"

"Not at all. There are 10 questions. You are asked to state your name, sex, age, race, telephone number and whether you own or rent your home. There are no questions about your religion, whether you are a legal U.S. resident or if you have a Social Security number."

"That figures. I'd be happy to say what my religion and Social Security number are, but I'm touchy about giving my age. What if I choose to keep some of this information private?"

"If you don't complete and mail the form by April

1, census workers will come to your home. If you don't cooperate with them, criminal charges may be filed or you may be fined up to \$100. Besides, the information is to be kept private."

"OK, then let me get it all straight: I need to complete the entire form by April 1 to ensure that my state counts as many people as possible, so that my representative will be able to take credit for as much government spending as possible, and so that my neighborhood will receive its fair share of my children's and grandchildren's hard-earned money?"

"Now you've got it."

"Too bad the census people can't collect information of people who aren't born yet."

"Why is that?"
"If we had their future addresses, we could send them cards to thank them for so generously advancing us billions of dollars of their hard-earned dough."

We welcome your letters

- To ensure 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.



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

ReDonn Woods Advertising Manager rwoods@thepampanews.com	Arnie Aurellano Editor editor@thepampanews.com
Sue Pribble Advertising Representative spribble@thepampanews.com	David Bowser Reporter dbowser@thepampanews.com
Beverly Taylor Classified Advertising classified@thepampanews.com	Andrew Glover Reporter aglover@thepampanews.com
Kera Kent Circulation circulation@thepampanews.com	Marcus Elkins Press Supervisor press@thepampanews.com
Carrie Hair Accounting bookkeeper@thepampanews.com	Chico Ramirez Circulation Supervisor

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MEMBER
2010

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Baby thrown in SUV to block repo

DALLAS (AP) — A woman is accused of throwing her year-old son into her SUV in a failed attempt to stop the vehicle from being repossessed in Dallas.

Krystal Gardner of Tool was jailed Wednesday on bail of nearly \$3,800 on charges including child endangerment related to abandonment, no driver's license and no insurance.

Electronic records at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center did not list an attorney for the 28-year-old mother, who was

booked Monday.

Recovery agent Luke Ross told KTVT-TV that he was in the Ford Expedition when he saw Gardner toss the baby through an open window. He says the baby landed on the seat "like a kid bouncing on a bed."

Texas law bans a vehicle from being repossessed if a person is inside.

Police were called. The uninjured baby was removed, for placement with his father. Ross then repossessed the SUV.

GOP files complaint against White

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democratic gubernatorial nominee Bill White is facing GOP allegations that he failed to report \$83,000 of income to the Texas Ethics Commission.

The ethics complaint was filed Tuesday by the Republican Party of Texas.

White faces GOP Gov. Rick Perry in the Nov. 2 election.

White spokeswoman Katy Bacon told the San Antonio Express-News that the money

did not have to be reported as "occupational income" because it was deferred compensation. Bacon says the holdings were discussed on White's financial statements.

White's 2009 income tax return, which he released last week, shows he had almost \$660,000 in adjusted gross income. White's 2009 return indicated \$83,677 in deferred compensation from when he was CEO of the Wedge Group, prior to becoming mayor in 2004.

Commission

something that we're seriously looking into."

Winborne stressed that, presently, no formal ordinance has yet been drafted and any such ordinance would be accompanied by a substantial informational campaign to let Pampa residents know of any changes.

"This is something that we want to make sure the public would be informed about," Winborne said. "We don't want to come in and start strong-arming people at all."

He added that if the commission chooses to move on the ordinance, it could be ready by the end of April or beginning of May.

Kyle Ingham of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission spoke to the commission regarding some minor issues that needed to be addressed for the city to receive funds through Texas Development Program Grant #GR729921.

The grant, which the city originally applied for in the summer of 2008, will be used to finance improvements to the water system on the city's south side.

As required by the grant's funding agencies to officially receive the money, the city adopted resolutions requiring the

appointment of fair housing and labor standards officers, designating April 2010 as Fair Housing Month in Pampa and prohibiting the police from using excessive force in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations.

The commission formally issued an Order of Cancellation for the

May 8 General Municipal Election. Incumbent commissioners Bill Allison (Ward 2) and Neil Fulton (Ward 4) were running unopposed.

City secretary Karen Price said last Friday that the election's cancellation should save the city roughly \$15,000 in administrative and ballot-printing costs.

cont. from page 1

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 27-year-old woman who is a "klutz," which explains why I often have bruises on my legs and elbows. The other day, while lunching with friends I hadn't seen in a while, one of them brought up the subject of my bruises. (I had rolled up the sleeves of my blouse and was wearing a skirt.)

I laughed and explained how I got them -- running off an elevator before the door had opened all the way, tripping while climbing some stairs, and crashing into the coffee table and nearly breaking my leg. My friends exchanged knowing looks and told me if I ever needed anything -- ANYthing at all -- they were there for me and offered protection!

It became obvious that they think my fiance caused the bruises. I explained that I am often in a hurry and accident-prone. They didn't believe me. They just nodded and said, "Uh-huh..."

I feel so humiliated. My fiance has never laid a finger on me. I have never had a healthier, more loving relationship, and it hurt that my friends think I'm a victim of domestic abuse.

A birthday get-together is coming soon and I don't feel comfortable going now. I'm worried they may tell others what they

"think" may be going on behind closed doors. How do I set the record straight? -- JUST CLUMSY IN AMARILLO

DEAR CLUMSY: You won't set the record straight by hiding out and refusing to face them. Doing so will only fuel their unfounded suspicions, so attend the party. And at the next girls' lunch tell them, warmly, that you appreciate knowing they'll always be there for you, and if they ever need you for anything -- ANYthing at all -- you'll be there for them, too. Say it sweetly, with a smile, and above all, do not appear defensive.

P.S. In the future, how about slowing down, trying to be more careful and watching where you're going? One of these days you could seriously hurt yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I have a horrible secret. I have cheated on my husband with multiple strangers. I have tried to tell him I have an addiction, but he blows me off. When I first met him, I had been with two people. Since our wedding, I have lost count.

I think about sex constantly and often arrange to meet men anonymously many times during the week. I have tried to stop, but I just can't seem to

Believe me, I have tried.

I have attempted to talk to my husband about this so he will listen -- but I'm afraid to estimate how many times I have cheated because I fear he will leave me. Please help me. -- CAN'T STOP DOWN SOUTH

DEAR CAN'T STOP: At this point the only thing worse than telling your husband what's been going on would be not to. People who engage in anonymous sex can carry all kinds of STDs, and you have exposed not only yourself but him to them. You both should see a doctor and be tested immediately -- and if you love him, you will give him that important message.

There is an organization that may be able to help you regain control of your life. It's Sexaholics Anonymous. It originated in 1979 and is based on the same principles as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Its Web site is www.sa.org and the e-mail address of the Sexaholics Anonymous International Central Office is saico@sa.org. Please contact them ASAP because they will take you seriously, nothing will shock them, and they may be able to help you break the news to your husband in a way that won't end your marriage.

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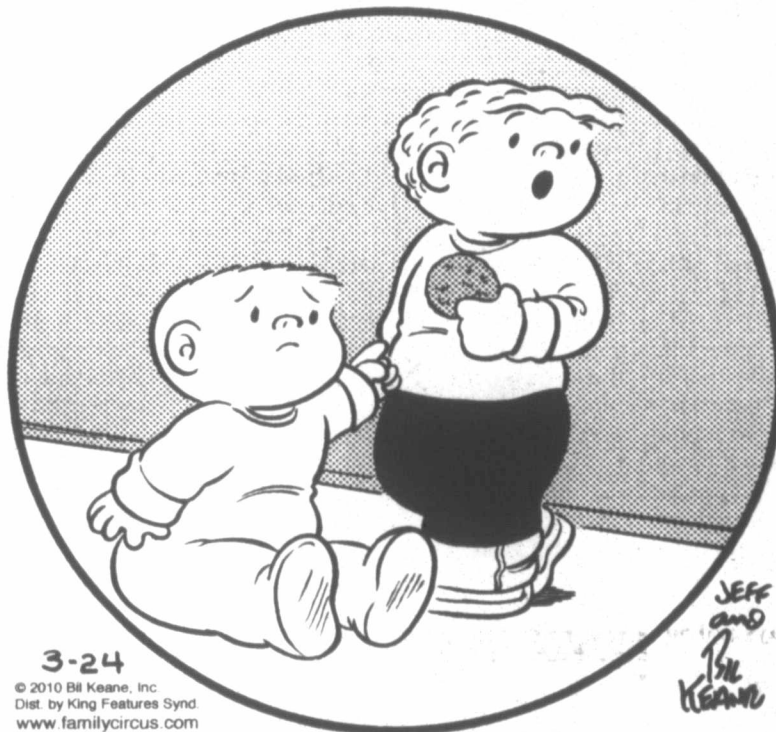
Marmaduke



"We're in this one, too. You just can't see us behind Marmaduke."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Is it my job to teach PJ 'bout sharing?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Dunder-
 - 1 Await head
 - 5 UK 39 Move resident sinuously
 - 9 Pal, to 40 Started a Pedro hole
 - 11 Painter El 41 Clutter
 - 12 Low nobleman
 - 13 Burdened cakes
 - 14 Historic 2 Pictures time 3 Straight
 - 15 Fake 4 Big head chum
 - 17 News- 5 Muffin paper part makeup
 - 19 Word of 6 Overnight accord flight
 - 20 Flag 7 Assassins, features in slang
 - 21 Hankering 8 Theater awards
 - 22 Baseball's Pee Wee
 - 24 Guitar blaster
 - 26 Pool need
 - 29 Novelist Kobo
 - 30 Veal buys
 - 32 Serio- comic show
 - 34 Porpoise place
 - 35 Massenet opera
 - 36 Museum piece
- DOWN**
- 1 Rum
 - 10 Burning 25 Nasty
 - 11 Secluded fellow
 - 16 Kane's spot 27 Caron of "Gigi"
 - 18 Field last 28 Tankards
 - 19 Field word 29 Let in
 - 21 Holler cover 30 Small coin
 - 23 Nymph 31 Bags
 - 24 Wear chasers 33 State of mind
 - 37 Shade tree

G	A	T	O	R	S	P	R	A	Y
A	R	A	R	A	T	H	U	G	E
S	T	R	I	K	E	Z	O	N	E
		G	E	T	I	T			
L	A	I	D	P	O	R	T		
N	O	U	N	T	U	N	E	U	P
A	G	T	M	A	P	A	B	E	
G	O	R	D	O	N	S	C	A	R
N	Y	E	T	S	E	T	S		
		S	T	O	I	C			
S	C	H	O	O	L	Z	O	N	E
P	O	E	T	G	E	N	E	V	A
A	N	N	O		A	D	D	T	A

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9			10	11			
12				13			
14			15	16			
17		18				19	
			22		23		
	24	25		26		27	28
29			30				31
32		33				34	
35				36		37	
38				38			
40							41

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



The Pampa News' Classifieds

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary of the Estate of H.J. HOMER, Deceased, were issued on March 22, 2010, in Docket No. 9707, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: PATRICK T. HOMER.
The residence of the Independent Executor is in Santa Cruz County, Texas. The post office address is P.O. Box

1 Public Notice

1231, Sonoita, Arizona 85637. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED the 22nd day of March, 2010.
By: **Harold L. Comer**, State Bar Card No. 04641000
P.O. Box 1058
Pampa, TX 79066-1058
(806)665-8495
FAX (806)669-0553
Attorney for Independent Executor
E-55 Mar. 24, 2010

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69 Misc.

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TRUSTAR Real Estate, 1716 N. Hobart. List with us! Property mgmt., Home staging. 665-4595.

Daily Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 25, 2010:
This year, events often catch you off guard. Know that even if you are surprised, you are capable of handling whatever comes up. You are in the last year of a 12-year cycle. Often people let go of what doesn't work in their lives. Stellar happenings might help isolate these areas. If you are single, romance can be passionate and exciting. Enjoy, but take your time making long-term commitments. If you are attached, share your challenges and desires more often with your significant other. The friendship between you is key. LEO displays passion.
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) ***** Though you might be hesitant, tap into your unusual creativity and dynamic energy. What you believe is workable might not be, despite all efforts. Your resourcefulness could make or break a situation. Tonight: On top of your game.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** Stay centered and direct in your dealings. You could be on top of your game, despite some personal upsur and a need to re-examine an issue. Focus on work. A move or change could be slated. You wonder about the possibilities ahead. Tonight: Relax at home.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** Your style and way of handling others emerges. State your case with the full knowledge of what you want. Investigate new possibilities with an open mind. Listen to feedback from

others in a meeting. Pressure builds within a partnership. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Be sensitive with your financial dealings. You might feel awkward and need a change. You could be overwhelmed by what is happening within a partnership. You are settling and might need to revamp a project more to another's liking. Tonight: Treat yourself on the way home.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Your energy could make you assertive to a point where others see you as pushy. Don't be so efficient that you forget the role of charm, OK? Realize what is going on behind the scenes. Perhaps the less said the better. Tonight: As you like.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Feel comfortable taking a backseat. With all the strong personalities and opinions, this attitude works. Your creativity bubbles up in a conversation. Choose the right moment for your feedback, and you'll get the reaction you desire. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You could be overwhelmed by a friend's determination. Might it be easier to let this person have his or her way? Difficulties occur when there are power plays. Let others express themselves, their ideas and their direction. Tonight: Only what you want.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Demands push you into action. The question remains: When is enough enough? You will want to analyze more of your directions and choices. If you're a boss, you could be a lot harder on your employees than you realize. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** You keep pushing to see the big picture. Whether you can achieve that goal remains to be seen. Financial pressure pushes you to find an expert. Stop trying to solve the problem on your own. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Dealing with a demanding associate could test your patience and effectiveness. Back off and approach the situation again with a new attitude. More often than not, you'll discover that what has worked for you in the past no longer does. Go within before taking any action. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** You have your hands full as another person expresses his or her opinions in no uncertain terms. You might want or need to step back some, especially if you are feeling hurt or put upon. Refuse to take a situation personally. Tonight: Listening to a suggestion doesn't mean that you must take it.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Others drive a hard bargain. Many people you deal with right now want a lot from you. Stop. Think about yourself. What can you handle and what is too much? If you can eliminate stress from your life, by all means do. Tonight: Get some errands done.
BORN TODAY
Musician Sir Elton John (1947), "The Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin (1942), feminist Gloria Steinem (1934) ***
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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.
3-24 CRYPTOQUOTE
Z F V A V M D B Q V F R Y V R B X J
G R A D H R M L V Z J C F L M F D M Z H
D H R B V Q L K G D S L X J,
B R Z D H S D B J H V Y D A D Z V
R B V H . — D B C D A V X H D N D Z
Yesterday's Cryptquote: LIVE SO THAT WHEN YOUR CHILDREN THINK OF FAIRNESS, CARING AND INTEGRITY, THEY THINK OF YOU. — H. JACKSON BROWN JR.

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Sports

JV baseball sneaks by Clarendon

BY ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampnews.com

Before yesterday, the Pampa Harvesters junior varsity baseball team hadn't played since March 6, when they played in the Hereford Tournament. Tuesday at Harvester Field, you couldn't tell as Pampa beat the Clarendon Broncos 10-7.

Coach Dustin Miller said he was concerned with how his team was going to play since they hadn't played for two and a half weeks.

"It worked out all right," Miller said. "We hit the ball better than I thought we would. It was a good win."

James Thompson started the game for the Harvesters and struck out the side in the top of the first. Clarendon got two hits in the first, including a triple that gave them a 1-0 lead going to the bottom of the first. Pampa responded in their half of the first, scoring one run on no hits, walked three times and reached on an error. Thompson scored when Tyler Powell walked with the bases loaded with two outs. Hunter Hucks struck out to end the inning with the score tied at one.

Neither team scored in the second. Thompson struck out the next two batters he faced. The final batter for the Broncos popped out to short. The Harvesters were unable to put a ball in play, as all three batters struck out.

After holding the Broncos scoreless in the top of the third, Pampa took the lead for good in the bottom of the inning. The Harvesters scored four runs on three hits, and reached base with a walk and a dropped strikeout. Zach Graves led off by striking out, but the opposing catcher couldn't hold on to the ball, allowing Graves to safely reach first. Reid Miller followed



Devin Coleman belts a single that would score the go-ahead runs for the Harvesters in the bottom of the third against Clarendon Tuesday at Harvester Field. staff photo by Andrew Glover

with a walk and Jordan Lemons singled to load the bases. Devin Coleman singled and scored Graves and Miller to put Pampa ahead 3-1. Lemons expanded the lead to three, scoring on a passed ball. Powell drove in Coleman with a single. Pampa led 5-1 after three. Dustin Miller said they started figuring out the opposing pitcher.

"It was about our second time through (the lineup)," Miller said. "I told several people that was the hardest throwing JV pitcher that we've seen. It was good to get a look at someone like that before district starts."

The Broncos would cut into the lead in the top of the fourth, scoring three runs on two hits and three walks. Thompson allowed the lead-off batter to single. After reaching base Clarendon stole second. Thompson got the next bat-

ter to ground out, but the other baserunner advanced to third. The next batter walked. The Broncos scored their first run since the first, when they stole second and did a delay steal of home. Clarendon added another run on a passed ball and another with a single to cut Pampa's lead to 5-4.

The Harvesters continued where they left off as they put up three runs on one hit, two errors and a walk. Thompson and Graves both reached base on errors by the shortstop. Thompson scored on a single by Lemons. Graves was thrown out at second when Reid Miller grounded into a fielder's choice. Lemons stole second and Miller came home to make it 7-4 Pampa. Lemons scored the final run of the inning on a double steal of home and second.

The Broncos responded in the top of the fifth scoring one run on no hits and three walks. The Harvesters expanded their lead in the bottom of the fifth. Pampa scored two runs on one hit, one walk and a sacrifice fly. Riley Douglas scored on a passed ball and Graves scored on a single by Reid Miller. Pampa led 10-5 after five.

Clarendon would score two more runs in the sixth to reach the final score. Thompson got the win for Pampa. Pitched four innings, allowed four runs on five hits, walked three and struck out six. Powell pitched the last three innings and gave up three runs on two hits, walked five and struck out three.

The Harvesters (2-3) open district play 5 p.m. Friday hosting Dumas.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Reid Miller slides home against Clarendon Tuesday at Harvester Field. Miller scored two runs and the Harvesters won 10-7. Pampa begins district play Friday hosting Dumas at 5 p.m.

Upcoming games

- Friday**
Tennis Tournament at Dumas
Track meet at Burk Burnett JV baseball vs. Dumas 5 p.m.
JV & Varsity softball at Dumas 5 & 7 p.m.
- Saturday**
Tennis Tournament at Dumas
JV & Varsity softball vs. Caprock 1 & 3 p.m.
Varsity baseball at Dumas 1 p.m.
- Monday**
JV softball at Hereford 5 p.m.
JV baseball vs. Caprock 5 p.m.

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