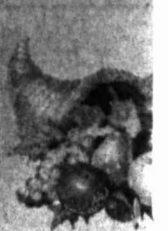


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Monday, November 1, 2010

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TODAY IN SPORTS



Judgment call

Referees need to be fair on football field

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inside:

Social Security and you by Tom Margenau



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MORNING FIRE



staff photo by David Bowser

Smoldering remains were all that remained today after an early morning fire destroyed a home in the 800 block of South Summer.

Unoccupied house decimated by blaze

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 A house on South Summer was destroyed by fire early this morning. Fire officials said the cause of the blaze is under investigation. A vacant house at 843 South Summer burned to the ground about 1 a.m. today. Pampa Fire Chief said the blaze was reported a few minutes before 1 a.m. When fire trucks arrived on the scene, she said, the structure was fully engulfed in flames. "It was not occupied," she said. The house had been taken over by the city and county for back taxes. **FIRE** cont. on page 3

Three men nabbed on possession

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Three men were in Gray County jail today after being arrested over the weekend on drug charges. Antonio Mario Shorter, 24, of Pampa, was arrested by Gray County deputies following a traffic stop Saturday on charges of possession of marijuana. Lt. Joe B. Hoard said today that Shorter was stopped by deputies shortly before 9 p.m. Saturday on Beryl Street on a traffic violation. When he appeared nervous and hesitant while talking to officers, they asked and received permission to search his white four-door Ford pickup. Deputies reported finding a small amount of marijuana. Shorter was arrested on charges of possession of less than two ounces of marijuana. Gordon Allen Fitzworth, 41, of Groom, was arrested about 1:30 a.m. Saturday at the intersection of Barnes and Crawford after deputies pulled him over for a traffic violation. After getting permission to search his gray Dodge pickup, deputies initially found drug paraphernalia and upon further investigation discovered a small bag of a white powdery substance they suspected of being methamphetamine. Fitzworth was arrested on charges of possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance. Theodore Edward Whitley, 36, of Pampa, was arrested Sunday by Gray County deputies on charges of possession of a controlled substance.

Hoard said this morning that the sheriff's office received a reported Sunday afternoon of a suspicious person riding a bicycle south on Loop 171 near U.S. Highway 60. Deputies responding to the call found a bicycle at a residence in the 12000 block of U.S. Highway 60. They called the owner of the residence and got permission to enter the house where they found **ARRESTS** cont. on page 3

Dolly's to host Red Cross benefit Friday

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com
 Dolly's Bar and Grill is hosting the Eastern Texas Panhandle Chapter of American Red Cross' Disaster Relief Night from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday. A percentage of all sales from Dolly's during that time will be donated to the Red Cross. The fundraiser, according to Red Cross Chapter CEO Jana Gregory, is the first of the season for the organization, modeled after a successful similar promotion with the Coney Island Cafe earlier this year. "It's kind of a new thing," Gregory said. "It helps the business and it helps the Red Cross. We let people know and bring a few more people in, and some of the money will go to help the Red Cross in Gray County." "It's something we thought up to support the businesses in Pampa, and hopefully, it helps the businesses in Pampa support us, too." Gregory said that the Red Cross has already scheduled another fundraiser of this kind at the Plaza on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Dolly's, for its part, has been a supportive business to the Red Cross for some time, Gregory said. "They know the Red Cross, and they've been very helpful to **BENEFIT** cont. on page 3

Firefighter, ex-Marine Johnson: 'I've seen a lot of things'

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 From the plains of Pampa to the fields of Fallujah, Jon Johnson has seen a lot of territory. The Pampa firefighter is originally from Claude. "I went in the Marines in 2001," Johnson said. He stayed in the reserves until 2009. "I was in Iraq," Johnson said. "I was in Africa, Germany and all over the states - North Carolina, California." He was stationed in Fallujah, a city of several hundred thousand on the Euphrates River about 40 miles from Baghdad, in 2005, a violent time in that part of Iraq. "After that," Johnson said, "I went to Djibouti, Africa, in 2006 and 2007." Again, it was a tough neighborhood. Bordered by Somalia, Eritrea and



Ethiopia, the Republic of Djibouti rests on the Horn of Africa along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. "I've had a lot of experiences," he said. "I've seen a lot of things." Johnson said he ended up settling in Pampa because of his father, Gary Johnson. "My Dad was a cop here," Johnson said. "He worked for the sheriff's office for a while." His father was a deputy in the mid-1990s when a tornado hit Pampa. Johnson lived in Pampa for about a year after getting out of the Marine **JOHNSON** cont. on page 3



staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa Firefighter Jon Johnson has been all over the world during his tour of duty with the Marines.

Don't forget about your entries for the parade!
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 December 4th at 2:00 p.m.
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AFTERNOONRUSH Johnson

Wednesday launch for Discovery

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA has cleared space shuttle Discovery for its final flight.

Mission managers gathered at Kennedy Space Center on Monday morning for the traditional flight review. They voted unanimously to press toward a Wednesday afternoon liftoff.

"There's still a certain amount of disbelief that it's really her final launch," launch director Mike Leinbach said at a news conference.

"It's difficult to accept emotionally. But rationally, we all know it's coming to an end, and we need to get on with it."

For its grand finale, Discovery and a crew of six will head to the International Space Station with a load of equipment, including a humanoid robot.

It will be the 39th flight for Discovery over 26 years. A museum will be its final destination; the Smithsonian Institution gets first pick.

Jindal: BP giving millions

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Gov. Bobby Jindal is announcing millions of dollars worth of commitments from BP to help the state recover from the Gulf oil spill and protect the eroding coast.

The governor, at a news conference Monday, said BP has agreed to pay \$48 million for Louisiana seafood safety and promotion programs and \$30 million for tourism promotion.

Also, the governor said that \$100 million BP previously committed to the state will be used to convert sand berms that were built to block oil into barrier islands.

Death row inmates lose appeals

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused appeals from two men sent to Texas death row for Dallas-area slayings.

Thirty-year-old Kosoul Chanthakoummane was a North Carolina parolee when he was arrested for the July 2006 murder of 48-year-old real estate agent Sarah Walker. She'd been stabbed 33 times when found in the kitchen of a model home in McKinney, about 30 miles north of Dallas.

Thirty-one-year-old Yokamon Hearn was convicted of the March 1998 slaying of 23-year-old Plano stockbroker Frank Meziere. He was carjacked at gunpoint from a self-service car wash in Dallas, then found dead in a south Dallas neighborhood. He'd been shot 10 times in the head.

The high court, without comment, refused Monday to review their appeals. Neither man has an execution date.

Andrews Co. considers alcohol

ANDREWS (AP) — Residents of the West Texas county where nuclear waste is stored and can be disposed of are again voting on whether to allow alcohol sales.

Voters in Andrews County on Tuesday will cast ballots on two initiatives. One measure would allow for the sale of beer and wine in stores within Andrews County, while the other would allow the sale of mixed drinks in restaurants.

The Midland Reporter-Telegram reported Monday that voters in 2007 defeated a measure that would have allowed beer, wine and alcohol sales.

The city of Andrews, with a population of about 10,000, is about 30 miles east of the New Mexico border.

Dallas-based Waste Control Specialists stores and disposes of the radioactive waste.

Texan sought over dead body

HOUSTON (AP) — A Texas convicted killer who was paroled in 1989 and sought last month after a body turned up in a barrel at his home has been found dead in Florida.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office on Monday announced a man discovered hanging in a motel room was 64-year-old Dennis Ray Anderson.

The Escambia County Sheriff's Office in Pensacola on Friday went to the motel over a report about a death. Further details on Anderson's death were not immediately available Monday.

A tip led deputies to Anderson's Houston-area home on Oct. 21, where an unidentified woman's body was in a barrel. That investigation continues.

Anderson was sentenced to life in prison for the 1972 slayings of Mabel McCormick and her 3-year-old granddaughter, Leslie Bowman, during a robbery in Kountze.

Court won't hear Nintendo case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court won't reinstate a \$21 million judgment against Nintendo of America Inc., turning away a claim of patent infringement from a Texas gaming company.

The high court refused to hear an appeal from Anascape Ltd. on Monday.

A federal jury decided that Nintendo infringed on Anascape's existing patent of the technology used to make joysticks while designing its Wii Classic, WaveBird and Gamecube controllers. But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned the award.

No infringement was found with the motion-sensing technology used in Nintendo's wandlike Wii and Nunchuk controllers. Nintendo has said it no longer makes the WaveBird and Gamecube controller.

The case is Anascape v Nintendo, 10-301.

Texas treatment for soldier

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — A Montana native who lost both legs and his right arm while serving in Afghanistan is receiving treatment at an Army hospital in Texas.

J.D. Williams, of Harrison, stepped on a land mine while on patrol in early October. Doctors in Germany performed the amputations.

Williams, 23, arrived at the Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio on Oct. 15. His parents, wife and 11-month-old daughter were about two hours behind him. He has had four operations since returning to the U.S.

"The doctor said he is amazed by how well J.D. is doing," his mother, Danielle Scholler of Ennis told The Montana Standard. "We've come a long way in two weeks."

Williams began physical therapy Thursday and is able to sit up straight, Scholler said. Doctors were hoping he could get into a wheelchair early this week.

Corps before he moved to Amarillo. After about a year, he returned to join the Pampa Fire Department. He joined the department here in August, 2009.

Fighting fires was a new experience for Johnson. He said he was never exposed to firefighting in the Marine Corps.

"I was in the infantry," he said. There firefight had an entirely dif-

ferent meaning.

Sitting in the Central Fire Station on a beautiful fall day, Johnson said he enjoys being on the Pampa Fire Department.

"I love it," he said.

There's a brotherhood, camaraderie, among firefighters, Johnson said. He said he thinks it goes back to a basic willingness to serve others among firefighters.

"I enjoy helping people out," Johnson said.

On his own time, Johnson is an entrepreneur. He owns his own business.

"It's a carpet cleaning business," he said.

With a wife, he said he has no plans to move anymore.

As for kids, Johnson grinned and said, "Not yet."

cont. from page 1

Fire

Powell said that firefighters reported seeing the glow from the house as they turned from Foster Street onto Hobart on their way to the scene of the fire.

Seven units from the fire department responded to the blaze with 13 firefighters.

Pampa police and Gray County deputies also responded

to the alarm.

Powell said the blaze was confined to the lot just south of the railroad tracks.

"It was a total loss," she said.

Fire Marshal Michael Ryan was investigating the cause of the blaze this morning.

cont. from page 1

Benefit

cont. from page 1

us," she said. "(Dolly's Owner) Dolly (Howard's) mom (Olivia Anderson) is a Red Cross disaster volunteer. They know how important the work the Red Cross does is. We're grateful for their help."



DEAR ABBY: My partner and I are vegetarians. Occasionally we eat fish, but neither of us has had pork, beef or fowl for more than 10 years.

We were at a barbecue at a good friend's house a short time ago and our gracious hosts kindly prepared veggie burgers especially for us. Another guest at the party asked me if I'd be as good-natured as our hosts if I were to have a get-together at my house. (In other words, would I serve meat to our carnivorous guests.) I told him no, to which he (jokingly?) replied that I was "selfish."

Abby, the idea of eating meat is gross to me now. The reason I stopped eating it in the first place is my ethical opposition to how it's produced, and I would not want to compromise my ideals simply in the name of being a good hostess.

Am I "selfish"? Should I offer my friends meat if that is what they prefer? I'd appreciate your input. — WHERE'S THE BEEF? IN HOUSTON

DEAR W.T.B.: A gracious guest does not criticize what his or her hosts serve. Your friends are aware that you are a vegetarian and why. As long as you make sure they don't go hungry, you are not obligated to serve guests flesh of anything that doesn't come from the ground, a bush or a tree. And you can say I said so.

DEAR ABBY: I am a sophomore in high school who has the responsibility of helping my mother raise four boys and a baby girl until their mothers (my sisters) are able to take care of them. Instead of being able to attend a football game or go to the mall with friends, I spend half my time at school and the other half baby sitting. The only "joy" I feel is knowing the kids are safe in my capable hands.

I have been around ba-

Arrests

cont. from page 1

Whitley, for whom they had an outstanding warrant.

Hoard said that Whitley did not have permission to be in the house. Further inspection led to the discovery of what deputies believed to be methamphetamine.

Whitley was arrested on charges of possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

gies all my life and I'm reaching the breaking point. I'm worried about my future after high school. I feel like a middle-aged woman instead of a teenager from the stress I have had to accept. Can you tell me how I can feel like I can accomplish something more? — TEENAGE FOSTER MOM/AUNT

DEAR TEENAGE FOSTER MOM/AUNT: By completing your education. For you, freedom lies in getting a college education or learning a trade that will get you out and on your own. You should not have been saddled with the respon-

sibility of raising the children your irresponsible sisters brought into this world. Learn from their example and be sure that the only pregnancies you have are those that have been planned and prepared for, and you will have the freedom and the future for which you are longing.

DEAR ABBY: I'm seeing this guy, "Jerry," who is an amazing person. Both of us are divorced single parents. I'm attracted to him — but I'm not sure if there is passion. My question is, do I choose security and a life that I want, or the passion that fuels romantic

fire? — SEARCHING IN COLUMBIA, S.C.

DEAR SEARCHING: The problem with the "passion that fuels romantic fire" is that it's so intense at the beginning that it usually can't sustain itself. Was your first marriage fueled by it? If so, this time around seriously consider marriage to an "amazing person" to whom you say you are attracted and who can provide a stable and secure future for you and your children. These qualities can form the basis of lasting and rewarding partnership.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2010. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 1974, Karen Silkwood, a technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Okla., died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

On this date:

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1927, the Holland Tunnel opened to the public, providing access between lower Manhattan and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River.

In 1940, the Walt Disney animated movie "Fantasia" had its world premiere in New York.

In 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public city and state buses.

In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Ten years ago: Lawyers for George W. Bush failed to win a court order barring manual recounts of ballots in Florida. Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris announced she would end the recounting at 5 p.m. Eastern time the next day — prompting an immediate appeal by lawyers for Al Gore.

Five years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in Jerusalem, strongly rebuked Iran's leadership, saying "no civilized nation" can call for the annihilation of another — a reference to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's remark that Israel should be "wiped off the map."

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in Tokyo at the start of a weeklong trip to Asia, said his decision about how many troops to send to Afghanistan would come soon and that he was bent on "getting this right." U

Today's Birthdays: Actress Madeleine Sherwood is 88. Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 76. Producer-director Garry Marshall is 76. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 69. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 64. Actor Joe Mantegna is 63. Actress Sheila Frazier is 62. Actress Frances Conroy is 57. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 57. Actress Tracy Scoggins is 57. Actor Chris Noth (noth) is 56. Actress-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 55. Actor Rex Linn is 54. Actress Caroline Goodall is 51. Actor Neil Flynn is 50. Former NFL quarterback Vinny Testaverde is 47. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 46. Comedian Jimmy Kimmel is 43. Actor Steve Zahn is 43. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 41. Actress Aisha Hinds is 35. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 32. NBA player Ron Artest is 31. Actress Monique Coleman is 30.

Thought for Today: "If we like a man's dream, we call him a reformer; if we don't like his dream, we call him a crank." — William Dean Howells, American author (1837-1920).



Stewart, Colbert bring sanity for a day

By CALVIN WOODWARD AND HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the shadow of the Capitol and the election, comedians Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert entertained a huge throng Saturday at a "sanity" rally poking fun at the nation's ill-tempered politics, fear-mongers and doomsayers.

"We live now in hard times," Stewart said after all the shtick. "Not end times."

Part comedy show, part pep talk, the rally drew together tens of thousands stretched across an expanse of the National Mall, a festive congregation of the goofy and the politically disenchanted. People carried signs merrily protesting the existence of protest signs. Some dressed like bananas, wizards, Martians and Uncle Sam.

Stewart, a satirist who makes his living skewering the famous, came to play nice. He decried the "extensive effort it takes to hate" and declared "we can have animus and not be enemies."

Screens showed a variety of pundits and politicians from the left and right, engaged in divisive rhetoric. Prominently shown: Glenn Beck, whose conservative Restoring Honor rally in Washington in August was part of the motivation for the Stewart and Colbert event, called the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear. It appeared to rival Beck's rally in attendance.

Colbert, who poses as an ultraconservative on his show, played the personification of fear at the rally. He arrived on stage in a capsule like a rescued Chilean miner, from a supposed underground bunker. He pretended to distrust all Muslims until one of his heroes, basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who is Muslim, came on the stage.

"Maybe I need to be more discerning," Colbert mused. He told Stewart: "Your reasonableness is poisoning my fear."

As part of the comedic routine,

Stewart and his associates asked some in the audience to identify themselves by category, eliciting answers such as "half-Mexican, half-white," "American woman single" and "Asian-American from Taiwan."

"It's a perfect demographic sampling of the American people," Stewart cracked to a crowd filled with mostly younger whites. "As you know, if you have too many white people at a rally, your cause is racist. If you have too many people of color, then you must be asking for something — special rights, like eating at restaurants or piggy back rides."

With critical congressional elections looming Tuesday, Stewart and Colbert refrained from taking political sides on stage, even as many in the crowd wore T-shirts that read "Stewart-Colbert 2012" and left-leaning advocacy groups set up shop on the periphery, hoping to draw people to their causes of gay rights, marijuana legalization, abortion rights and more.

Organizing for America, Obama's political operation based at Democratic National Committee headquarters, was mounting a "Phone Bank for Sanity" to urge people to vote Tuesday.

Stewart sang along as Jeff Tweedy sang that America "is the greatest, strongest country in the world. There is no one more American than we."

Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow also performed, singing if "I can't change the world to make it better, the least I can do is care." Ozzy Osbourne and Yusuf Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, engaged in something of a battle of the bands as the heavy-metal rocker barged in on the folkie's hit, "Peace Train," in a mock clash of music and cultures. Tony Bennett closed the show by singing "America the Beautiful."

The idea was to provide a counterweight to all the shouting and flying insults of these polarized times. But there were political undertones, too, pushing back against conservatives

ahead of Tuesday's election.

Slogans urged people to "relax." But also: "Righties, don't stomp on my head," a reference to a Republican rally in Kentucky at which a liberal activist was pulled to the ground and stepped on. And, "I wouldn't care if the president was Muslim."

Shannon Escobar, 31, of Bangor, Pa., came with a group of 400 people on buses chartered in New York. A supporter of President Barack Obama in 2008, she said she's tired of nasty rhetoric from both sides and disenchanted with lack of progress in Washington.

"I want to see real change — not Obama change," she said. "We need a clean slate and start over with people really working together."

A regular viewer of Stewart's "The Daily Show," she said she had a dream that he ran for political office, but got "corrupt and dirty."

"I need him to stay pure," she said, deadpan.

Stewart is popular with Democrats and independents, a Pew Research Center poll found. The stage featured entertainers associated with Democratic causes or Obama's 2008 campaign, but no political sermons from them.

Stewart said the day was about toning down anger, partisan division and shouting.

"If we amplify everything," he said, "we hear nothing."

Many of the attendees, sporting stickers that read "Vote Sanity," said they enjoyed the rally's positive message, even if the program ultimately stuck mostly to entertainment. In the days leading to the event, organizers had refused to release a full schedule of speakers, leaving fans uncertain about what to expect.

"I thought it was awesome, with good music. We came for a rally to restore sanity, and that's what we got," said Joe Stroup, 31, of Portland, Ore. "But is it going to bring lasting change? I doubt it."

Comedy Central's park permit anticipated a crowd estimated in advance at 60,000.

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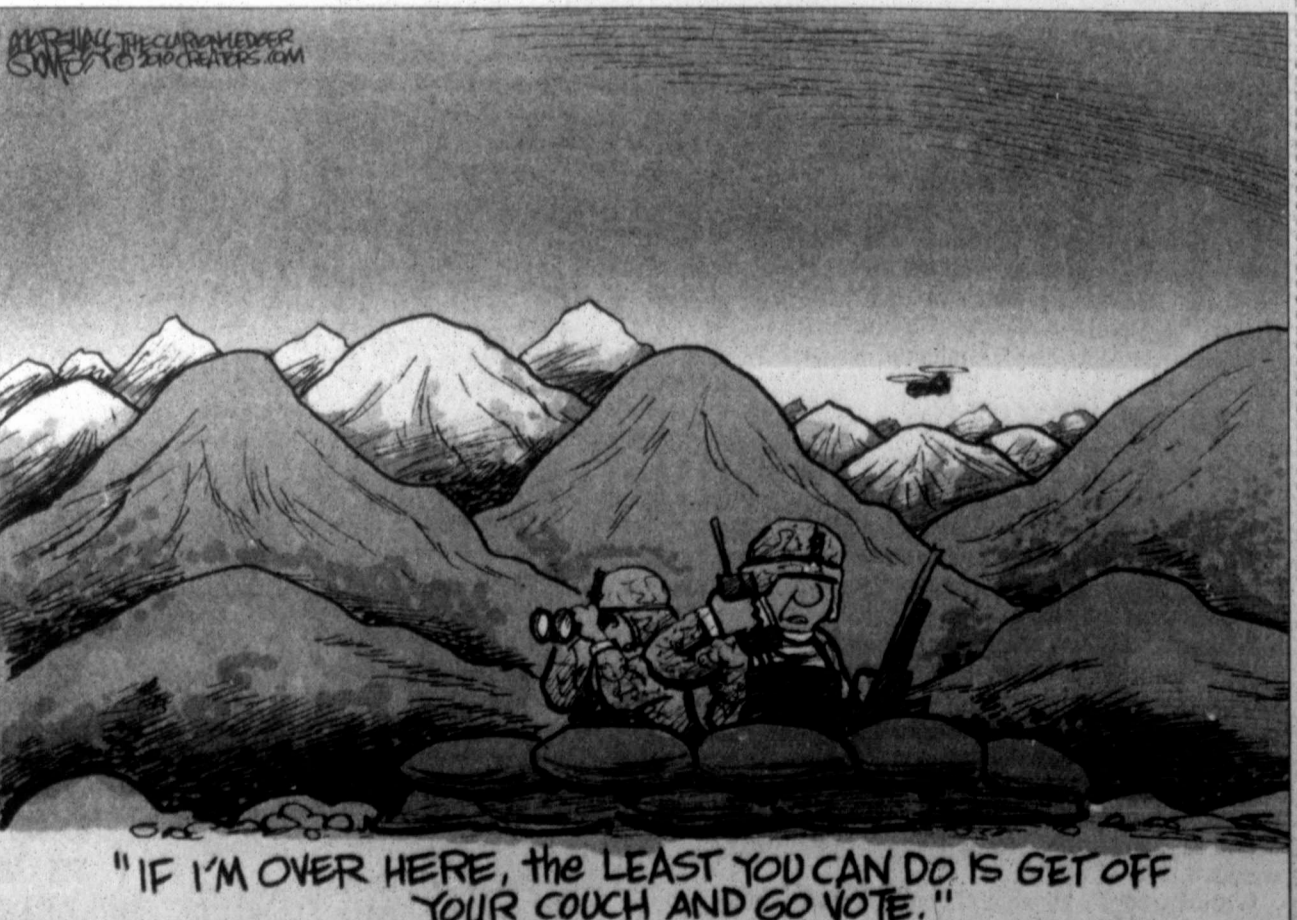
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In final hours, Dems look to limit losses

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic and Republican party leaders put on their best game faces Monday, making 11th hour arguments on the eve of midterm elections that seem certain to curb if not end Democratic control of Congress.

"We're hoping now for a fresh start with the American people," said GOP chairman Michael Steele. "If we don't live up to those expectations, then we'll have a problem in two years."

His Democratic counterpart, Tim Kaine, said he believes Democrats will do better than some experts have contended, arguing that Republicans have been obstructionists who "can't see beyond the end of their no."

Kaine, Steele and other party leaders were asked once again on a slew of network morning news shows to give fresh assessments of their prospects on the eve of balloting that will culminate a volatile — and possibly transcendent — campaign season.

For his part, President Barack Obama had a relatively quiet day planned at the White House after returning Sunday from a two-day, four-state campaign swing. Aides said he planned no more campaign travel before the election.

"It's up to you to remember that this election is a choice between the policies that got us into this mess and the policies that are leading us out of this mess," Obama told a crowd at Cleveland State University.

At stake is control of Congress, where Democrats now hold sway. History has shown that the party of the president in power often fares poorly in midterm elections, and this year isn't expected to be an exception. A struggling economy and near double-digit unemployment haven't helped Democratic chances.

Republicans are poised to take over the House; they need a net gain of 40 seats to do it. They're also expected to take several Senate seats away from Democrats. The GOP would need to sweep most of the closely contested races to gain 10 Senate seats for a majority.

Democrats are hoping that a late-innings scramble in Alaska might help them head off chances of a GOP Senate takeover.

With GOP nominee Joe Miller stumbling, and incumbent Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski making a rare write-in effort after losing the primary to Miller, little-noticed Democrat Scott McAdams might find a way to sneak through to victory. The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has poured more than \$160,000 into the once-ignored race.

"We believe that Scott McAdams actually has a real chance of winning this race," committee chairman Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., said Sunday.

Republican leaders said they had not abandoned Miller. Steele, along with Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, conceded Monday, however, that recapturing the Senate would be a tough order, notwithstanding excitement about a comeback. Barbour said he thought it would be "a bit of a stretch."

Said Kaine: "The Democrats have been doing the heavy lifting at the toughest time in the American economy since the 1930s."

What happens to a widow's benefits when Husband No. 1 becomes Husband No. 3?

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Q: I am 68 years old and getting widow's benefits from Social Security. I am thinking of remarrying my first husband. We were married for about five years and have been divorced for 35 years, during which time I was married to the man on whose record I'm now getting widow's benefits.

I have two questions. If I remarry my first husband, will I lose my widow's benefits from my second husband? Second, if I do remarry and then die before my husband does, will he be able to get any of my Social Security?

A: You should know that I worked for most of my life. In fact, I'm still working. But I never applied for my own Social Security. Would I have to start my own Social Security in order for my husband to receive widower's benefits from my account?

A: Readers frequently ask me why Social Security is so complicated. And I always tell them it's because people lead such complicated lives — as your questions illustrate.

The answer to your first question is "no." If you make husband No. 1 your new husband No. 3, you will continue to be eligible for widow's benefits from husband No. 2.

And the key element of that scenario is that you are remarrying after age 60. As I've explained before in this column, the law used to say that any remarriage at any time in life would cancel out any widow's benefits that a woman was getting from a prior husband.

But to skirt that old law, resourceful oldsters who were smitten with each other used to simply move in together without benefit of a marriage ceremony. And that frequently led to embarrassing headlines like: "Law forces woman to live in sin to keep Social Security." Well, Congress sure didn't like being responsible for little old grannies "shacking up" with little old grandpas, so they quickly changed the

Social Security and you



law to allow a woman over age 60 to keep her widow's benefits even if she remarried.

You also asked what husband No. 1/No. 3 might be due from your Social Security account if you pass away. He would be eligible for widower's benefits on your record if your rate is higher than his own. Or to put that another way, his own Social Security retirement payment could be supplemented with widower's benefits up to your retirement income level.

For example, if he is receiving \$1,800 per month, and your Social Security retirement rate is \$2,000 per month, he'd get an extra \$200 in monthly widower's benefits upon your death. On the other hand, if he is getting \$1,800 per month and your rate was only \$1,500 per month, he wouldn't be due any widower's benefits because his own rate is higher than yours.

If it's true (as you stated) that you're not getting your own Social Security but only receiving widow's benefits from husband No. 2, you would NOT have to apply for your own retirement payments before your death in order for husband No. 1/No. 3 to qualify for widower's benefits.

But I've got a hunch you're already getting your own Social Security and don't even know it. In many cases, a woman is paid her own retirement benefit first, and then that benefit is supplemented with any extra widow's benefits due. For example, say your own benefit is \$1,500 per month and your widow's rate is \$2,000 per month. You're getting a Social Security check for \$2,000, so understandably, you just assume it's your widow's benefit. But on paper, you might actually be getting your \$1,500 retirement payment plus \$500 in widow's benefits.

You could make a quick call to your Social Security office to find out on which account(s) you're actually drawing benefits.

Finally, I assume you know that husband No. 1/No. 3 would not be due any of your widow's benefits from husband No. 2 following your death. Again, he would only be due widower's benefits on your retirement record to the extent they exceed his own benefits.

Q: I am 70 years old. My husband is 86 years old and in very poor health. I have never worked or paid into Social Security. So, the only Social Security I will receive is from my husband. If he dies, what must I do to get my widow's benefits started?

A: You will simply have to notify your local Social Security office of his death and you might need to provide them with a death certificate. Once they have that proof of death (which they may get from other sources like a computer match with the bureau of vital statistics), they will simply push a few buttons and switch you from wife's benefits to widow's benefits. The button pushing will also trigger the one-time \$255 death payment.

That simple button pushing procedure works because they already have all the information they need about you in their files. Had you been getting your own Social Security retirement benefits instead of wife's payments, you would have been required to file an application for widow's benefits and provide them with a marriage certificate as well as the death certificate.

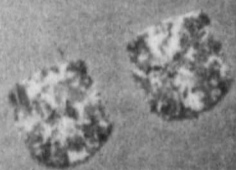
Also, if you were under age 66, the process wouldn't be quite so simple. In that situation, you would be given the option of filing for reduced widow's benefits at the time of death or waiting until age 66 to collect full widow's benefits.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"I think I'll be skipping breakfast this morning, Mommy!"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010:

This year, you renew a key area of your life. Often you take on too much responsibility, then you feel as if you must push others. Ask yourself why you behave in this manner. What would happen if you didn't feel the need to compensate for others? Decide what works best for you, and honor that decision. Your first responsibility is to you and your life. If you are single, you meet people with ease. You could find that you enjoy being in a new crowd. If you are attached, the two of you gain through expanding your social network. You also will enjoy your time together more. **VIRGO** comes through for you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★☆☆ Opt for a one-on-one conversation with a partner or associate. You suddenly see many more issues and possibilities because of this talk. Don't hulk yourself into assuming everything is fine, or else you could have a surprising jolt. Tonight: Put your feet up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Your ability to draw in many different perspectives emerges. A partner or associate could be testing your abilities without even knowing it. You have what it takes, though you might feel like you need to take a class in juggling! Tonight: Do only what you love.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Stay close to home. Everyone needs a timeout once in a while. Why would you be any different? A boss or someone you look up to blows into your day as if he or she were the only person in your life. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Nap, then opt for some fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Keep your imagination on the front burner, and share your thoughts. This openness will have a very positive impact on your communication if you also demonstrate listening skills. Tonight: Surprising news comes forward!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Financial extremes punctuate your dealings. Whatever is going on, people don't feel like reining in their impulsiveness. Know your limits while still enjoying

the frivolous tone of the moment. Tonight: A late-evening discussion could be significant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Communication flourishes, and you might feel very good about a key individual in your life. Your ability to greet upset might be tested. Of course, everyone prefers the good times. Extremes and strong feelings punctuate your interactions. Tonight: Pay bills first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★ At present, you might not be able to convince others of the rightness of your ways. Perhaps you might want to look within and see how very judgmental you are. Learning to respect and honor others' ideas could be instrumental. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Your interests generally don't coincide with those of others, yet you find that your friends and/or associates are all on the same page. Your creativity surges in this carefree environment. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Honor your commitments and responsibilities. On some level, you feel as if you don't have enough time to cover all the bases. Prioritize, and you will accomplish what is important. Tonight: The later it gets, the more fun you have.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Understanding will evolve if you relax and don't become defensive. On some level, you feel as if you always need to be in charge. Let go of self-imposed demands, and relax. Someone who is a bit off-beat helps you identify with different ideas. Tonight: Where your mind can roam.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ A partner might be a little too demanding, but you also might decide to accept his or her terms. Understanding about this specific bond becomes much clearer as a result of the present give-and-take. Tonight: Dinner and a chat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Realize that others might be more vested in a project than you are. As a result, you could find yourself in a power struggle. Ask yourself if it is really worth it. Let the key people in your life have it their way. They need to understand the ramifications of their decisions. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

Tundra



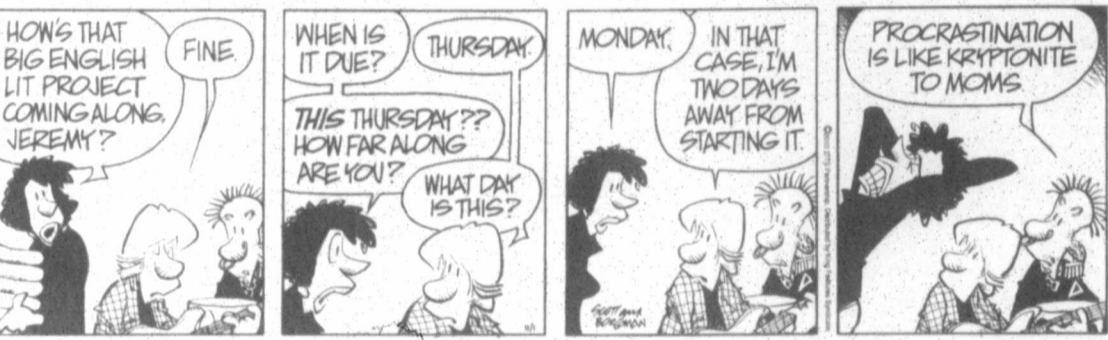
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Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



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Sports

PHS girls basketball team tests skills in scrimmage

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters basketball team got to test their skills against someone else Saturday in a scrimmage at Panhandle.

Head coach Gene Valentine said the scrimmage went OK.

"I had to play a lot of young kids," Valentine said. "It was good experience for them. The teams we scrimmaged had their full roster."

Pampa scrimmaged against Panhandle and Gruver. The Lady Harvesters did not have a full strength roster because five of their players are on the volley-

ball team.

Valentine said he had four varsity players and the rest JV type players and they looked good at times.

"We had times we looked good on offense and defense, but nothing consistent," Valentine said.

The Lady Harvesters scrimmage at Hereford 5 p.m. Thursday. Valentine said they will continue to work on basics.

"We are going to continue to learn the offense and up the intensity on defense," Valentine said.

Pampa opens the season Nov. 9 at Plainview in a rematch of last year's bi-district game.

Fairness needed in officiating

The past few weeks of the high school football season has had a lot on the line for several teams. Those games have been challenging as teams fight for playoff spots and district titles. At times the referees have also made those games a challenge for some teams. At this point of the season, the best officiating is needed.



ANDREW GLOVER

In dealing with the referees, I've held the belief that unless you played a perfect game and still lost you can't blame the officiating. Teams can always score more points, allow less points, et cetera, but referees can still greatly influence the results of games and control momentum.

Thursday, I was at Lefors' game against Fort Elliott. I'm not trying to say Fort Elliott won the game because of the referees or the referees had an agenda. Senior running back Kory McLaughlin ripped off nine touchdowns against the Pirates, which was a big factor in the Cougars' victory. With that said, the referees could have done a better job of calling and managing the game.

For starters, there were inconsistencies in how the game was called. Lefors head coach Joey Czubinski was given a warning for jumping two steps onto the field. That's fine for the referees to do, as long as those rules apply to the other side. Unfortunately, they did not, because Fort Elliott's coach Kyle Hauk twice came out to the numbers to dispute a call. One of those times he was given a personal foul,

but the second time he wasn't. The funny thing was, he kept arguing on the field after he was given the penalty. Both times he was on the field for at least three minutes. The officials needed to make a line and stick to that line on both sides.

Secondly, it seemed that the officials missed several calls on one end. On some runs by Fort Elliott, the referees didn't seem to be holding or blocks in the backs. On some plays for Lefors, they were out of bounds when the Cougars continued contact. Understandably, it's the defense's job to stop the opposing offense and sometimes contact does get close to the sideline. If the referees would have made call on some of those runs, the Pirates might have gotten a stop. One more stop would have won the game Thursday and kept their playoff hopes alive. Also, if Fort Elliott was called for making contact out of bounds, the Pirates might have gotten the score they needed to win. Referees are human and don't see everything, but it does get extremely questionable when it's happening repeatedly.

Teams can always play better to win a game but the referees do have strong influence. They need to be as fair and consistent as possible because, at this

point of the season, a loss could mean the end of the season.

athletes



of the week



Kirsten Kuhn
Pampa High School



Jordan Herring
McLean High School

Pampa High School junior volleyball player **Kirsten Kuhn** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Kuhn has led the Lady Harvesters in digs all season. Tuesday, against Dalhart, Kuhn led the team in digs with 40 in Pampa's five set victory. Head coach Libby Garza said Kuhn is the leader of the defense. "This last week, she really stepped up big for us," Garza said. "She's starting to read the hitters."

McLean High School junior football player **Jordan Herring** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Herring scored a couple of rushing touchdowns, threw for a touchdown and intercepted a pass. Head coach David Jurado said Herring is making good decisions with the ball.

PERSONAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

New Hearing Aids Are Now Totally Invisible

They provide new technology and appearance.

Sleek and stylish. Spontaneous and active. The adjectives sound like an ideal romantic partner.

But the description doesn't apply to someone who will hang breathlessly on your every word; rather, it's something that can help you hear virtually every word.

Hearing aid brochures and ads are touting the virtues of the latest technology to counter hearing loss, whether the cause be listening to cardrums-rattling music, side effects of a myriad of prescriptions or simply age.

Hearing aids these days can be digital, programmed and remote-controlled. The technology has come a long way

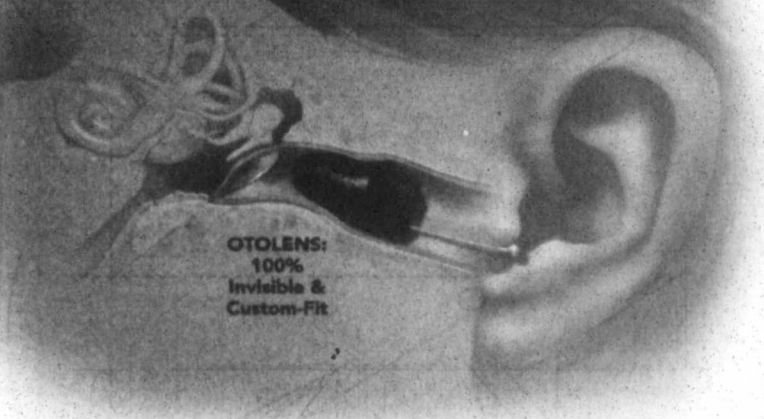
from the brass horns that passed for hearing aids in the late 19th century.

With digital processing, sound enters the microphone, is converted into computer code, cleaned up and processed before being fed into the ear — just like taking the scratches out of a vinyl record and making it sound like a CD or MP3 player.

With dual microphones, one microphone listens for speech and lifts it or clarifies it; the other microphone listens for the junk, the background noise, and uses it to muffle it.

VISUAL APPEAL

Besides the difference in what you hear, there's a difference in what you see. Or should I say what you don't see, like in the new Starkey Otolens and



OTOLENS: 100% Invisible & Custom-Fit

the Lyric. Besides the cosmetic difference, the aids are more comfortable and totally invisible in your ear.

The Otolens from Starkey is custom-fit to your ear canal making it invisible. It comes with a three year factory warranty and a three year supply of batteries (see store for details).

Also available is a new extended wear product called Lyric. It is the world's first 100% invisible hearing device worn 24/7 for up to 4 months at a time, while sleeping, showering, and exercising. There are no batteries to change. There is no daily insertion or removal required. Lyric is designed to closely mimic the way you hear naturally. Lyric is truly 24/7 hearing with no daily hassles. Lyric is sold

on an annual subscription basis.

INCREASING NEED

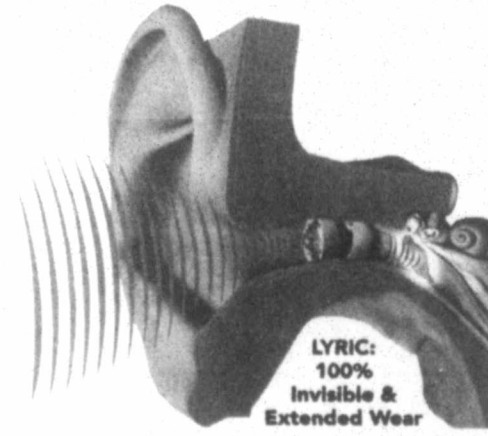
These days, one in six Americans has a hearing loss equal to that of placing a finger in one or both ears, according to a recent Johns Hopkins University study. That's double previous estimates, with the problem growing faster among younger adults, many of whom listen to their iPods and MP3 players with small earbuds worn within the ear and the volume cranked up way too loud.

It's a combination of the baby boomer generation and the iPod generation. For some it's too late, because loud noises have permanently destroyed sensory cells vital to hearing. Moreover, by age 55 hearing gener-

ally decreases. About 30 percent of people age 70 and older have some degree of hearing loss — although not necessarily enough to require hearing aids.

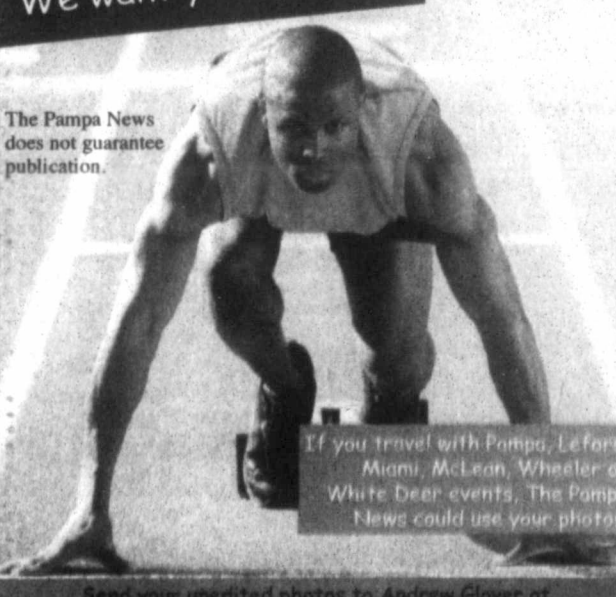
The best way to know if you have a hearing loss is to have your hearing checked by an audiologist or hearing instrument dispenser at least one time per year. You may find that you just have earwax accumulated in your ear, or you may find that you could benefit from the use of hearing aids. A hearing loss is far more noticeable than a hearing aid.

To learn more about these types of products, call Livingston Hearing Aid Centers. In Pampa, 701 North Hobart, 1-888-820-6601.



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