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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



A special night

Football team honored at banquet

Page 5

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Thursday, January 20, 2011

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FIGHTING HEART



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior linebacker Trent Carter shows off the "Fighting Heart" Award he earned at Wednesday night's Pampa High School football banquet. The award, which has been in existence since 1953, is voted on by the team and given to the player who has shown the most dedication, courage and desire over the course of the season.

'Nothing but Nets' at Borger game

ARNIE AURELLANO
edfor@thepampanews.com

It's really kind of perfect, if you think about it. What better time to raise money for nets than at a basketball game?

First United Methodist Church and St. Paul's United Methodist Church have teamed up to issue a challenge to the community during Friday's hardwood clashes between Pampa and Borger. Congregations at both churches have been challenged to contribute \$10 to the "Nothing But Nets."

NETS cont. on page 8

Key Club at PHS to get chartered

RANDY PRIBBLE
rpribble@thepampanews.com

A new service club for young people will soon be officially chartered.

The Key Club is an international student-led organization operating under the auspices of Kiwanis International. The club provides its members with opportunities to provide service, build characters and develop leadership.

"They organized themselves

KEY cont. on page 8

Pooley elected VP of pork producers

RANDY PRIBBLE
rpribble@thepampanews.com

Jason Pooley of Miami has been elected to serve as the Vice President of the Texas Pork Producers Association (TPPA). He was elected during a board of directors meeting on December 11, 2010.

Pooley is the General Manager of Smithfield Premium Genetics and has been a pork producer for 15 years. He has been a member of the TPPA for six years.

The vice president of the TPPA assists the president in leading the Texas Pork Producers Association's committees throughout the year.

"It is a pretty diverse organization," Pooley said. "It includes the larger, commercial operations, mostly in the Panhandle, and the smaller operations scattered all over the state."

Pooley has been a member of the TPPA Board for five years.

"Most recently I was the public policy chairman," he said. "I traveled to Washington, D.C. once per year and worked on behalf of the TPPA through the National Pork Board or National Pork Council. And we also got to do some things in Austin."

Pooley and his wife, Rachel, have three children, Meredith, Allison and Jackson. The family moved to the local area in 2003.

The Texas Pork Producers Association, in existence

POOLEY cont. on page 8



Pooley

COFFEE BLOOD DRIVE GIVING LIFE



staff photo by Andrew Glover

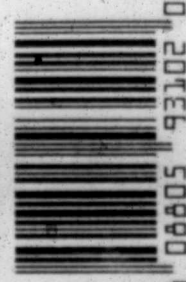
Angelita Cantu waits while Rudy Rodriguez prepares to take her blood at the Coffee Memorial Blood Drive at Clarendon College Pampa Center. The drive was put on by Coffee Memorial Blood Bank. Rodriguez said donations were coming in at a good pace early in the afternoon; Coffee received 78 donations.

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 47 Low 22	High 50 Low 24	High 36 Low 22

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 20. Wind chill values between 8 and 18. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Wind chill values between 7 and 17 early. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 50. Windy, with a south southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. Blustery, with a south southeast wind around 15 mph becoming north northeast. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36. Windy, with a north northeast wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west.

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NO MICROPHONES or Amps. Only Acoustics at Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center, Fri. Jan. 21st, 6:30 p.m.

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Obituaries

Renee M. Steele, 78

Renee M. Steele, 78, died January 18, 2011, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, January 21, 2011, at Fairview Cemetery, with Pastor Mike Watson of Hobart Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Steele was born



Steele

April 14, 1932, in Tipton, Okla. She married Floyd Steele in 1948 in Graham. He preceded her in death in 2001. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1957. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of the Brethren. Renee loved to read her Bible and was a strong Christian woman.

Survivors include her son, Preston Steele and wife Ana of Pampa; four sisters, Mary Grounds and husband Ray of Abilene, Bonnie Whitney of Odessa, LaWanda Lam of Alta Loma, Calif., and Peggy French; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren. Renee was preceded in death by a son, Floyd Earl Steele, Jr., and a brother, William Collett.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Officers responded to nine traffic-related incidents and one medical call. Animal control officers responded to seven incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to six ambulance calls.

The Pampa Fire Department responded to one structure fire and two medical-related incidents.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Harassment was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

An alarm was reported in the 200 block of E. Brown.

A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of N. Doucette.

Theft was reported in the 1400 block of N. Hobart.

Officers conducted follow-up investigations in the 700 block of N. Banks, the 2100 block of N. Russell, the 2500 block of N. Dogwood Ln., the 2600 block of N. Evergreen and the 200 block of E. Brown.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

Attempts to serve were reported in the 400 block of N. Crest, the 400 block of Wynn and the 600 block of E. Foster.

Officers provided a motorist assist at Ward and Foster.

Attempts to serve were reported in the 500 block

of N. Wells, the 1000 block of Prairie Dr. and the 900 block of E. Campbell Ave.

Water was shut off in the 700 block of N. Sloan.

A burglary was reported in the 2100 block of N. Nelson.

Water was shut off in the 2300 block of Mary Ellen.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Graham and Pitts.

Phone harassment was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

A welfare check was conducted in the 2500 block of N. Mary Ellen.

An alarm was reported in the 2300 block of N. Navajo Rd.

An information call was reported in the 800 block of E. Scott.

An attempt to serve was reported in the 1500 block of N. Williston.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of S. Varmon.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of E. Craven.

Theft was reported in the 2900 block of N. Rosewood Ln.

A 911 hang-up was reported in the 500 block of N. Russell.

A burglary was reported in the 900 block of S. Banks.

Thursday, Jan. 20
A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1700 block of N. Hobart.

An alarm was reported in the 700 block of N. Hobart.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- Absurd
 - "American Beauty" star
 - Lotion additive
 - Spot
 - Writer
 - Uris
 - Under-world god
 - Black-mailed
 - Lingerie item
 - Hunting weapon
 - URL part
 - Reporter's exclusive
 - Sold-out show
 - Corrida cheer
 - Theater worker
 - Cover words
 - Refinement
 - Little devil
 - Monitor's request
 - Fake front
 - "Beetle Bailey" dog
 - Makes amends
 - Chase away
 - Hampers
 - "Sports-Center" network
- DOWN**
- Chip's partner
 - TV's
 - They relieve barking dogs
 - Bocelli and Caruso
 - Mailbox feature
 - Tough puzzles
 - Tart
 - Train unit
 - Peyton's brother
 - "You betcha!"
 - Fan call
 - Rural walks
 - Lounge about
 - Foil's kin
 - Close
 - Maggie and Bart's sister
 - Fuel gas patron
 - Fox sitcom "— Death"
 - Levy
 - Reduced amount
 - Organ part
 - Shortly
 - Rage
 - Finished off
 - Guest's bed

T	A	C	O	C	A	L	L	I	N
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W	A	N	T	E	D		E	G	O

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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44							45		

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AFTERNOON RUSH Repeal passes House, still largely symbolic

Gov. renews fire proclamation

AUSTIN (AP) - The threat of wildfires continues across much of Texas and Gov. Rick Perry has renewed an emergency disaster proclamation to make sure the state is prepared.

Perry on Thursday issued the updated proclamation. His previous order came on Dec. 21, 2010.

Perry's proclamation, covering more than three-fourths of the state's 254 counties, says the "extreme fire hazard continues to create a threat of imminent disaster."

His proclamation directs all necessary measures, both public and private, to be implemented to meet the threat.

Pipeline contact secured

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - TransCanada Corp. says it has secured enough contracts with U.S. oil shippers to allow capacity on its proposed oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Calgary-based company said Thursday it secured contracts totaling 65,000 barrels a day from the rich Bakken Formation in North Dakota and Montana.

The company had faced political pressure to let U.S. oil companies tap into the Keystone XL pipeline that would cross Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

TransCanada says its proposed Bakken Marketlink pipeline would meet with the Keystone XL pipeline in Baker, Mont.

The Keystone XL pipeline needs a permit from the State Department because it would cross the U.S.-Canada border in carrying Canadian oil to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

BLM sale nets \$18 million

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - The U.S. Bureau of Land Management's quarterly oil and gas lease sale has netted more than \$18.6 million.

The BLM says 31 federal leases were sold Wednesday in New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma during a Santa Fe auction.

The total includes bonus bids, administrative fees and first-year rentals.

The agency says bids for 14 parcels in New Mexico brought in more than \$5 million, bids for 12 parcels in Texas brought in more than \$11.2 million and bids for five parcels in Oklahoma netted more than \$2.2 million.

Leases are awarded for 10 years, then for as long afterward as there is paying production.

Fifty-two percent of the revenue from lease sales goes to the federal government, while 48 percent goes to the state where the mineral lease occurs.

Project wants utility status

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - A hearing on a company's plan to build a \$3.5 billion electricity transmission system from wind energy farms in the Oklahoma Panhandle to western Tennessee has been continued.

The proceeding was set to begin this week concerning Clean Lines Energy of Houston but has been continued until March.

The company wants an administrative law judge for the Corporation Commission to recommend it be given public utility status. That would give the company eminent domain authority to acquire land for the project. Many local private property owners oppose the plan.

Earlier this month, regulators in Arkansas denied the company's request for public utility status. But Clean Line Executive Vice President Mario Hurtado says Arkansas regulators did not shut the door on the project.

Machete-wielder convicted

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A jury in San Antonio has convicted a man of murder in a 2008 machete attack during an argument at a homeless campsite.

The penalty phase was scheduled Thursday for 36-year-old Thomas Ahrens.

Ahrens faces up to life in prison over the killing of 23-year-old Christopher Duncan, who had been known to help the homeless.

The victim was attacked while in a wooded area where Ahrens had been staying.

Hicks named to committee

AUSTIN (AP) - Gov. Rick Perry has named Austin businessman Robert S. Hicks to the advisory committee of the Emerging Technology Fund.

Hicks on Wednesday was appointed to replace William E. Morrow on the 17-member panel.

Morrow was the subject of a 2010 Texas Rangers investigation into a stock deal with the tech fund's former director. The Dallas Morning News reports the review found no wrongdoing.

The committee makes recommendations to Texas leaders on which start-up technology projects should be funded with taxpayers funds.

A preliminary state budget plan released Tuesday, as Texas faces a projected shortfall of at least \$15 billion, proposes slashing Emerging Technology Fund spending from \$109 million to \$21 million.

Hicks is president of Austin-based Capstar Partners LLC, which is a private investment firm.

Officials mark war anniversary

COLLEGE STATION (AP) - Former President George H.W. Bush and top officials from his administration are reuniting to mark the 20th anniversary of the start of the Gulf War.

The reunion and roundtable discussion is set for Thursday at Texas A&M University, where Bush's presidential library is located.

Bush and key figures including former Vice President Dan Quayle, then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell are expected. The emir of Kuwait is also scheduled to attend.

The war was prompted by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. A U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait six months later.

Bush said this week he has no regrets about his administration's handling of the war, including the decision pull American forces out even as Saddam Hussein retained power.

www.thepampanews.com

WASHINGTON (AP) - House Republicans redeemed a campaign promise to repeal President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, but now must march against the headwinds of a Democratic-controlled Senate and the specter of a White House veto.

The GOP owes its newfound control of the House in part to its appeal last fall to voters outraged about the new health care law. And when the roll call was taken Wednesday, they prevailed by a lopsided 245-189 margin.

But given the solid opposition among Senate Democratic leaders and the certainty that the president would veto any repeal legislation that reached the White House, the House repeal vote had to be considered largely symbolic.

In fact, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., might even prevent such repeal legislation from getting to the Senate floor.

In the meantime, House Republicans followed the repeal vote with a 253-175 party line floor vote Thursday directing committees to get to work on proposals to replace they deride as "Obamacare."

Out with mandates, the requirements in the law to carry health insurance coverage. In with special purchasing pools for people whose medical conditions render them uninsurable.

Out with cuts to Medicare Advantage, the private alternative to the traditional health program for seniors and disabled people. In with limits to jury awards in medical malpractice cases and stricter restrictions on taxpayer funding for abortions.

The committees to be involved are Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Education and

Workforce, and Judiciary — to work out the Republican vision for health care.

Like the repeal bill itself, the "replace" part would require the acquiescence of the Senate. Democrats still in charge there say they plan to simply ignore the House. The prospect is for months of maneuvering.

Meantime, lawsuits by more than half the states challenging the constitutionality of the law are advancing through the federal courts.

Don't look for House Republicans to follow the same game plan Democrats used a couple of years ago by putting together sweeping legislation to address the cost and coverage problems of the health care system.

Instead, they'll try to pick off unpopular provisions of Obama's law, such as the 1099 tax provision that would require businesses to report to the Internal Revenue Service purchases of \$600 or more. And they'll attempt to advance their own alternatives on issues like malpractice.

"We will begin ... to implement step-by-step, common-sense reforms that actually lower the cost of health care and actually respect the doctor-patient relationship," said the Ways and Means chairman, Rep. David Camp, R-Mich.

Whatever Republicans do, Democrats say they're confident the public will ultimately conclude it doesn't measure up to the law already on the books, an expansion of society's safety net sought by Democratic presidents going back to Harry Truman.

It would expand coverage to more than 30 million uninsured people, reduce costs for Medicare recipients with high prescription drug

Workforce, and Judiciary — to work out the Republican vision for health care. Starting in 2014, most Americans would be required to have health insurance. Millions of middle-class households would be able to purchase a plan through new state-based insurance pools, with tax credits to make premiums more affordable.

"This (repeal) bill will not become law," said Rep. Sander Levin of Michigan, ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee. "We on this side are on the offense on this issue. We are an American truth squad. (Repeal) will not prevail."

Republicans say there's no timeline for their "replace" legislation, but if they're serious, they'll have to start advancing specific proposals by the summer.

The likeliest prospect Republicans have for success in the short term lies in taking on the 1099 tax reporting requirement for businesses. It's been widely criticized as a paperwork nightmare. Even the White House wants to scrap the provision, and the Treasury Department has already taken action to limit its scope. But the two political parties disagree on how to go about undoing the requirement, so an early resolution seems unlikely. Lawmakers have time; it doesn't take effect until next year.

GOP leaders are working on the assumption that their repeal bill will not become law, but nonetheless they see it as an important marker.

"Unless we repeal the law in the House, we don't have any credibility to do anything," said Rep. Joe Barton of Texas, a senior Republican on health care issues. "This establishes Republicans' credibility to negotiate and deal with the Senate and the president."

Capitol Almanac: Two-thirds rule fight fizzles

AUSTIN (AP) - Fears of a nasty fight over state Senate rules fizzled Wednesday when members declined to even take up a proposal to end the hallowed "two-thirds rule" that gives the minority party — in this case the Democrats — a bigger voice in what happens in the chamber.

State Sen. Dan Patrick, a Houston Republican and conservative talk show host, has forged close links to tea party activists. He said he favored majority rule over the supermajority procedures that require two thirds of the body to agree before bills can be brought up for consideration. But Patrick acknowledged he didn't have the support to change the rules enshrining filibuster rights.

"I do not have the votes to change the rule but I know I don't stand alone. I stand on the shoulders of our founding fathers," Patrick said. "The majority should not be blocked by one-third of our body."

Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, warned Republicans, who hold a 19-12 majority in the Senate, that they would regret it if they gutted the longstanding tradition that forges compromise. He said that unlike

the more raucous House, where the majority does rule, the Senate allows the Legislature to collectively "cool things down, to be cautious."

The Senate rules do have an exception to the two-thirds rule already built in, and members voted to keep that. It allows a simple majority to consider changes to voter identification laws. Republicans got that pushed through two years ago, and this year they expect to pass legislation strengthening voter ID requirements. The new rules, adopted Wednesday on a straight party-line vote, also requires more time be given to senators when major budget changes are proposed toward the end of a legislative session.

Another inaugural apology

In case Spark Energy didn't make it clear already, the company is really, really sorry for disrupting Gov. Rick Perry's swearing-in ceremony. The Houston-based electricity provider hired a plane to buzz the Capitol during Perry's speech, but pulling that "God Bless Texas" banner made the aircraft's engine howl so loud that participants could hardly hear what the governor was saying.

The company had already apologized on its Facebook page right after the event on Tuesday. Several hours later, Spark Energy president Keith Maxwell issued a press release that sounded almost like a campaign endorsement.

"We in no way wanted to deny those in atten-

dance the opportunity to hear Governor Perry's vision for his third term in office," Maxwell said. "In fact, Spark Energy is one of the companies that has benefited from business-focused initiatives led by the Governor. We truly wish him the best in his upcoming term."


Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate



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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2011. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States; in his inaugural address, Kennedy declared, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

On this date:

In 1801, Secretary of State John Marshall was nominated by President John Adams to be chief justice of the United States (he was sworn in on Feb. 4, 1801).

In 1841, the island of Hong Kong was ceded by China to Great Britain. (It returned to Chinese control in July 1997.)

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Jews.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman was sworn in for a second term of office.

In 1969, Richard M. Nixon was sworn in as the 37th president of the United States; Spiro Agnew took the oath of vice president.

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African-American, president.

Ten years ago: George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

Five years ago: Michael Fortier, the government's star witness in the Oklahoma City bombing trials, was released from federal prison after serving more than 10 years for failing to warn authorities about the plot.

One year ago: National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair conceded missteps in the government's handling of the Christmas Day 2009 airline bombing attempt in testimony before the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Slim Whitman is 87. Comedian Arte Johnson is 82. Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 81. Singer Eric Stewart is 66. Movie director David Lynch is 65. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 64. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 59. Comedian Bill Maher is 55. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 53. Actor James Denton is 48. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 46. Actor Rainn Wilson is 45. Actress Stacey Dash is 44. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 43. Actor Reno Wilson is 42. Singer Edwin McCain is 41. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 41. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 32. Actor Evan Peters is 24.

Thought for Today: "To enjoy life one should give up the lure of life." — Mohandas K. Gandhi, Indian religious leader (1869-1948)



Fudging the facts on health care and deficits

Facts always matter, but never more so than when politicians deal with issues of real consequence, like health care and budget deficits.

Data sets and out-year projections may make everybody's eyes glaze over, but without accurate information, the end result of legislation is disaster. Today, there is no way to avoid fiscal ruin and social erosion unless we can determine whether health care reform will tame or swell deficits.

Yet the Republican leaders in Congress are now insisting on their own "facts" concerning health care and deficits, which directly contradict the careful studies of the Congressional Budget Office. They have gone so far as to denigrate CBO, among the most respected agencies in Washington since its founding in 1974, by accusing its analysts of using "rigged" assumptions to reach its conclusions.

Why? The agency's conclusions are irritating to the Republicans, especially Speaker John Boehner and Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, because the CBO found that health care reform will reduce the federal deficit by more than \$230 billion during the first decade

after it goes into effect -- and then by trillions of dollars in the decades that follow.

For many Americans worried by the growing deficit, that particular aspect of health care reform was no doubt obscured by all the faked uproar over "death panels."

Now, however, with the question of deficit reduction hanging over the new Congress, the Republicans feel obliged to address the fiscal impact of their drive to repeal, defund and destroy health care reform. They've chosen to do so by issuing their own 19-page rebuttal of the CBO analysis, filled with accusations about budgetary "gimmicks," "double-counting" of revenue and omission of major costs -- and the use of "biased" assumptions imposed on the agency's analysts by the Democrats who were in control when the bill passed.

But the truth is, that Boehner has been around long enough to understand that the CBO's methods are strictly neutral and indeed bipartisan. As Paul N. Van de Water of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities noted, in a detailed rebuttal of the attack on CBO, the agency's reality-based analyti-

cal procedures were developed during the past three decades by House and Senate Budget Committee members and staff, as well as administration officials of both parties.

For the current crop of politicians to disparage them is an insult to those honest efforts and an assault on the foundations of government.

If all that seems too dry, too wonkish, too earnest, then consider this: The present speaker and his cronies know that their partisan attack on the CBO is patently hypocritical. Unless afflicted with early Alzheimer's, they can surely remember that two years ago, the Republicans and other opponents of reform were crowing loudly because the CBO had found that the Senate Finance Committee's health care bill would increase the deficit. Although Democrats grumbled, they accepted the CBO findings and rewrote the bill



JOE CONASON

extensively to ensure that it reduced the deficit, as promised.

Consistency and integrity are important, not only as basic values but because without them, we have no hope of achieving any public objective. Politicians who knowingly seek to promote fraudulent numbers and budgetary smoke cannot be trusted with our medicine or our money.

Joe Conason writes for the New York Observer.

Letters welcome

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 views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.

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This week's www.thepampanews.com poll question:

How concerned are you about the proposed sale of Pampa Regional Medical Center?

Log on and vote!

(Editor's Note: We are experiencing some technical problems with our online poll. We hope to have it reconciled in a day or two. Please don't be discouraged if the poll doesn't work. Keep trying! We will get it fixed as soon as possible.)

Sports

Harvester football celebrates 2010 accomplishments

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

It was a night of celebration, recognition and "gratituted."

The Pampa Harvesters football team recognized their accomplishments during the season Wednesday at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

The freshman and junior varsity teams were honored first. The freshmen team went 7-3 and undefeated in district, claiming the district championship. Coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said it's amazing how much those players have grown since he saw them play in seventh grade.

"It was fun seeing these come in as seventh graders wide-eyed and not knowing what they were getting in to, Snelgrooves said. "When they walk in as ninth graders wide eyed and see this lunatic coach Snelgrooves they got to put up with another year. It was a great time."

The junior varsity finished 3-6 and 2-1 in district and were co-district champions. Coach Scott Lewis said his team played well especially since they were all sophomores.

"Several of our opponents had juniors on their roster," Lewis said.

The video techs were recognized by coach Byron May. Head trainer Ashley Ellis honored her student trainers. The cheerleaders were introduced by Sandee Stokes.

Numerous people who helped with the season including the team bus driver, administration and athletic secretary Sandy Clark. Senior center Reid Bradley even got so sincere that he tripped over his words a little, expressing his "gratituted" on behalf of the team. He earned a long laugh from the crowd and a subtle dig from his father, booster club president Rick Bradley, later in the night.

The varsity players presented themselves by position groups with the defense going first. A senior from each group reflected on his career, talked about the impact their position coach had on them and gave advice to the underclassmen.

"I can't explain to you the amount of memories I will be taking with me for the rest of my life," senior linebacker Trent Carter said. "Going back to third and fourth grade All-Star teams to the end of the first week of two-a-days when I was called by coach (Heath) Parker a

freak because no one likes football more than him except for me."

"I want to thank Coach (John) True for being patient with me and helping me learn the right technique and all the stuff that goes with kicking," senior receiver Brenden Rice said.

"Enjoy every minute you have left," senior linebacker Kendon Horst said. "When it's over it's one of the hardest things to go through."

After the positions were presented, the 15 seniors that played were recognized. Head coach Heath Parker said he thought of them as a team.

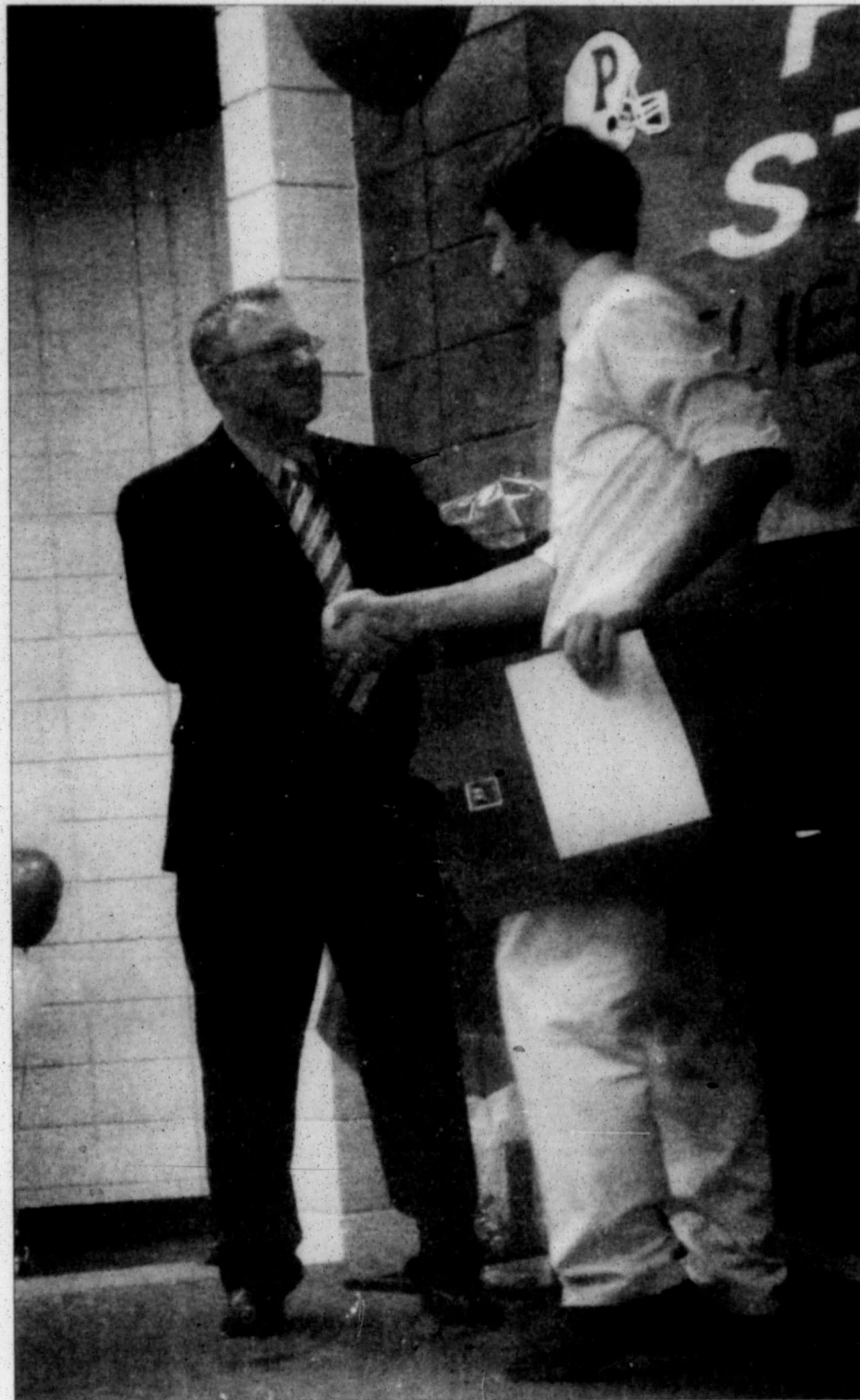
"There wasn't any one person you pick out that separated himself," Parker said. "You all bonded together and unified yourself."

After the seniors were recognized, awards were given out. Olin Boyd and Garrett Ericson won the Helmet Award for being in the top ten percent of their graduation class during football season. Seniors Adrian Rivera, Kyle Keith, Dylan Hooker, Boyd and junior Reid Miller won an academic all-district award for maintained an A average during the grading weeks of the football season.

Seniors Carter, Ramon Jimenez, Keith, Juan Martinez, Jonathan Polasek and Brandon Voyles were honorable mentions for the Texas High School Coaches Association All-State football team. Ericson and Rice were second team and Boyd was first team. In order to earn the recognition the athlete had to have a 92 average from freshman year to the first six weeks of senior season.

Four team awards were given out that were voted on by the team. Ericson won the Vance Bruce Spirit Award for having the most consistent positive attitude and tried to lead by actions, example, with spirit or words to teammates who were down. Senior center Reid Bradley won the Casey Trimble Persistence Award. Ramon Jimenez won the GT El Norma Award for inspirational leadership on the team. Carter won the Fighting Heart Award for courage, effort, desire and competitiveness while exerting himself to the fullest for his team.

The Booster club was recognized and Bradley turned over the presidency to Dustin and Dori Miller. The banquet ended with a slideshow of the seniors. The senior football players and cheerleaders sang the school song and fight song.



Garrett Ericson shakes hands with receiver coach Del Smith after the senior receiver was presented with the Vance Bruce Spirit Award at the Football banquet Wednesday.

staff photo by Andrew Glover

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If you travel with Pampa, Lefors, Miami, McLean, Wheeler or White Deer events, The Pampa News could use your photos!

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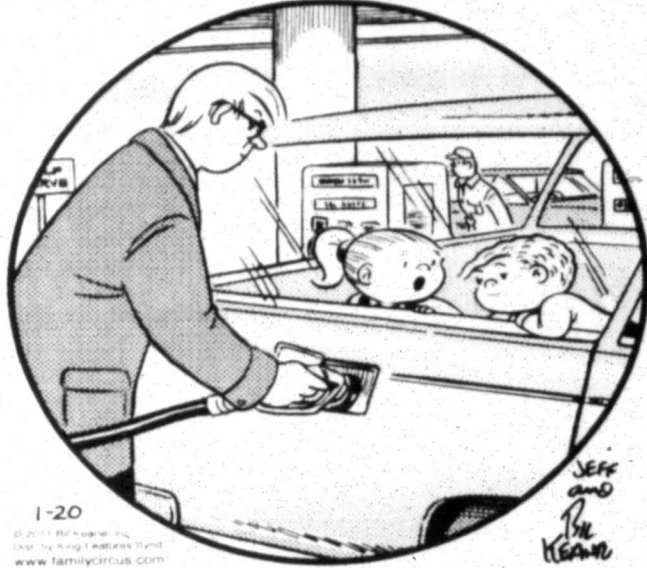
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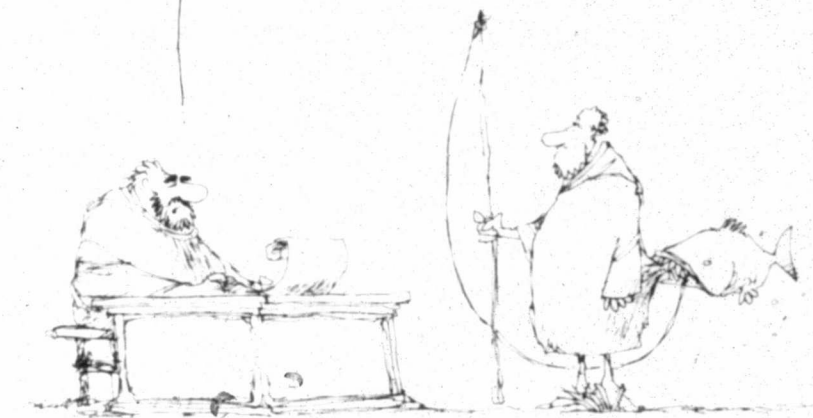
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



1-20
"Grandma told me they used to have waiters who served your gas."

Non Sequitur

OK...BUT IF YOU WANT YOUR MEMOIR TO BE A BEST-SELLER, YOU'LL NEED TO PUNCH IT UP A BIT



JONAH'S EDITOR

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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 21, 2011:

This year, you are able to assert yourself without others being offended. People close to you actually might be relieved to see a stronger yet diplomatic you. Learn to communicate with precision, knowing what your message is. If single, you might not really be sure if someone cares. Try to be more aware, and listen to observant friends! If attached, do not take your sweetie for granted. Caring comes back in multiples. VIRGO knows how to key into 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)

**** Confusion could mark an accomplishment. Make it a habit to confirm a statement, a meeting location or whatever is needed. You might feel a bit awkward in the presence of others. Tonight: Play it easy and relaxing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** You might have difficulty moving from one idea to another, mainly because conversations with others could be disjointed. Should you want to clear out a problem, use your communication skills. A friend might not be relating the whole story. Tonight: Let go. You need more fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** You ask a question in order to get a clearer perspective, only to discover that the answer opens the door to more confusion. Be skillful in listening, and reflect what you are hearing. Later in the day, you get a better perspective. Tonight: Head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Do not allow another person to mow you down over an issue. You do know when someone is being unreasonable. For you, the issue might be more how to say "No, thank you" in an appropriate manner. You do not want to burn any bridges. Tonight: Join some friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Clear the haze off several issues. Zero in on the bottom line, knowing when you have had enough. Your ability to open up conversations comes through. People feel more at ease with you. Tonight: Treat a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** You could be out of sync with daytime events. Don't worry, your time is

coming. In fact, as the sun sets, you feel revitalized, just in time for the weekend! You might need to make last-minute plans, as a delay could slow you down. Tonight: Feeling great, doing your thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** Zero in on the basics. Knowing what you want helps others follow along. You cut through confusion with your ability to lead. Meetings could be more important than you realize. Supporters appear after a discussion that could be uncomfortable. Tonight: Add a little mystery to your allure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Pressure builds, as others look up to you and need to follow your example or directions. Avoid taking a personal matter out into the world. The issue might melt away, given time. The other party feels it when you are not thinking of him or her. Tonight: Where the party begins.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** You seem to know what needs to be done, while others seem to be working their way through a maze. You could be happiest close to home, or in a situation that has a homey atmosphere. You seem to have an unusual sense of grace, which others respond to. Tonight: Know when to call it an early night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Stay sensitive to your well-being. What another party proposes sounds excellent. The reality could be quite different. Avoid signing an agreement without legal representation. Risks could be a bad idea. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Try to be as clear as possible. Also, clarify what you are hearing, as a prevalent theme of misunderstandings could run through the day. Be careful with funds and any other major decisions. A good idea is to say "yes" to a long lunch. Enjoy. Tonight: Where you want to be, but not alone.

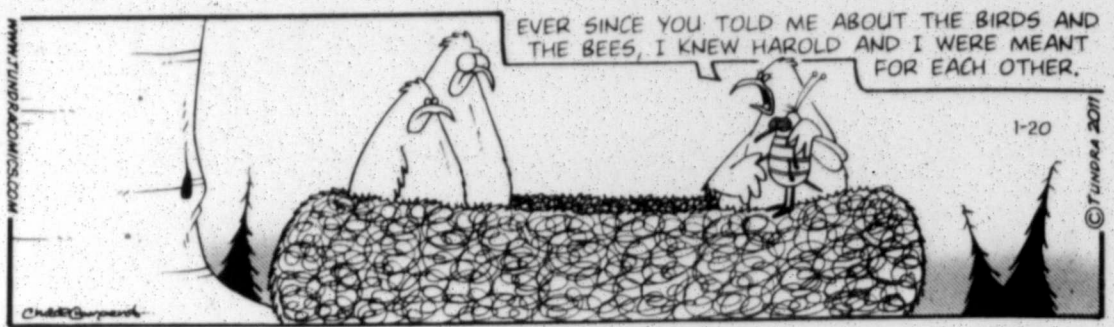
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Clear out as much as you can. You could be unusually tired or withdrawn. Test out your ideas rather than declaring them as givens. You easily could see a problem and make an adjustment. Tighten up a plan. Tonight: Where people are!

BORN TODAY

Country singer Mac Davis (1942), actor Robby Benson (1956), golfer Jack Nicklaus (1940)

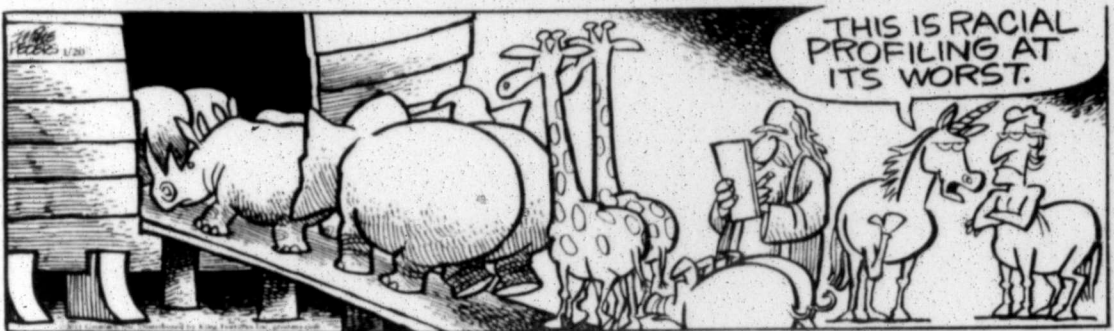
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



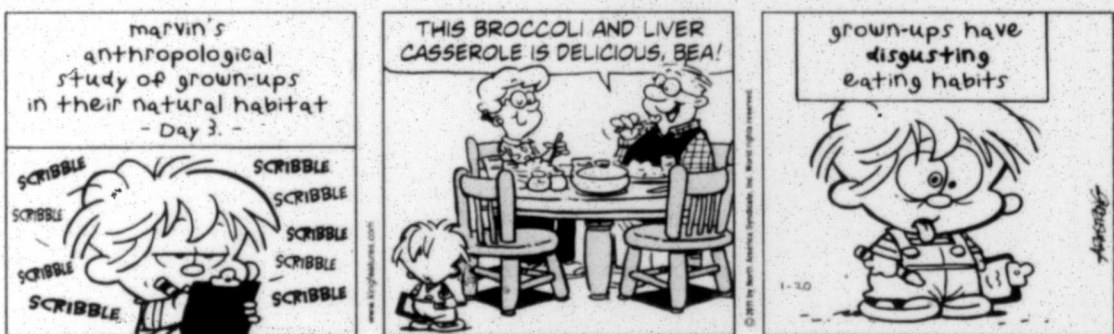
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: I live in a dorm at a large university where a former friend, "Glen," also lives. We are no longer on speaking terms because of an incident that happened last year.

One day during pre-finals week, I left my room briefly to get something from a friend's room down the hall. I left my door unlocked because I'd be back soon. When I returned a few minutes later, my laptop, my cell phone and several books full of class notes were missing. I was distraught almost to the point of a breakdown.

Later that night, Glen knocked on my door and revealed that he had hidden the items in his room to "teach me a lesson" about not locking my door. I was speechless that a "friend" could do such a thing to me.

I notified the police and officials at the university. Glen was arrested for theft

and charged with a misdemeanor. The university terminated his scholarship, and he was sentenced to community service.

Glen is now blaming me for what happened. He claims what he did wasn't really "stealing" and that I ruined his life. He's harassing me at every opportunity and spreading misinformation to my friends.

I believe I acted justly to what was planned in a case of theft. Am I wrong? How should I act in the case of Glen's current behavior? — **VICTIM IN TEXAS**

DEAR VICTIM: Your former friend appears to be emotionally disturbed. He has no one to blame but himself for what has happened to him. If you haven't already done so, warn him to stop the harassment -- and if he doesn't, report to the authorities. And don't worry about the misinformation he is trying to spread among

your friends. If they are truly your friends, they'll believe you when you tell them they're being lied to.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been arguing about his leaving the lights on throughout our house. He's convinced that it adds little to our electric bill, but it bothers me that every single light is left burning. I realize there is a cost difference between incandescent and fluorescent lighting, but leaving all the lights on seems unnecessary and wasteful to me. Could you please "shed some light" on our argument? — **LIT UP IN JOHNSON CITY, TENN.**

DEAR LIT UP: According to the Renewable Energy Policy Project (REPP) in Washington, D.C., leaving a 100-watt incandescent bulb on for 12 hours a day for one month will add \$40 per year to your electric bill. Multiply that by the

number of bulbs in your home and it can add up quickly.

Fluorescent bulbs use fewer watts than incandescent bulbs, but turning them on ages the filaments -- so if they'll be turned on again within a minute or two, leave them on. (This is not a recommendation to leave fluorescent bulbs burning constantly, just a suggestion that if they won't be needed after a few minutes, to turn them off.)

LED bulbs are more expensive to buy, but they last longer, use less wattage and emit brighter light. However, when the illumination is no longer needed, they, too, should be extinguished.

P.S. Since your husband has money to burn, why not invest in motion sensors so he'll have light wherever he goes without inflating your energy bills?

BANANAGRAMS!

Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, the path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

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J XZRZS ZMTZDFZE FB HZZ
FWZ EYC GWZX IJSUH GBKUE
IZF HKXVK SXZE, JX EWZ
TUYDZH F WZC XBG EB
— GJUUSBIZSH

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Nets

mission project for every basket scored by the Harvesters and Lady Harvesters at their respective games.

Money raised during the project will go towards Nothing But Nets, a United Methodist-endorsed program administered by the United Nations foundation. Nothing But Nets supplies insecticide-treated bed nets, as well as the training on how to use them, to countries affected by widespread malaria, including 22 countries in and around equatorial Africa. A \$10 donation will supply one bed net.

The malaria epidemic is a cause that the Methodist church has focused on recently, according to Donna Brauchi, chair of the Risk-Taking, Missions and Service team at First United Methodist Church.

"The Methodist church's

Northwest Texas Conference has kind of keyed in to this project," Brauchi said. "(Malaria) is an awful thing. This is a big problem in the world.

The disease kills almost one million people every year, most of whom are children and pregnant women. With half of the world's population living in malaria-prone areas, bed nets, insecticides and other precautionary measures can greatly reduce the risk.

The cause is so important that Nothing but Nets is crossing rival lines, said Brauchi. Pampa's churches have challenged Berger's St. Andrews Methodist Church to make the same pledge.

Last year alone, the United Methodist Church raised more than \$2 million to fight malaria in Sierra Leone, distributing

over 600,000 bed nets in the west African nation.

"United Methodist has compassion for people across the world," Brauchi said. "Our focus is to care for our neighbors wherever they are, not just here but across the ocean as well."

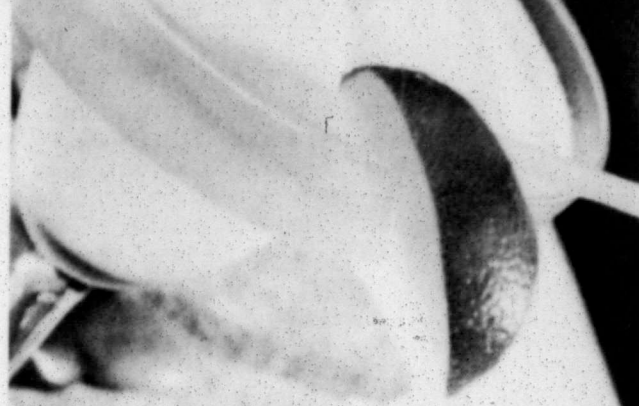
Nothing but Nets is part of the "Imagine No Malaria" initiative to eliminate malaria in Africa, Brauchi said. Through bed net distribution, education and infrastructure improvement, the movement hopes to fully eradicate the illness in the near future.

"We're hoping that by 2015, we can eliminate malaria altogether," Brauchi said.

For more information or to make a donation, contact the First United Methodist Church or St. Paul's United Methodist in Pampa.

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Mmmmmargaritas!



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Key

fall," said Robert Jacobs, one of the Kiwanis sponsors for the new organization. "The club is similar to the Lion's Club's "Leos" or the Rotary Club's Interact."

There has been a Key Club in Pampa in the past, but it lost its charter in the mid-90s, Jacobs said, so the entire chartering process has begun anew.

"We are required to have high school faculty support," Jacobs said, adding that two Kiwanians have stepped up to lead: Deputy Superintendent Evan Smith and faculty member Ben Ceyannes.

"The club has been approved by the principal and supported by the superintendent," Jacobs added.

The Kiwanis are planning a charter banquet for the new organization.

"Once we get the charter in hand from Kiwanis International, we will invite the Key Club members, parents and guardians, grandparents to a joint banquet with the Kiwanis Club."

"We will have our division II Governor on the Kiwanis side and on the Key Club side. We want to

celebrate this and give these high school students all the support that they need."

Although the Pampa Kiwanis Club is helping with the Key Club organization, providing seed money and generally mentoring the process, the students will wind up with an independent club.

"The key clubs have their own service projects, seek their own direction and even raise their own separate funds for their projects," Jacobs explained.

"It is exciting to have a Key Club here in Pampa and to give these high school students an opportunity to learn what service leadership is all about."

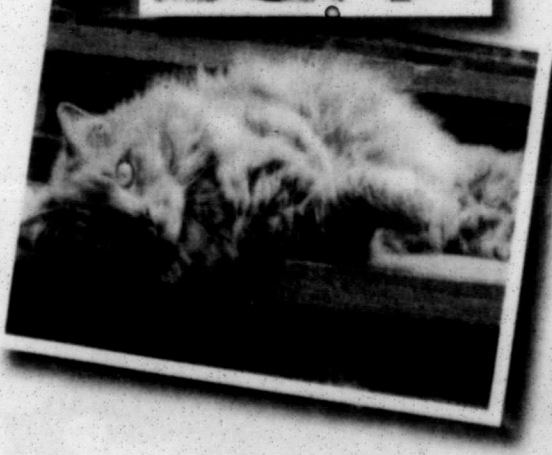
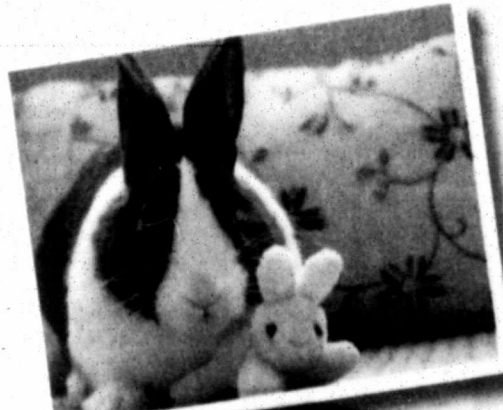
Pooley

cont. from page 1


since 1889, is the second oldest livestock organization in the state. It provides representation and a voice for the Texas pork industry and supports responsible and ethical pork production.

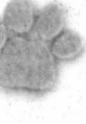
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Contest Rules

1. All entries must be received by 4 p.m. Friday, January 21.
2. Attach your pet's photo to the contest entry form and write your pet's full name on the back of the photograph as well. Include a \$10 entry fee.
3. Photos will not be returned unless you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your entry.
4. By submitting a photo to this contest, you are granting *The Pampa News* permission to publish this photo in any future issue of the newspaper. Also, some or all of the entries may be featured in our "Pet of the Week" series in our online edition.
5. Employees of this newspaper, their immediate families, and contest sponsors are not eligible to win. The readers of *The Pampa News* will judge the contest based upon a ballot to be printed in the January 28 issue.

Send your entry form, \$10 entry fee and pet photo to *The Pampa News*, PO Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79065 or bring it by *The Pampa News Office*, 403 W. Atchison Monday-Friday 8 am to 4 pm.



ENTRY FORM

Owner's Name _____
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Pet's name _____

4051