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The PAMPA NEWS

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IRS rules cloudy regarding SO transports

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Auditor and Treasurer are trying to prevent federal tax problems for the county, but the Gray County Sheriff's Office isn't happy with the Internal Revenue Service.

The Gray County Commissioners Court is seeking legal opinions on the matter.

When Gray County deputies travel to pick up a prisoner, their travel expenses are taxed as a fringe benefit.

Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing argued before the Gray County

Commissioners Court Monday that fringe benefits are separate in the tax code from business travel expenses.

"Business travel has nothing to do with fringe benefits," Rushing told the Gray County Commissioners Court this week.

Rushing said that the way he reads the tax code, fringe benefits are things like bus passes for people to get to work or on-site cafeterias. He agrees that those benefits should be taxed.

But he said the deputies' travel expenses are a requirement of

employment and shouldn't be taxed.

While Rushing pointed to two different IRS rules, Gray County Treasurer Scott Hahn and Gray County Auditor Elaine Morris said they were told by IRS officials at a recent seminar that unless the deputies spent the night away from home, such expenses are considered overtime and are taxable.

At issue is the practice of deputies driving up to eight hours to pick up a prisoner and transfer the prisoner back to Gray County.

County Judge Richard

Peet said that the deputies, trying to save the county taxpayers money, often turn around and drive eight hours back to Pampa rather than get a motel room and rest overnight.

Morris and Hahn said the crux of the problem is that unless the deputies stay overnight somewhere away from home, anything the county pays them is taxable. They agreed that IRS officials had told them that during a recent seminar when the question came up.

Hahn said that the ruling was based on a Supreme Court case.

Wheeler County was recently fined \$17,000 for similar actions.

"These are in no way benefits," Rushing said. "These are not fun trips."

But based on the IRS ruling, the county is withholding taxes and retirement money from the paychecks of deputies who make such trips.

Morris estimated that if the travel expense was \$18, the county would withhold about three dollars for federal tax and another \$1.26 in retirement. The county then pays another two dollars into the deputy's retirement.

See IRS, Page 5

Fry replaced as coach of Lady Harvesters

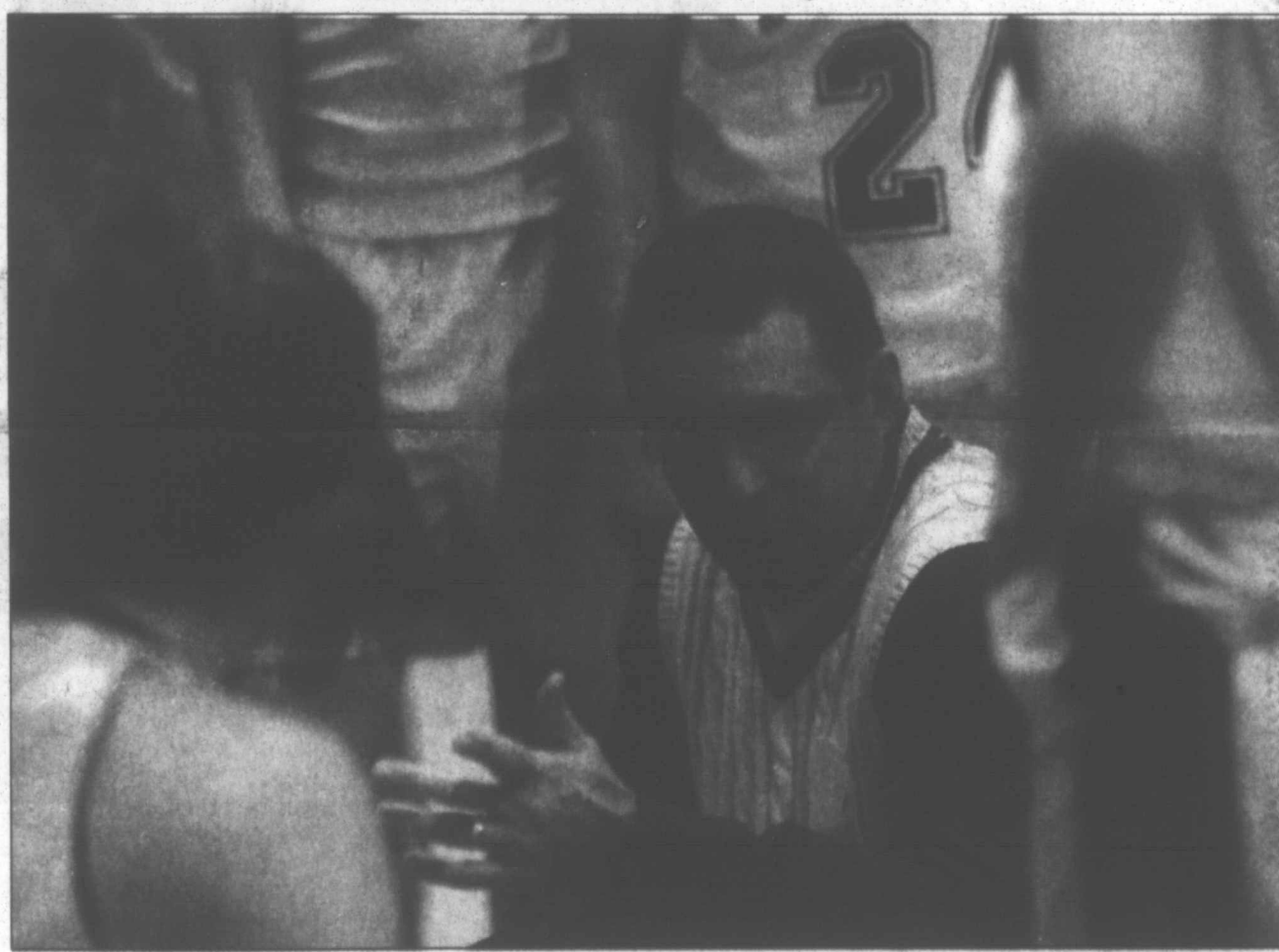
Gene Valentine is the new Lady Harvesters' basketball coach.

Valentine took over from Coach Troy Fry Tuesday in a shake up at the Pampa High School Athletic Department. Valentine will remain assistant varsity coach for the Harvesters' basketball team.

Billie Osbourne will coach the junior varsity girls' team. She is also the first assistant for the Lady Harvesters.

Athletic Department officials had no comment Tuesday on the changes in the coaching staff.

Pampa Independent School District Superintendent Barry Haenisch confirmed that there has been a reorganization, but did not comment. "Our response to all personnel issues is that they are personnel issues and we do not make comments on those issues," Haenisch said.



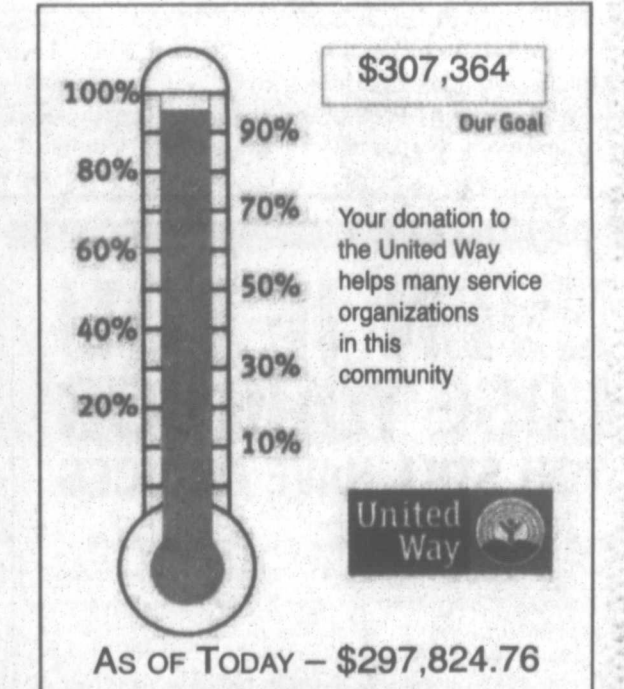
Coach Gene Valentine talks to his girls as he takes over the varsity Lady Harvesters Tuesday night. staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa businessman buys hospital



Dennis Caldwell of Caldwell Production Company, Inc., of Pampa signs the papers on an Amarillo hospital he just bought. Caldwell bid \$300,000 plus a \$30,000 sales commission for a total of \$330,000 for the old St. Anthony's Hospital at Amarillo Blvd. and Polk Street in Amarillo. The building has been empty for several years. At left is Spanky Assiter, the auctioneer and real estate agent who sold the building.

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Thursday



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Friday



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Saturday



Sunny

Thursday: Periods of flurries after 4 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 35. South-south-east wind between 8 and 14 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 20. East-southeast wind 8 to 11 mph becoming south-southwest.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 42. South-southwest wind between 8 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 61.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 30.

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Illegal immigrants claim abuse

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Twenty-one Guatemalan immigrants told authorities they were abducted from a smuggler's safehouse by five armed men, then threatened, beaten and in some cases raped.

Border Patrol agents found the illegal immigrants packed into a mobile home east of Edinburg on Nov. 25. According to interviews, they had been stolen from another smuggler's safehouse in Hidalgo.

Their captors threatened them if they did not help obtain ransoms from relatives for their release. The (McAllen) Monitor reported in its Wednesday editions. These are just some

of the many risks that illegal immigrants face when crossing illegally," Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino said.

Three female immigrants were taken into a back room and raped.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents arrested four Mexican nationals in with the case.

Andres Perez Moshan, 26, Humberto Alvarez Cheo, 20, Roberto Salinas Martinez, 23 and Euclides Moreno Dominguez, 26, all face federal human smuggling charges. A 16-year-old juvenile was being held as a witness, but had not been charged.

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

CHRISTMAS TOUR of 1/2 OFF purses, jewelry, & Homes, Sun. Dec. 7, 1-4pm. more at Carousel Expressions Tickets avail. at homes. 1927 113 N. Cuyler Dogwood, 2425 Evergreen, 1236 Williston.

CUT YOUR own Christmas Tree - Davis Christmas Tree Farm opens - Nov. 29th. Open Sat. 9 - 5:30. Sun. 1 - 5:30 or call for appointment 665-0123. 3 1/2 miles North of Pampa on Hwy 70. 1/2 mi. West on County Line Rd.

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 memory-gardens.tripod.com

Services tomorrow

MUSICK, Gene — 10:30 a.m., First Baptist Church, Lefors. Graveside services, 3:30 p.m., Union Hatchett Cemetery, Bessie, Okla.

Violet Jean Johnson, 75

YALE, Okla. — Violet Jean Johnson, 75, died Sunday, Nov. 30, 2008, at Yale. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Johnson was born on Aug. 11, 1933, in Shamrock, Texas, to Mack and Daisy (Lawler) Turnbow, where she was reared and educated.

Violet was united in marriage to Orval L. Johnson on Jan. 4, 1953, in Lela, Texas. She worked at the local phone company in Shamrock. The couple eventually made their home in Pampa where Violet

worked at Pampa Office Supply.

In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening, painting, ceramics, sewing and quilting. Many of her friends will remember her wonderful

cooking, especially the cookies she always delivered around the holidays.

Violet had been a charter member of Faith Advent Christian Fellowship in Pampa and was always active in her church as long as she was



Johnson

able.

Survivors include one son, Grant Johnson and his wife Kelly Mae of Pampa, Texas; one daughter, Stacey Williams and her husband Jeff of Yale, Okla.; four grandchildren, Miah Ebel and his wife Tricia, Kelleen Roark and her husband J.J., Orval Eugene Williams, and Janette Williams; two great-grandchildren, Kaydence Roark and Troy Roark; and numerous

cousins and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Larry Johnson; and her husband, Orval Johnson.

Memorials may be made in Violet's name to the Victory Outreach, P.O. Box 1380, Seguin, TX 78155.

Mrs. Johnson will be available for viewing in Pampa at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home after 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Gene Musick, 48

Gene Musick, 48, died Dec. 1, 2008, at Pampa, Texas.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, at the First Baptist Church in Lefors with the Rev. Chris Webb, pastor, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008, at Union Hatchett Cemetery in Bessie, Okla., with the Rev. LeeRoy Musick of Cheyenne, Okla., officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Musick was born March 26, 1960, in Shattuck, Okla.

He came to Lefors in 1979 from Oklahoma.

He attended schools in Clinton, Okla., and White Deer.

He was a plumber and later became a pipefitter journeyman.

Gene was a caring man with a good heart. He would put in a hard days work to help a person in need. He was always



Musick

there for the people who needed him. He was your smile when he walked in.

Survivors include his father, Bobby Musick of Lefors; his mother, Bonita Musick of Lefors; a brother, Darwin Musick of Monticello, Ark.; two sisters, Kathy Tinney and husband Don, and Pam Franks and husband Steven, all of Lefors; two grandmothers, Mary

Music of Hobart, Okla., and Ruth Canaday of Lefors; and his nieces and nephews, Johnathon Tinney, Jonelle Combs and husband Tad, Dustin Musick, Carie Johnson and husband Mark, Devan Franks, Brook Franks and Madison Franks.

Gene was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Carl Music and Darwin Canaday; and his grandmother, Jessie Music Hubbard.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Dwayne Anthony Sparks, 52

Dwayne Anthony Sparks, 52, of Pampa, Texas, died Dec. 1, 2008, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Sparks was born Feb. 24, 1956, in Elk City, Okla. He was a lifelong resident, attending Pampa schools. He married LeaNan Evrage on Feb. 14, 1991, at Highland

Baptist Church in Pampa.

He worked in the oil and gas industry as a pusher for W.O. and Holman Services. His main hobbies were fishing and vacationing when he could.

Above all, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Survivors include his wife, LeaNan Sparks, of the home; one son, Chad Clardy and wife Jessie of



Sparks

Pampa; one daughter, Shannon Lamb and husband Bobby of Fritch; his father, Clyde Davis of Pampa; three sisters, Linda York, Brenda Cumpston, and Laine Brookshire and

husband Terry, all of Pampa; three grandchildren, Karlee Lamb, K'Lee Clardy and Colton Lamb, all of Pampa; two step-grandchildren, Jordyn Lamb and Jayme Lamb,

both of Lubbock; one aunt, Rae Jean Walters of Amarillo; in-laws, Jane and Kenneth Purvis of Lefors; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Sparks and Vera Davis.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

MEMORIALS: A favorite charity.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Fugitive in Dallas-area slaying apprehended in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Federal marshals in Las Vegas say they've arrested a fugitive in a Texas slaying.

The U.S. Marshals Service says 26-year-old Kevin Jermaine Davis was arrested without incident Tuesday after he was found in at an address in the northeast Las Vegas area.

Jail records show Davis was held without bail at the Clark County jail in Las Vegas pending a court extradition hearing on Thursday.

Marshals say Davis was one of the Dallas-Forth Worth area's "most wanted" fugitives.

They say was sought in the Oct. 24 slaying of another man who was shot at close range during a fight in South Dallas.

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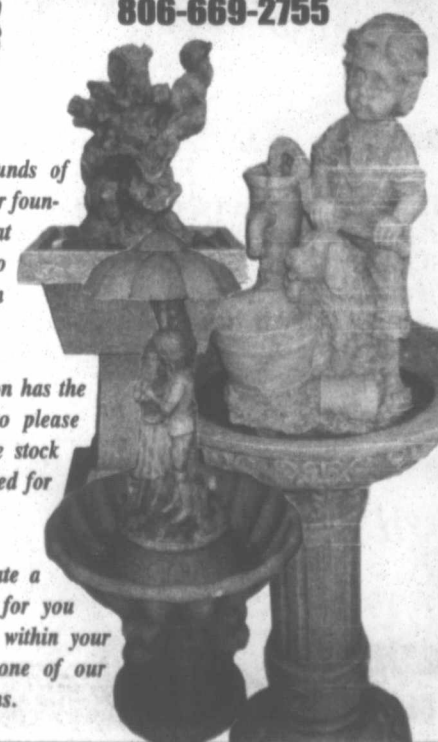
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Texas News Briefs

By The Associated Press Police unsure if Texas City woman will survive

TEXAS CITY, Texas (AP) — A bedridden woman found barely alive with maggots eating her flesh remains hospitalized at Mainland Medical Center, but police are not sure she will survive.

Retired Galveston County sheriff's deputy Linda Sue Sainz was taken to the hospital, located in Texas City, after someone called 911 late Friday night claiming to be her 38-year-old son. He said his mother had bedsores and needed an ambulance, police Capt. Brian Goetschius said. The son, who police continued to search for Tuesday, said the back door of the house would be open and hung up, Goetschius said.

Struggling with health problems, the 62-year-old woman stayed inside for weeks at a time with her son, who had lived with her almost all his life. Sainz also did not like going to doctors, her children told police.

Texas delegation gets proactive to stave off cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the Texas congressional delegation say they plan to build alliances with other lawmakers as part of a campaign to head off possible deep budget cuts for NASA, officials said.

The drive comes amid expectations that billions of dollars will be shifted from various federal agencies into new programs to stimulate the economy and stabilize the financial system as President-elect Barack Obama seeks to rescue the economy, the Houston Chronicle reported Tuesday in an online story from its Washington bureau.

Now, said Scott Pace, the director of George Washington University's Space Policy Institute, "money for space is going to be extremely tight."

"That leaves you a difficult choice," Pace added. "Change the schedule or change the program."

Adjustments are on the horizon in the Texas delegation involving Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Democratic Rep. Nick Lampson, of Stafford.

Hutchison, a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, has given up her leadership position in the Senate's Republican caucus and is expected to resign from Congress in 2009 to run for governor.

Also, Lampson, is leaving office in January. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had promised Lampson the leadership of a NASA oversight subcommittee.

Correction

In yesterday's paper, the article "Lefors man killed in crash" referenced Gene Terrell Musick as the man who died after being involved in a motor vehicle accident with a semi truck. The last name was spelled Music, but is actually spelled Musick. We regret any inconvenience to our readers or to Mr. Musick's family.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are still at odds over something that happened months ago. He, his best friend and my 13-year-old son, "Mark," went to spring training in Florida. On one of the days, they went to lunch at a restaurant that features scantily clad waitresses. My husband told Mark not to tell me about it and to leave the telling to him. When they returned home on Sunday after their three-day weekend, Mark let it slip where they had gone for lunch one day. I hit the roof! Mark is a very young 13. I was furious that my husband took him to a place that Mark

described as making him feel "uncomfortable" because of all the skin that was being shown. After I jumped on my husband for doing it, I heard him outside yelling at Mark for telling me before he had a chance to. I'm being accused of overreacting, Abby. Am I? -- **PROTECTIVE LIONESS IN ATLANTA**

DEAR LIONESS: I don't think so. If your husband had been proud of what he had done, he wouldn't have asked Mark to keep it a secret. His request was both dishonest and sexist. It was an invitation to your son to join the "boy's club"

and exclude you, and it makes me wonder what the next indiscretion your son would have been asked to cover up would have involved.

DEAR ABBY: What do I do about my aging mother who says whatever pops into her head as if she has no filter? Lately, she has been blurting out racial slurs. Abby, this is not the way we were raised.

Is my mother getting dementia? And when she does this in public, what do I say to the person she has just insulted? -- **MAMA'S DAUGHTER**

DEAR DAUGHTER: Your mother may have

some form of dementia -- and you and rest of the family should inform her doctor so that Mama can get a physical and neurological workup to find out why her behavior has changed so radically. As to what to say to the people at whom she targets her racial slurs, simply say, "Please forgive my mother. She's had another lapse, and she's not herself." Believe me, you have my sympathy.

Christmas Tree Festival

December 6 & 7, 2008

Sat • 10am-10pm Sun • 1pm-3pm
MK Brown Auditorium

Trees may be store purchased, wood, cardboard, paper over cone, etc. — use your imagination! Decorations may be handmade, and they may be sold. Fee: \$10 - Table Tree; \$20 - Tall Tree. Table displays are free; may include nativities, gingerbread houses, wreaths. Second tree entry by same person/club is free. Children & youth groups fee: \$5 for any size tree entry.

Set-up: Friday • December 5, 2008 • 9am-5pm
Entry Deadline: Wednesday • December 3

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Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Entry: Tall Tree (\$20) _____ Table Tree (\$10) _____

Table Display Free Children/youth (\$5) _____ 2nd Tree entry Free

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For more information please contact the
Pampa Fine Arts office at 665-0343 or
Sena Brainard at 662-6777 or
spotgirlot@hotmail.com

Pampa events & opportunities

compiled by Skia Bryant
Lifestyles Reporter
lifestyles@thepampapnews.com

• **Tralee Crisis Center of Pampa** will launch its annual Tree of Blessing program Dec. 1 to benefit victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Client families are screened and submit "wish lists." Paper ornaments are made for each item requested and hung on the tree. Families are kept confidential. Persons interested in picking up an ornament and purchasing the item listed may contact Tralee beginning Dec. 1. The deadline to return all items unwrapped to the office is Dec. 19. All ornaments must be returned even if an item is not provided so that organizers can purchase what was not purchased. For more information, contact Tralee Crisis Center at 669-1131.

• **High Plains Public Radio** will hold its next Living Room Concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 at its studio in downtown Amarillo. The free concert will feature folk singer-songwriter Dana Cooper. Refreshments will be served. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. A \$10 artist donation is suggested.

• **Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa** will offer South with Mrs. Claus from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Old Pampa Hardware building, 120 N. Cuyler. Admission will be \$5 per person. Photos with Mrs. Claus will be \$2.

• **Wesley United Methodist Church** will stage its 28th Annual Festival of Arts and Crafts from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 6 at the Community Center in Hereford. Limited booth space is available for a \$10 fee. To obtain an application, call (806) 364-0774, (806) 364-5789 or (806) 364-4419.

• **Memory Gardens Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa** will host its Sixth Annual Christmas Candlelight Service at 6 p.m. Dec. 15 in the Chapel

IRS

Continued from Page 1

ment account. About five dollars of the \$18 would be deducted from the deputy's travel expense check.

"We don't like this," Hahn complained to the commissioners.

He said it creates a lot of extra work.

Morris suggested a stipend to the deputies that would cover their tax losses.

"I don't think we can get out of paying the tax," she told the commissioners. "Nobody agrees, but we have to keep the county out of trouble."

She admitted that the IRS code is confusing.

There is also some concern about the tax status of uniforms for deputies.

The official Gray County Sheriff's uniform is a uniform shirt and jeans, but the IRS has ruled that jeans do not constitute a unique uniform and are therefore taxable.

At the commission's request, Morris will check with other counties and outside auditors for suggestions and Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland said he would check with the Texas Sheriff's Association to see how others have dealt with the problem.

Peet indicated that the issue would be addressed at the next commissioners court meeting Dec. 15.

of Peace Mausoleum on the west side of the cemetery. The service is dedicated to those who are no longer living. For more information, call 665-8921.

• **Fawn Lake Press** is offering free "Proud to be an American" flag decals to anyone sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Fawn Lake Press, 54 Fawn Lake Rd., Durango, CO 81301. Active servicemen and women need not send a SASE to receive the free 2x3-inch color decals. Fawn Lake will pay their postage.

• **Manhattanville My Soldier** is seeking volunteers to "adopt" a deployed United States Serviceperson. To find out more, visit www.mysoldier.com on-line or write to: Manhattanville College My Soldier Department, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase, NY 10577.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History
By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 3, the 338th day of 2008. There are 28 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 3, 1967, surgeons in Cape Town, South Africa, led by Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the first human heart transplant on Louis Washkansky, who lived 18 days with the new heart.

On this date:
In 1818, Illinois was admitted as the 21st state.
In 1828, Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States by the Electoral College.
In 1857, English novelist Joseph Conrad was born in Berdychiv, Poland.

'There is a way to look at the past. Don't hide from it. It will not catch you if you don't repeat it.'

— Pearl Bailey, American entertainer (1918-1990).

In 1925, Concerto in F by George Gershwin had its world premiere at New York's Carnegie Hall, with Gershwin himself at the piano.

In 1947, the Tennessee Williams play "A Streetcar Named Desire" opened on Broadway.

In 1953, the musical "Kismet" opened on Broadway.

In 1960, the musical "Camelot" opened on Broadway.

In 1967, the 20th Century Limited, the famed luxury train, completed its final run from New York to Chicago.

In 1979, 11 people were killed in a crush of fans at Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum, where the British rock group The Who was performing.

Ten years ago: Republicans jettisoned campaign fundraising from their impeachment inquiry, clearing the way for a historic House Judiciary Committee vote over President Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky and his effort to cover it up.

Five years ago: A U.N. tribunal convicted and sentenced a radio news director and a newspaper editor to life imprisonment for their role in promoting the 1994 Rwandan genocide. British actor David Hemmings died on a Romanian movie set; he was 62.

One year ago: A U.S. intelligence report concluded that Iran had halted nuclear weapons development in 2003 — a stark contrast to the conclusions U.S. spy agencies had drawn just two years earlier.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Ferlin Husky is 83. Singer Andy Williams is 81. Rock singer Ozzy Osbourne is 60. Actor Steven Culp is 53. Actress Daryl Hannah is 48.

Actress Julianne Moore is 48. Actor Brendan Fraser is 40. Singer Montell Jordan is 40. Actor Royale Watkins is 39. Actor Bruno Campos is 35.

My home invasion — or let no good deed go unpunished

I was cozily curled up on my couch Saturday night, watching a little TV, when my ever-vigilant watch cat, Jelly, alerted me someone was coming to the house. He usually "alerts" by actually raising himself to a standing position and staring really hard at the door, sometimes there is even an arch of the back. He has been known to growl at people like a big dog.

I was telling him it was okay, just the wind, when it turned out he was right. Someone or something was really trying to get in my front door.

I jumped up, Jelly jumped down, growled - and for some reason we both headed toward the door instead of away from it like sensible beings.

Home invasions are constantly in the news. Ugly gang members breaking down doors and tying people up, sometimes the results are even deadly.

I was thinking, why me? I don't have any-

thing of real value and the adrenaline that was now pumping made everything seem like it was moving in slow motion.

But something else was wrong with this scenario.

It occurred to me on the way across the room that the intruder was trying to use a key to get in. Strange.

Maybe it was just someone who was intoxicated and came "home" to the wrong house? It happens.

At that moment a young man burst through the door dressed head to toe in Oklahoma Sooners gear. Okay - this was becoming way less sinister by the second, especially the red velour slippers he was wearing with white OUs on the toes.

Not exactly the thug in a black ski mask I was expecting. If this guy is a criminal, I thought, he must be a really dumb criminal. The outfit certainly wouldn't make him hard for the police to

identify.

Neither of us recognized each other at first in the low light and adrenaline-infused "confrontation."

"I thought you were in

not like we know each other well.

Whew. The whole situation deflated as he realized what happened and gave me an explanation.

He was trying to help out another tenant who moved into one of his houses the same time I did. She had gone to Lubbock to a meeting or conference or something and called him to say she thought she had left her iron on and would he please go by and check the situation so she didn't burn down his house.

Good guy that he is, he complied.

Except he went to the wrong house.

I think the whole thing scared him as much as it did me. The poor guy was just on his way to watch a football game with his family and trying to do a good deed along the way.

Instead we scared each other out of more than a couple of years of our lives. Certainly fell under the "let no good deed go unpunished" rule for him.

Betsy Phillips

editor



Lubbock," he said.

I don't even know anybody in Lubbock. What a strange thing for a bad guy to say.

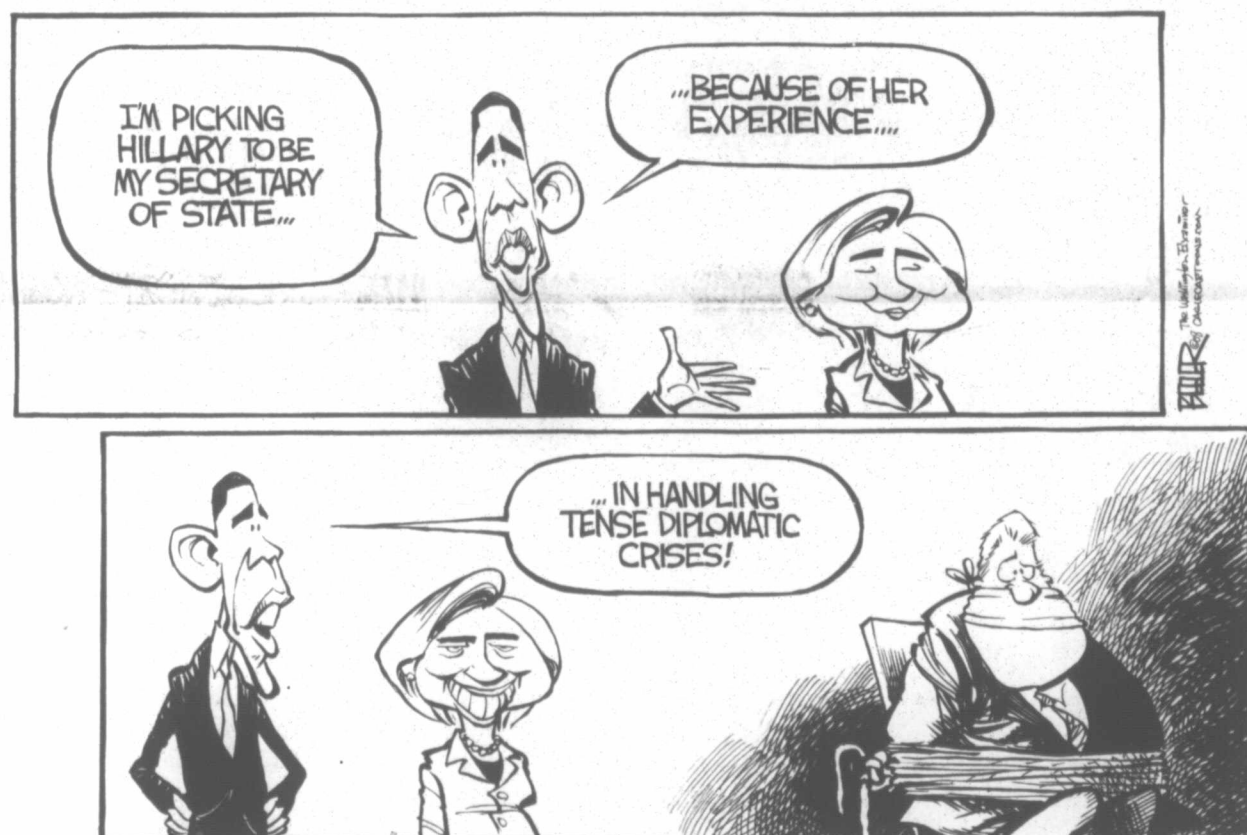
"Why would I be in Lubbock?" I yelled back at him, trying to be a little fierce.

"I don't know," he cried, obviously a little confused, "covering a story?"

Then, as recognition washed over him: "Oh, my gosh, you're not Ann."

No, I'm not.

It was my landlord. I've only seen him twice, he's only been my landlord for a month, so it's



Importance of US border represented in Obama appointments at DHS and State

Phoenix, AZ - Yesterday, President-elect Barack Obama confirmed the nomination of two border-state elected officials, Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Governor Janet Napolitano (D-AZ), as the respective nominees for the high-profile and important Cabinet positions of Secretary of State and Secretary of Homeland Security. The Border Trade Alliance (BTA), as the leading tri-national organization representing border communities and trade, welcomes the nominations of U.S. border based leaders to head the two federal agencies most closely involved in improving trade relations and cross-border security with our

NAFTA partners, Canada

and Mexico and offers

recommendations to

enhance secure and efficient border trade policies.

In leading the State Department, Senator Clinton will oversee and manage the administration of the presidential permit process, which governs the construction of new facilities at U.S. land ports of entry. In her role as the prospective Secretary of Homeland Security, Governor Napolitano will lead federal efforts to balance security and the facilitation of legitimate trade, travel and commerce at and between 166 U.S. border crossings along the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico border.

"The BTA is encouraged that President-elect Obama, in naming Senator Clinton of New York and Governor Napolitano of Arizona to his cabinet," stated Erin Martin Ward, Chair of the BTA.

Last year, U.S. border land ports of entry handled 90 percent of the nearly \$800 billion in cross-border trade between the United States, and its two largest export markets, Canada and Mexico. However, growing cross-border delays, overburdened and outdated infrastructure, and inadequate staffing and associated resources threaten to undermine U.S. trade competitiveness, the efficiency of federal border security operations, as well as directly impacting the cost of doing business for manufacturers, transportation firms, and small businesses while raising the cost of U.S. consumer goods and reducing state and local sales tax revenue.

To sustain and improve the conditions for secure and efficient cross-border economic activity along the U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico, the

BTA shares the following recommendations to President-elect Obama's team:

- Collaboration between DHS, the Departments of State and Transportation, along with the General Services Administration in developing a comprehensive strategy and plan of action to upgrade U.S. land ports of entry is crucial to maintaining North American competitiveness in a difficult global economy.

- The various federal security programs and initiatives need to be reconciled to maximize increasingly scarce federal resources while improving security and allowing for legitimate travel and commerce at our borders.

- Sharing of Best Practices must become the Standard Practice among the Federal Agencies tasked with the daily management of port security and trade facilitation.

- Involvement of border communities and local ports is critical toward addressing specific needs at each port of entry, which each face unique challenges.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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We welcome your letters.

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point (500 words or less). All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

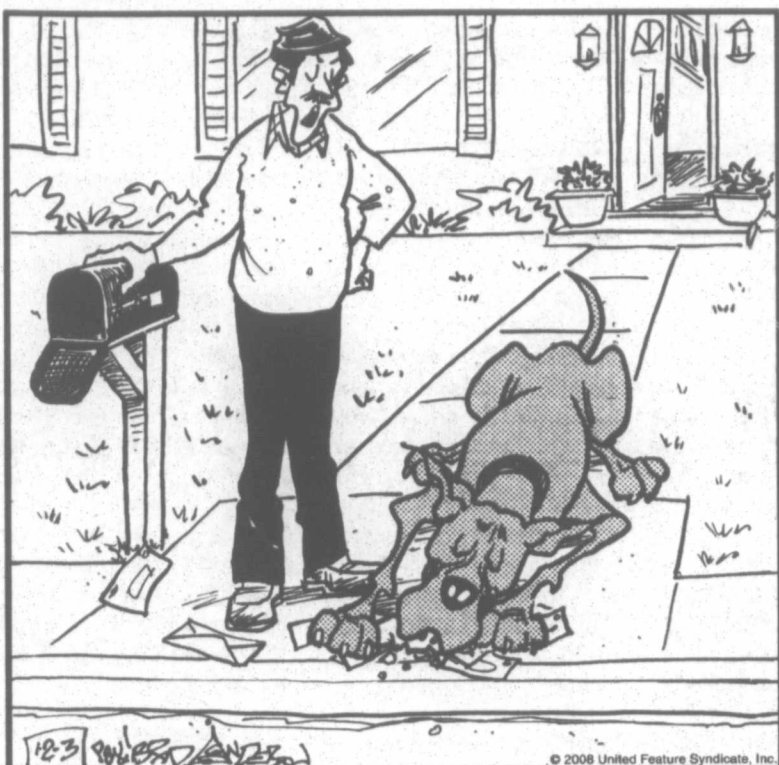
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- Defamatory comments will not be published.

- "Thank you" letters are not appropriate for the this page.

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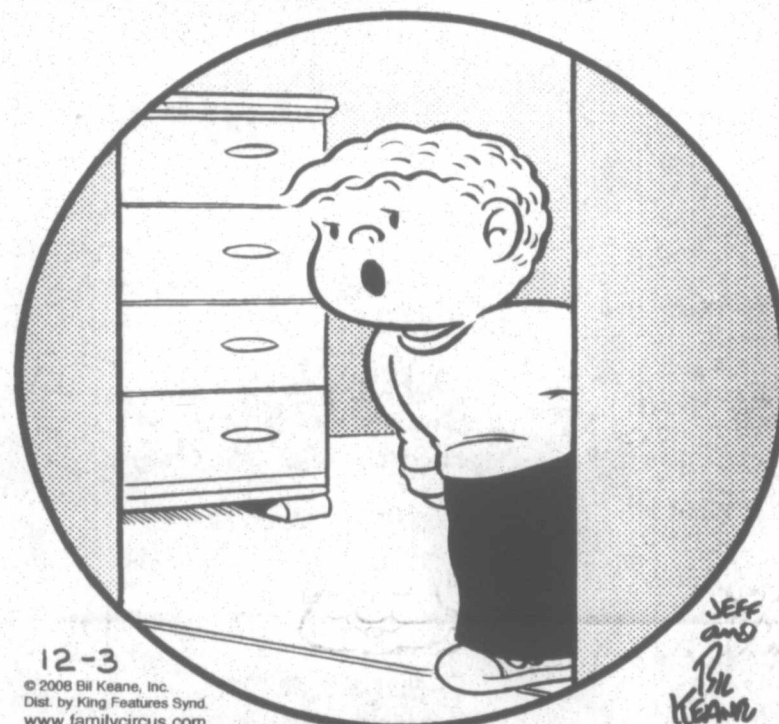
Marmaduke



"Thanks for trying, but chewing up the bills won't help."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Have I waited long enough to ask, 'What time is it?' again?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

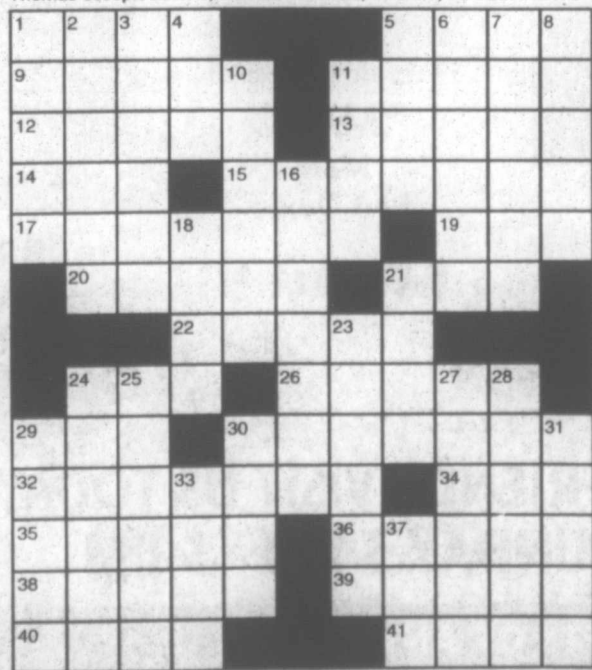
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Touse
 - 5 Relish
 - 9 Lunch hr. end, perhaps
 - 11 Frisco footballer
 - 12 Sachet scent
 - 13 Saxon preceder
 - 14 Noshed
 - 15 Disap-proving cry
 - 17 Place to play pool and Ping-Pong
 - 19 Hair goop
 - 20 Impassive
 - 21 That woman
 - 22 Fantasy creature
 - 24 Urgent call
 - 26 Bull features
 - 29 Animation frame
 - 30 Zoologist Jane
 - 32 Eccentric
 - 34 Cinch
 - 35 New parent, e.g.
 - 36 Tolerate
 - 38 San Marino sur-rounder
- DOWN**
- 1 Back biter
 - 2 Brings together
 - 3 Exclusive
 - 4 Workout site
 - 5 Brass ingredient
 - 6 Hire
 - 7 Merchant
 - 8 Fantasy creature
 - 10 Candidate of 2008
 - 11 MLB league
 - 16 Hooch
 - 18 Swine
 - 21 Farm group
 - 23 Cash
 - 24 Sober
 - 25 See 30-Down
 - 27 Lifelong resident
 - 28 Play-ground sights
 - 29 Volcano-shaped
 - 30 With 25-Down, "Sid and Nancy" actor
 - 31 Lusty looks
 - 33 Karate award
 - 37 Move up and down

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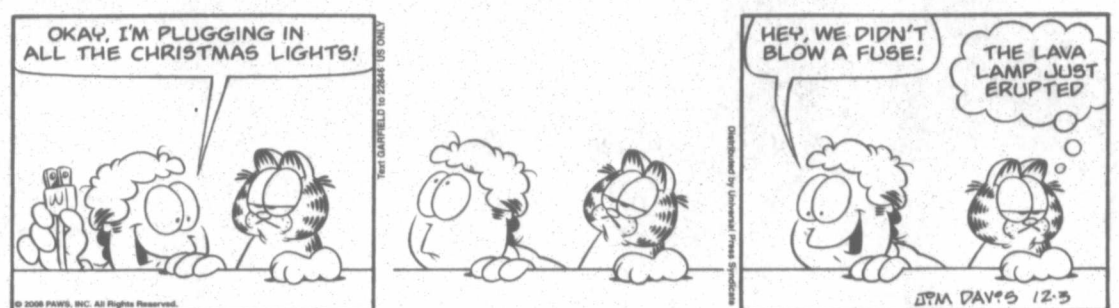
For Better Or Worse



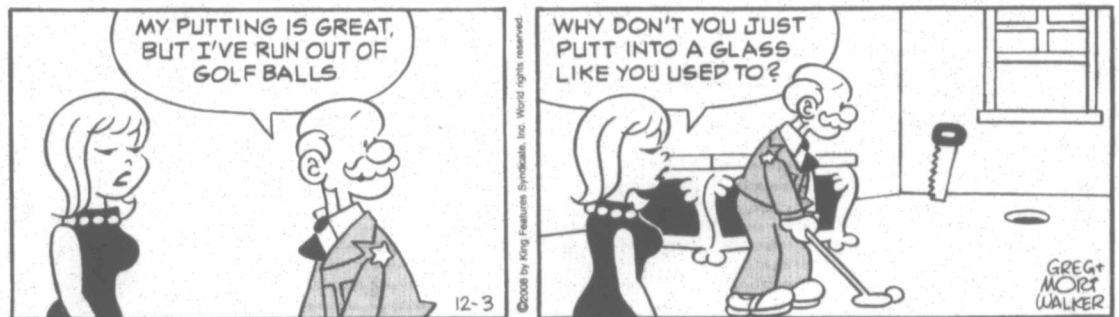
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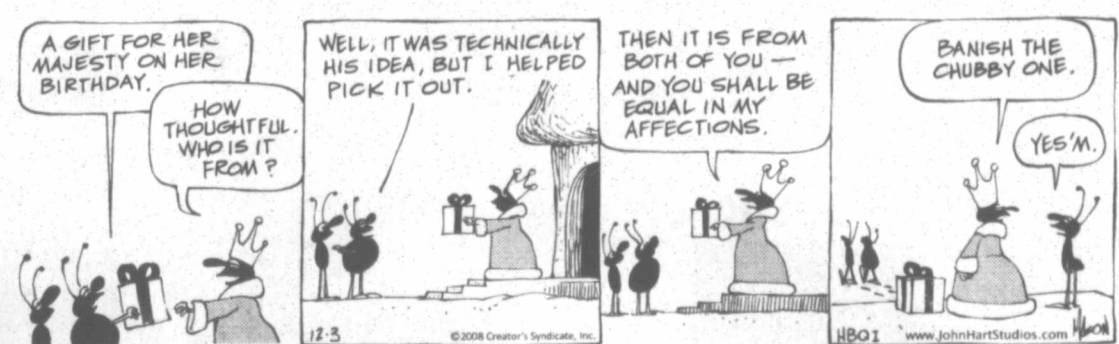
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Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports

Rangers routed

by Andres Arriola

special to The Pampa News
Pampa Harvesters sent the Perryton Rangers home last night dreaming of better days, defeating them 62-46.

Opening the game the Harvesters put up most of their points in the paint. The inside big men of the Harvesters and Rangers matched up well on paper, but Pampa outplayed Perryton, hustling for rebounds and outmuscling position for the easy scores.

As the game rolled on the outside shooting heated up as the Rangers offense just seemed to completely shutdown. Entering the second quarter the Harvesters started

to lose control. Pampa began missing shots and did not convert the easy layups off turnovers allowing Perryton to nibble away at the lead. But with two minutes left in the half the Harvesters recovered and entered the locker room with a comfortable 41-25 lead.

Starting the second half Pampa continued to score methodically and defended with enough pressure to hold the Perryton Rangers to only 2 points in the 3rd. The Harvesters went on a 14-0 run before the lone score, leaving Pampa enough breathing room to bring in the 2nd string.

The fourth quarter lacked much of the great

offensive play displayed earlier in the game, opening the door again for Perryton to comeback.

Only one Ranger stood up to the challenge as C.J. Swift scored 11 of their 19 points which in the end was not enough to overturn the huge deficit. Swift finished of the night chalking up 21 total points to lead Perryton.

Hayden Skinner took the helm for Pampa quietly putting up 20 points along with Alex Clendening's 10, Matt Smith's 9, Alex Torres' 8, Heath Skinner's 5, Travis Hagerman's 4, Cobran Harris, Braden Hunt and Ryan Jimenez's 2.

Harvester Alex Torres, 23, takes a shot against the Perryton Rangers Tuesday night in McNeely Field House.

staff photo by David Bowser



Pampa Harvester JVs send Perryton packing

by Bob Ericson

special to The Pampa News

On the hardwood last night, Pampa JV basketball teams pounded Perryton with two wins.

First the boys were in action at 6 p.m. The Harvesters started quick, with several players scoring and building a 15-6 first quarter advantage. The second quarter saw Perryton fight back with a run and close the half out with a 23-23 tie game. New JV coach Kaleb Snelgrooves took halftime to make some adjustments in the second half.

The Harvesters began the third much like the first scoring easily to build a slim 38-36 lead at the end of the period.

Defense was key in the fourth quarter. Pampa

held Perryton to 10 points while scoring 15 of their own. Rebounding and shot selection were keys to the win allowing the Rangers to one shot. Leading the scoring were Garrett Ericson and Reid Miller 10, Latigo Collins 9, Reid Bradley 8, Jonathan Polasek 6, Luke Watson 5, Chase Ferguson 4, and Braden Charies with 1. The boys won 53-46 and even their record 3-3. They will play this weekend in the a tournament in Miami.

Girls

At 7:30 the Lady Harvester JV team did battle. This contest started a little slow, but once Pampa found their stride, there was no stopping them.

The Lady Harvesters

opened a 12-6 lead in the first quarter. The girls poured it on in the second went into halftime with a 26-8 lead.

In the third quarter Pampa would maintain their advantage at 33-11. Pampa finished the game winning in a big way, 48-14.

The Lady Harvesters played excellent ball on

both sides. The offense was firing on all cylinders. The defense played a great team defense, not allowing an easy shot all night. Scoring for the Lady Harvesters: Liz Holting 11, Kayla Hughes and Kylee Wyatt 8, Kaytlin Troxell 7, Kirsten Kuhne 6, and Caitlyn Sieck and Delany Clendening with 3.

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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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800 N. WELLS \$54,500
1248 sq. ft. Corner Lot!
2 or 3 Bedrooms
2 Living Areas
2 Baths
Large Kitchen
Travis School District
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DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008:

This year, be more in touch with your personal needs than in the past. Family and domestic matters take a higher priority. You also might be spending money on property or another type of real estate investment. You will tend to buy many little gifts for loved ones, and you will tend to overindulge or spend too much. Keep tabs on your spending. If you are single, you will meet someone through your immediate friends or family. Use care not to allow this bond to develop into a live-in relationship too quickly. If you are attached, your relationship benefits from plenty of time alone together. Remember that people, including you, constantly change. The process of getting acquainted is continual! PISCES can be an anchor or an albatross.

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)
***** Know when to pull back. Sometimes not pushing so hard can make a bigger impact than being so hands-on. Know when to think carefully and take in new information. Your instincts work with a boss or someone you look up to. Tonight: Listen to your inner voice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** Where your friends are is where you want to be. News from a distance comes your way. How you deal with others might need some adjusting. A meeting could prove to be instrumental, causing you to refocus your attention. Tonight: Where your friends are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** Your thoughtfulness pays off

in multiples, allowing you to know which way to go when facing a decision or accepting responsibility. Investigate opportunities that come up. Tonight: So many choices.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** Look at the big picture and prepare to act on what you see. You discover that if you can pull yourself away, you'll gain a whole new perspective. Be willing to listen to a partner who means well yet has another point of view all together. Tonight: What would relax your mind?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Work with a key individual. Also deal with people on a one-on-one level. You might be surprised by what happens when you give people that type of attention. Be careful with an associate who might be a bit too much of an admirer. Tonight: Spend time with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Let others assume the role they want. Instead of them telling you how much better they could handle a matter than you, let them find out what this responsibility means in reality. There is no better teacher than experience. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Focus on the job or task at hand. You easily could be distracted, but consider how much you could accomplish if you simply focus. A family member wants to pitch in and make your life easier. Ask yourself why not. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** Listen to news that heads in your direction with keen interest, as it will impact you. A child or loved one plays a much more dynamic role than

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

12-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

TDBZ EVPSANZPEZ LTDL AS

QVG TDBZ NVPZ D OALLOZ

LTAPX MZOO, QVG EDP NV D

KAXXZU LTAPX MZOO LVV.

— NDBAN YLVUZQ

Yesterday's Cryptquote: THE MORNING PAPER IS JUST AS NECESSARY TO AN AMERICAN AS DEW IS TO THE GRASS. — JOSH BILLINGS

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BORN TODAY Actress Lillian Russell (1860), actor Jeff Bridges (1949), Spanish leader Francisco Franco (1892)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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Texas Rio Star Red Grapefruit 2 FOR \$1	Fresh Bunch Jumbo Garlic. 5 FOR \$1	8 oz. pkg. Fresh Bunch Grape Tomatoes. 2 FOR \$4	
Firm Crisp Heads Green Cabbage 3 LBS FOR \$1	Cello Pack 1 lb. pkg. Roussie Carrots. 2 FOR \$1	4 oz. pkg. Salted or Roasted Sunland Peanuts. 2 FOR \$1	
Frontier Pinto Beans 20lb. bag \$13.99	Fresh Red Globe Grapes. 99¢ lb		
Sno-White Premium Cauliflower. ... 2 FOR \$4			
Fresh Salad Size Avocados 3 FOR \$1			

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Shurline or Natural Directions • 12-16 oz. pkg. Frozen Vegetables 4 FOR \$5	Shurline Orange Danish or Cinnamon Rolls Sweet Rolls 8 ct. can. 2 FOR \$4
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Shurline Asst Varieties • 3 ct. box Microwave Popcorn ... 5 FOR \$5	Selected Varieties in Natural Juice • 20 oz. Can Shurline Pineapple. 4 FOR \$5
Shurline Dinner • 7.25 oz. box Macaroni & Cheese 4 FOR \$1	Shurline • 21 oz. Can Apple Pie Filling. 2 FOR \$3
Western Family • Strong & Absorbent Paper Towels 6 Roll Pkg. ... \$2.99	Shurline Peach, Cherry, or Lite Cherry • 20-21 oz. Can Pie Filling. 2 FOR \$4
Shurline Selected Varieties • 10-12 oz. pkg. Premium Chocolates ... 2 FOR \$5	Shurline Selected Varieties • 64 oz. Bottle Cranberry Juice Cocktail. 2 FOR \$5
Shurline • 8 oz. Btl. Imitation Vanilla 89¢	Shurline Au Gratin or Scalloped • 5.25 oz. Box Potato Sides. 5 FOR \$5
Plain or Iodized • 26 oz. carton Shurline Salt. 3 FOR \$1	Shurline Aseptic Pack • 32 oz. Box Chicken Broth. 2 FOR \$3
Shurline • 2 Selected Varieties • 6 oz. can Cooking Spray. 2 FOR \$3	Shurline Assorted Varieties • 6.2-6.9 oz. Box Instant Rice Mixes. 5 FOR \$5
Shurline • Classic Fudge or Chewy Brownie Mix 19.8-21.5 oz. box. 2 FOR \$3	Medium Red or Mild Green • 10 oz. Can Shurline Enchilada Sauce. 5 FOR \$5
Shurline • 8 in. • 6 oz. pkg. Graham Pie Crust. 5 FOR \$5	Grandulated • 4 lb. Bag Shurline Sugar. 2 FOR \$3
Western Family • Chocolate or Vanilla Flavored Almond Bark 24 oz. pkg. . 2 FOR \$5	Shurline Sweetened • 14 oz. Can Condensed Milk. \$1.29
Shurline • 8 oz. can Baking Cocoa 2 FOR \$3	Shurline Low Fat • Gallon Chocolate Milk. \$3.99
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