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The PAMPA NEWS

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Cross Texas Transmission files proposed routes

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Cross Texas Transmission filed its proposed and preferred routes this week for the first leg of power lines that will take wind-generated electricity from Gray County to downstate markets.

"The filing went in this morning and everything went well," said Cameron Fredkin of Cross Texas Transmission on Monday afternoon.

Today, the Public Utility Commission of Texas has the extensive filing on its Web

site for public inspection.

Fredkin said he expects the commission to take a couple of weeks to review Cross Texas Transmission's application and determine that it's administratively complete.

Then, the commission will set a schedule for processing the application.

"It's a six-month review process," Fredkin said.

The public utility commission staff will review the application, and they will choose what they think is the best route.

"It may be the same route we recommend," Fredkin said, "or it may be a different route."

Fredkin said that Cross Texas had filed a number of geographically diverse routes in their application.

"We have over 42 different routes that are composed of a lot of different links," Fredkin said. "We recommended one of those 42, although we're willing to build any one of them that the commission may ultimately approve for us."

Fredkin said there might be some landowners intervening in the process.

"Whether a hearing is held or not," Fredkin said, "will depend upon the number of **TRANSMISSION** cont. on page 3

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DAY OF PRAYER



submitted photo
Mayor Lonny Robbins (right) is joined by Paul Nachtigall, Pastor of Highland Baptist Church, as he signs a proclamation declaring Pampa will join the country in Thursday's National Day of Prayer. The day, which was first formally observed in 1952, is traditionally held on the first Thursday of May and, according to a proclamation by Ronald Reagan in 1983, was declared so Americans can "gather together on that day in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity of the hearts of all mankind."

Gray County assets total \$7.79 million

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Gray County had \$7.79 million total current assets at the end of the quarter, according to the county treasurer.

Treasurer Scott Hahn told the Gray County Commission Monday that including some new funds authorized by the State of Texas, the county showed \$7,794,949.97 in total current assets as of March 31.

The new fund categories are for archiving records and records preservation and technology fees for county clerks and district clerks. The new funds were initiated earlier this year.

"We are collecting money for those now," Hahn said. "We are segregating them in their own Tex Pool accounts."

He noted that the amounts in the new accounts are not large.

The technology fees for the county and district clerks' offices amount to only four dollars.

The record preservation fund holds \$780.01, and the archive fund balance is \$595.05.

"It's just beginning," Hahn said.

Most of the money is being held in the general fund, which totals \$5,964,932.20.

Hahn said the county started the last quarter with \$6,511,867.99.

"We ended up with just under six million dollars at the end of March in that bank account," he said.

Hahn said that money is being held in Happy State Bank.

"That's still one place we can get fair interest," he said.

Hahn said the county's FM&LR fund had a beginning balance of **TREASURER** cont. on page 3

'Copter mechanic Cordova looks forward to hangar

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Andy Cordova said he'll be happy when the new hangar is built for the LifeStar helicopter in Pampa.

"It's like working on your car out in the driveway," Cordova laughed.

Cordova is the mechanic that takes care of the medical helicopter.

Officially, he and the pilot and the flights crew work for MedTrans, the parent company of LifeStar, which flies the medical aircraft out of Amarillo and Pampa, and AeroCare, which flies medical aircraft out of Lubbock.

The medical crews for LifeStar are from Northwest Texas Health Systems.

But those differences are on paper, Cordova said. When an emergency arises, the reason for the medical air ambulances, those lines disappear and everyone connected with the aircraft becomes part of a highly efficient, tightly knit team.

Each member of the team has a role to play, a role that compliments the others on the team.

While Cordova, an Air Force brat who was born in Albuquerque, N.M., and grew up mostly in Colorado Springs, Colo., rarely sees the patients carried by the helicopter he cares for, he is no less important than others on the team.

It's up to Cordova to make sure that the helicopter is in top mechanical shape just as it's up **CORDOVA** cont. on page 5



submitted photo
Andy Cordova, mechanic for Pampa's LifeStar medical helicopter, stands near the helicopter parked behind Pampa Regional Medical Center.

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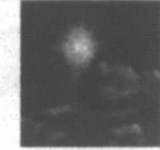
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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		
High 75 Low 51	High 80 Low 41	High 65 Low 41

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. West wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 75. North wind 10 to 20 mph becoming east. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 51. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 80. East southeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. Northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. East southeast wind around 10 mph.

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Obituaries

There are no obituaries today.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PAMPA PD

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

Officers reported six traffic-related incidents and four accidents.

Animal control officers reported 10 animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported four ambulance calls. The Pampa fire department reported a medical call in the 200 block of Faulkner.

Monday, May 3
Officers assisted a motorist at Gwendolyn and Sumner.

A theft was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester.

A suicide attempt was reported in the 800 block

of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of North Duncan.

An assault was reported to police.

Criminal mischief was reported in 100 block of South Wynne.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 500 block of North Zimmers.

A theft was reported in the 900 block of East Francis.

Phone harassment was reported in the 300 block of North Banks.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 1200 block North Hobart.

Officers served a warrant in the 1000 block of North Somerville.

A burglary was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1000

block of South Wilcox.

A suspicious person was reported in the 1600 block of North Williston.

A theft was reported in the 900 block of North Gray.

An alarm was reported in the 300 block of West Kingsmill.

A domestic dispute was reported in the 1200 block of South Faulkner.

A domestic dispute was reported in the 1600 block of North Sumner.

A missing person was reported in the 300 block Sunset.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of North Hazel.

A missing person report was reported in the 2100 block of Lynn.

A suspicious person was reported in the 2300 block of North Primrose Lane.

An alarm was reported in the 1400 block of South Doyle.

Officials shut off the water in the 2400 block of Evergreen.

A suspicious person was reported at 28th and Charles.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 900 block of North Gray.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1600 block of North Sumner.

A theft was reported in the 2200 block of North Williston.

Officers assisted another agency at Craven and Houston.

Trial of Pampa's Bolin moved to July

DAVID BOWSER

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The capital murder trial of a Pampa woman accused of killing her 6-month-old daughter has once again been delayed.

Mary Lee Bolin, 30, is accused of killing her baby daughter, Kenzee Renae Bolin, by shaking the baby in May, 2007.

Originally set for November, 2007, the trial was postponed.

The latest date set for the trial, May 10, has been postponed to July 6, in 31st District Court in Pampa.

Bolin is free on \$100,000 bond.

The baby was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center on May 21, 2007, with severe breathing problems. Efforts to resuscitate the 6-week-old child were unsuccessful.

An autopsy showed that the baby died of blunt force trauma to the head, according to law enforcement officials.

Court officials said the difficulty was in scheduling an expert witness.

RC&D Council alerts local groups of tax law ramifications

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

Changes made three years ago to the federal tax laws could cause many non-profit organizations to lose their tax-exempt status this year.

According to John Crowell, Coordinator with the North Rolling Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council in Pampa, clubs and organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code must file the required IRS annual returns or reports before the deadline, which is May 15 for those with calendar years.

Many organizations have, at some

time in the past, applied for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) [charitable organizations], Section 501(c)(4) [civic leagues] or Section 501(c)(7) [recreational clubs]. Years ago, any organization with gross receipts averaging less than \$25,000 per year was not required to file annual returns with the IRS.

However, after 2006, such organizations had to file a Form 990-N, a simple "electronic postcard" with minimal information, by the fifteenth day of the fifth month after the close of each fiscal year. Some organizations may not have been aware of this new requirement or didn't bother to comply. Even those that filed in a prior year may have

neglected to keep up with the required filings as officers changed from year to year.

Section 6033(j) of the Code provides that failure to file Form 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years results in revocation of tax-exempt status as of the filing due date for the third return. That filing date for calendar year 2009 is less than two weeks away.

If you are an organization officer and are uncertain who is responsible for IRS filings or whether such filings are current, you should determine your filing status as soon as possible and take immediate steps to file the current and any missed prior-year IRS forms.

Going forward, your organization's board should assign the responsibility for compliance filings with a designated officer and document that responsibility in the written "job description" for the position so that subsequent holders of the office are made aware of the requirements. If you have questions about your organization's status, you may wish to consult a CPA or other tax advisor. You can also check your status as a 501c3 on the www.guidestar.org web site.

For more information you can contact John Crowell, North Rolling Plains RC&D Office in Pampa at 806-669-0312 or 806-662-2551 (cell).

Oil slick means murky picture for seafood industry

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — As a giant oil slick lapped at southeastern Louisiana's ecologically sensitive coast, chefs, restaurant owners and seafood dealers were certain it would squeeze the state's \$2.4 billion seafood industry. They just weren't sure how badly or for how long.

Federal officials shut down fishing for at least 10 days from the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle on Sunday because of the uncontrolled gusher spewing massive amounts of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

"It's called fear of the unknown," said Ricky Power, a suburban New Orleans seafood distributor. Power was certain, however, that prices will rise and availability will fall.

Among the unknowns: how much longer it would take oil giant BP to stop the flow of oil from the site of last week's offshore rig explosion; how successful would be the attempts to keep the oily water out of seafood habitat; and how the oil would affect reproduction of oysters, shrimp, crabs and finfish.

"This isn't just going to be a short-term thing," said Ben Wicks, owner and chef at Mahony's PO-Boy Shop, a neighborhood eatery in a converted shotgun house in uptown

New Orleans.

Harlon Pearce, chairman of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, said he applauded the federal government's decision to shut down fishing for at least 10 days to "ensure everyone that all seafood in the Gulf is of the highest quality and is safe to eat."

Award winning chef Donald Link, whose Herbsaint and Cochon restaurants in New Orleans are popular with tourists and locals alike, said another problem is the publicity surrounding the slick. He didn't want anyone to think that Louisiana seafood had disappeared or was unsafe, or that New Orleans restaurants were closed.

"I'm probably more concerned at this point with Louisiana getting a bad rap in the media and tourism dropping off than I am lack of seafood," said Link.

Clam growers in Cedar Key, a small island community that juts out into the Gulf of Mexico from Florida, echoed Link's concern, even though the oil remained far from their muddy waters. Fishing and boat tours proceeded as usual Sunday, and local oysters and clams were on restaurant menus, though own-

ers warily eyed news from the spill to the west.

Hype over oil damage would be as economically destructive as the oil itself, said Brian Mattice, a clam grower and owner of Island Hoppers charter boat company.

Clams are crucial to Cedar Key, yielding \$45 million in dockside and wholesale sales in 2007, the most recent numbers available. A drop in sales, potentially followed by contaminated water, would be catastrophic, Mattice said.

"Even if we get a little bit of oil and a little bit of media coverage, we're done," Mattice said.

Link says his restaurants could survive a few weeks or even a few months without Louisiana seafood. That's not to say he's not worried about his supply, or his suppliers. Many of the oyster growers and independent commercial fishermen who supply him were within the trajectory of the oil slick. Link worries that they might not survive a prolonged closure.

The slick was threatening marshes and bayous east of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes — one of the state's most abundant oyster producing areas, as well as a source of shrimp, crabs and finfish.

Federal law may limit BP damage liability in oil spill

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal law may limit how much BP has to pay for damages such as lost wages and economic suffering in the Gulf Coast oil spill, despite President Barack Obama's assurances that taxpayers will not be on the hook.

A law passed in response to the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska makes BP responsible for cleanup costs. But the law sets a \$75 million limit on other kinds of damages.

Economic losses to the Gulf Coast are likely to exceed that. In response, several Democratic senators introduced legislation Monday to raise the liability limit to \$10 billion, though it was not clear that it could be made to apply retroactively.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Monday the administration's commitment was for BP to pay for all costs associated with the spill.

Obama said the same thing during a tour of the area Sunday. "Let me be clear: BP is responsible for this leak; BP will be paying the bill," the president said.

Kenneth Baer, spokesman for the Office of Management and Budget, also noted that if BP were found to have acted negligently in the spill or to have violated federal laws, the damages cap under the Oil Pollution Act would be lifted. Baer said BP could also be held liable under additional federal or state laws.

"You can be sure that BP will be held accountable to the full extent of the law," he said.

Nevertheless, the existence of the liability cap might complicate Obama's commitments to make BP pay for numerous costs anticipated in the Gulf such as shortened fishing seasons and lost tourism. It is not clear how high those costs could rise.

"We're glad that the costs for the oil clean up

will be covered, but that's little consolation to the small businesses, fisheries and local governments that will be left to clean up the economic mess that somebody else caused," said Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., a sponsor of the legislation raising the cap, which the administration said it supported.

BP issued a fact sheet Monday committing to pay "all necessary and appropriate cleanup costs" as well as "legitimate and objectively verifiable claims for other loss and damage caused by the spill." A company representative did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment on whether claims would be paid out over \$75 million.

Beyond the \$75 million in law, the federal government also maintains an Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund supported by industry fees. It can make a total of \$1 billion in payouts per incident to individuals, businesses and governments.

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TxDOT's 'Click It or Ticket' campaign kicks off this week

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation's 9th annual Click It or Ticket spring campaign kicks off this week with a warning to drivers and passengers to fasten their safety belts or expect to get a ticket.

Transportation officials say state laws enacted in 2009 could result in more citations this year if drivers and passengers fail to heed new safety belt requirements. For the first time, all passengers in the back seat now must be buckled up, and children younger than 8 years old have to ride in a child safety seat or booster seat unless they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches. Fines range from \$25 to \$250

plus court costs. "Whether you're the driver or a passenger in the front or back seat, every adult and every child in the vehicle must be properly restrained," said Carol Rawson, TxDOT's Traffic Operations Division Director. "Buckling up can not only save you from getting an expensive ticket, it can also save your life."

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for those between four and 44 years of age. Last year in Texas, more than 3,400 people died in fatal collisions on Texas streets and highways. In 2008, half of all pickup truck drivers killed in traffic crashes were not buckled up. Wearing a safety belt increases the odds

of surviving a crash by more than 50 percent, and in pickups, that number increases to 80 percent.

Thousands of state troopers will join police officers and sheriffs' deputies statewide to step up enforcement of the state's safety belt laws between May 24 and June 6, including the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Since the Click It or Ticket campaign began in 2002, the state's safety belt use rate has increased from 76 percent to almost 93 percent. Safety experts estimate the rise in the numbers of motorists who now buckle up has resulted in 2,400 fewer traffic fatalities and prevented more than 56,300 injuries. According to the Texas Transportation Institute, motorists least likely to buckle up continue to include men, teenage boys and pickup drivers and passengers.

Visit www.texasclickitorticket.com for details.

Amarillo Blood and Marrow Transplant nationally honored

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

AMARILLO — The Amarillo Blood and Marrow Transplant Program (ABMTP) consisting of Texas Oncology-Amarillo Cancer Center, Northwest Texas Hospital, and Coffee Memorial Blood Center, received official accreditation by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT). Amarillo patients now have access to a nationally-recognized program in their local community that provides a one-stop, total-therapy approach to patients with blood cancers.

Accreditation is awarded to a limited number of transplant programs that demonstrate an exceptional level of patient care and medical and laboratory practices in the United States, Canada, and Australia. With the accreditation, ABMTP now has the required credentials to participate in the Cancer Trials Support Unit of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Eastern Cooperating Oncology Group (ECOG), and the Southwestern Oncology Group (SWOG) giving Amarillo patients access to most advanced treatments.

"FACT accreditation places the program among an elite group of blood and marrow transplant centers worldwide and highlights the outstanding quality of our program," said Dr. Seah Lim, Texas Oncology-Amarillo Cancer Center medi-

cal oncologist and director of ABMTP. "This accreditation honors our staff in the inpatient and outpatient care units, the stem cell processing laboratory, and Coffee Memorial Blood Center for their high standards and quality work."

FACT's extensive on-site inspection includes every aspect of the blood stem cell transplant program, from patient care and laboratory practices to administrative systems. This inspection ensures that patients are receiving an overall quality of care that has passed rigorous standards. The transplant program replaces bone marrow stem cells that have been destroyed by high doses of chemotherapy or radiation therapy with the patient's own non-cancerous cells (autologous) or cells from someone else (allogeneic).

Since 2001, the multidisciplinary team from the Amarillo Blood and Marrow Transplant Program has provided blood and marrow stem cell transplantation to patients, primarily those with leukemia, lymphoma, myelodysplastic syndromes, and multiple myeloma. The physicians, nurses, and staff of ABMTP remain committed to providing seamless, patient-centric service from diagnosis to the conclusion of treatment for patients with blood cancers.

For more information about the Amarillo Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, contact Texas Oncology-Amarillo Cancer Center at 806-358-8654.

Transmission

cont. from page 1

interveners and whether there's a suitable route that avoids them but that the commission staff would still recommend and support."

If there is a hearing, it will be in Austin. The commission will develop a schedule of the review over the next two or three weeks. A hearing date would be included in the schedule.

"If a hearing does occur," Fredkin said, "it would probably be in the August time frame."

Cross Texas Transmission is filing three different legs of their power transmission lines from Gray County to connect to other power grids.

The application filed this week is for power lines that will stretch from southwest of Lefors to Kirkland, just east of Childress.

The second leg, which will be filed with the public utility commission on July 5, will go west from Kirkland to southwest of Silverton.

The third one will be filed in early September.

"It'll start at the substation near Lefors," Fredkin said, "and it will head over to just south of Panhandle." The lines, he said, will be 345 kilovolt double circuit lines.

A public notice of Cross Texas Transmission's application will be available for viewing in the Classified section of tomorrow's *The Pampa News*.

Treasurer

cont. from page 1

\$538,071.38 last quarter. At the end of the quarter, the account held \$742,923.74.

"You made money during March," he said. The capital projects fund holds \$619,996.22, he said.

The self-funded health insurance account, Hahn said, went negative on paper in March but not in reality.

While Hahn's report shows a negative \$89,000 balance, he said \$212,276.58 in re-insurance funds was due, but wasn't reflected in the report.

"At that time, March 31, we had an expected \$212,276.58 coming on that date from re-insurance," Hahn said. "Re-insurance pays those bills over \$4,000."

He explained that when they have an employee or dependent go over \$40,000, they hold additional checks until re-insurance money is deposited.

"Then they release those checks," Hahn said. "We're never in danger of over spent situation."

He said that they have gotten the \$212,276.58.

Hahn said, however, that the health account is not very healthy.

He said County Auditor Elaine Morris had warned the county a couple of years ago that the health fund could run short.

"Frankly," Hahn said, "I wasn't as worried as she was about it."

But he said her warning has come true.

There have been two or three very large payouts over the past year and this year.

"I think we probably do want to consider other options for health insurance sometime during this year," Hahn said.

Daily Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, May 5, 2010:

This year, you change directions professionally or spread your wings. Sometimes you discover you are in conflict with authority figures and wonder what is going on. You might need to emphasize your similarities rather than your differences, which might take detachment. Use an innate talent or gift with the arts or people to enhance your situation. If you are single, you will be noticed. Be sure you know what type of person you would like to attract and what you need. Make wise choices. If you are attached, involve your sweetie more in your work and community activities. AQUARIUS can push your buttons.

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) ★★★★★ Use care with your funds if you want to get the spectacular results that you are capable of. You don't need a last-minute snafu. Your fiery creativity attracts many, except for one person who often is a stick in the mud! Tonight: Wherever your friends are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Tension builds, and you seem to demand so much from yourself. On the other hand, so do others. Will you make the grade? On a break, stop to buy a card or token of affection. Your thoughtfulness will be greatly appreciated. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You seem to jump every hurdle, every difficult moment, and come out with a greater understanding. You are

in the process of tremendous growth and change, and are letting go of what doesn't work. Trust yourself. Tonight: Let your mind wander to a good movie.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ One-on-one relating helps you gain another's attention. The fact that this person cannot focus is not a reflection on you but on him or her. Learn to be more dramatic. Curb impulse buying. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Others can be challenging. What is new about that? Your ability to absorb and understand takes you to a whole new level. Others do you a favor by playing devil's advocate, whether they intend to or not. Say "thank you" more often. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You could be plagued by an unusual amount of thought and worry. Maintain a busy pace. Push comes to shove quickly if you are feeling pressured by anything more. Be proactive and use the word "no" today. Everyone will be happier ultimately. Tonight: Easy works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You know much more than you realize. If you're in a brainstorming situation, solutions keep popping up. The reason that your resourcefulness is peaked is because you know much more than you realize. Tonight: Plug some of that special resourcefulness into fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Bottom out and think positively. Your concern over a key issue might be appropriate, but being feisty or demanding about it won't work. Kick back and relate as openly as possible. Tonight:

Together works. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Emphasize what you want in a conversation. You might feel pressured by a work or daily issue. Your sense of direction comes from your need to have situations work. You keep going through hassle after hassle. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Be aware of your financial commitments. You don't want to overextend yourself or cause yourself a problem. A partner sees financial commitment in a very different way from you. Do more listening. Tonight: Balance your budget.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You feel on top of your game, but you could be overwhelmed by others' flak, disagreement and general attitude. Of all signs, you have the best ability to get past today's hurdles. Jump over them rather than get involved. Tonight: Your time — finally.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You know what is going on behind the scenes. Realize that you are capable of tremendous change, if need be. Your sense of humor emerges with today's stalemates. You know what to do. Just play the waiting game. Tonight: Ask, and you shall receive.

BORN TODAY Father of Communism Karl Marx (1818), R&B singer Chris Brown (1989), anchorman Brian Williams (1959) ***

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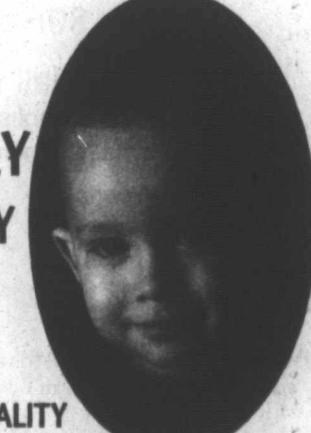
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 4, the 124th day of 2010. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others. (Two of the students who died, Allison Krause and Jeffrey Miller, had been participating in the demonstration while the other two, Sandra Scheuer and William Schroeder, were passersby en route to their next classes.)

On this date:

In 1626, Dutch explorer Peter Minuit landed on present-day Manhattan Island.

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded.

In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal.

In 1916, responding to a demand from President Woodrow Wilson, Germany agreed to limit its submarine warfare. (However, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare the following year.)

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1945, during World War II, German forces in the Netherlands, Denmark and northwest Germany agreed to surrender.

In 1946, a two-day riot at Alcatraz prison in San Francisco Bay ended, the violence having claimed five lives.

In 1961, a group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C. for New Orleans to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

Ten years ago: The "ILOVEYOU" e-mail virus infected computer networks and hard drives across the globe, spawning various imitations. Londoners chose political maverick Ken Livingstone to be their first elected mayor.

Five years ago: A military judge at Fort Hood, Texas, threw out Pfc. Lynndie England's guilty plea to abusing Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison, saying he was not convinced the Army reservist knew her actions were wrong at the time. (England was later convicted in a court-martial and sentenced to three years in prison — she served half that time.)

One year ago: Cleveland's LeBron James was named the NBA's MVP, his first such award.

Today's Birthdays: Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt, is 82. Rock musician Dick Dale is 73. Singer-songwriter Nick Ashford is 68. Actor Richard Jenkins is 63. Irish musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 60. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 59. Country singer Randy Travis is 51. Actress Mary McDonough is 49. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 43. Actor Will Arnett is 40. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 38. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 35. Rock musician Jose Castellanos is 33. Singer Lance Bass ('N Sync) is 31.

Thought for Today:

"The greater the number of laws and enactments, the more thieves and robbers there will be." - Lao-tzu, Chinese philosopher (c. 604-531 B.C.)



Television mini-series helps honor memory of Medal of Honor winner

I've been watching HBO's "The Pacific" - series which follows the storied First Marine Division from Guadalcanal to Okinawa, with special focus on the career of Medal of Honor winner Sgt. John Basilone.



PHIL BRENNAN

I didn't know Manila John even though he was a fellow member of the 5th Marine Division, but like all Marines of that era I all but worshipped this gutsy hero who refused to use his award of the nation's highest military honor to carve out a soft spot stateside in his beloved Corps.

Instead, weary of the demands his celebrity imposed on him, he chose to return to the Pacific theater of war and died doing what he did best - being a Marine warrior facing the enemy on Iwo Jima's blood-soaked beach.

Tom Hanks did a memorable job in portraying John Basilone, revealing much about his personal life and what, as a new husband, he sacrificed when he went ashore on D-Day on Iwo Jima. He died as he had lived - giving all he had to give without regard to his own safety.

He was not alone - 6,000 United States Marines died on that wretched pile of volcanic rock and sand in less than 30 days, and a lot of them were my fel-

low Marines of D Company, 2nd Bn, Fifth Marine Division.

I should have been among them but as they fought their way from one end of the island to the other, I was back in the States where I was sent to attend the Naval Academy Prep School in combat-free Bainbridge, Maryland.

It wasn't my choosing but I can't help feeling guilty that I was not where I should have been, on the sands of Iwo Jima sharing the fate of the men I trained with for more than a year in California and Hawaii.

I am now approaching my 84th birthday, fighting another battle, this time with cancer, but thanks to Tom Hanks, for a little while once a week I'm still a healthy seventeen-year-old in the company of the finest human beings on the face of the earth, my fellow United States Marines.

May the Lord have mercy on the souls of John Basilone, and all the other Marines who gave up their lives on Iwo Jima and all those other hellish islands in the Pacific.

Thanks, Tom Hanks, for reminding me. Semper Fi.

Phil Brennan is a veteran journalist who writes for NewsMax. Com. He is editor & publisher of Wednesday on the Web and was Washington columnist for National Review magazine in the 1960s. He also served as a staff aide for the House Republican Policy Committee and helped handle the Washington public relations operation for the Alaska Statehood Committee which won statehood for Alaska.

Texas FFA gaining interest of urban students

People may not be used to hearing the acronym "FFA" and "urban" in the same sentence, but thanks to an outreach effort that extends from the farm to the city, FFA membership is gaining the interest of urban and suburban students.



TODD STAPLES

The image of FFA being an organization only for rural farm kids is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. According to FFA, 34 percent of its members live in cities or suburbs.

The organization has diversified its membership because these days, thanks to advances in technology, modern agriculture reaches far beyond the farm.

The result is a newer and taller career ladder finding favor with urbanites.

Modern agriculture includes such lucrative, in-demand career fields as food biotechnology, poultry science, seed germination and public relations. Helping prepare students for these jobs are FFA classes and curricula that encourage competitions, projects and internships.

In addition to career preparation, FFA students also acquire confidence and leadership skills.

As a former FFA member, I can say with confidence that the skills I acquired as a student helped shape the person I am today. Before I ever became a state representative, state senator or agriculture commissioner, I was the Texas FFA State Vice President.

Todd Staples is the Texas Agriculture Commissioner. His column appears every Tuesday in The Pampa News.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:
My hometown heroes are the Pampa Fire Department. On July 10, 2009, I was involved in an accident that broke my neck and back and cracked my head on the pavement. One of the firemen held my head off of the pavement for

an hour and a half while another worked on freeing my legs. The other firemen worked to cut me out of the car.

After I was freed, I was airlifted to Lubbock. The doctor told me that whoever got me ready for transport really knew what they were doing.

I went to the fire station several months later to thank the crew that took care of me.

Thanks again to the members of the Pampa Fire Department for saving my life.

Brenda Donelson
Pampa

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- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.

Dave & Busters sold for \$570 million

DALLAS (AP) — The private equity firm that owns the restaurant and entertainment company Dave & Buster's Inc. will sell it to Oak Hill Capital Partners in a deal worth \$570 million.

Dave & Buster's announced the deal Monday with seller Wellspring Capital Management and buyer Oak Hill — which also owns The Container Store and TravelCenters of America.

The deal, which gives Dave & Buster's current managers a stake, is to close this quarter.

Wellspring bought Dave & Buster's in 2006 in a deal worth \$375 million, including the assumption of debt. Since then, the company has added 10 locations and now runs 56 venues in 24 states and Canada.

Oak Hill Capital believes Dave & Buster's joint offering — of food and entertainment such as video games — means it can be expanded across North America and elsewhere, partner Tyler Wolfram said in a news release.

Jefferies & Co. Inc. was the only financial adviser to Dave & Buster's, and JP Morgan Securities Inc. was the sole adviser to Oak Hill.

JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. and Jefferies will provide financing.

JP Morgan Securities Inc. will act along with Jefferies & Co. as joint lead arranger and bookrunner for such financing.

The deal is expected to close in the second quarter. Dave & Buster's, based in Dallas, was founded in 1982.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My wife was hired for an administrative position. On her first day of work, they called her into the human resources director's office and told her she was being "let go" because of her website. The site has photos of her when she worked as a model for a large department store. They are in no way provocative or overly revealing. Photos of our children are also on the site.

The HR director told her that one of the other (internal) applicants had Googled her and had seen the site. An image so upset the other applicant that she made a formal complaint, which caused my wife's dismissal!

We consulted a lawyer and contacted the local Equal Employment Opportunity Commission only to be told that North Carolina is an "at will" employment state and that the employer did nothing wrong. We feel their actions were wrong. Is there anything that can be done? — YANKEE IN CONFEDERATE COUNTRY

DEAR YANKEE: I'm sorry, but the answer is no. In most states there is a presumption of "at will" employment unless you have a written contract to the contrary. However, the employer cannot terminate an employee for an illegal reason — such as age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or a disability. It does not appear from your letter that your wife was terminated for an illegal reason, but what happened stinks anyway.

DEAR ABBY: My mother got drunk at a family function and started a fight with me. I ended up leaving before it could escalate, but I feel I ruined the host's day. Would it be appropriate to send an "I'm sorry" note, and how would I word it? — MAKING AMENDS IN TENNESSEE

DEAR MAKING AMENDS: The per-

son making the amends should be the person who created the scene — your mother. If you feel something needs to be said by you, and apparently you do, then write your host and say, "I feel terrible about what happened at your party and would like to apologize for my mother's behavior. I left before she could create a scene, but I'm afraid it cast a shadow on your day, and for that I would like to apologize." Sign it with love.

P.S. You'll lead a happier life if you stop feeling that you have to apologize for your mother's behavior. You are responsible only for your own.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been lucky enough to travel all over the world during our long marriage. Over the years, we collected lovely items from every location.

Now that we are older, we have decided to move into a smaller home, and would like to share these lovely souvenirs with our friends. Although I think "Ellen" would love to have one of my silk scarves, and "Peter" would appreciate a pair of my husband's marble bookends, or "Annemarie" would cherish my necklace from India, etc., I'm unsure that my choices would be their choices.

Would it be proper for us to ask our friends to choose among our treasure rather than our making the choice for them? — WORLD TRAVELER IN MIAMI BEACH

DEAR WORLD TRAVELER: I commend you for your generosity; however, you might run into trouble if several of your friends choose the same item. Were I in your shoes, I would make the selection for each of them. (Include a note with the gift — i.e., "Ellen, this scarf matches your eyes," "Annemarie, I know you love ethnic jewelry," etc.)

READING PARTY



submitted photo

Altrusans Kathryn Greene (left front), Kitty Hall (back) and teacher Chris Lewis assist Travis Kindergarten students as they play a game at a party hosted by Altrusa. Members of Altrusa have read to the students once a month for the past year and the party was to celebrate the end of school project.

Cordova

cont. from page 1

to the flight crew to get the aircraft to an accident scene and back to a hospital, just as it's the medical team's job to care for the patient.

It takes all the parts to make the whole work properly in this complex system where lives are at risk.

Perhaps the most striking thing about Cordova is the lack of greasy overalls. Walking from the bright blue helicopter he cares for at Pampa Regional Medical Center, Cordova is dressed in a golf shirt and khaki trousers.

He breaks into a broad grin and says simply that the

aircraft business is changing.

A lot of his time is spent diagnosing potential problems on a computer.

While Cordova, 39, has spent over half his life working in Alaska, he started working on helicopters in high school in Colorado.

"My very first job was helicopter maintenance apprentice," Cordova said.

That was in Colorado Springs where the city offered summer and temporary jobs for youth.

"I went to work at Fort Carson," he said. "They put me in the parts room for a little while. They put me in the engine shop for a little while."

He spent part of his time working on helicopters and loved it.

That led to his enlistment into the Air Force, following in his father's footsteps. There he was a mechanic on a C-130 transport.

After he got out of the Air Force, Cordova continued to work on aircraft, including Boeing 747s, the jumbo jets.

With three kids, Cordova and his wife wanted to move to a good family-oriented environment.

"We packed up and moved to Georgetown, Tex.," Cordova said.

His wife's family lived there.

"When I got down there," Cordova said, "the only jobs available were working on helicopters."

He was quickly hired by a helicopter broker who was shipping aircraft all over the world, but 100 yards away from Cordova's work area was an EMS helicopter.

"I became good friends with the mechanic," Cordova said.

When the chance came earlier this year, Cordova made the move to Med-Trans as a mechanic for the Lifestar helicopter in Pampa, with the proviso that that he could live in Pampa.

He said Pampa is more than a job. It's home now.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Beginner

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6			8	1	3		5	9

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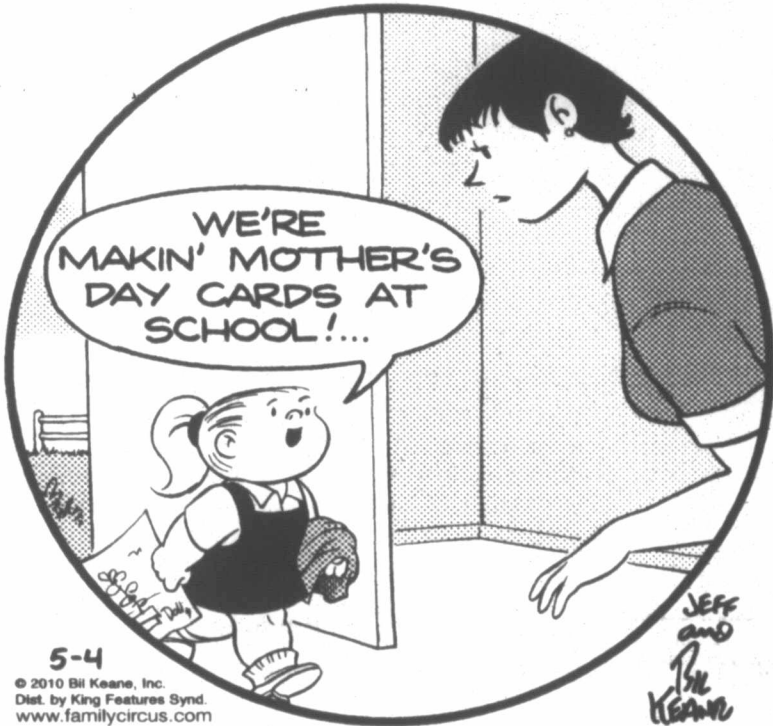
Marmaduke



"Sorry. No sharesies."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"...But we're not to tell a soul, 'cause it's a secret!"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Origami need
- 6 After, in Avignon
- 11 Acid type
- 12 Traded
- 13 Light jacket
- 15 "Xanadu" band
- 16 Jazz style
- 17 Sense of self
- 18 Most stupid
- 20 Wee dollop
- 21 Attempt
- 22 Freshener scent
- 23 Karaoke needs
- 26 Little ones
- 27 Fresh
- 28 That lady
- 29 Pig's digs
- 30 Recovery method
- 34 Swindle
- 35 Yale roter
- 36 Tango need
- 37 Particle accelerator
- 40 Math comparison
- 41 Bounds
- 42 Watchful
- 43 — Domingo

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Yesterday's answer

- 22 Contented sound
- 23 Lash colorer
- 24 All told
- 25 Convection
- 26 Calls speech
- 19 Meat-and-potatoes dish
- 28 Ship steerer
- 30 Make infatuated
- 31 Patriot Allen
- 32 Used a broom
- 33 Statue subject
- 38 Russian space station
- 39 Poseidon's place

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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Sports

Calm and composure key for Pampa in bi-district

Last weekend, the Pampa Lady Harvesters swept their bi-district series, winning two close games 3-1 and 3-2 over Abilene Cooper in Abilene.

Some of the keys to victory were the strong pitching of Carlyn Teichmann and Ashley Facio and the outstanding play of the Lady Harvesters defense. The major reason we are having another series this weekend is how Pampa stayed calm and composed, something they've done all season.

I know before the game, that some of the softball parents were thinking we were going to blow past this team and run-rule them in five. I will admit I thought we would have an easy time too, considering we entered the series with a 21-9-1 record and they were only 14-16-1. On the road, I did remember that the majority of Abilene Cooper's victories came at the end of the season, so they were entering the series on a high.

After the first three innings, it definitely didn't look like we were going to run-rule them with the

score tied at zero. In the bottom of the fourth, the Lady Cougars took the lead 1-0. Now, our team could have panicked at this point, especially since we only had two hits. The Cougars were in position to break the game open with runners on second and third.

However, our team didn't panic as this wasn't anything new for them. On April 6, this team trailed by five runs against Randall and pulled it out. In their tough non-district schedule, they faced one-run deficits before and won some of those games.

In the top of the fifth, Pampa stayed calm and composed tied the game as McKinlee Stokes scored on a single by Shelbie Watson. In the bottom of the fifth, the Lady Harvesters allowed a runner to reach third but kept the runner stranded to keep the game tied.

With two outs in the sixth, Shanna Keown drove in two runs with a single before she was thrown out at second. Defensively Pampa secured the victory, only allowing two Lady Cougar baserunners in the



ANDREW GLOVER

final two innings. Again, the second game, we all thought that we would take care of business and end the game early. This game though would follow the same tone as the first game. The Lady Cougars took the lead 1-0 in the first inning. The Lady Harvesters were held without a hit in the first two innings and only had

two baserunners.

In the face of adversity, Pampa kept their composure. The Lady Harvesters plated three runs in the bottom of the third and took the lead 3-1. It looked like Pampa was getting on a roll, but not so fast my friend. Those were the only runs the Lady Harvesters scored in the game. The Abilene Cooper Lady Cougars scored to cut the lead to one in the top of the fifth.

Again, Pampa didn't let this phase them. They didn't allow another Lady Cougar to reach base. Another situation that made things adverse was the calls not going in our favor. There were several occurrences of Pampa thinking we got a ball but instead we got a called strike. In the bottom of the fourth, Keown was called out at

first when it appeared she was safe. Claire Hopkins was thrown out at third in the bottom of the fifth, when she couldn't reach the base because Abilene Cooper blocked the base. Carlyn Teichmann was thrown out at third, but the second baseman for the Lady Cougars held her up in between first and second. The Lady Harvesters weren't going to let it bother them. Teichmann said they weren't going to let the umpires get in their heads.

"It kind of got us fired up," Teichmann said. "We came and battled with the bats and played great defense and we picked each other up the whole game."

It definitely got Pampa fired up. I remember after the fifth inning, Coach Gill told her team to "shove it

down their throats." The Lady Harvesters did that and Keown caught the ball in the top of the seventh to record the final out and we were bi-district champions.

Playing in close games isn't foreign to Pampa. Out of their 11 district victories, five of them were within four runs. And out of the 23 victories, nine of them were within four runs. In this next round and God-willing future rounds these are the type of game we we are going to see. It's unlikely we will have games like we had against Palo Duro, at Dumas or at Hereford. From this round against El Paso Parkland and future rounds, we will be going against district champions. If Pampa can keep playing calm and composed they will have a good chance to keep advancing.

Pampa girls track senior qualifys for 100 and 200-meter finals in regionals

ANDREW GLOVER

aglover@thepampanews.com
Pampa senior Natalie Parker qualified for finals in the 100-meter and 200-meter run at the regional track meet in San Angelo.

Parker finished second in the 100-meter preliminaries with a time of 12.21 seconds and ran in the finals at 3 p.m. today. In the 200-meter run, Parker finished seventh with a time of 25.90. The finals was 4 p.m. today. The top two in the finals qualify for

state.

Senior Kara Stephens finished the 200-meter preliminaries with a time of 27.21 seconds. The 800-meter relay team finished 12th with a time of 1:47. Parker, Stephens, Claire Hopkins, and Karen Jimenez were the runners. J'Cee Holmes finished eleventh with a time of 12:21.1. The top seven in the preliminaries advance to finals.

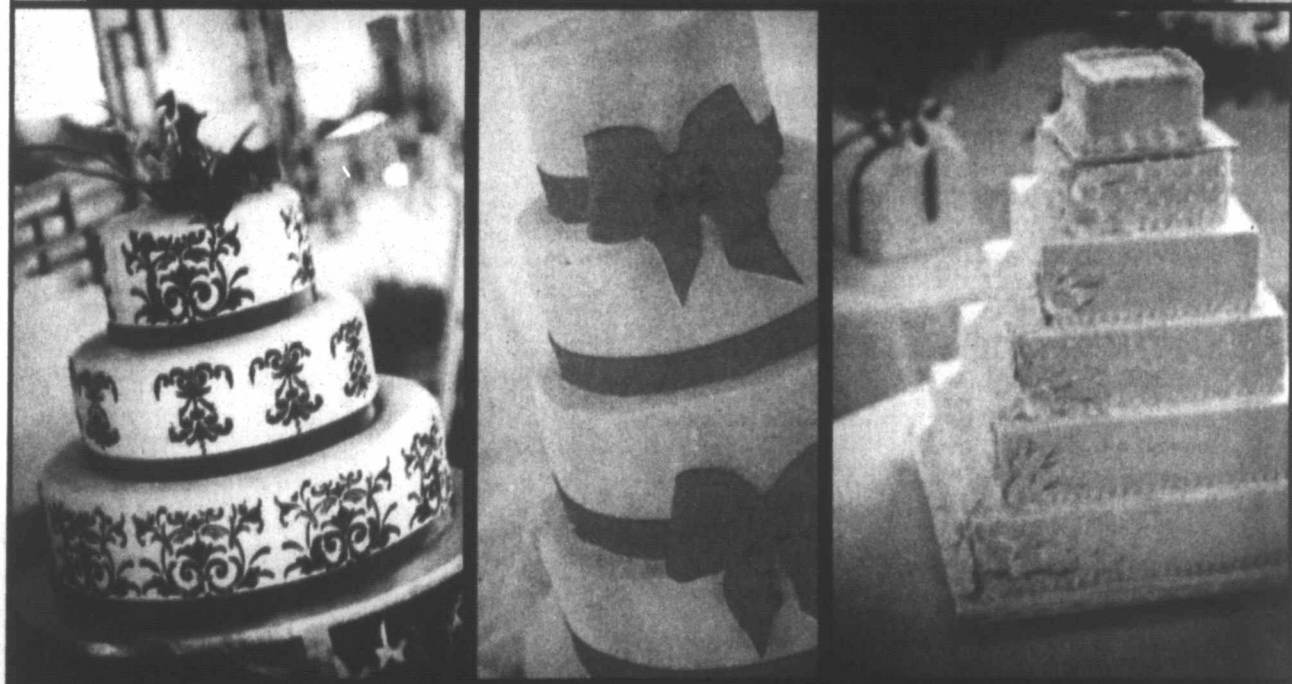
Travis Hagerman competed in the shot put today at 12:30 p.m.

Softball Playoff Information

Pampa Lady Harvesters vs. El Paso Parkland Lady Matadors
Game 1: 5 p.m. Friday at Odessa High School
Game 2: 10 a.m. Saturday at Odessa High School
Game 3 (if necessary) 30 minutes after Game 2

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