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The PAMPA NEWS

Thursday, May 27, 2010 Volume 105 • No. 319 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

STAMP OF APPROVAL



Deborah Sue McDonald shows off the newly unveiled Gray County commemorative stamp cancellation at a brief ceremony Wednesday at the Pampa Post Office.

TPTR unveils Gray County postmark

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

Texas Plains Trail Director Deborah Sue McDonald didn't have to look far for inspiration for her speech during the unveiling of Gray County's pictorial postmark on Wednesday.

Framed by the high sweeping arches and gold-inlaid ceiling inside Pampa's historic post office, a smiling McDonald held up the new postmark and praised Gray County for its uniqueness amongst the counties on the Texas Plains Trail.

"Every county we have on the trail is different in its own special way," McDonald said, "and Gray County is a great example of that."

"Just look at this building," she continued. "We've done so many of these (unveilings) now, and we haven't been to a post office more beautiful than this one."

"This building, in a way, represents what we're looking to celebrate with this project. We want to recognize the history of each of these counties. We want to highlight the things that make each county different from the one next to it. This building is the perfect place to do that — to celebrate the history and the people of Pampa and of Gray County."

The postmark's big reveal is part of an ongoing project, a **STAMP** cont. on page 5



A closer look at the Gray County stamp cancellation.

PISD: TAKS must be passed to walk on stage

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Eight of ten Pampa High School seniors who failed to pass the state-mandated TAKS test won't be allowed to walk across the stage Saturday morning during the school's commencement ceremony.

In a special meeting of the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees Thursday evening, the board did not amend their policy to allow the eight students to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Following a heated debate, a motion by school board member David Teichmann to change two of the three local school board criteria concerning the graduation ceremonies failed for the lack of a second.

Under the school board's local policy, students shall meet all state and local graduation requirements, including exit-level testing in order to participate in commencement ceremonies.

The local policy, however, lays out three exceptions.

A student who has met all state and local graduation requirements, except for the exit-level testing, can still participate in the ceremony if the student:

- (1) has at least a 96 percent attendance rate during the student's senior year,
- (2) the student has fulfilled the requirements of an intervention plan during the year, and
- (3) the student has not had any discipline referrals during the year.

Two of the 10 students who failed the TAKS test met the local requirements for participating in graduation ceremonies, according to Pampa High School Principal Tanya Larkin. Those two will be allowed to participate in the weekend's commencement ceremony.

"I believe one of our duties as trustees is to uphold the standards," said Derrell DeLoach, president of the school board.

The 2010 Pampa High School class has 234 students graduating Saturday morning at the high school football field.

"For 234 kids," noted Cay Warner, a school board member, **PISD** cont. on page 3

New 24-hour gym in Pampa eyes June opening date

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

As workers set about installing the overhead signage for the soon-to-be Anytime Fitness facility at 211 West 30th Ave., club manager Monte DeMaroney watched from the parking lot and smiled.

"I'm pumped, man," he said, beaming. "Very pumped. We're almost up and running. It's exciting."

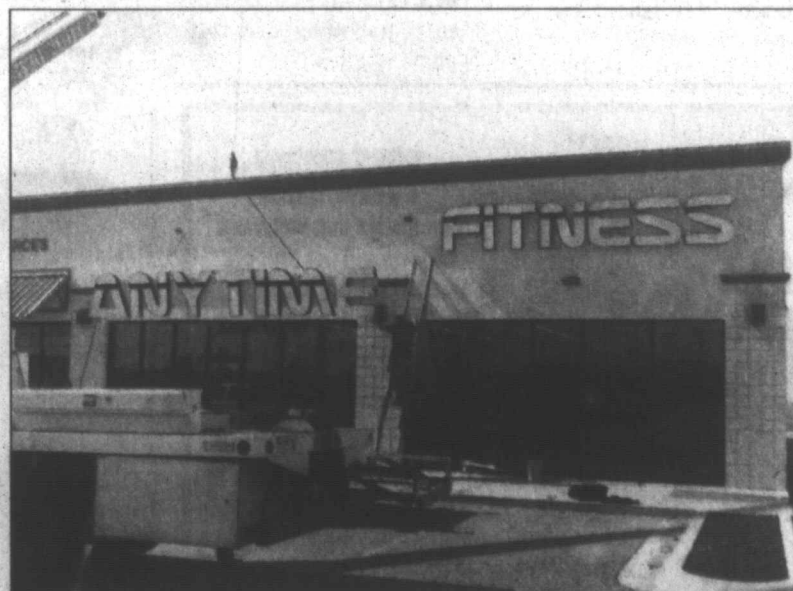
The new gym, which DeMaroney said is projected to open in mid-June, will be Pampa's first 24-hour fitness facility. DeMaroney, a Pampa native, said he saw an opportunity to cater to the fitness needs of city residents whose work hours don't coincide with a daytime workout schedule.

"There are a lot of shift workers that can't get to working out at a time that other gyms are open," DeMaroney said. "This is going to be really good people who work for the hospital, the prison and places like that."

Anytime Fitness, DeMaroney said, is the largest co-ed 24-hour fitness chain in the country, with 1,300 facilities nationwide. The Pampa branch, once completed, will have two personal trainers, a pair of tanning beds and a full complement of new cardio and exercise equipment from California-based Star Trac.

The goal for the gym, according to DeMaroney, is to attract members from all facets of the community.

"We want a 70-year-old woman to come here and be **GYM** cont. on page 3



An installation crew hoists the new sign for Anytime Fitness into place.

May Flowers are blooming at **The Floor Store!** Get any in-stock laminate and tile for just .89/sq. ft. with installation purchase, while supplies last.

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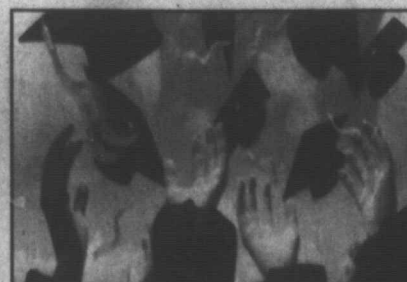
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Congratulations to the 2010 Seniors!

from the Pampa Chamber of Commerce



For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 88 Low 62	High 89 Low 62	High 80 Low 57
<p>Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.</p> <p>Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.</p> <p>Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.</p> <p>Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 89. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.</p> <p>Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.</p> <p>Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 80. South wind around 10 mph becoming north northeast.</p> <p>Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. East northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.</p>		

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CERAMIC TILE: Showers, Counter-tops, Floors, Tub Surrounds, Back Splashes. Call Keith Taylor, 874-1779 lv. msg.

EARLY DEADLINES dueto Memorial Day holiday: (No newspaper on Mon. Memorial day). For Tues. June 1 classified ads—deadline Fri. May 28 before 4pm. For Tues. June 1 regular display deadline is Thurs. May 27, for Wed June 2 regular display deadline is Fri. May 28 noon. Have a safe & enjoyable holiday!! Pampa News.

GREAT PERENNIALS. Enjoy for years! The Potting Shed, 410 E. Foster.

HOBART GARDENS new owners Jerry & Kelly Schaffer!! Check for daily holiday specials, 529 N. Hobart. New plants arriving daily!

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ARTS CAMP for ages 6-11, June 7th-18th, 9:00-4:00 M-F, \$80 per week. Call CREATE a Beat! 665-7474 or check the web www.createabeate.org

LOST KEYS?? Found at Shutterbuggo by Pampa News or call 669-2525 to describe unusual key chain.

PAMPA MARKET, 109 W. Francis. Unique Grad gifts, Mylar balloon from \$2, add latex \$1.50. 662-1801

PAMPA NEWS will not be delivered on Monday May 31st, so that our employees can enjoy the holiday with family & friends.

S&P BOOKKEEPING is sorry to announce the closing of their business, as of Fri. May 28th. Call 806-663-3299.

SUMMER GYMNASTICS Camps & Clinics Sign Ups, May 25th & 27th, 6:00 - 7:30 pm or call 662-6923.

WATER LILIES & Pond Plants. The Potting Shed, 410E. Foster.

Obituaries

Mario Isidro Portillo, 46

Pampa—Mario Isidro Portillo, 46, died May 25, 2010 in Pampa.

Vigil will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 27, 2010, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, and funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday, May 28, 2010, at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, with Rev. Francisco Perez, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Portillo was born May 15, 1964 in Cd.

Juarez Chihuahua, Mexico, to Mario and Ramona Portillo. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1971, where he attended Pampa schools. He loved painting and remodeling houses. Mario also enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, and was always caring to those around him.

Survivors include his son, Mario Antonio; two daughters, Crystal and Kimberly; his parents, Mario and Ramona Portillo; two brothers, Felipe Portillo and

Ernesto Portillo; two sisters, Patricia Cabrales and Hermelinda De La Torre; two grandchildren, 14 nieces and nephews; 12 great-nieces and nephews; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Mario was preceded in death by a brother, David Portillo; a sister, Ramona Portillo; and a niece, Dora Kelly.

Memorials may be made to St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, 810 W. 23rd, Pampa, TX 79065.

The family will be at 917 Varnon Drive in Pampa.



Portillo

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

Benonia Jeff Oxford Maddox, 84

Miami—Benonia Jeff Oxford Maddox, 84, died May 24, 2010 in Amarillo.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, May 28, 2010, at First Baptist Church of Miami, with Russell Maddox, her son, and Rev. Dennis Williams, pastor of First Baptist Church of Miami, officiating.

Burial will be at Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Maddox was born February 20, 1926 in Dumas, where she graduated from high school. She married Wayne Maddox

on June 6, 1943. He preceded her in death on May 31, 2005. Benonia had been a resident of Miami for 60 years before moving to Amarillo in 2003. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Miami for 65 years and Gideons Auxiliary.

The family would like to thank the staff at Ware Memorial Care Center for their love and care.

Survivors include her son, Russell Maddox and wife Dana of North Richland Hills; three daughters, Kay Quast of Comanche, Cheryl Evans and husband Steve of

Amarillo, and Laurel Fort and husband Dr. David Fort of Oudougrou, Burkino Faso, West Africa; sister, Willa Hambrook of Kennewick, Wash.; sister-in-law, Bernice Maddox of Cleburne; 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Southern Baptist International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767, or Gideons International, 2200 SW 7th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79106.

The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in



Maddox

Pampa from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2010.

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

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 28, 2010:

This year, you open up to new beginnings. You will have to wade through an enormous amount of facts and trivia that others deem important. You will tend to indulge yourself more often than not. If relating, single or attached, you could be overly sensitive and often take statements too personally. Work on detaching. If you are single, open up to meeting people more often. You will have a choice of one or more suitors. If you are attached, defer to your sweetie more often. You will be happier that way.

SAGITTARIUS can be challenging.

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)

★★★★ Pressure might continue, but in a more subtle manner. You could be out of sync with certain matters, and aware of this gap as well. Remain in touch with your budget when choosing a gift or card. Tonight: Should the whim hit, take off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Deal with others directly. At least you know the lay of the land. Your ideas are more valued than you might think. A discussion has its awkward moments. Tonight: Meet up with a special person.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Listen to what someone is saying without personalizing what you hear. You could be most uncomfortable with some judgments. Remember, they are your judgments and just might be off. Treat yourself to a new item for your wardrobe. Tonight: Don't be alone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ You might not be as comfortable as you would like to be. Your inner thoughts might be dominating, to the extent that you simply might not be getting the story straight. Facts are disappearing into thin air. Tonight: Do what will relax you the most.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You have a sense of naughtiness and mischief, even when dealing with a talkative boss or an emotional tie that might not always be comfortable. Be aware of how you feel, and follow your whims — as long as they are responsible. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Remain sensitive to a roommate or an animal that lives with you. Communication is heading in your direction that makes you aware of this person's needs. A meeting or a late lunch could end the day on a happy note. Tonight: Choose something different.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Return calls and keep up the pace. You would like to clear out of the workweek with as much done as possible. You could be tired of a partner who keeps repeating old ideas and doesn't try to find solutions. Tonight: Favorite people, favorite hangout.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Take a hard look at your spending. Get on top of a project and finish the workweek with a clear desk (or at least a crossed-off to-do list). Seek out different opinions on an issue. Tonight: Maintain a little self-discipline.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Launch into your day without overthinking an issue. Associates will be talking about a problem to such an extent that you feel you might be happy not to hear anything more. A close friend demonstrates

his or her caring. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★ You might want to continue to pull back. You might have a lot on your plate and easily could feel overwhelmed. A creative brainstorming session could provide at least a suggestion or two. Tonight: Maintain a low profile.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might be overwhelmed by a friend or co-worker who seems to keep providing more and more information. You might not even have time to absorb what is really being said. Still, you will be asked to respond! Tonight: Find your pals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You might have to fill in for a boss or respond to a difficult authority figure. Be happy it is Friday and that you are at the end of this cycle for the week. A brainstorming situation could be delightful. Tonight: Having a good time wherever you are.

BORN TODAY

Basketball player Glen Rice (1967), singer Gladys Knight (1944), TV host Elisabeth Hasselbeck (1977).

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AFTERNOONRUSH Gulf spill now bigger than Exxon's

Dems stop troop surge to border

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's Democratic allies in the Senate on Thursday killed a move by presidential rival John McCain to send an additional 6,000 National Guard troops to the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Arizona Republican says the security situation along the border has deteriorated so badly that 3,000 guard troops are needed just to help protect his state. Even though McCain won support from a dozen Democrats, he failed to muster the 60-vote supermajority required to adopt his plan under Senate rules.

Democrats also repelled more than \$2 billion in additional border security spending proposed by border state Republicans John Cornyn of Texas and Jon Kyl of Arizona.

Stay granted in stabbing case

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court has granted a defense request to delay a hearing to determine whether a teenager accused of fatally stabbing his Tyler teacher should be tried as an adult.

Court spokesman Osler McCarthy says justices Thursday morning granted attorney Jim Huggler's (OO'gler's) request for an emergency stay of a juvenile court hearing set for Thursday afternoon in Tyler.

Huggler says the hearing can't be held without a more thorough mental evaluation of the youth.

Smith County Juvenile Court Judge Floyd Getz has said he has enough information.

The 17-year-old suspect was 16 when authorities say he stabbed his special education teacher, Todd Henry, at Tyler's John Tyler High School in September.

More snakes in north Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Seeing snakes? Experts credit rainy weather for more snakes than usual slithering about in north Texas yards and ponds.

Jon Campbell, chairman of the biology department at the University of Texas at Arlington, says he and other snake experts usually get lots of calls in the spring. Campbell says this year is especially busy "because we had good rain at the right time."

Snakes mainly spend the winter underground, so when spring arrives they come out to eat and drink.

Big weekend for DPS

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Department of Public Safety troopers will be out in force over the long Memorial Day holiday weekend looking for drunken drivers and other violators.

A DPS statement Thursday says speeders and travelers not wearing seat belts also will be targeted.

Texas troopers, during 2009 Memorial Day weekend, arrested 622 drivers on DWI charges and wrote more than 8,500 speeding tickets. Troopers issued 1,937 seat belt and 521 child restraint citations.

Texas is part of the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" program aimed at cracking down on travelers not wearing seat belts.

Names on UT campus criticized

AUSTIN (AP) — Four statues to Confederate leaders on the University of Texas campus could draw attention after the revelation that a dormitory carries the name of a Ku Klux Klan leader.

UT President William Powers Jr. next month is expected to receive recommendations on whether more than half-century old Simkins Residence Hall should be renamed.

Gregory Vincent, UT's vice president for diversity, says members reporting to Powers will consider "campus imagery," but for now the focus is Simkins Hall.

The Austin American-Statesman first reported last week that William Stewart Simkins, who taught law at UT for 30 years, was a KKK leader. The newspaper asked UT administrators about the residence hall's name and several weeks after the release of a scholarly article examining Simkins, who died in 1929.

Third child dies in Rockdale wreck

ROCKDALE (AP) — A third child has died following a traffic accident in which a car was struck by a train in Milam (MY'-luhm) County.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman Tom Vinger on Thursday identified the youngest victim as 4-year-old Keeyati Hancock of Rockdale. Vinger says the boy died late Tuesday at a hospital in Temple, a day after the wreck that killed 9-year-old Monterious Hancock and 8-year-old Ahkeem Williams.

Vinger says the driver and legal guardian to all three children, 40-year-old Terrilyn Williams of Rockdale, suffered non-life threatening injuries. Vinger says the woman was the only person in the car wearing a seat belt.

The wreck happened on a rural crossing about two miles east of Rockdale.

COVINGTON, La. (AP) — The Gulf oil spill has surpassed the Exxon Valdez as the worst in U.S. history, according to new estimates released Thursday, but the Coast Guard and BP said an untested procedure to stop it seemed to be working.

A team of scientists trying to determine how much oil has been flowing since the offshore rig Deepwater Horizon exploded April 20 and sank two days later found the rate was more than twice and possibly up to five times as high as previously thought.

Even using the most conservative estimate, that means the leak has grown to nearly 19 million gallons over the past five weeks, surpassing the size of the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, which at about 11 million gallons had been the nation's worst spill. Under the highest Gulf spill estimate, nearly 39 million gallons may have leaked, enough to fill 30 school gymnasiums.

"Now we know the true scale of the monster we are fighting in the Gulf," said Jeremy Symons, vice president of the National Wildlife Federation. "BP has unleashed an unstoppable force of appalling proportions."

BP did not immediately comment on the new estimate. U.S. Geological Survey Director Marcia McNutt said two different teams of scientists calculated that the well has been spewing between 504,000 and more than a million gallons a day.

BP and the Coast Guard estimated soon after the explosion that about 210,000 gallons a day was leaking, but scientists who watched underwater video of well had been saying for weeks it was probably more.

Last week, BP inserted a mile-long tube to siphon some

of the oil into a tanker. The tube sucked up 924,000 gallons, but engineers had to dismantle it so they could start the risky procedure known as a top kill to try to cut off the flow altogether by shooting heavy drilling fluid into the well.

If that works, BP will inject cement into the well to seal it. The top kill has been used above ground but has never been tried 5,000 feet beneath the sea. BP pegged its chance of success at 60 to 70 percent.

Lt. Commander Tony Russell, an aide to Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, said Thursday that the mud was stopping some oil and gas but had a ways to go before it proved successful. The top kill started Wednesday night and it could be several days before officials know if it is working.

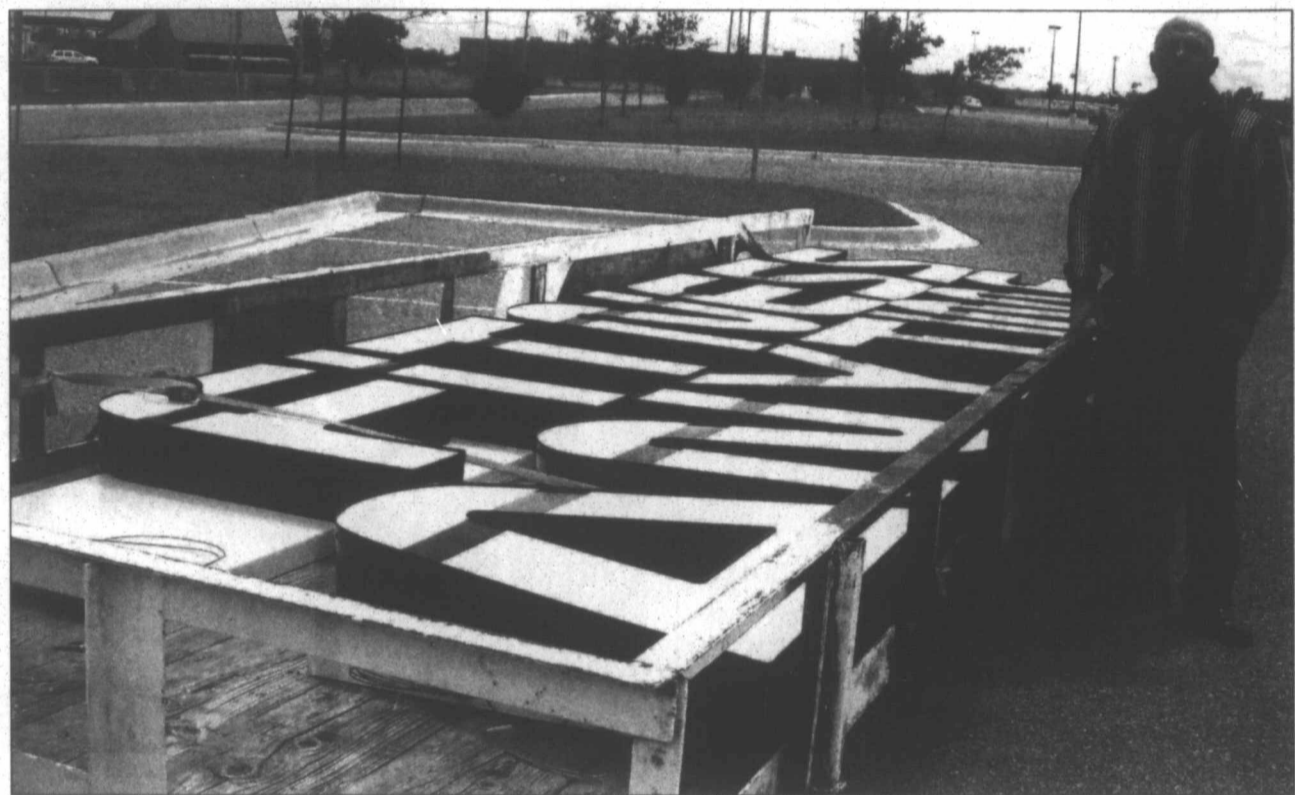
"As you inject your mud into it, it is going to stop some hydrocarbons," Russell said. "That doesn't mean it's successful."

BP spokesman Tom Mueller also discounted news reports that the top kill had worked.

"We appreciate the optimism, but the top kill operation is continuing through the day today — that hasn't changed," he said Thursday morning. "We don't anticipate being able to say anything definitive on that until later today."

Oil is coating birds and delicate wetlands along the Louisiana coast, and the political fallout from the spill has reached all the way to Washington, where the head of the federal agency that oversees offshore drilling resigned Thursday.

Minerals Management Service Director Elizabeth Birnbaum stepped down just hours before a planned White House press conference where President Barack Obama was expected to extend a moratorium on new deepwater oil drilling.



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Monte DeMaroney, club manager of soon-to-open Anytime Fitness, stands next to the sign installed on the facility Wednesday afternoon.

Gym

cont. from page 1

just as comfortable as a 20-year-old male. We want to open ourselves to community as someplace where anyone can go. We want to be involved in town once we're established here.

"Pampa's my hometown," DeMaroney added. "This is something that I wanted to bring here, and once we're settled, I don't just want to be here. I want to be part of the community."

PISD

cont. from page 1

"the police worked." In other business, the school board approved the hiring of two new classroom teachers for the 2010-2011 school year. They are Bethany Ball and Ashley Ellis.

The board also had a training session Thursday evening with Dr. John Horn, an educational consultant.

Dr. John Coscia: Providing expert breast radiology right here in the Panhandle.



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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, May 27, the 147th day of 2010. There are 218 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 27, 1937, the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, Calif., was opened to pedestrian traffic (vehicular traffic began crossing the bridge the next day).

On this date:

In 1860, forces led by Giuseppe Garibaldi took Palermo, Sicily.

In 1933, Walt Disney's Academy Award-winning animated short "The Three Little Pigs" was first released.

In 1935, the Supreme Court struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act.

In 1936, the Cunard liner RMS Queen Mary left England on its maiden voyage to New York.

In 1941, amid rising world tensions, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed an "unlimited national emergency." The British navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France, with a loss of more than 2,100 lives.

In 1985, in Beijing, representatives of Britain and China exchanged instruments of ratification on the pact returning Hong Kong to the Chinese in 1997.

In 1993, five people were killed in a bombing at the Uffizi museum of art in Florence, Italy.

Ten years ago: Freight cars loaded with hazardous chemicals crashed and exploded in Eunice, La. forcing the evacuation of thousands.

Five years ago: Speaking out for the first time in favor of controversial base closings, President George W. Bush told the Naval Academy commencement the nation was wasting billions of dollars on unnecessary military facilities and needed the money for the war on terrorism.

One year ago: President Barack Obama announced more spending for renewable energy after touring a large field of solar panels at Nellis Air Force Base, near Las Vegas. Gunmen detonated a car bomb in Lahore, Pakistan, killing about 30 people and wounding at least 250.

Today's Birthdays: Herman Wouk is 95. Actor Christopher Lee is 88. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is 87. Actress Lee Meriwether is 75. Musician Ramsey Lewis is 75. Actor Louis Gossett Jr. is 74. Actor Bruce Weitz is 67. Singer Cilla Black is 67. Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) is 66. Singer Bruce Cockburn is 65. Actor Richard Schiff is 55. Singer Siouxsie Sioux. Rock singer-musician Neil Finn (The Finn Brothers) is 52. Actress Peri Gilpin is 49. Actress Cathy Silvers is 49. Comedian Adam Carolla is 46. Actor Todd Bridges is 45. Rock musician Sean Kinney (Alice In Chains) is 44. Actor Dondre Whitfield is 41. Actor Paul Bettany is 39. Rock singer-musician Brian Desveaux (Nine Days) is 39. Actor Jack McBrayer is 37. Rapper Andre 3000 (Outkast) is 35. Rapper Jadakiss is 35. TV chef Jamie Oliver is 35.

Thought for Today:

"Sixty years ago I knew everything; now I know nothing; education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance." — Will Durant, American historian (1885-1981).

Politics on display at Gulf oil spill

Since last month's oil-spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, two very different leadership styles have been on display. On the one hand we have President Obama, who took nine days before making a public statement on the spill. On the other, we have Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, who has been intensely and vocally involved from the beginning.

Now, we must all recognize that during the course of a presidency unexpected and unprecedented events will occur that cannot be blamed on the administration. And this is one of those cases. However, it is not always the event itself that causes the most trouble -- it is the response to the situation that usually gets you.

In the wake of recent criticism, President Obama has been forced to backtrack and step up his attention to the oil spill. The spill -- which may have already released 90 million gallons of oil into the Gulf and has now reached the marshes of Louisiana, "oiling" some 84 miles of the coast -- is undoubtedly the greatest national disaster of the Obama presidency. Yet despite intense Democratic criticism for President Bush's response to a natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, in this same state, President Obama's response has been underwhelming, to say the least.

Under the justification of maintaining a regular schedule and demonstrating calm, President Obama has cavalierly gone about with casual events, even fundraisers, choosing to keep



MICHAEL REAGAN

most of his disaster response effort private. So private, in fact, that those of us living far away from the slick might even be forgiven for forgetting about it.

This is not a superficial matter for a president. Even if President Obama's administration were, in fact, exercising the highest level of competency in dealing with the catastrophe, it is the job of a president to handle not only the practical matters of government, but to also be the public face to encourage, motivate, and inform the public. This is a job he is failing.

Down in Louisiana, people have seen a very different story. Gov. Jindal has engaged completely in all aspects of disaster relief efforts. He has been a tireless advocate for his state, challenging mistaken federal approaches and pressuring BP to make every possible effort to quell this spill. And when the focus is fully switched to clean-up efforts, the people of Louisiana can have every confidence that Gov. Jindal will continue in the manner he has begun.

BP's latest attempt to staunch the oil, their "top kill" tactic, is now underway. This effort will involve pumping an intense concentration of heavy mud

and cement into the oil flow in an effort to staunch the flow. Initial results are promising, but only time will tell how effective this will be.

Right now, residents of the Gulf Coast need the administration to demonstrate the type of leadership being exercised by Gov. Bobby Jindal. President Obama is now talking about the future of off-shore drilling, placing additional restrictions and extending the moratorium on drilling. None of this, however, deals with the realities of the oil currently pouring into the ocean, and the livelihoods of Louisianans which are being destroyed.

Again we see a pattern of lackluster efforts from our president. Words and a veneer of calm are not a demonstration of leadership. They do not serve as action and progress. And coming from an administration whose party trounced President Bush for his conduct in the Gulf, such "leadership" is not only ineffective, but actually hypocritical.

I will be watching with the rest of the country to see where the President goes from here. I hope he will exceed the pattern he has shown us so far. And in the meantime, my prayers and support are with Gov. Jindal and the good people of Louisiana in the face of this tragedy.

Mike Reagan, the elder son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is spokesperson for The Reagan PAC (www.thereaganpac.com) and chairman and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation (www.reagan-legacyfoundation.org).

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Stamp

cont. from page 1

partnership between the Texas Plains Trail Region and the U.S. Postal Service. Since January, the TPTR has been traveling to post offices in the county seats of its 52 counties, unveiling each county's special stamp cancellation in a special ceremony. Pampa is the 20th stop on the TPTR's post office tour, which will continue until the postmark promotion's final stop in Yoakum County in December.

Wednesday's ceremony was attended by a handful of Pampa and Gray County luminaries, including Chamber of Commerce Director Joe Weaver, Goldcoat Bob Marx and Postmaster Robert Shrock. Shrock said that it was an honor to be able to participate in such a creative project.

"It was about six months ago when they first started planning for it," said Shrock. "I thought, what a great thing to do. It's a great way to promote both the post office and the county itself."

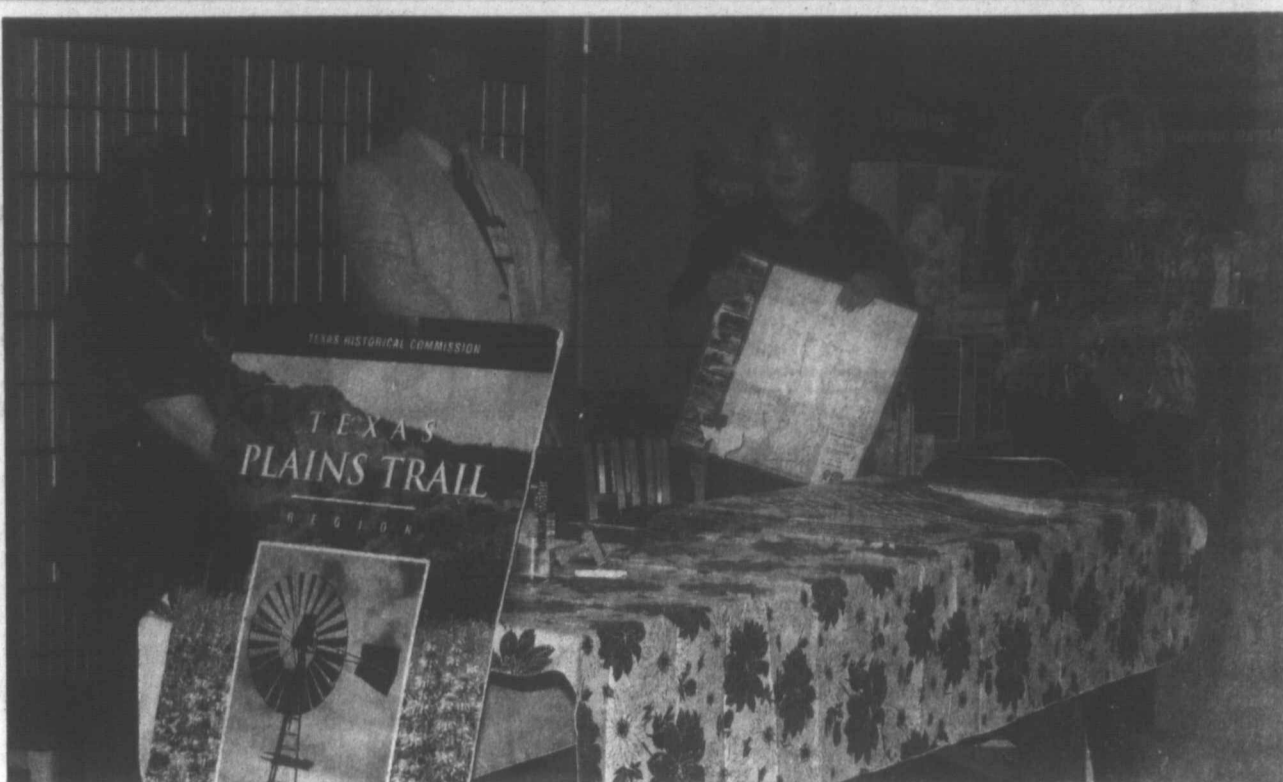
Shrock said that he particularly liked the postmark's distinctive design, an old-fashioned windmill bearing the TPTR initials.

"With all the talk about wind power coming to this area, I think that the stamp's design is particularly appropriate," he said. "It not only celebrates the past, but in a way, it's also a sign of what's to come in the future as well."

The postmark will be available at the post office for the next 30 days. It can be purchased in commemorative form for \$3, or customers can bring in their own envelopes or postcards to be stamped for free.

McDonald said that the postmarks have been a hit in many communities the TPTR has visited, and Wednesday's ceremony fueled her hopes for a similar warm reception in Gray County.

"We've seen enthusiasts turn out for these things at some of the other places we've been to so far," McDonald said. "We hope that this is something that



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Sharon Wampler (from left), Postmaster Robert Shrock, TPTR President Dolores Mosser and TPTR Director Deborah Sue McDonald celebrate the unveiling of Gray County's commemorative stamp cancellation.

can generate a little revenue for the Postal Service, and at the same time, promote heritage and tourism as well.

"There's much more in each of these towns than a lot of people see, and Pampa's no exception. There's some rich history here, and the people are just wonderful. Hopefully, this project is something that will help show people about the hidden treasures that Pampa has in store."

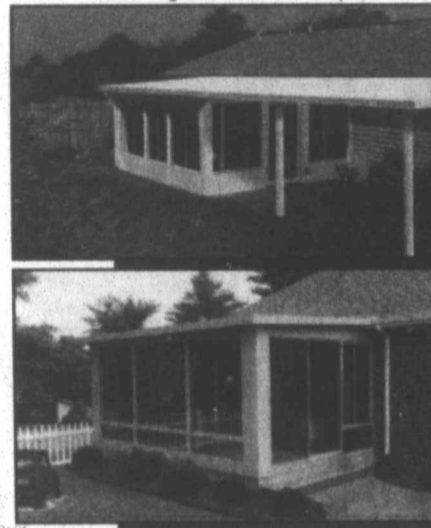
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EYES ON THE PRIZE



Brett Woelfle (right) keeps his eye on Carter Sprinkle's attempt to conquer one of the video games at Create-a-Beat's end of school party.

submitted photo

"Thanks to Accolade, everything in Dad's life is better."

Speaking from the heart

Dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease 10 years ago. Recently, he started suffering from arthritis in his knees, extreme shaking and stiffness. The problem wasn't that he couldn't move, it was that his movement was too small to get anything done. That's when I talked to him about getting treatment from Accolade HomeCare.

Just a couple of weeks into the program and his muscles feel stronger. He's taking bigger steps, walking up and down the stairs and getting into bed without any problems. He can even bend over to pick up the remote. Thanks to the help from Accolade, everything in his life is much better.

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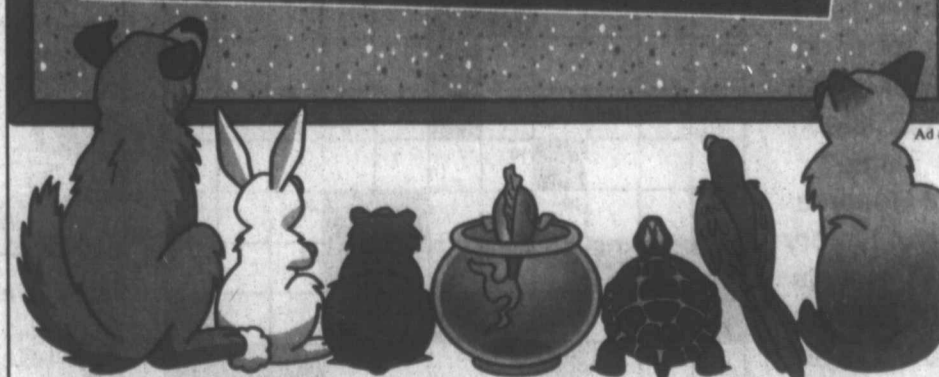
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The shelter is open to the public
Monday - Saturday from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Comics

Marmaduke



"Obedience school is not a tax-deductible education expense."

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

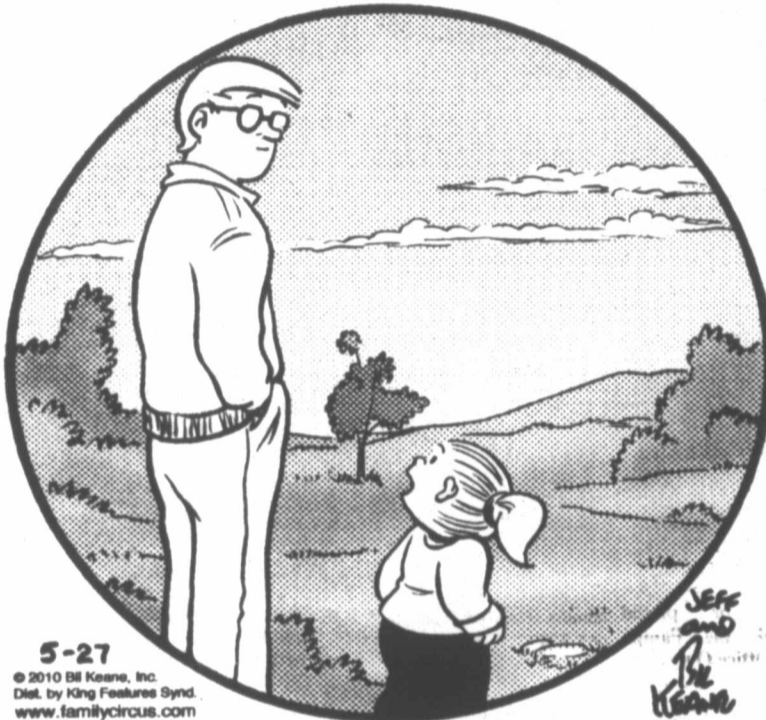


Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Can you do anything with scenery besides look at it?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 The

1 Pinnacle tube, to

5 Petty Brits

quarrels 46 Moist

12 Refuges

12 Apartment sign

13 Beginning way

14 Acid type

15 Undoing word

16 Sinatra's group

18 Yellow-stone sight

20 Spot

21 Agreement names

23 Cut off

24 Paper pack

26 Reddish brown

28 Skin art, for short

29 Ship pole

31 Exalted verse

32 Records of history

36 Parallels

39 Go bad

40 Body of law

41 Last letter

43 Even a little

44 Fancy home

OLIVER	ASTA
RECEDE	RUIN
EMERGE	AGED
BELUGA	
MASS	PORTS
EMU	STENCIL
DIG	MEN
INABIND	NEE
CORAL	PEST
CREOLE	
COOT	PUSHUP
ANNE	AROUSE
PEER	LESTER

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Compass tracing
- 30 Links number
- 19 Relaxing retreat
- 33 Fight site
- 22 Window over a door
- 34 Enter a password
- 24 Glow
- 35 Unadorned
- 25 Unending
- 37 Bakery buy
- 27 Coffee dispenser
- 38 Just
- 28 Alley howler
- 42 Demented

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15			16	17				
18		19			20			
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	24	25			26	27		
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43				44				
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5-27

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Sports

Harvester football alums to face off with Borger

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Former Pampa football alumni will get to put the helmets and pads on again to take on their rival Borger in an alumni game this fall.

Alumni Football USA, the organizer of this game, and is putting on 30 games between rivals in

the Lubbock and Amarillo area. The date and location of Pampa's game is still to be decided as teams are still being formed.

Texas Regional Director, Tim Bishop said high school football was the biggest thing in their lives and these alumni games give them a chance to experi-

ence that again.

"Some players thought they played their last game in high school," Bishop said. "With Alumni Football USA they get to play another full contact game."

Bishop said these games are huge and become popular when word spreads.

"I talked to someone from Dumas," Bishop said. "In 36 hours, they had 46 people sign up."

Players can sign up by visiting Alumnifootballusa.com or calling Bishop at 512-771-5561. So far, six Borger players have signed up. A team of 25 must be formed by June 27.

The Web site lists Facebook pages for the teams, which give the schools alumni and fans a chance to reminisce.

There will be financial benefit for the school that hosts the game, said Bishop.

"50 percent of pre-sale tickets goes to the school,"

Bishop said. "Several schools said the alumni game was their largest attended game."

More details about Pampa's alumni game will be published as soon as we receive them

Hereford High School hosting summer tennis tournament

JESSE STOVALL
Special to The Pampa News

Hereford Schools will host a summer tennis tournament on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5, 2010 at the Hereford High School tennis courts. On Friday, there will be singles competition for junior players. There will be divisions based on players

gender and age. Age categories are 12s, 14s, 16s, and 18s. A player, for example, who is 13 would participate in the 14s. Also, participants may only play in one division of singles.

Saturday's play will feature youth doubles. Once again, the categories are 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s. It is permissible for youths of two ages to play together.

However, they must compete in the older player's division.

On Saturday evening, the attention will turn to mixed doubles. Adults and children are welcome to compete. The mixed doubles will be more informal, and divisions will be established after the entries are received. People of all skill levels are encour-

aged to play. The mixed doubles will be free.

There is a flat fee of \$25 for the entire tournament. Checks should be made out to Jesse Stovall.

Play for singles will begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday. Doubles will start at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. Mixed doubles will start at 7 p.m. Saturday. Entries must be in the tournament direc-

tor's hands by Wednesday, June 2. To enroll, go to www.herdtennis.com. Once there, click the link to "2010 tournament". This will allow you to print an entry form (online registration, however, is not available).

Players who have enrolled and paid by May 29 will receive a free tournament t shirt. Tournament

director Jesse Stovall can be contacted at:
430 Fir Street
Hereford, Texas 79045
home 806/363-1909
cell 580/481-4190
email: jessestovall2002@yahoo.com or jessestovall@herefordisd.net

Pampa Country Club Couples Scramble results

May 22, 2010
Championship Flight
1. Doug & Shelia McFatrige 65
2. Kelly Everson & Angie Beyer 69
3. Joe & Connie Manzanaras 74

First Flight
1. Brent & Misty Baten 76
2. Norris Stewart & Lanna Graham 78
3. Sid & Gail Melban 78

Second Flight

1. Larry & Jacki Renfro 82
2. Jamie & Kittee Wariner 82
3. Todd & Jona Little 83

Hidden Hills senior four-man scramble golf results

FIRST 60
Ronnie Wood
Johnny Gilbert
Howard Wells
Howard Musgrave

Second 63
Roy Don Stephens
Gerrell Owens
Dwight Brown
Earnest Barnett

Third 65
Gerry McCabe
Jim Bridges
Travis Johnston
Jim Osborne

Fourth 65
Harley Knutson
Rod Porter
Gary Brewer
Bob Young

Fifth 65
Whitey White
Roger Davenport
Bill Brown
Bill Harwood

Closest to the hole # 6
Whitey White
Closest to the hole # 15
Don Roy

Houston Astros ace Oswalt wins first start since trade request

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Roy Oswalt made a convincing argument for the Houston Astros to keep him in his first start since the team publicly acknowledged the ace's trade request.

Oswalt threw eight dominant innings and Houston collected 12 hits in a 5-0 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Wednesday night.

Oswalt (3-6) walked one and allowed four hits, including doubles by Ryan Braun in the first and fourth. He struck out nine of his final 16 batters while handing the Brewers their 12th loss in 15 games.

Any speculation that the trade talk was bothersome was quickly resolved.

"I'm going to do my job, try to do my job every time I go out," Oswalt said. "It doesn't affect me. The guys came out and gave me a lead and I was able to hold on to it."

Oswalt said his mechanics were a little off in the first three innings despite being staked to a three-run lead.

"I was worried about giving them up," he said. "I

kind of caught my mechanics in the fourth and was able to hold on to them today."

He worked out of the Brewers' best threat in the fourth. After giving up Braun's hit and walking Prince Fielder, Casey McGehee and Corey Hart struck out swinging and George Kottaras took a called third strike.

"When you start threatening, he comes back with something extra," Brewers manager Ken Macha said. "It was a pretty dominating performance."

Brandon Lyon got three outs to finish the five-hitter.

Oswalt's 2.35 ERA is one of the lowest in the NL and he came in tied for the major league lead with nine quality starts. The right-hander also had the league's lowest run-support average (2.07).

"He was in control the whole way," Astros manager Brad Mills said. "His mound presence was outstanding, and I think he answered a lot of questions from a lot of people."

The Astros gave Oswalt his most run support

this season by scoring four times against Chris Narveson and once off reliever Claudio Vargas.

"We got them early, and it gives you a little more freedom to throw different pitches in situations," Oswalt said.

Carlos Lee had run-scoring hits in the first and third. Hunter Pence doubled in a run in the third and Michael Bourn added an RBI single in the fourth.

The 32-year-old Oswalt had his agent contact owner Drayton McLane last week and request a trade, if the team continues to slump. The Astros might be reluctant to make a deal since the last time Houston lost 30 of its first 45 games was in 2005 when a staff anchored by Roger Clemens, Andy Pettitte and Oswalt reached the World Series.

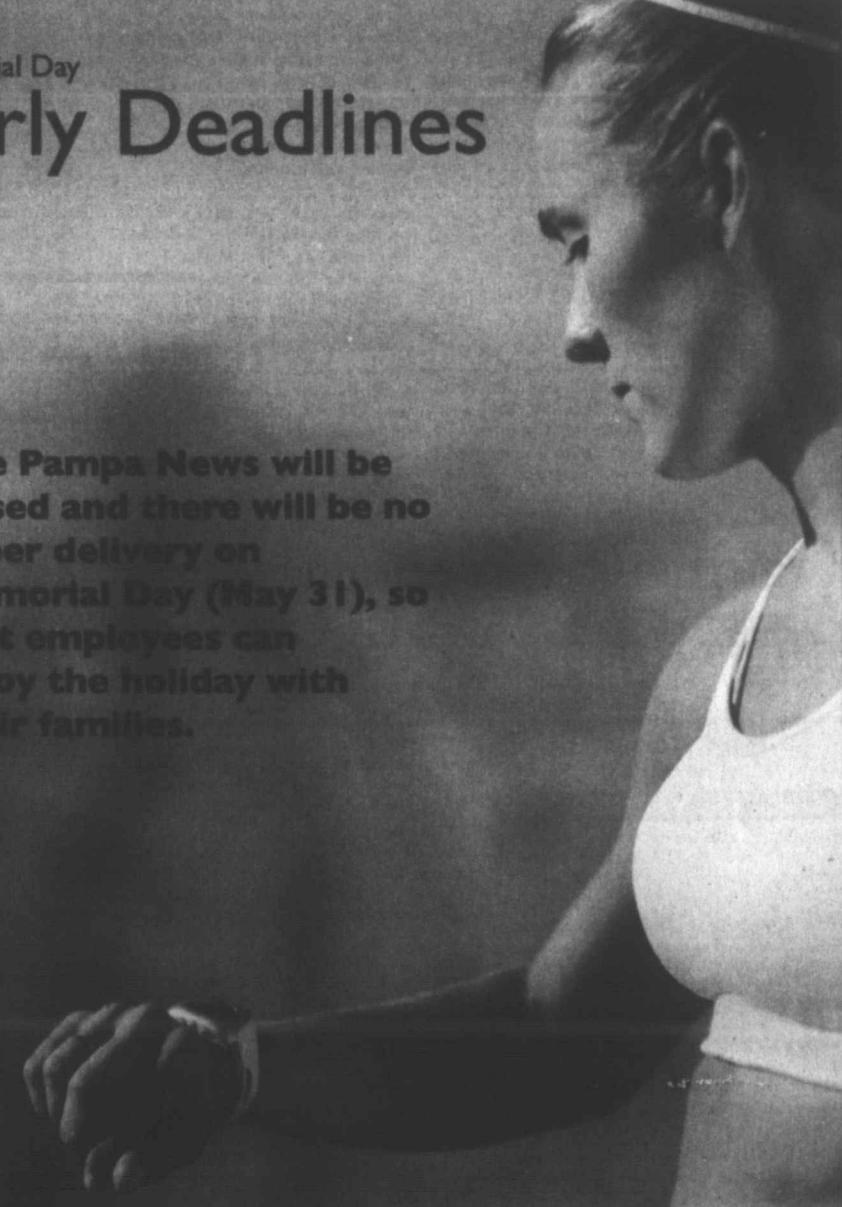
Oswalt, whose contract expires after next season, isn't sure history can repeat itself and would like to bring his experience to a contender. He is willing to waive his no-trade clause for a chance at getting back to the World Series.

The NL-worst Astros

(16-30) came in with the average (.227) and fewest runs, walks and RBIs. major's lowest batting home runs, extra-base hits,

Memorial Day

Early Deadlines



The Pampa News will be closed and there will be no paper delivery on Memorial Day (May 31), so that employees can enjoy the holiday with their families.

Early Deadlines for Advertising are:

ROP Display (boxed ads in regular paper) -

Monday, May 31 No Paper

Tuesday, June 1 May 27th at Noon

Wednesday, June 2 May 28th at Noon

Classified -

Tuesday, June 1 May 28 at 4 p.m.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

- The Pampa News

Baylor tops KSU in Big 12 baseball tournament opener

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Logan Vick hit two of Baylor's four home runs and drove in three runs as the Bears outlasted Kansas State 11-8 at the Big 12 tournament Wednesday night in a game delayed nearly three hours because of rain.

Vick reached base in all six of his plate appearances, drawing three walks to

go along with a double, a solo home run and a two-run homer. Landis Ware added a home run and four RBIs and Raynor Campbell also homered for the sixth-seeded Bears (32-21).

Baylor opened an 8-1 lead after Ware's three-run home run in the third inning, but third-seeded Kansas State (35-19) rallied back to tie it with a

six-run fifth inning highlighted by Mike Kindel's two-run single.

Vick immediately gave Baylor the lead back with a leadoff homer off Evan Marshall (5-5) in the top of the sixth, and Willie Kempf kept the Bears (8-2) ahead with 4 1-3 innings of scoreless relief.

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