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# The PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, August 11, 2010 Volume 105 • No. 381 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## City commission walks budget tightrope

ARNIE AURELLANO  
editor@thepampanews.com

Pampa's new budget was the dominant theme of the City Commission meeting on Tuesday, with city officials looking to strike an agreeable balance to square the books for the next fiscal year.

City Manager Richard Morris and Finance Director Robin Bailey had initially crafted a budget that keeps the city's compensation plan intact and allows for a 20 percent increase in health insurance, but hinged on a property tax increase from the current 62.693 cents per \$100

valuation to 65 cents. That hike, coupled with proposed increases to water and sewer rates, drew comments from some of the commissioners.

"We can't keep asking our city to sacrifice with a higher water bill, a higher sewer bill and a higher tax rate," said Ward 2 Commissioner Bill Allison.

"I don't want to see a budget balanced on the backs of the people by raising taxes," echoed



Allison



Dixon

Ward 3 Commissioner Robert Dixon, who added that Pampa's tax rate is already approximately double that of nearby communities such as Borger and Dumas.

Upon further dialogue amongst the Commission, a motion proposing the City's intention to raise the tax rate was denied.

The Commission then agreed to re-examine **CITY** cont. on page 3

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### INSIDE THE HUDDLE

staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

**Marques Long** (from left), David Robinson, Luis Martinez, Ramon Martinez, Tim Ferris, James Martinez, Michael Williams and Quincy Williams of the Pampa Harvesters alumni team huddle up during a practice for this weekend's Pampa-Borger Alumni Game.

For more on the **ALUMNI GAME**, see **SPORTS** on page 8

## Pampa police, FBI warn of offshore fraud

DAVID BOWSER  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

Recently, an elderly woman in Pampa wired several thousand dollars to a person in Jamaica.

"This person is not going to get her money back," said Pampa Police Officer Stormy McCullar.

The officer described the woman as wanting to help a caller in distress "Her heart was in the right place," McCullar said.

While Officer McCullar said the case is still under investigation and the details aren't clear yet, McCullar said she suspects there are others in town that have fallen prey to similar scams.

In most cases, McCullar said the caller promises money in return.

According to the FBI, which keeps track of offshore mail and telephone fraud, callers often tell the person who answers the phone that the caller has won several million dollars

**FRAUD** cont. on page 3

## Hampton Village sets target date

DAVID BOWSER  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The head of the group behind the Hampton Village housing development hopes to have an opening ceremony for the new Pampa housing development before Thanksgiving.

Ronnie Hodges, executive director of New Life Housing Foundation, said this week that they are taking reservations for the 76 single-family homes being built off Alcock.

"We're part of the Tejas Housing Group," Hodges said. "We have been building communities across the state for the past 10 years."

The actual opening date of the development depends upon the weather and construction progress, she said.

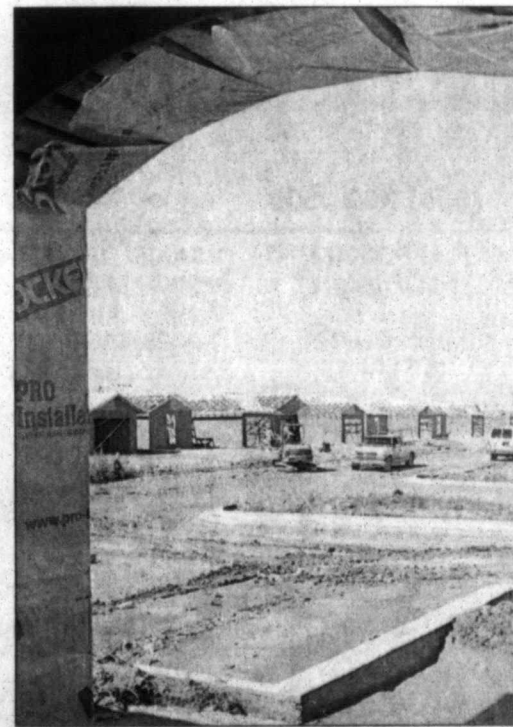
Hodges said the new homes in the 1500 block of West Alcock will include two, three and four bedroom houses that will rent from \$225 to \$715 a month.

"They're going to be masonry homes," Hodges said. "We putting beautiful laminate inside and, of course, ceramic tile and carpet."

She said that the addition will be more than a series of new housing in Pampa. It will be a new neighborhood.

Hodges said a coordinator will be located in Pampa once the new development nears completion.

She said there will be a staff of three full- **HAMPTON** cont. on page 3



staff photo by **David Bowser**

**Crews were working** busily today on the Hampton Village addition off Alcock. The construction supervisor hopes to have the first houses ready this fall.

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White Deer Land Museum & Freedom Museum USA



# For the record

## Obituaries

### Ruby Lorene Tollison



Ruby L. Tollison

Ruby Lorene Tollison, 95, died August 9, 2010 in Amarillo, Texas.

Services will be held 2:00 PM Thursday, August 12, 2010 at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Leland Lewis, pastor of First Assembly of God, officiating. Special music will be provided by Gregg Wright, great-nephew, of Stratford. A private burial will follow in Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Hot Springs, Arkansas, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Tollison was born January 13, 1915 in Okemah, Oklahoma. She was a 1931 graduate of Lone Wolf High School in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, and a graduate of Draughan's Business College in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Ruby worked as an accountant for 38 years in Oklahoma City until her retirement in 1973 when she moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas where she resided for 32 years before moving to Pampa in May of 2005.

She married Ira Cleetis Tollison on September 8, 1937 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death on January 28, 1998. She was also preceded in death by her father: Percy Irwin Montgomery in 1945; and her mother: Dovie Pack Montgomery in 1961. In addition, she was preceded in death by seven brothers and six sisters.

She was an active member of National Park Christian Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and transferred her membership to First Assembly of God Church when she moved to Pampa.

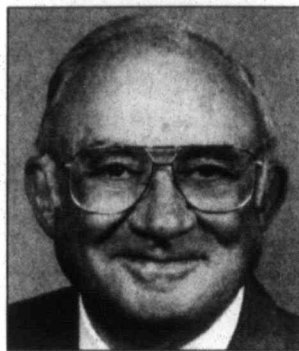
Survivors include five nieces, Donna Anderson and husband Frank of Pampa, Lorene Wright and husband Archie of Stratford, Dixie Nielsen of Grass Valley, California, Roma Jo Quick of Hutchinson, Kansas, and Helen Hovator of Wichita, Kansas; one nephew, Billy Joe Van Meter and wife Carolyn of Menifee, California; and a large number of great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorials to be held at First Assembly of God, 500 S. Cuyler, Pampa, Texas 79065, or a favorite charity. Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations be made to Lubbock Meals on Wheels and the 49ers Sunday School in care of Lubbockview Christian.

To send condolences to the family and to view the life tribute to G.W., visit [www.memorialdesigners.net](http://www.memorialdesigners.net).

### Stanley Edward Burnham



Stanley E. Burnham

LEESBURG, Va. — Stanley Edward Burnham, 84, of Leesburg, Virginia, passed away Saturday, July 24. Born September 2, 1925 in Fredericktown, Missouri, he was the son of the late Council Adair Burnham and Florence Mercer Burnham.

Stan is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Anne (Mapes) Burnham. He was a devoted father to his children Jennifer Kemp of Charleston, SC, James Burnham (wife Melody Thomson) of Winston-Salem, NC, Susan Takesian (husband Walter) of Needham, MA, Nancy Laranjo (husband Julio) of Leesburg, VA, John Burnham (fiancée Denise Brown) of Ashburn, VA, Sarah Speer (husband Charles) of Oakton, VA and the late Stanley Patrick Burnham. He was the adored grandfather of Jackson Speer, Rebecca and Geoffrey Burnham, and Anne and George Takesian and is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Stan was the youngest brother of Lola Chalfant, Norma Burnham, Rex Burnham, Leslie Burnham, Irene Ward and Calvin Burnham, all of whom predeceased him.

Stan served in the United States Army Air Corp and Air Force as an Aircraft Observer Navigator in the Pacific and in the Korean conflict, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant. While stationed in San Angelo, Texas, he met Anne Mapes, the love of his life.

Stan obtained his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and completed many post graduate business courses.

Stan enjoyed a long career with Cabot Corporation, working in various capacities including senior positions in Cabot's Gas Pipeline and Production division in Charleston, WV and Amarillo, TX; as the plant manager of the Pampa, Texas carbon black plant; and as controller of the carbon black division worldwide at Cabot's Boston headquarters. He and Anne moved to Charleston, SC after his retirement from Cabot in 1987.

Stan's greatest joy was spending time with his family. He was an avid reader and enjoyed golf, tracking the financial markets, music and his wife's cooking.

Arrangements by Loudoun Funeral Chapels, 158 Catocin Circle, SE, Leesburg, Virginia 20175. Memorial service and interment will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 4, Fairfax, VA 22030 or to a charity of one's choice.

To share memories of Stan, visit [www.loudounfuneralchapel.com](http://www.loudounfuneralchapel.com).

### Robert Todd "Bob" Lemmons



Robert T. Lemmons

Robert Todd "Bob" Lemmons, 91, died August 10, 2010 in Amarillo, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Lemmons was born January 3, 1919 in Hamilton to William Arthur Lemmons and Grace Hitt Lemmons. He moved to Indian Gap in the early 1920's and lived there until the downtown section burned down in 1926. His family then returned to Hamilton where he graduated from Hamilton High School in 1935. He attended Southwest Texas State University where he received his Bachelors Degree in chemistry in 1939, and his Masters Degree in 1940. He taught school in Marble Falls for one year, from 1940-1941. Prior to Pearl Harbor, Bob enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps, serving during World War II, and achieving the rank of Captain. During much of the war, he was in charge of the communication centers at bases in Peru, British Guyana, Dutch Guyana and the Canal Zone. After his discharge, he went to work for Celanese Chemical Co. in Kingsville in February of 1946, retiring after 37 years of service. He married Rita Faye Moss on November 4, 1950 in Kingsville. She preceded him in death on January 4, 1986. He was a member of the Exchange Club of Pampa in the 1950's, a member of First United Methodist Church, and an emeritus member of the American Chemical Society. He was an avid golfer. Bob took great pride in feeding the neighborhood birds and squirrels. He was a loving father and grandfather.

Sincere thanks are offered to Walt Bailey, Ira Bewley and Mimi Penn for their love and support for so many years. He is survived by three sons, Robert Todd Lemmons, Jr., of Double Oak, Russell Arthur Lemmons and Barry Joe Lemmons, both of Conroe; a granddaughter: Leta Simpson and husband Jason of College Station; along with several nieces and nephews. Bob was preceded in death by 2 brothers: Charles Lemmons and William Lemmons. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6:30-8:00 PM on Thursday, August 12, 2010. Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

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### PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday Thursday Friday



High 97  
Low 70



High 98  
Low 70



High 96  
Low 67

**Today:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 97. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 98. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Friday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 96. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

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The Pampa News

### G.W. Yeargain



George W. Yeargain

LUBBOCK — George Wiley Yeargain, 76, of Lubbock passed away August 9, 2010.

He was born October 2, 1933 in Gregg, Texas to Eugene and Kittie Yeargain.

G.W. was raised in Pampa, Texas and graduated from Pampa High. While in Pampa he met his wife, Nancy Presnell. Together they moved to Lubbock, where G.W.

attended Texas Tech. He spent 31 years with Carnation Company becoming Territory Manager. He was a dedicated member of Lubbockview Christian Church serving as Elder and teacher. He enjoyed camping, golfing and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Nancy; two sons, Bryan and his wife Yumiko of Lubbock and Steve of Austin; two granddaughters, Kelsy of Cairo, Egypt and Josephine of Port Aransas.

Visitation will be held at Lake Ridge Chapel and Memorial Designers from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. this evening. Graveside services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010 in Peaceful Gardens and Memorial services will be held at Lubbockview Christian Church at 3301 34th St at 2:00 p.m.

## Pampa Texas PARANORMAL RESEARCH SOCIETY

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The Pampa News  
403 W. Atchison

# AFTERNOON RUSH City

## White: Ethics reform needed

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Democratic candidate for governor, Bill White, says Texas needs ethics reform.

White says if he's elected, senior staff members in the governor's office will be required to file personal financial statements every year. If they leave, they'll be banned from lobbying the governor's office for two years. Perry's office does not have similar policies.

White, a former Houston mayor, also says e-mails and other records in the governor's office will be preserved.

White says 42 of Gov. Rick Perry's appointees to boards or other positions each have contributed \$100,000 to Perry. White says appointments should be based on experience instead of connections or contributions.

He discussed his ethics reform plan Wednesday in Fort Worth. White is trying to stop Perry from being elected to an unprecedented third full four-year term.

## TWC lawyer reassigned

HOUSTON (AP) — A lawyer with the Texas Workforce Commission has been reassigned after apparently offering tips on ways for companies to avoid paying unemployment benefits to departing employees.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported Wednesday that Jonathan Babiak, at the time of a June 25 conference, was overseeing appeals involving decisions to grant or deny unemployment benefits.

Babiak's comments, quoted July 8 by the newspaper, suggested that employers give workers they intend to terminate the option to resign. Babiak said the workers might assume they are not eligible for benefits if they leave voluntarily and "chances are they won't file a claim."

Babiak, formerly deputy director of appellate services, referred questions to the commission. Spokeswoman Ann Hatchitt says Babiak has been reassigned to human resources.

## Six arrested on drug charges

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — Six people from Vernon have been arrested on drug distribution charges.

Prosecutors say all six defendants appeared Wednesday before a federal judge in Wichita Falls and remain in custody, pending detention hearings next week.

U.S. Attorney James Jacks says five defendants are charged with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine, plus distribution of the drugs. Another defendant is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, plus four counts of distributing crack cocaine.

Jacks says all six suspects, ranging in age from 22 to 47, were arrested Tuesday.

The two indictments were returned last week by a federal grand jury in Dallas and unsealed Wednesday.

## Ninth DWI lands man life in prison

GEORGETOWN (AP) — A judge in Georgetown has ordered life in prison for a Round Rock man on his ninth conviction for driving while intoxicated.

Bobby Joe Stovall was sentenced Tuesday over a 2009 DWI wreck that left his passenger hurt. Round Rock police says the 52-year-old Stovall, who was convicted last month, had a blood alcohol level four times the legal limit for driving.

His previous DWI convictions were in Collin, Dewitt, Nueces, Galveston, Jackson and Goliad counties.

Williamson County authorities say Stovall was convicted of burglary of a habitation in 1994 and credit card abuse in 1987 and ordered to prison. He was convicted of possession of a controlled substance in 1994 and put on probation.

Stovall also has convictions for theft and making alcohol available to a minor.

## Hampton

cont. from page 1

time people on duty at the development plus someone to coordinate after school events and holiday events for the residents of the gated facility.

"We love to think we're instrumental in creating old-fashioned neighborhoods where everyone knows each other," Hodges said.

She said there will be many amenities and the family homes will be energy efficient.

"We have a lovely community center in front for not only for our community but also for people to come and have events," Hodges said.

She said they are taking reservations for the homes. "This is an affordable housing community," Hodges said.

The rents, she said, are based on the income of the person wanting to live there.

"We have to qualify everyone and make sure that they are eligible," she said. "We do a background check. We do a criminal background check in addition to a credit check. We want to know that we have some good residents that are going to take care of the homes and good families and good neighbors. We do have a lot to offer."

She said that the addition will have a number of handicapped equipped homes.

"We try to have a well-rounded community," Hodges said. "I think it's going to be a real asset to Pampa. We hope to be full-fledged community members. We'll have a grand opening later this year."

She said she hopes they can have it before Thanksgiving, but that will depend on the weather.

## Fraud

cont. from page 1

in a lottery, but they need a few hundred to pay the administrative fees.

"Don't do it," McCullar said. "Do not give money over the phone."

She explained that once the money leaves the country, there is not much that can be done to retrieve it. It's gone.

McCullar said many of the calls, according to federal investigators, originate in Area Code 876 and the phone number begins with a 585 or 570 prefix. That is the Kingston, Jamaica, area.

A similar scam swept through the area several months ago, McCullar.

She said if anyone is suspicious of a call they should contact her at the Pampa Police Department, 669-5700 ext. 259.

the budget to see if further adjustment can mitigate or eliminate any rate increases.

"What we're going to do is meet again with the directors this week," said Morris. "We'll look at the budget again and have some recommendations."

Morris said this morning that the lengthy discussion process is typical of the budgeting period.

"It's something we just have to go through," said Morris. "It's a budget process."

"We're going to continue to work with the commission on it. The interesting thing with this budget is that this is the first time in several years that it's been balanced, so we've actually felt better about it this year than in the past."

Morris was optimistic that any changes to the budget will not be overly complex.

"(The changes) won't be what you'd call full-scale," he said. "We've spent

three or four months on the budget already. Everyone is fairly familiar with it. The things that we'll have to go back and look at hopefully won't take that long."

The budget must be completed by the end of September, before the new fiscal year begins on Oct. 1.

In other business:  
• The Commission adopted on second and final reading Ordinance No. 1524, annexing territory adjacent to Pampa's present corporate limits. The territory covers the property occupied by the new Pampa Junior High School, approximately 40 acres to the northwest of the previous city limits.

• The Commission adopted on second and final reading an ordinance amending requirements for animal adoptions, outlining the preferential rights of Humane Societies and similar organizations to adopt impounded animals and waiving the adoption fees for such groups.

cont. from page 1

• The Commission adopted a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for the Community Development Fund with the Texas Department of Rural Affairs.

The application would be for \$275,000 of grant funds to carry out water system improvements in Pampa. If the application is granted, the City would commit \$55,000 from its own General Fund toward such improvements.

• The Commission heard budget presentations from Andy Epps of the Freedom Museum, John Curry and Joe Weaver of the Tourism Committee and Gary Sutherland of the PEDC.

• The Commission heard an update from Faustina Curry regarding the de facto volunteer organization formed to address volunteer involvement in the animal shelter. Curry said that the group will hold its next meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the Lovett Memorial Library.

## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been dating for a year. When we got together he had just gotten out of a five-year relationship. He says he loves me, but he recently told me that she was better in bed than I am!

I have lost confidence in our relationship and don't enjoy making love with him now, knowing I don't measure up. His ex was better looking than I am, but I don't understand why he would say that. I have told him he hurt my feelings, but he doesn't care. What do I do now? — HURT IN BIG SKY COUNTRY

DEAR HURT: Now you ask yourself whether you want to continue a relationship with someone so tactless that he would drop a bomb on you like that one. It's telling that when you let him know you were hurt, he let you know he didn't care.

There are diplomatic ways for partners to communicate what they prefer when they are intimate. One of them involves positive reinforcement when their partner does something right. Another is simply saying in plain English what feels good. It appears that your boyfriend is insensitive to the max, my dear. But what you do about it is something no one but you can decide.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 11 years to my husband, who is one of nine children. My sister-in-law has asked me for a copy of one of our wedding pictures, which is the last time all of them were together. Since the wedding, one of my husband's sibs has died and another is serving a long stretch in prison.

The problem is, she wants to digitally remove me from the picture! I don't want to give my sister-in-law a copy knowing I'll be edited out. It's hurtful, and after all these years it makes me feel like she hasn't fully accepted me as part of the family. Am I overreacting? — BLOCKED OUT IN TEXAS

DEAR BLOCKED OUT: Your sister-in-law wasn't very diplomatic, but what she is trying to memorialize is the last time her biological family was intact. The situation is poignant, really. My advice is not to take this personally. Give her the picture before any hard feelings "develop."

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old niece, "Amanda," is on her cell phone constantly. She is the smartest kid I know, but she is failing her classes and has started to lie about everything. I raised her until she was 5 — I was only 12 myself when I started — so I am very close to her. Or so I thought.

Amanda lives with her dad and stepmom, who are doing their best to raise her, but nothing is working. When she was growing up she never lied, and I mean never. I have told her

not to be afraid to talk to me about anything, but she hasn't, and it hurts me that she can't come to me. What do you suggest I do? — WORRIED AUNT IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WORRIED AUNT: Speak to Amanda's father and suggest that he confiscate her cell phone until her grades improve. If she is texting instead of paying attention in class, and talking instead of doing her homework, that would be a step in the right direction. And continue to tell your niece that if she needs to talk to you about "anything," you are — and will always be — there for her.

### Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

5	7	4	8	1	6	3	9	2
9	3	1	5	2	4	7	8	6
2	6	8	3	9	7	4	5	1
3	1	7	9	6	5	8	2	4
4	9	2	1	8	3	5	6	7
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Level: Intermediate

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 11, the 223rd day of 2010. There are 142 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 11, 1965, rioting and looting that claimed 34 lives broke out in the predominantly black Watts section of Los Angeles.

### On this date:

In 1810, a major earthquake shook the island of St. Michael in the Azores.

In 1909, the steamship SS Arapahoe became the first ship in North America to issue an S.O.S. distress signal, off North Carolina's Cape Hatteras.

In 1934, the first federal prisoners arrived at the island prison Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay.

In 1949, President Harry S. Truman nominated General Omar N. Bradley to become the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1954, a formal peace took hold in Indochina, ending more than seven years of fighting between the French and Communist Viet Minh.

In 1962, the Soviet Union launched cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev on a 94-hour flight.

In 1975, the United States vetoed the proposed admission of North and South Vietnam to the United Nations, following the Security Council's refusal to consider South Korea's application.

In 1992, the Mall of America opened in Bloomington, Minn.

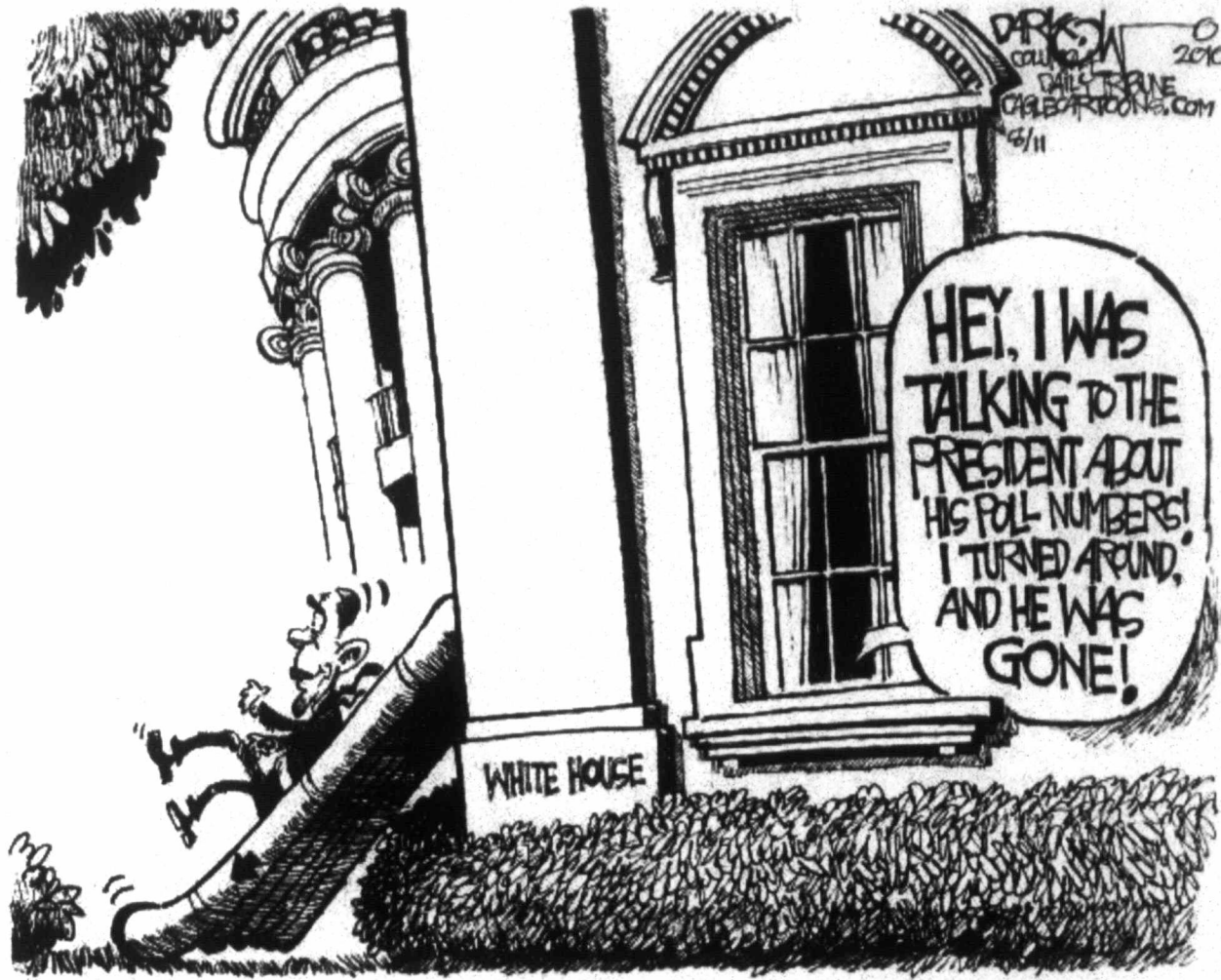
**Ten years ago:** The National Transportation Safety Board released evidence reports in the Oct. 31, 1999, crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 off the New England coast; a transcript of the cockpit voice recording showed the chilling details of the pilot's futile struggle to save the Boeing 767 and its 217 occupants.

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush expressed sympathy for war protesters like Cindy Sheehan, the mother camped outside his Texas ranch demanding more answers for her soldier-son's death in Iraq, but said he believed it would be a mistake to bring U.S. troops home immediately.

**One year ago:** A Myanmar court found democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi guilty of violating her house arrest by allowing an uninvited American to visit her home; she was ordered to serve an 18-month sentence under house arrest.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Arlene Dahl is 82. Actress Anna Massey is 73. Songwriter-producer Kenny Gamble is 67. Rock musician Jim Kale (Guess Who) is 67. Singer Eric Carmen is 61. Computer scientist and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is 60. Wrestler-actor Hulk Hogan is 57. Singer Joe Jackson is 56. Playwright David Henry Hwang is 53. Actor Miguel A. Nunez, Jr. is 46. Actress Viola Davis is 45. Actor Duane Martin is 45. Actor-host Joe Rogan is 43. Rhythm-and-blues musician Chris Dave is 42. Actress Anna Gunn is 42. Actress Ashley Jensen is 42. Rock guitarist Charlie Sexton is 42. Hip-hop artist Ali Shaheed Muhammad is 40. Actor Will Friedle is 34. Rapper Chris Kelly (Kris Kross) is 32. Singer J-Boog is 25. Rapper Asher Roth is 25. Actress Alyson Stoner is 17.

**Thought for Today:** "The best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds." - Edgar A. Guest, American author, journalist and poet (1881-1959).



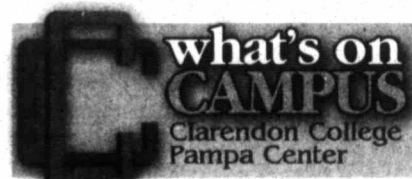
## Pick your program at Clarendon College

It's time to register for fall classes. Fall classes start Wednesday, August 25.

Anyone interested in taking classes this fall can stop by the Clarendon College Pampa Center to get registered. Those interested can call David Hall or Christy Brooks in Pampa at 806-665-8801, for more information.

A complete schedule of classes being offered is available on our website, [www.clarendoncollege.edu](http://www.clarendoncollege.edu). You can register in person Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

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DAVID HALL

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David Hall is a counselor at Clarendon College.

## Obama Afghanistan policy tracks Bush

President Barack Obama is an unremitting critic of George W. Bush, but in Afghanistan he's walking in Bush's shoes. How ironic. But also, how encouraging.

Ironic, of course, because as a senator, Obama was among the strongest critics of Bush's 2007 troop "surge" in Iraq.

He predicted that additional troops would actually worsen the sectarian violence raging in that country — though by September 2008, he acknowledged that "the surge has been successful," but "in ways that not even President Bush expected."

Obama's stance is encouraging because, like Bush in Iraq, he believes in the policies he's pursuing in Afghanistan and is willing to buck opposition.

"We now have a strategy that can work. We've got one of our best generals today, (David) Petraeus, on the ground," he told CBS on Monday.

"I've been very clear that we're going to move forward on a process of training Afghans so that they can provide for their own security."

"Then, by the middle of next year, we're going to start thinning out our troops and giving Afghans more responsibility."

"If I didn't think that it was important for our national security to finish the job in Afghanistan, then I would pull out today, because I have to sign letters to ... families who have lost loved ones."

Opposition to Obama's Afghan policy comes primarily from within the Democratic Party, of course, though there is also opposition from members of the U.S. foreign policy "establishment."

So it was for Bush in Iraq. When the going got rough, prominent Democrats such as Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (Nev.) declared the war "a lost cause" and a "quagmire," and a majority of Congressional Democrats supported measures to curtail funding.

Congressional Democrats are turning against the Afghanistan War in increasing numbers, though opponents are still short of a majority.

Last week, 102 of the House's 255



MORTON KONDRACKE

supporting his Afghan policy.

But Democrats are not about to humiliate a president of their own party, and he is getting expressions of support from figures such as Senate Armed Services Chairman Carl Levin (Mich.) and Foreign Relations Chairman John Kerry (Mass.).

They would almost certainly be denouncing the Afghan war effort if Bush were pursuing it — as would Vice President Joseph Biden. The three not only opposed Bush 43 on Iraq but his father's 1991 decision to go to war when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

In this case, Biden is forecasting that when Obama's "thinning out" process commences next July, it probably will involve "as few as a couple thousand" soldiers. Biden, of course, argued against Obama's "surge" when the policy was being formulated.

Obama also is sticking with his policy against mounting public dissatisfaction and expressions of doubt by "establishment" figures — most recently by Richard Haass, an official in both Bush administrations and now president of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Haass wrote in Newsweek last month that "It is time to scale down our ambitions there and both reduce and redirect what we do." Haass does not favor a full-scale or sudden withdrawal, which "would almost certainly result in the collapse of the Karzai government and a Taliban takeover of much of the country."

Rather, borrowing an idea from Robert Blackwill, a former U.S. ambassador to India, Haass favors "decentralization" — what amounts

to partition — of Afghanistan, handing over Pashtun areas to the Taliban and equipping other ethnic groups to defend themselves.

This idea parallels ideas floated by foreign policy experts as alternatives to Bush's Iraq surge — including a partition plan proposed by Leslie Gelb, Haass' predecessor at CFR, and "redeployment" proposals by the Iraq Study Group.

The latest Gallup poll shows that — no doubt because of mounting U.S. casualty levels — a growing number of Americans (43 percent) believe that the United States made a "mistake" sending troops to Afghanistan, even though the question stipulated this first happened in October 2001.

That, of course, was a month after al-Qaida, then based in Afghanistan, toppled the Twin Towers. The memory seems to be fading.

Since then, some 1,220 U.S. service personnel have lost their lives in Afghanistan. Last month, 66 died, the highest monthly toll in the war.

However, that's far short of the 4,400 who have died in Iraq and the record month, with 131 deaths, in May 2007.

As U.S. commanders have explained, the rising death toll is the result of increased military action to defeat the enemy. By 2008, the monthly average in Iraq was down to 26 deaths as the surge succeeded.

Of course, Iraq and Afghanistan are different countries. Petraeus' counterinsurgency strategy may not work as well in Afghanistan as it did in Iraq.

And yet, it has to be tried. The United States has abandoned Afghanistan and its nuclear-armed neighbor, Pakistan, again and again — too many times to maintain our credibility as a superpower, should we do it again.

Obama is not giving up, much as Bush didn't. We can only hope that both are vindicated.

*A veteran journalist who's spent almost all of his nearly 40-year career in Washington, Kondracke is also a regular commentator for Fox News Channel, a nightly panelist on "Special Report with Brit Hume" and co-host of "The Beltway Boys."*

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# COMICS

Marmaduke



"I'm expecting a call from our neighbors any minute now."

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



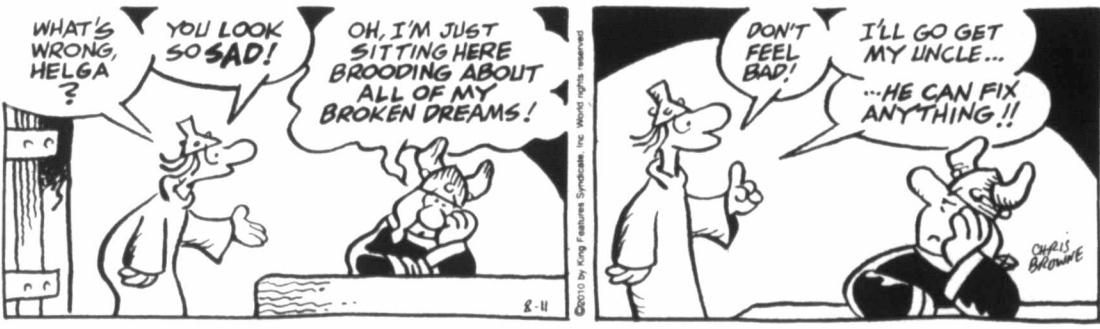
Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

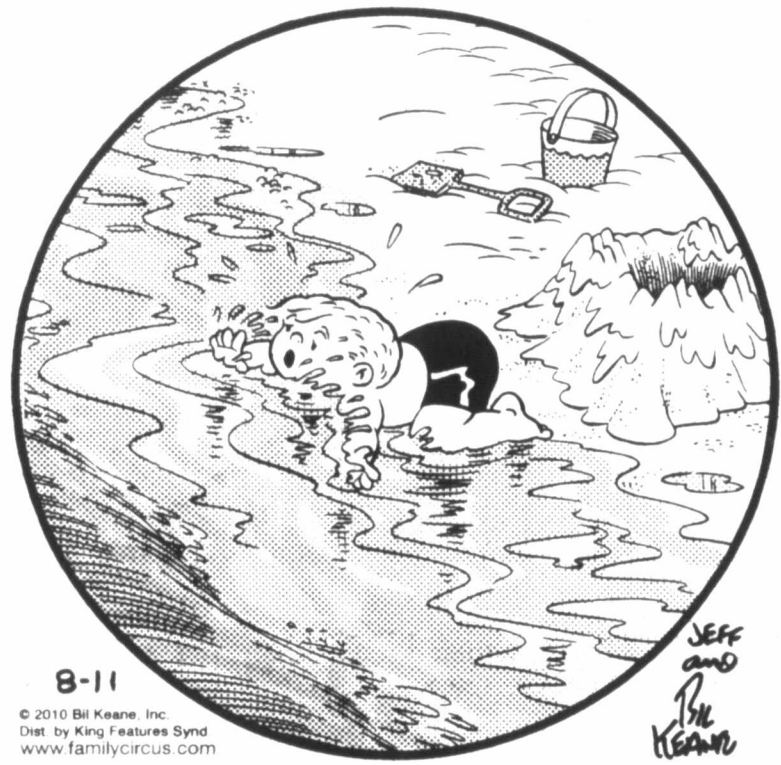


Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"NO! NO!"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Effortless

1 Small bills

5 Charity

9 Like

11 Mayflower

12 Saxon

13 Director

14 Extreme

15 "Smarten

17 "Move it!"

19 Mystery

20 Brief

21 Garden

22 Even a

24 Contrived

26 City on

29 Curved

30 "Be

32 "Scram!"

34 Cal. abbr.

35 Audibly

36 Speculate

38 Hunger

39 Sub

40 Flock

DOWN

1 Sumatran

2 City on

3 Pizza

4 NBC show

5 Radiance

6 Look up

7 Rented

8 Building

10 Dairy-

11 Preten-

16 Fancy

18 Dory or

21 Photo

23 State

24 Would-be

25 Play

27 Eye part

28 Health-

29 Visibly

30 Olympus

31 Suspicious

33 Galoots

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Yesterday's answer

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25	major	36	Raven"
26	start	37	writer

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# Sports

## Young and old Pampa alumni come together nicely

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

There's an All-Star team of sorts coming together at Harvester Field this weekend. While they may not all be the strongest, biggest or fastest, according to Pampa alumni team member Luis Martinez, they're all All-Pro in one respect: Heart.

Martinez said the members of this team are the ones that carry the Pampa football pride the most.

"The ones here are the ones that value the program more than the other guys who've played Pampa football and don't care as much about the tradition," Martinez said.

Members of the team graduated as early as 1990 and as late as 2008.

Martinez says the team carries the same energy they did when they were students.

"No one is out here because they have to be," Martinez said. "Everyone is out here because they want to be."

Running back Marques Long said the love of the game bridges everyone.

"No one sees an age difference," Long said. "You don't think about that. All we are focused on is doing our best for our teammates and be dependent on each other."

The team members that graduated between 1990 and 2003 only played for Coach Dennis Cavalier. Armando Tarango, who graduated in 2003, said

even though the younger players played for several different coaches, it was pretty easy to come together as a team.

"Basically it was teamwork and good communication," Tarango said. "Playing with the older people, you of course more respect for them."

Long said the members of the team that didn't play under Coach Cavalier can sense what he meant to the older graduates.

"The way we are in practice is a little different," Long said. "I didn't play for any other coach than Coach Cav. For a lot of us it's something that grew in us."

Martinez said that the older guys still have the same inspiration despite changes in their life and shape.

"A lot of us have wives, kids, beer bellies or fat pads going on," Martinez said. "We're still out here with the same inspiration that we had in high school."

Another difference for the younger class is the Borger rivalry, as the realignment that left Pampa and Borger in different districts had lessened the game's significance in recent years. Still, team captain Ramon Martinez said it was easy getting everyone on the same page about beating Borger in Saturday's game.

"Everyone knows that this is another chance to come out and go get them," Martinez said. "We have a lot to prove to everybody, the football program and fans here, coming together as one and enjoy a great game."



staff photo by Andrew Glover  
Ramon Martinez looks for a hole in practice at Harvester Field. The Pampa alumni team faces Borger 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Harvester Field.

## Lady Harvesters earn split in season-opening matches

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

Sometimes, a team can have a great skill and execute effectively but things like composure and team chemistry can prevent it from winning. In the Pampa Lady Harvesters opening match against Plainview, that's exactly what happened as they lost in five games (25-16, 18-25, 24-26, 25-22, 11-15).

Head Volleyball Coach Libby Garza said the team played well together but lost composure later in the match.

"We stopped playing together as a team," Garza said. "We lost our team chemistry and couldn't come together as a team."

Team chemistry was a strength in their scrimmages at Bushland Saturday. Garza said they are still trying to find a vocal leader to help senior Taryn Eubank.

"Taryn always does her job," Garza said. "We want someone who can be vocal and people are trying. We got to figure it out. It's a good thing that it's not a skill problem."

Pampa rebounded from that loss and swept Littlefield (25-13, 25-7, 25-13) for their first win of the 2010 season. Garza

said Littlefield was a weaker team and allowed them to experiment with a faster offense.

"It was good for us to have a little fun and get better at harder things," Garza said. "We showed some good character after losing the first game (vs. Plainview) and finished strong."

The head volleyball coach said junior Stephanie Allen, who is playing in her first varsity season, was the team's strongest player Tuesday.

"She really came out of her shell," Garza said. "She scored a lot of points for us and played well at the net. We expect her to do a good job for us every night now."

Garza said the Lady Harvesters (1-1) will have to get tougher before they play in the Randall Tournament Friday and Saturday.

"Coming out of the district we were in and the one we are coming into, we think it's going to be a cakewalk," Garza said.

"It's not. Our district this year is going to be hard. We have to do a better job of holding composure in a match when we are ahead, and fighting earlier when we are behind instead of waiting till it's 24-20 to make a push."

## POYC plans open forum for upcoming football season

CHRIS PORTER  
Special to The Pampa News

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is planning an open meeting to gather information, concerning their upcoming 2010 Football Season. The meeting will take place tomorrow at 7:30 pm, at the POYC Meeting Room. "Our goal is to gauge what the parents would like, to improve our Football Program from top to bottom," said Chris Porter, vice president of the club. "There has been a lot of discussion about tak-

ing our Tackle Third and Fourth Grade group, and changing it to flag football. Before the Board makes a decision on implementing flag football, we feel like we need to talk to the parents, to hear their concerns and ideas," said Porter. "This is not limited to third and fourth grade parents, we would invite anyone with constructive ideas for improving our program to attend." The Club is planning signups to be held the week of August 30, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. "We would like to get

the draft done, and start passing out equipment by Labor Day, September 6th," said Porter. "We are looking forward to playing our games at Harvester Field, and are exploring different ways to get all of our kids playing on it, from 1st through 6th Grades." If anyone would like to volunteer to coach or officiate, they may contact Chris Porter, Shane Stokes or Kevin Davis, or can attend the Thursday Meeting. The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a United Way Organization.

Here at *The Pampa News*, we are trying to expand our horizons. Send us your extreme sports photos (unedited) with a brief description of what is happening and identification of those in the photo via email to [aglover@thepampanews.com](mailto:aglover@thepampanews.com).

**We want your photos!**

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