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The **PAMPA NEWS**

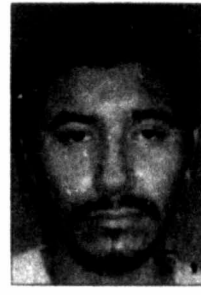
TODAY IN SPORTS

Hero worship
 Big league ballers serve as PHS inspiration
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Home How-to

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Friday, April 1, 2011 Volume 106 • No. 302 75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

Cano sentenced to 20 years for murder

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Juan Daniel Cano, 27, is in the Gray County jail today awaiting transfer to the Texas prison system after being sentenced to 20 years behind bars.
 Cano, convicted of murder in the death of Carlos Hernandez, 19, in 2008, was assessed two decades in prison late Thursday afternoon by a Gray County jury.



Cano

Hernandez was shot in the forehead by a .22-caliber hollow-point bullet in the early morning hours of Sept. 27, 2008. Cano admitted on the witness stand that he fired the round from his rifle. Hernandez died two days later after being airlifted to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.
 The eight-man, four woman jury in the 223rd District Court of Judge Phil Vanderpool returned their verdict in the sentencing phase of the trial about 4:40 p.m. Thursday.
 They found Cano guilty of the murder charge shortly before midnight Wednesday.

Evelyn Rutherford with the District Attorney's Office said the jury did not believe the defense met their burden and that sudden passion played a role in the murder.
 The defense asked for and received a special issue charge for sudden passion.
 The jury heard argument Thursday during the punishment phase of the trial and began their **CANO** cont on page 3

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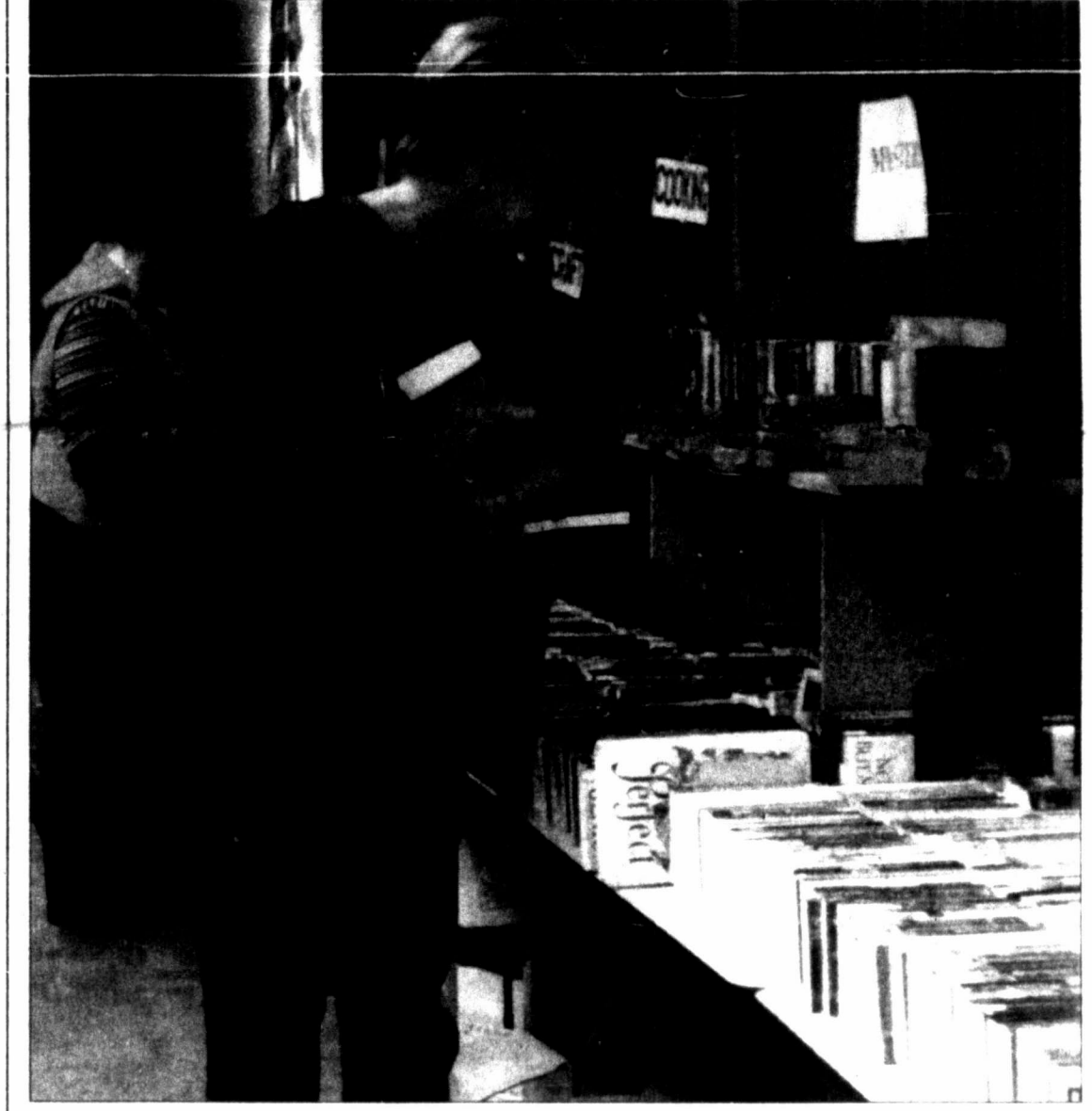
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BALANCING THE BOOKS



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Library patron Martha Jonas looks through the books on sale at the Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale at the Lovett Memorial Library. The sale runs through Sunday.

CASA, Bridge to hold info fair at United

ARNIE AURELLANO
 emailaddress@thepampanews.com
 CASA of the High Plains and The Bridge Advocacy Center will be hosting an informational fair tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parking lot of United Grocery, according to Jane Watts, CASA Executive Director.
 The fair is the third annual and will serve to kick off April's Child Abuse Prevention Month.
 Watts said that it's important to highlight child abuse as a real threat within their coverage area which effectively spans the eastern side of the Panhandle.
 "It's just for people to realize that child abuse does happen in our area," Watts said. "Last year there were 131 confirmed incidents (in our area). This year that rose to 245. We're talking almost double."
 "And that's just the number of confirmed victims," Watts added. "Not just reports."
 To help raise awareness for child abuse at the fair, there will be activities for children and entertainment and information for parents. The Pampa Police Department will be there to complete Kid Print identification for children, as well as Police the Clown and the Pampa Police Department. McGruff the Crime **FAIR** cont on page 7

Grammy nominees After Edmund at The Coffee Shop

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com
 If you didn't think you'd ever get a chance to see a Grammy-nominated recording artist here in little old Pampa, think again.
 After Edmund, a Christian indie pop-rock band from LaGrange, Ga., nominated for Best Rock or Rap Gospel Album in 2008 for their album "Hello," will be making a one-time acoustic performance at The Coffee Shop at 7 p.m. tonight. The band is staying in town for a few days before performing in Perryton on Sunday as part of its current tour.
 "We're staying with our manager's in-laws," laughed bassist and lead vocalist Mitch Parks. "We're on a tour, and we've got three, four

days off, so we thought we'd come check Pampa out."
 "The next show is in Perryton, so it just made sense to crash here," added guitarist Ben Hosey. "Here we are, and the show here just kind of happened. We love to play music. That's what we do."
 The band consists of Parks, Hosey, Matt McFadden on drums and Austin Abbott on keyboard. All four supply vocals, and each member of the band also plays different instruments, with live shows often including a frenetic instrument-swapping session.
 Tonight's show, though, promises to be a bit more subdued, with the band reconnecting with a mellower, coffee shop vibe.
 "The acoustic thing is on the **EDMUND** cont. on page 7



photo image of The Caliber Group

After Edmund (from left, bassist Mitch Parks, guitarist Ben Hosey, drummer Matt McFadden and keyboardist Austin Abbott) will be playing at the Coffee Shop tonight at 7 p.m.

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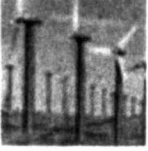


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PAMPA FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
		
High 85 Low 54	High 90 Low 51	High 54 Low 28

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 43. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-east.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 85. Breezy, with a south wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. Windy, with a west southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. Windy, with a south southwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 54. Windy, with a southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north northwest between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Monday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. Windy, with a north northwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

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Cano

deliberations about 2:30 p.m. Thursday. During the trial, Cano testified that he, his brother, Hernandez and a friend, Charles Mejia, had been drinking and were in Cano's mobile home about 1 a.m., Sept. 27, 2008, when he and Hernandez were arguing. Cano said he had the rifle he usually kept under his bed, but couldn't remember when or how he got it. Cano testified that Hernandez picked up a knife. That's

when Cano testified that he shot Hernandez. Assistant District Attorney Jeromie Oney in closing arguments told the jury that no knife was found on the floor where Hernandez fell, although Hernandez' cigarettes, cell phone and hearing aid littered the floor. "There was never a knife," Oney claimed in his closing arguments. The jury agreed.

cont. from page 1

Obituaries

Norma Fulps Stephenson, 90

Norma Fulps Stephenson, 90, died March 31, 2011, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2011, at Memory Gardens Cemetery, with Rev. Linda Kelly, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.



Stephenson

Mrs. Stephenson was born August 6, 1920, in Dublin, to Leila Ruth Hallmark Cline and Thurman Cline, Sr. After graduating from W. C. Stripling High School in Fort Worth in 1936, she was employed in the buying office for Montgomery Ward and Co. for four years. In December of 1941, Norma moved to Pampa and accepted the job of accountant and office manager for Tex Evans Buick Co. Inc. where she enjoyed 17 years with them.

Because of her desire to extend her knowledge to another type of business, she accepted a place with Citizens Bank & Trust Co. as a teller and then as a loan secretary. After 10 pleasant years there, she was offered the opportunity to go with Leonard Hudson Drilling Co. as an accountant, office manager and corporate secretary-treasurer. She spent 22 wonderful years there, retiring on December 31, 1990.

On March 8, 1942, Norma married Norman Fulps in Pampa. Their 45 year, happy marriage, ended with his death on March 23, 1987. On January 31, 1990, she married Lester Stephenson in Bullhead City, Arizona. Their wonderful romance and marriage ended when cancer claimed his life on October 30, 1995.

Norma was formerly a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha and Beta Sigma Phi, the B&PW Club, and the Pampa Country Club for many years. She was a member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

In addition to her parents and husbands, she was preceded in death by her sister and brother-in-law, Charlotte and Robert L. Edmondson of Pampa, her brother and sister-in-law, Thurman Cline, Jr., and wife Doris, her brother, James H. Cline of Odessa, and her special nephew, Ron C. Edmondson of Corsicana.

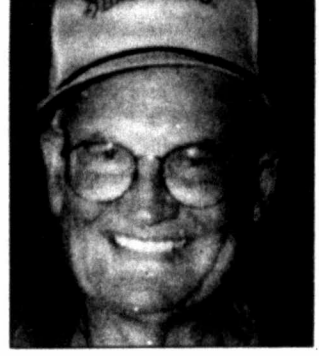
Survivors include her sister-in-law, Ann Berry Cline of Odessa, nieces and nephews, Terry Cline and wife Terry of Houston, Dale Cline and wife Bev of Southlake, Don Cline and wife Heather of Benbrook, Debra Briley and husband Monty of Fort Worth, Caprice Bauer and husband John, of Nevada City, Calif., Leesa Sanders and

husband Robert of Kingwood, Terra Adams and husband Dwight of Round Rock, and Tonya Paul and husband Scott of San Diego, Calif.; 18 great nieces and nephews; and many wonderful, caring friends who have been such a big part of her life.

Memorials may be made to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 727 W. Browning, Pampa, TX 79065. Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Robert Landrum Mathews, 82

AMARILLO—Robert Landrum Mathews, 82, died March 30, 2011, in Amarillo.



Mathews

Graveside service will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 2, 2011, in Memorial Park Cemetery with Corky Holland, First Baptist Church officiating.

Arrangements by Griggs-Schooler-Gordon Funeral Directors, 5400 S. Bell, Amarillo.

Family will receive friends 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, April 1, at the funeral home. Burial will be at Memorial Park Cemetery, Amarillo.

Mr. Mathews was born November 8, 1928, in Myra, to William and Nellie Mathews. Mr. Mathews served in the Army from January 1951 through October, 1952. He married Betty Jean Almon on April 29, 1951. Mathews was avid hunter as well as an expert marksman, enjoying his membership in the Amarillo gun club beginning in 1989. He won numerous trophies and awards for his marksmanship. Mr. Mathews was a Past Master of the Masonic Lodge Number 1242 in Borger. Bob moved to Borger in 1952 and worked for Standard Asbestos Company for several years. They moved to Amarillo and he worked for Howell Insulation Company for 18 years before retirement.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Jean in 2004, his parents, two brothers, one sister, and a brother-in-law Mark Almon.

Survivors include two sisters, Dorothy Linn and Kate Morrison; a niece, Joy Bivins; a nephew, Russell Almon; sister-in-law, Maureen Almon; numerous other nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Memorials may be made to Masonic Lodge Number 1242, 212 West Grand, Borger, TX 79007

Send on line condolences to www.griggsschoolergordon.com.

For the record

cont. from Thursday

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests over the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Thursday.

Wednesday, March 30

Jorge A. Parra, 31, was arrested by officers on charges of allow unlicensed driver to operate motor vehicle and failure to change address on drivers license.

Christian Fisher Serrano, 31, was arrested by officers on a charge of no valid drivers license.

Cynthia Ann Meeks, 51, was arrested by officials on a charge of theft by check.

Emmanuel Campos, 27, was arrested by officers on a charge of capias pro fine

times two.

Eric Sean Lemons, 29 was arrested by officers on a charge of violation of probation relating to possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone and a second count of violation of probation relating to possession of a controlled substance.

Juan Fajardo, 41, was arrested by deputies on charges of DWI and no drivers license.

Police Department

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

There were 26 traffic-related incidents.

Animal control officers

reported 11 animal-related incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to eight ambulance calls.

The Pampa Fire Department responded to one accident and one investigation.

The Lefors Volunteer EMS and the Lefors VFD both responded to one medical call.

Thursday, March 31

An escort was provided in the 1300 block of N. Mary Ellen.

An alarm was reported in the 2200 block of N. Beech. A threat was reported in the 400 block of S. Hughes.

An open door was reported in the 500 block of N. Powell.

A suspicious person was reported at Browning and Magnolia.

Lost property was reported in the 1000 block of N. Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of N. Duncan.

An alarm was reported in the 1900 block of N. Nelson.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of S. Neel Rd.

A threat was reported in the 700 block of E. Kingsmill.

Friday, April 1

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of E. Hwy. 60.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 500 block of N. Frost.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, March 31

David Perez, 26, was arrested by deputies on violation of parole in connection with charges of driving while intoxicated.

Johnny Ray Blackwood, 37, was arrested by police on charges of theft by check.

Henry Palacios Jr., 36, was arrested by police on two capias pro fine warrants.

Friday, April 1

Dustin C.J. Curry, 21, was arrested by Department of Public Safety Troopers on charges of driving while intoxicated.

Leroy Maurice Williams, 23, was arrested by police on capias pro fine warrants in connection with charges of disorderly conduct — language.

LAST MINUTE ADS

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16 WEEK teaching of Celebrating Biblical Feast, ea. Sat. starts Apr. 2, 3pm., 210 N. Ward.

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AFTERNOONRUSH House to tap \$3.1B from Rainy Day Fund

Indicted manager found dead

PECOS (AP) — The administrator of a West Texas city has been found dead after being indicted on a charge of indecency with a child.

A Reeves County grand jury late Tuesday indicted 60-year-old Pecos City Manager Joseph Gilbert Torres over an alleged 2001 incident with a girl.

He surrendered and was released on \$15,000 bond. City Attorney Scott Johnson says Torres was found dead at home Wednesday morning. Johnson says Torres died of a gunshot wound.

Police Chief Clay McKinney, who's been named interim city manager, on Thursday told The Associated Press that the death is not believed to be suspicious. McKinney says suicide has not been ruled out or confirmed. Texas Rangers are also investigating.

Pecos is a town of about 7,800, located 200 miles east of El Paso.

House votes to strip arts funding

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House has adopted a measure to gut state arts funding.

During the amendment process for the state budget Friday, an unusual alliance of conservative Republicans and Democrats came together behind a provision to drain general revenue funding from the Texas Commission on the Arts. The money, about \$3.5 million, would be redirected into community-based programs for the elderly and disabled.

House Republican leaders fought the measure. They said it would essentially wipe out the agency which provides grants for arts and cultural events. But tea-party conservatives said the state can't afford to fund arts programs when so many human needs aren't being met. The amendment passed on an unusually close 67-61 vote.

Teen killed at Houston school

HOUSTON (AP) — Authorities have identified the teen killed in a shooting at a football field at a Houston high school where five others were injured.

Houston police say 18-year-old Tremaine Paul of Houston suffered at least one gunshot wound Wednesday. He was pronounced dead at Ben Taub General Hospital.

Five other males were treated at area hospitals for non-life-threatening wounds.

Witnesses said the shooting happened as a group of young men watched their girlfriends play football at the Worthing High School field in southern Houston. They told police a car full of other young men drove onto the field and a brief fistfight broke out. They also told police that they believed the shooting was gang-related.

Alleged racists arraigned

BEAUMONT (AP) — Two men alleged to be part of a white supremacist gang have been arraigned on federal conspiracy and other charges relating to the 2009 shooting of another gang associate.

A Justice Department statement says 31-year-old Joshua Mark Bodine of Vidor and 59-year-old John Oliver Manning of Pasadena are charged in a federal indictment opened Thursday with violent crimes in support of racketeering.

The pair was arraigned Thursday in Beaumont on counts that include conspiracy to assault, assault and assorted firearms and drug charges.

The statement says the two are members and associates of the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas and are accused of shooting and wounding a fellow gang associate in Nederland. Messages left with their attorneys Thursday weren't returned.

Highways get failing grade

AUSTIN (AP) — A state-sanctioned committee gave Texas a failing grade for its highway system, and warned congestion is only going to get worse.

The 2030 Committee presented the findings to the Texas Transportation Commission Thursday morning. The committee warned commission members that Texans have a choice, either raise the gas tax to pay for better highways, or spend more time sitting in traffic.

The Transportation Commission asked a group of business leaders and traffic experts to study the highway system. Several commission members complained that the state's gas tax is too low, and therefore there's not enough money to improve roads.

Texas lawmakers are already battling a \$27 billion budget shortfall.

1 dead in chemical plant blast

PORT ARTHUR (AP) — One person is dead and three others are hurt after an explosion and flash fire at a Southeast Texas chemical plant.

The incident happened about 2:15 p.m. Thursday at the KMTEX plant near Port Arthur. A statement issued by Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy Rod Carroll says witnesses report a worker was welding on a pipeline containing coal tar solvent when it exploded.

Carroll said two of the injured workers were airlifted to John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, one with head injuries and another with burns and fractures to lower extremities. Another worker was taken by ambulance to Christus St. Mary's hospital in Port Arthur with a concussion. No identities or conditions have been released.

Gas prices bounce up across TX

IRVING (AP) — Retail gasoline prices bounced up across Texas, with double-digit increases in some cities.

The weekly AAA Texas price survey released Thursday showed a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was retailing for an average price of \$3.51. That's 8 cents more than last week but a dime less than the national average, which also increased.

The auto club says that besides a rise in crude oil prices, prices at the pump faced upward pressure from refiners' seasonal switch to a cleaner-burning, more expensive summer blend.

The cheapest gasoline in Texas is found in Corpus Christi, where the average price of a gallon of regular unleaded rose by a nickel to \$3.43. The most expensive gasoline is in Fort Worth, where the average price jumped 14 cents to \$3.58 per gallon.

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House tentatively agreed to use more than \$3.1 billion from the Rainy Day Fund Thursday as part of a package of legislation intended to help pay the state's bills for the remaining five months of the 2011 budget.

Both Democrats and Republicans agreed to tap the fund in the 142-2 vote, though Democrats made repeated pleas to use more.

Democrats did not support a bill that was approved earlier in the day, which made spending cuts to help balance the 2011 budget. They urged using more of the reserve fund to pay for education, nursing homes and other programs that are expected to get slashed.

"What we are using from the Rainy Day Fund right now will not keep the nursing homes open. They will close," said Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston, estimating five out of six nursing homes in Harris County will close because of cuts to state funding. "More than 50,000 elderly and disabled people will either return home or go someplace else."

"Teachers will be laid off. There will not be new textbooks," he said.

But Republicans used their supermajority to hold firm, not allowing

any more of the rainy-day money to be tapped.

The fund, made up of revenue from oil and gas taxes, is expected to have a balance of at least \$9.4 billion.

The next budget, which covers state spending for 2012-113, is set to come up for debate today.

The package approved Thursday makes about \$1.5 billion in agency cuts, including those requested last year by state leaders. They include a reduction in a needy families program and a \$463 million decrease for universities and community colleges.

"I don't believe there is a greater investment than to invest in our students," Turner said, arguing for an amendment that would have taken money away from the governor's discretionary accounts to fund the B-On-Time student financial aid program. "This choice is between criminal justice grants in the governor's trustee program versus financial aid grants to students who are trying to go to university."

The amendment was rejected on a 97-48 party line vote, illustrating the supermajority strength Republicans now wield in the 101-49 GOP-led

chamber.

"I understand these are painful cuts," said Killeen Republican Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock, arguing against the amendment.

Numerous other amendments, including efforts to spend more on various colleges and take money away from Perry's housing funds, also were rejected on party-line votes. One amendment, by Rep. Lon Burnam, D-Fort Worth, would have taken \$35,000 from the governor's office and moved the money — enough to pay one teacher's salary for a year — to the Texas Education Agency.

Tapping the Rainy Day Fund has run into resistance from fiscal conservatives in the chamber. But an agreement between House leaders and Perry cleared the way to use about a third of the reserves to help balance the budget that ends Aug. 31.

The legislation requires three-fifths approval, or 90 votes, to pass.

The supplemental budget and Rainy Day Fund measures "are paying our current obligation," said Rep. Jim Pitts, the lead House budget writer.

2 Texas prep players charged with animal cruelty

BENBROOK, (AP) — Two Texas high school baseball players accused of sacrificing chickens in a superstitious ritual to end their slump have been charged with cruelty to livestock animals.

Benbrook Police Sgt. John Van Ness said Thursday the case has been turned over to a Tarrant County juvenile court, where a decision will be made on whether to prosecute the teens, whose names are not being released.

Police in the Fort Worth suburb said the 15- and 16-year-old "engaged in acts that caused the death of two baby chickens" on the Western Hills High School baseball field during spring break two weeks ago. Police said superstition about a slump in baseball performance could have played a part.

The boys have been kicked off the team for the rest of the year and were disciplined, said Barbara Griffith, a Fort Worth schools spokeswoman, who declined to provide further

details, citing student privacy laws.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals sent the school principal a letter Thursday offering materials to launch an animal rights club there.

"Teaching students about animal issues helps prevent violence and helps students apply concepts of respect and kindness toward animals in their own lives," Elizabeth Grafteo, PEIA's TeachKind program manager, wrote to Western Hills High School.

The school did not immediately return a call to The Associated Press on Thursday.

Cruelty to livestock animals is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine — but only if the person is a first-time offender and charged as an adult.

Cases are handled differently in the juvenile system, where those convicted can be sentenced to probation or time in a youth detention facility, depending on the offense.

Western Hills High School baseball coach Bobby McIntire told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that "baseball is very superstitious" and the players possibly got the idea from some sports movies.

Baseball has long been associated with superstitions, with players and even fans wearing "lucky" clothing or items and repeating routines if they think it helped their teams win.

Former Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra would do an elaborate routine adjusting his batting gloves before each pitch during an at-bat — every single time.

San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy has said stress is only one reason he hasn't been able to quit dipping. For years as a manager, he dipped in the first, fifth and eighth innings.

"Superstitious as much as anything," he told The AP last summer, several months before the Giants won the World Series.

Building a concrete block wall

HOME HOW-TO

Dear Pat: I moved into a house that has a 3-foot high concrete block wall around a patio. The wall is in good condition, but it looks bad. What can I do to spruce up its appearance on a limited budget? — Jean C.

Dear Jean: Concrete block walls are often used for retaining walls as in your situation or just as an accent to separate landscaping areas. If laid properly, they can last a lifetime. As you have noticed though, they are not particularly attractive, especially in an area such as a patio, where you want to entertain guests.

The two basic options you have are to paint the concrete blocks with masonry paint or cover them with a stone or tile veneer. Painting is the quick and easy way to jazz it up a little. To create a very attractive wall around your patio, use a stone veneer over the blocks. It will not only look great, but it will add weight and stability to the wall.

You are lucky your wall is only 3 feet high. This is about the maximum height for installing a stone veneer using a simple method. For walls higher than 3 feet, you should consult your local building inspectors to make sure it meets code. If a piece of stone facing came loose and fell from 4 or 5 feet, it could certainly hurt someone's foot.

The stone veneer must rest on a footing or other support and just not rely on the adhesion of the mortar to the block surface. If there is a footing that extends out under the wall, dig down to it. If not, bolt a metal angle to the bottom of the block wall to support the stone veneer. Put flashing over the angle or footing to keep rainwater from backing up under it.

You will have to attach metal wall ties to the block walls. These are the same types of ties that connect a brick veneer on a house to the underlying frame structure. Drill holes in the blocks and attach the ties with masonry screws. Using a hammer drill will speed up the process significantly. Space the holes so that you have one tie for each square foot of wall area.

Mix a bag of mortar with water in a wheelbarrow. Its consistency should be similar to mashed potatoes. Don't make it too wet. Dampen the wall surface. If it is dry, the wall will pull (wick) the moisture from the mortar and make it too dry to adhere well.

Using the trowel, apply a one-quarter-inch thick coating of mortar to the wall. Butter the back of the piece of stone with another one-half-inch thick layer of mortar. Press the stone against the wall, starting at the bottom, and wiggle it back and forth just a little.

After you lay the first course, work your way up until the entire wall is covered. Finish the top with narrow horizontal stone pieces for a professional appearance. After the mortar sets up and becomes slightly stiff, use the tip of the trowel to smooth and dress the mortar joints between the stones.

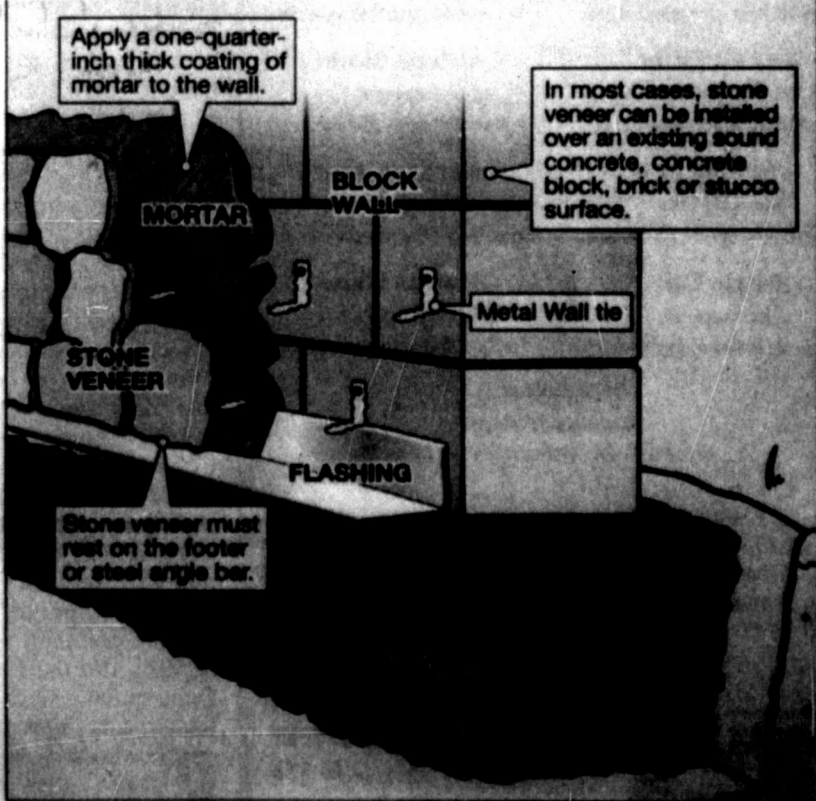
Tools and materials required: wheelbarrow, hoe, trowel, chisel, hammer, drill, masonry drill bits, safety clothing, stone, mortar, masonry screws, flashing, metal wall ties

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

HOME HOW-TO

Stone Wall

Give a boring wall the look and feel of natural stone by installing stone veneer directly over the surface. Modern stone veneer is relatively easy not only to install, but to work with.



Source: www.concreteideas.com

Creators.com/Step 1/12

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, April 1, the 91st day of 2011. There are 274 days left in the year. This is April Fool's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 1, 1945, American forces launched the amphibious invasion of Okinawa during World War II.

On this date:

In 1853, Cincinnati, Ohio, established a fire department made up of paid city employees.

In 1933, Nazi Germany began persecuting Jews with a boycott of Jewish-owned businesses.

In 1939, the United States recognized the government of Gen. Francisco Franco in Spain, the same day Franco went on radio to declare victory in the Spanish Civil War.

In 1960, the first true weather satellite, TIROS-1, was launched from Cape Canaveral. (TIROS stood for "Television Infrared Observation Satellite.")

In 1961, the sedative thalidomide was made available by prescription in Canada. (The drug, which was taken by pregnant women to relieve morning sickness, was found to cause devastating birth defects.)

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed a measure banning cigarette advertising on radio and television, to take effect after Jan. 1, 1971.

In 1984, recording star Marvin Gaye was shot to death by his father, Marvin Gay Sr. in Los Angeles, the day before his 45th birthday. (The elder Gay pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter, and received probation.)

In 1991, cable TV's Comedy Central was created through a merger of HBO's The Comedy Channel and Viacom's Ha!

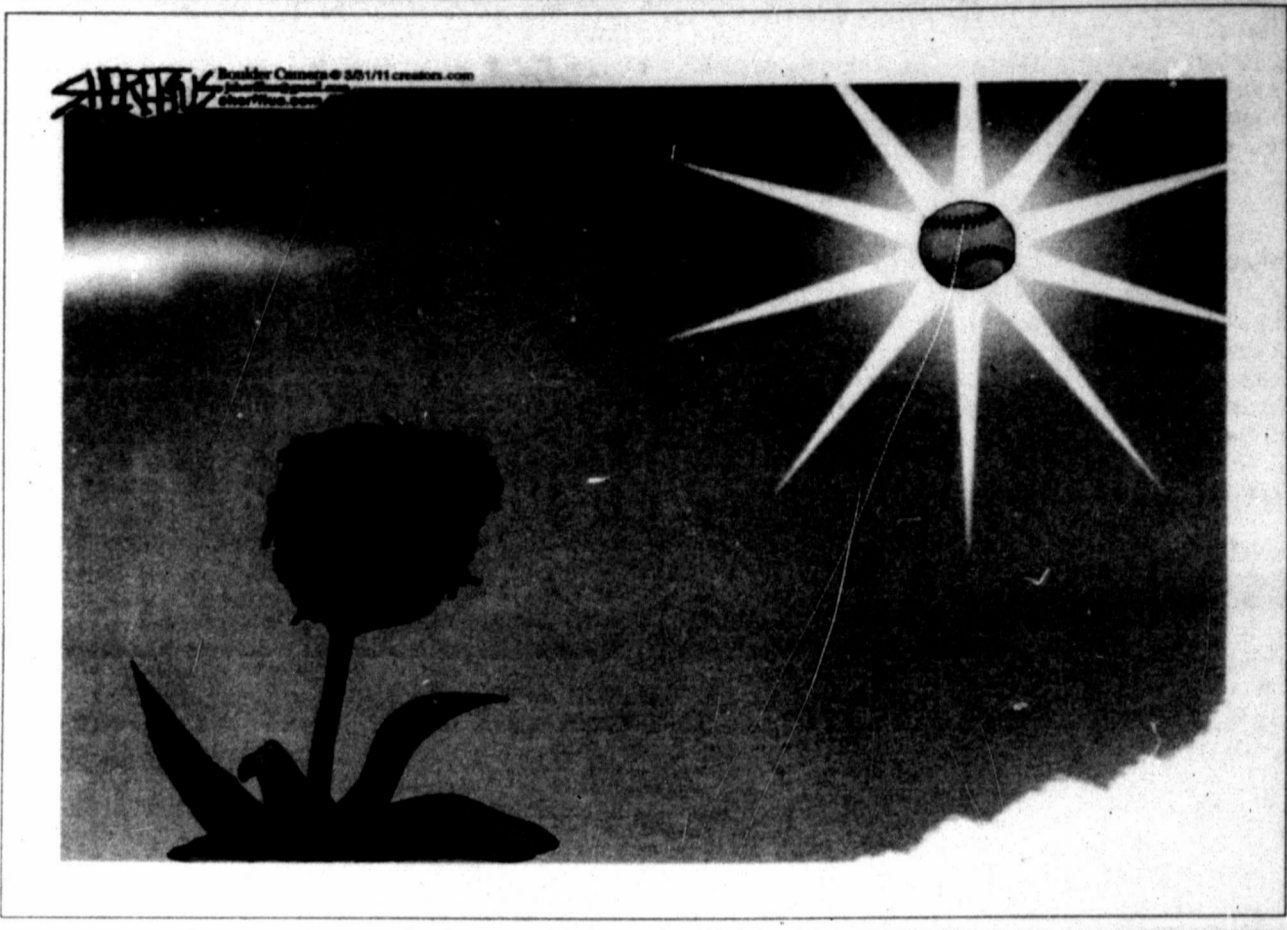
Ten years ago: A U.S. Navy surveillance plane collided with a Chinese fighter over the South China Sea, then made an emergency landing on China's Hainan island. (The Chinese pilot was killed; the 24 U.S. crew members were unhurt, but were held prisoner by China for a tense eleven days.)

Five years ago: Former hostage Jill Carroll arrived in Germany, where the freelance American journalist strongly disavowed statements she had made during her captivity in Iraq and shortly after her release, saying she'd been repeatedly threatened.

One year ago: Roman Catholic cardinals across Europe used their Holy Thursday sermons to defend Pope Benedict XVI from accusations he'd played a role in covering up sex abuse scandals.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Jane Powell is 83. Actress Grace Lee Whitney is 81. Actress Debbie Reynolds is 79. Country singer Jim Ed Brown is 77. Actor Don Hastings is 77. Blues singer Eddie King is 73. Actress Ali MacGraw is 73. Reggae singer Jimmy Cliff is 63. Jazz musician Gil Scott-Heron is 62. Rock musician Billy Currie (Ultravox) is 61. Actress Annette O'Toole is 59. Movie director Barry Sonnenfeld is 58. Singer Susan Boyle is 50. Country singer Woody Lee is 43. Movie directors Albert and Allen Hughes are 39. Political commentator Rachel Maddow is 38. Singer Bijou Phillips is 31. Actor Sam Huntington is 29. Actor Matt Lanter is 28. Actor Josh Zuckerman is 26.

Thought for Today: "The only sin is mediocrity." —Martha Graham, American modern dance pioneer (born 1894, died this date in 1991)



Whole lotta something going on (this month)

Whole Lotta SOMETHIN' Goin' On...

Or maybe I should say a whole lotta EVERYTHING goin' on. April is a busy month. We've put away winter for a few months (though that is NOT to say we won't have some cold spells—and maybe even a freeze) and people are ready to start moving again...there's the Friends of the Library Book Sale, the Altrusa Style Show, Create-A-Beat Spring Fling, Love Worth Fighting For Seminar, Special Olympics Golf Scramble, and Lori wanted me to be sure I reminded you about Administrative Professionals Day on April 27.

Holy Moly!

It occurred to me recently that I have never mentioned Pampa's churches in this column.

During the course of our marriage, my wife and I have visited countless churches and had a variety of experiences—good, indifferent, and bad. Enough of the latter two to be naturally suspect and guarded, but we can both affirm that we have been pleased with Pampa's churches.

Our "regular" church is First United Methodist, but we have attended services at St. Paul's Methodist, First Christian, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, and special events at St. Matthew's Episcopal.

I have broken bread at St. Matt's, was destined to dine with the Presbyterians, and have chosen to

Chamber Music



JOE WEAVER

visiting with Brother Jimmie Cole of the Nazarene Church, Father Hugo of St. Vincent's, Mother Linda of St. Matt's, Brother Leland and Sister Darlene Lewis of First Assembly, Pastor Ericson of Zion, Preacher Mark Lance at Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ, and Lonny Robbins of Trinity Fellowship, whatever his title is! (Mayor?)

We have been treated well. (Too well at Baptist Men's Breakfast, where I usually leave stuffed to incapacitation with one of Mark Taylor's famous burritos!) However, in other places, I have, as a visitor, been glared at, asked to move, ignored, crowded out, or "over-welcomed". (I reiterate that NONE of these happened in Pampa—a pleasant sur-

prise.) Thanks again, Pampa, for making us feel welcome!

What's in a name...

Mike Price told me this week that he once knew a Tom South who married Mia North.

A friend informed me of an acquaintance named Riva Dean, who married a man with the surname Dean—making her Riva Dean Dean.

and finally...

OK, I hope no one gets offended, but I read an article about a WTAMU professor named DeButte. You KNOW that it must be pronounced like Butte, Montana, but your mind just does something else with that name. So, how about if this prof and Tom Paine partnered in a firm called...

...Paine 'N' DeButte Tax Consultants.

CORRECTION

The Grand Opening/Open House for M&S Specialty Foods is NOT April 1 as reported in last week's column, but April 30, so you have a month to anticipate it!

Joe Weaver is the Executive Director of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. "Chamber Music" (and other entries) can be found on the web at: warpswool.livejournal.com. The site, "Around Town and Other Things" is not produced, sponsored, or endorsed by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

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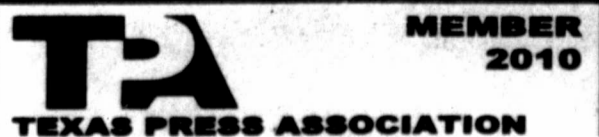
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Analysis: US still lacks border strategy

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government hasn't come up with a comprehensive strategy to secure the U.S.-Mexico border, even as an all-out war between Mexico and its violent drug gangs has claimed 35,000 lives and pushed hundreds of thousands of immigrants into the United States.

The U.S. government has spent nearly \$4 billion on various approaches, including a \$2.4 billion border fence effort, two deployments of National Guard troops to temporarily bolster the Border Patrol, and a now-defunct \$1 billion "virtual fence" that covered 53 miles of the 2,100-mile U.S.-Mexico border until the Obama administration scrapped it earlier this year.

"In spite of an effort to do more, there does not appear to be a plan in place that actually accomplishes the objectives of a secure border," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said earlier this month in a speech to the U.S.-Mexico Congressional Border Issues Conference.

The physical fence saw drugs catapulted over it, tunneled under it and even driven over with homemade ramps. "Show me a 10-foot fence, I'll show you an 11-foot ladder" became common wisdom along the border. And the Homeland Security Department now faces lawsuits from landowners who found their property in a no-man's land on the other side of the fence, inaccessible to the rest of the United States.

The U.S. also tried the SBInet

virtual fence plan, abandoned earlier this year after a billion-dollar expenditure. Now there's a new plan to install cameras, radar and other gadgets. But that gear won't be in place border-wide until at least 2021 and maybe not until 2026, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano says these efforts are working, and she points to a 36 percent drop in apprehensions at the border and the addition of thousands of newly hired Border Patrol agents. Those successes, she tells Congress, need to be built upon.

"In March 2009, the Obama administration launched the Southwest Border Initiative to bring focus and intensity to Southwest border security, coupled with a reinvigorated, smart and effective approach to enforcing immigration laws in the interior of our country," Napolitano said in written testimony submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this month. "We are now two years into this strategy and, based on our own indicators of progress as well as previous benchmarks by Congress, it is clear that this approach is working."

But that initiative focused almost entirely on adding people and financial resources to the border, an effort that experts say is incomplete without a wider strategy that focuses on hard information about what and who is getting across the border daily, statistics the administration has been unable to collect. Most of the planning at the moment is

focused on the Arizona-Mexico border, the busiest section of the border in terms of smuggling drugs and people. For that, Homeland Security has crafted a plan to replace the virtual fence, at a cost of another \$775 million and five years.

Yet an overall strategy from the Pacific to Gulf coasts is lacking, critics say.

Bradley Schreiber, a former Homeland Security senior adviser and current vice president for the Applied Science Foundation for Homeland Security, said the government has employed a piecemeal strategy using technology or personnel. But so far the government hasn't developed a solid way to measure the threat and therefore can't know for sure if it is really responding to it in the best way.

"We don't know what the threat is because we haven't done a thorough assessment," Schreiber said. "We don't know what's coming across and we don't have a strategy to address it."

Doris Meissner, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Migration Policy Institute and one-time head of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, said she doesn't see a clear goal or way to get there.

"There are a series of pieces," Meissner said. A comprehensive strategy "may already be there, but you can't tell because there is no goal."

She said the first step should be to define "secure." Congress has asked for operational control, which it

BORDER cont. on page 7

Worship

No honor in his own country?

Why Did Jesus Say That a Prophet Has No Honor in His Own Country? (John 4:39-45)

"They knew Jesus when he was a kid. They just said, 'Hi, Jesus,' but they didn't know he was God," says Stacey, 6.

It's hard to talk with people who have known you for a long time, especially about spiritual matters. They think they know you. In most cases, they're right, but not with Jesus.

When Jesus taught in his hometown synagogue at Nazareth, those in attendance said, "Where did this Man get these things?" (Mark 6:2). The Bible says they were both astonished and offended. They saw Jesus heal people, but they couldn't get past the fact that they knew his mother, brothers and sisters. After all, Jesus was only a carpenter. He didn't have the proper academic or religious credentials.

Be careful about despising the ordinary. Remember how God spoke to Moses for the first time? He used a burning bush. In God's hands, something ordinary can become extraordinary. In Pharaoh's court, the common staff Moses carried miraculously became a snake.

When the prophet Samuel traveled to anoint a new king for Israel, he thought Jesse's oldest son would be God's choice.

"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'" (1 Samuel 16:7).

The Lord chose a shepherd boy attending his father's sheep. Furthermore, David was the least likely choice in a society that favored eldest sons. He was the youngest son. God seems to delight in taking the least likely route.

Jesus didn't come into this world with great fanfare as most would expect of the Messiah. The place where he lived, Nazareth, was small and unimportant. The profession he chose, carpentry, didn't impress.

"Isaiah 53 shows that Jesus had been expecting this all along," says Nathaniel, 9: "He is despised and rejected by men,



CARY KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from him; he was despised, and we did not esteem him" (Isaiah 53:3).

The Old Testament is full of prophecies about the Messiah. The Hebrew prophets foretold where Jesus would be born (Bethlehem), the lineage of his birth (David's offspring) and the sufferings he would endure for our sins (Isaiah 53:6). How ironic that the one foretold by the prophets would have no honor among his own people.

"The people kept waiting for a prophet to come, but there he was right in front of them," says Julia, 7.

At our own peril, we ignore people and things that are right in front of us. Are you someone who thinks that you would have been right there following Jesus if you had seen the miracles he performed and heard the messages he preached?

It's easy to imagine what you would have done if you had lived in Jesus' time. Although Jesus isn't physically present on Earth today, we do have a reliable record of his ministry. We have access to the Bible, Bible commentaries and inspirational books in abundance.

Think about this: Christians can honor Christ today by witnessing to the power of God's saving grace and teaching others how to allow Christ to live through them.

Memorize this truth: "For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country" (John 4:44).

Ask this question: How can you honor Jesus Christ today?

Cary Kinsolving is a syndicated newspaper columnist and seasoned religion reporter. Many of Kinsolving's feature articles have appeared in The Washington Post and other major newspapers via news services such as The New York Times News Service, Cox, Hearst and Donrey.

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

St. Matthew's to host preaching mission

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church starts their Lenten Preaching Mission Sunday which continues through Monday.

The title of the sermon series is A Lenten Carol, Considering the Ghosts of Christians Past, Present and Future. Church administrator Janice Roy said it's the church's annual revival service.

"It's something the church does for the community," Roy said. "It's part of the preparation for the Easter season."

Sunday services are 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The 9 a.m. service is the Holy Eucharist Rite II and the first sermon, Shedding the Ghost of

Christians. Brunch will follow the service in the Parish Hall.

The 6 p.m. service will be Evening prayer and the second sermon, Confronting the Ghosts of Christians-Present. Monday the church will hold a noonday prayer and the third sermon, Imagining the Ghosts of Christians Future. The last service is 6 p.m. Monday and the sermon is The Church of Possibility: What's Emerging. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Reverend Paul Carruth, Associate Area Minister for The Christian Church, is preaching. Roy said he will be preaching from Ezekiel.

St. Matthew's is located in the 700 block of West Browning Avenue.

Pampa Church Directory

- Assemblies Of God**
 - **Calvary Assembly of God Church**
806-669-7207
1030 Love Street
 - **First Assembly of God**
806-665-5941
500 South Cuyler
 - **New Life Assembly of God**
806-665-0804
1435 N. Sumner
- Baptist**
 - **Bible Baptist Church**
806-669-7830
500 East Kingsmill Avenue
 - **Calvary Baptist Church**
806-665-0842
900 East 23rd
 - **Central Baptist Church**
806-665-1631
513 East Francis Avenue
 - **Cornerstone Baptist Church**
(806) 669-6509
2410 W. 23rd Ave.
 - **Crosspointe**
665-2480
711 E. Harvester
 - **Fellowship Baptist Church**
806-665-5976
622 East Francis Avenue
 - **First Baptist Church**
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203 North West Street
 - **First Free Will Baptist Church**
806-665-2545
731 Sloan Street
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806-669-7967
824 South Barnes
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2100 W. Kentucky
 - **Highland Baptist Church**
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1100 Crawford Street
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1021 S. Barnes
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806-665-0262
725 West Brown
 - **Macedonia Baptist Church**
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 - **St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church**
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 - **First Christian Church**
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1123 Gwendolyn Avenue
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422 N. West St.
 - **Open Door Church of God in Christ**
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402 Oklahoma Street
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1123 Gwendolyn
- Episcopal**
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 - **Trinity Fellowship Church**
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APRIL FOOLS' DAY

APRIL 1

April Fool's Day History

Every year pranksters anticipate April Fools' Day so they can play tricks on the unsuspecting people in their lives. While many take April 1st for granted as a fool's paradise, others might be surprised to learn just how this day of fun came to be.

Although there is no concrete historical proof about the origins of April Fool's Day, there are some assumptions based on historical references.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Gregorian calendar was still a work in progress. For centuries, many Western nations followed the Julian calendar, set in place by Julius Caesar. With this calendar, January 1 was designated as the start of a new year. But the Julian calendar had flaws, eventually causing the solar year to diverge from the calendar year.

Also, during the 14th century, Christianity was becoming more widespread across Europe. Christian leaders wanted the calendar to better coordinate with significant events in Christian history. Many people, especially those in France, began using April 1 as the start of the new year, to coincide with Spring and Easter time. Much of Europe was using March 25, or the Feast of Annunciation, as the beginning of the new year. Still others were continuing to use January 1.

Eventually Pope Gregory XIII ordered a new calendar to be issued that would replace the old Julian calendar and coordinate the calendar on a larger level. With the Gregorian calendar, the start of the new year would again be restored to January 1.

France and other nations adopted the new calendar relatively quickly, but many individuals refused to celebrate on January 1 or simply had not heard about the switch from April to January. Rumor has it that there were many people who continued to celebrate the new year on April 1.

Those who were not in tune with the calendar change were the subject of pranks from those who were current with the changes. One prank in France was to stick paper fish on the back of the people celebrating in April. These became called, "Poisson d'Avril," or April Fish. To this day, the term remains the French version of "April Fools."

There are also theories that April Fool's Day comes in conjunction with the "Spring Fever" that often occurs at the beginning of April. There may be something about the spring season that fits with the theme of lighthearted pranks.

Today the holiday is celebrated throughout the Western world. It is common to play tricks on others, including getting them to believe things that are normally ridiculous. Year after year, unsuspecting people fall for the folly of April Fool's Day.

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 STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The **PAMPA NEWS**

Edmund

other end of the spectrum from what we normally do," said McFadden. "We're fairly electronic and very plugged in, so this will be a little different. The coffee shop atmosphere lends itself well to (acoustic music), so it'll be interesting to hear the songs in that context."

"You almost kind of rediscover the song," Parks said.

"You play it 120 times a year or so, so doing it in different ways is cool," added McFadden.

The band is on tour to promote a two-part release, with the first EP, "Times Have Changed," coming out in February and the second due currently for release sometime in the fall. They are also currently touting "Dance Like You're From the Future," their new radio single from "Times Have Changed" which has yet to hit local stations but has been in circulation with the EP's release.

Listing their musical influences as "everyone from Pink Floyd to the Beatles to Muse" (the Zac Brown Band and John Frusciante of the Red Hot Chili Peppers also earned a mention), the boys of After Edmund are inviting Pampa to check out tonight's stripped down set to get a taste of their sound. Often labeled with the sometimes dreaded pop-rock moniker, the band's members are instead embracing the umbrella category, looking at it as not a defining genre but a measure of their music's appeal.

"Pop rock is almost the overarching genre of most music out there right now," McFadden said. "It's popular music."

"We definitely have more of an indie or alternative

sound," said Hosey. "Something that's a little different. But it doesn't bother us to be called 'pop rock.'"

While the Christian rock label also shares a negative connotation with certain listeners, the band doesn't shy away from that category either.

"There's only 12 notes out there," Parks said. "It's how you make them work for you. Now, we definitely all believe in Jesus. We believe he died for our sins. That makes a difference in every aspect of our lives, including our music."

While After Edmund has certainly tasted a degree of success, the four band members said that they still consider themselves nothing but struggling musicians with a dream at heart. The Grammy nomination, McFadden said, came as the biggest of shocks.

"Eleven p.m. at night, I get home and I get a call from (Parks)," he said. "I didn't believe it. I was like, 'Dude, that's not even funny. Don't be messing with me. But sure enough, we were nominated.'"

"We got to go out to L.A., do the whole bit, walk the red carpet, do the interviews, see the performances. It's still surreal to this day."

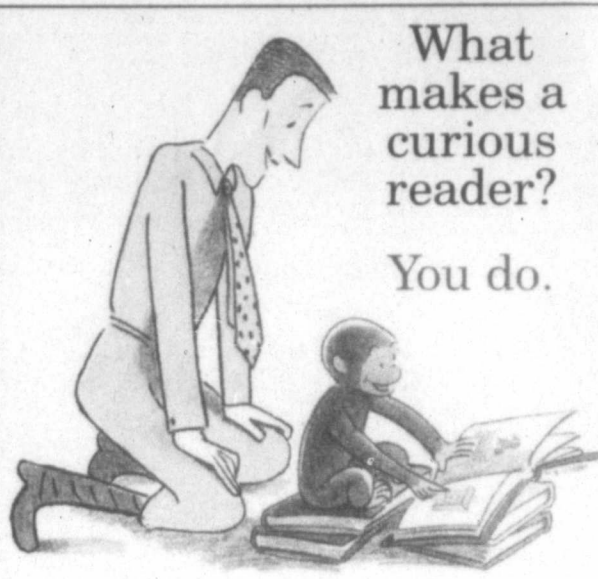
"It was fun to walk in those shoes for that short amount of time," Hosey said.

For tonight, though, they're going back to basics, with an acoustic set at a local coffee shop in front of whoever wants to come listen.

"It'll be a lot of fun," said Parks. "People should come check it out."

After Edmund can also be found online at afteredmund.com, facebook.com/afteredmund, myspace.com/afteredmund and twitter.com/afteredmund.

cont. from page 1



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Border

considers the "prevention of all unlawful entries into the United States," including terrorists, illegal immigrants and drugs.

But Napolitano and other department officials say the goal is keep illegal crossing and smuggling to a "manageable" level.

David Aguilar, deputy commissioner for Customs and Border Protection and former Border Patrol chief, said the government's strategy is pretty simple: Mitigate the risk at the border, reduce that risk, and expand control across the border.

He said doing that includes a mix of technology, personnel and enforcement that stretches beyond just the immediate border region and relies heavily on a risk assessment that will vary from area to area. The government is working to collect data on who and what is coming across the border without being caught immediately. Aguilar said, but it's unclear when that data will be available.

"We will have to be constantly adjusting," Aguilar said. He added that U.S. authorities also take a close look at intelligence and data from Mexico, including the numbers of people traveling to well-known smuggling staging areas and the amount of bed space at guest houses where

migrants often stay before being smuggled across the border.

Illegal border crossers have dropped to the lowest levels since the 1970s, and seizures of illegal drugs coming north and cash and weapons heading south have increased. But jobs in the U.S. have been scarce during one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, and local and state authorities have increased efforts to make living in certain communities uncomfortable for illegal immigrants.

In a tense back and forth during Napolitano's Judiciary Committee testimony, Cornyn contended that more needs to be done at the border.

"Sustaining our current effort means that about a half a million people coming across the border here are detained," Cornyn said.

The fear of what could be unleashed next from Mexican President Felipe Calderon's four-year-old war against the drug cartels has border-state officials nervous. So far, about 35,000 people have been killed, including several dozen Americans. A recent report suggested about a quarter-million Mexicans have been displaced from their homes and about a quarter of those have come to the United States.

Cornyn said the unknown is precisely what worries him.

"As you know and I know, how many (border crossers) are detained tells you nothing about how many got away," Cornyn said. "This is a national

security threat, so we need to regain the confidence of the American people before they're going to allow us to move forward on the kinds of things that you and I know we need to do to fix our broken immigration systems."

cont. from page 4

BANANAGRAMS!

For each of the three words below, change one letter to an R and then rearrange the letters to spell a type of furniture.

LEVEL

DESIRE S

ROMAINE

SILENCER

Yesterday's Answer: GOALIE DOLLAR PICNIC PURITY, HOOVES, PHOBIC

Fair

cont. from page 1

Dog will also be there to greet the kids. The event is free of charge and open to the public. The Randy Matson entrance to the United parking lot will be closed during the hours of the fair.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

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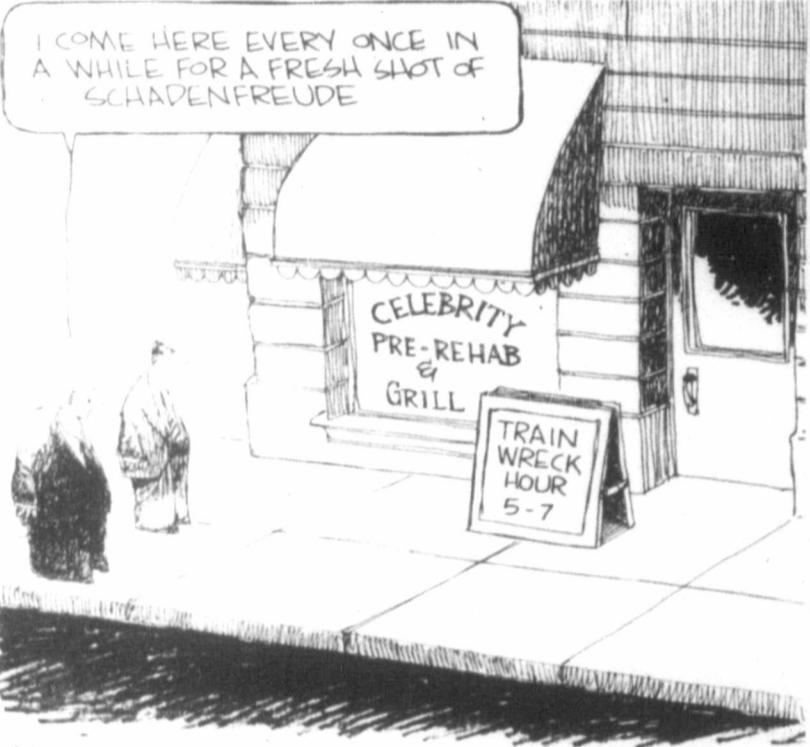
comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Is this a REAL snow or just an April Fool's snow?"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 1, 2011.

This year, you change your focus. You become much stronger and more direct. An unusually high level of energy could backfire if you don't funnel this gift appropriately. Consider taking up an easy sport or exercise class to incorporate into your daily life. You are beginning a new luck cycle and opening up to many possibilities. If you are single, someone (or several someones) could enter your life. Allow everyone do his or her thing, as trying to encase or describe these bonds would take away from them. If you are attached, be sensitive to your sweetie. He or she doesn't have the energy that you do. **PISCES** can be cranky.

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)
 ★★★ Your nervous energy is so high, you might feel as if you are on the edge of a cliff. Mars, your ruling planet, changes signs. Any edginess comes with the turf when your ruling planet changes signs. Tonight: Go off and enjoy a favorite sport.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Your ability to key into another person could amaze many people. Don't settle for anything less than what you want. Remain sure of yourself when making choices. You could, in fact, wonder why you are making certain decisions. Tonight: Accept a friend's invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Sometimes you could be much harder on yourself than need be. Right now, accomplish what you can. Your interests and concerns will change radically during the next few days. You are transitioning from taking a strong stand to kicking back. Tonight: Start the weekend well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ If you have been longing to take off, you have a small window of opportunity if you want to make it so. In fact, if you have a last-minute hesitation, do honor it. An older relative or friend soon might need you to be there. Tonight: Be where there is great music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Your condition does not go unnoticed by many people. In fact, more people have tuned in to it than you realize. You could be thinking about taking off for

the weekend. Spontaneity always suits you. If you have a place in mind, do it. Tonight: Whatever you choose to do needs to be something different.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ How you handle yourself under pressure will be remembered. Be careful with an associate or partner. Most certainly, this person doesn't see eye to eye with you. In fact, you will be hearing his or her feelings very strongly. Tonight: Out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★ You have pushed very hard to achieve a goal. Has this effort taken a toll on you? Is it time for a break? Someone you cherish could feel ignored. You will need to switch your focus soon. Tonight: Honor your energy level.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ People seem to be distracted and leave a piece of a project or some mutual venture undone. You can visualize what they were thinking, and you might decide to complete what they didn't finish. Feel free to do otherwise. Tonight: Fun and games.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ You have the ability to break patterns and get ahead. Finish off a personal project before you take on anything more. Allow more creativity in the door. Tonight: Avoid a fight, because you have a little too much energy. Go dancing instead, or clean!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★ Finish up calls; clear your desk. Get ready for a few relaxing days. You could discover that someone has a strong reaction to one of your decisions. Know that it is better that this person is forthright. Tonight: TGIF. Join friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ Continue to hold yourself back from a major expenditure. You might need some feedback from someone who knows and understands a lot more than you. You will gain by waiting. Take a walk, or sign up for an exercise class. Tonight: Buy yourself a treat on the way home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ You seem to be able to dot your i's and cross your t's today. You will feel much better heading into the weekend with so much accomplished. Catch up on calls, and do return a friend's call before you go out this evening. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

Tundra



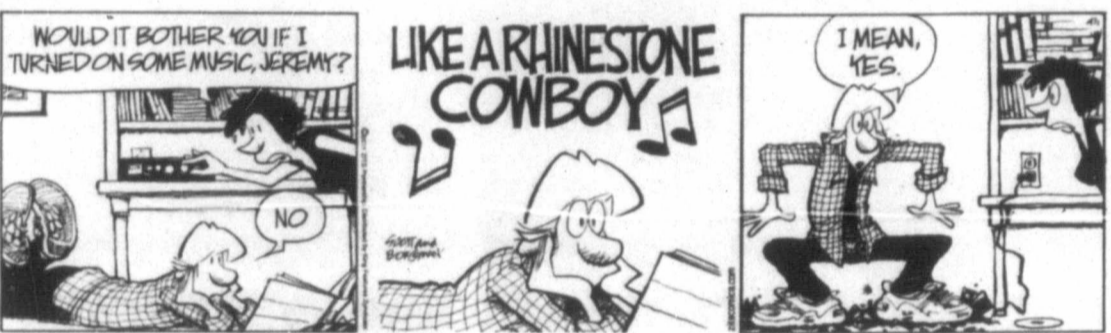
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



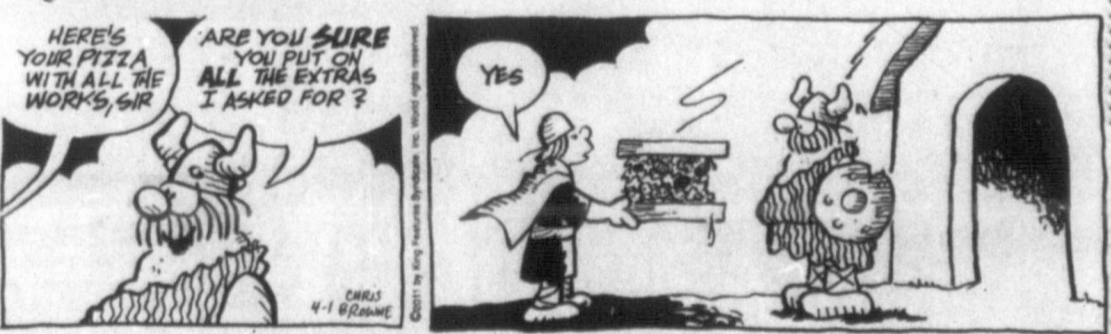
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



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3 Personal
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 OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.

WHOLE House to Handyman, always get 3 bids. Make sure one is ours! 806-440-4051.

14e Carpet Serv.
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14g Elec. Contr.
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14h Gen. Serv.
 HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

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JH Concrete, all types of concrete incl. stamp, stain, deck, pools. Free est. 806-382-5408

14n Painting
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14r Plowing/Yard
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21 Help Wanted
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69 Misc.
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MOSTLY Man Stuff Garage Sale: Sat. Apr. 2, 8am. 820 W. Kingsmill.

2140 CHESTNUT FRI. & SAT. 8am-??

ESTATE Sale-1/2 Off. Everything must go!! 2301 Mary Ellen, Sat. Apr. 2, 9-5pm.

1704 Holly, Sat. 8am. Clothes: girl 6-24 mo, boy 0-6mo, baby items. PS2 Guitar Hero, Bach Coronet

GARAGE Sale Sat. 9 am - noon Lots of clothes 1601 Mary Ellen

SAT. 8 -12. 1539 N. Sumner. Stove, oven, dining table w/ chairs, computer equip, misc.

2115 N. Nelson, Sat. 9am. Furniture, clothes & toys.

GARAGE Sale: 1840 Evergreen. Sat. 8am-1pm.

79a Garage Sales
 SAT. 8a-3p. Furni., antiques, sm appliances, paperbacks, clothes, misc. 1229 Charles

YARD Sale. All types of Elect. tools, new car & truck tires, furniture, antiques, misc. tools. Sat & Sun. 8 am. 1500 E. Frederic

3 Family Garage Sale 101 S. Nelson Saturday 8-1

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102 Bus. Rental
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103 Homes For Sale
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AXYDLBAA XR is LONGFELLOW
 One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.
 4-1 CRYPTOQUOTE
 P G N P G O X D D N Y A N M A Q O N
 G P M L X S A G N V V A G U X N M
 Q X U O N F U G P F D X M L
 V A D A M U Y A M U . — T N O M
 Q N N B A M
 Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I NEVER KNEW WHETHER TO PITY OR CONGRATULATE A MAN ON COMING TO HIS SENSES. — WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR READERS: It's April 1, the day I get to share some of the occasional letters I receive from folks who are pulling my leg. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 23 years is threatening to divorce me on the grounds that I'm "unreasonable." Is it unreasonable for me to attempt to keep my socks oriented to the proper feet? When I put my socks on the wrong feet, I run around in circles and become disoriented. I know women don't have this problem because they wear pantyhose — so it's impossible to put them on the wrong feet.

I sewed a bit of red yarn on the tops of my right socks so I could keep them straight. My wife says I'm crazy, but I insist. "Right on right; left on left."

So tell me, Abby — must I run in stupid circles and endure moments of disorientation and embarrassment? Or should I forgo the red yarn and hang in there with my wife to preserve our marriage? — **DISTURBED KENTUCKY MAN**

DEAR DISTURBED KENTUCKY MAN: And a happy April Fools' Day to you, too. The red yarn is preferable to the yarn you have spun for me.

(It's also preferable to running in circles like a decapitated chicken.) And you're mistaken about women's pantyhose. Ask any woman who has put hers on backward.

DEAR ABBY: I'm concerned about my youngest son, "Sammy." From the moment he gets up each day until the time he retires at night, he spends almost the entire time playing in the sandbox in our backyard.

My wife and I are alarmed by his bizarre behavior, and incidentally, so is his wife. What should we do? — **WORRIED DAD IN GEORGIA**

DEAR WORRIED DAD: Be sure to brush him off if he ever runs a marathon to prevent diaper rash.

DEAR ABBY: Lately I've been having some strange dreams. I cannot explain how I come up with this stuff. The other night I had a doozy: whips, chains, whistles, yo-yos, circus midgets, a duck, a Romanian peasant woman, and my grandmother riding by on a bicycle giving me the finger. Please advise. — **CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'**

DEAR CALIFORNIA DREAMIN': What a co-

incidence! I had that very same dream last night. Your grandmother sure gets around.

DEAR ABBY: I hate bothering you because I know you're busy, but I have been getting the run-around from my TV provider. I have asked them repeatedly to send someone over to fix my set, but they keep saying it can be fixed by remote control. I've got a black screen and it just doesn't work. Can you come over to fix it? — **MISSING JERRY SPRINGER IN PITTSBURGH**

DEAR MISSING JERRY: I help people solve relationship problems, but the one you're having with your TV set does not qualify. Sorry.

DEAR ABBY: I prefer to sleep facing in; my husband prefers to sleep facing out. My problem is when he's gassy — which is often — it puts me "in the line of fire." We've talked about how to deal with this problem, but haven't been able to come up with a solution. Any suggestions? — **GAS TAXED IN NEWARK, DEL.**

DEAR GAS TAXED: Yes. Switch sides!

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Avenue

1 Band aids liners

5 Corp. division

9 Light lunch

11 Mystery writer

Peters

13 Goofy

14 1836

battle site

15 Calendar box

16 Wandered

18 Rivals

20 Attic vowel

21 Wise words

22 Fusses

23 Mint holder

24 Save

25 Paul's col-laborator

27 "Tiny Bubbles" singer

29 Common verb

30 Chilly times

32 Ticking off

34 Under-stand

35 Churlish ones

36 Adult

38 Marina sight

39 Pacific island group

DOWN

1 Out of the way

2 Peggy Lee song

3 Allowed oneself to be duped

4 — Juan

5 Loved ones

6 First name in jazz

7 Went along

8 "There's no — lose!"

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Yesterday's answer

- 10 Motif
- 11 Fizzy quaffs
- 12 Links area
- 13 Primary
- 14 Em or Bee
- 15 Beatniks beat them
- 16 Door parts
- 17 Jim Palmer, once
- 18 Racket setting
- 19 Eugene
- 20 Bits of smoke
- 21 Place word
- 22 Dietary no-no

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

ON THE TUBE

Sprint Cup
Goody's Fast Pain Relief 500,
1 p.m., Sunday

Nationwide Series
O'Reilly Auto Parts 300,
8:30 p.m., April 8

Truck Series
Kroger 250,
2 p.m., Saturday

BURNING ISSUES

► In the past four races, Dale Earnhardt Jr. has an eighth, a 10th, an 11th and a 12th. He's not winning, or coming that close, but he's considerably more consistent.

► Does an incredible, breath-taking finish trump the uneventful spectacle that preceded it? In the memory of most... yes.

► Five races, five different winners. Five straight championships by Jimmie Johnson undermines the level of competition. The start of the season doesn't.

► Five weeks after the Daytona 500, Trevor Bayne has crashed to earth. He's probably got money in his pocket, though. Mainly, it was inevitable.

► Attendance figures are impossible to decipher, simply because it's obvious that all are exaggerated. Compared with one season to others is predicated on the fact that the figures were equally exaggerated over time, which is, of course, ridiculous.

► Suffice it to say, though, that Auto Club Speedway's attendance was a step in the right direction.

► The currently fashionable talking point regarding Auto Club Speedway is that it is a venue that is helped, not hurt, by the loss of a Sprint Cup date. How convenient.

► Slumping Denny Hamlin is traditionally strong at the next two tracks, Martinsville and Texas.

2011 STANDINGS

Sprint Cup	Pts.
1. Carl Edwards	187
2. Ryan Newman	-9
3. Kurt Busch	-10
4. Kyle Busch	-11
5. Jimmie Johnson	-14
6. Tony Stewart	-17
7. Paul Menard	-23
8. Juan Montoya	-26
9. Kevin Harvick	-30
10. Matt Kenseth	-30
11. Kasey Kahne	-30
12. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	-31

Nationwide Series

1. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	181
2. Jason Leffler	-6
3. Justin Allgaier	-25
4. Eric Almirola	-26
5. Reed Sorenson	-30
6. Trevor Bayne	-31
7. Elliott Sadler	-32
8. Kenny Wallace	-41
9. Brian Scott	-43
10. Mike Bliss	-56

Camping World Truck Series

1. Matt Crafton	111
2. Cole Whit	-7
3. Timothy Peters	-6
4. Clay Rogers	-8
5. Johnny Sauter	-9
6. Ron Hornaday Jr.	-12
7. Todd Bodine	-19
8. Austin Dillon	-19
9. Max Papis	-24
10. Jeffrey Earnhardt	-25



WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

► **Who's hot:** So far, Carl Edwards is never bad, always good and quite often superlative. ... Kevin Harvick is putting to rest rumors of Richard Childress Racing's demise.

► **Who's not:** So far, Denny Hamlin has been unable to fulfill his contender obligations. ... Greg Biffle remains mired in 20th place in points.



If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to rdutton@gastongazette.com

SPRINT CUP

Race: Goody's Fast Pain Relief 500
Where: Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (.526 mi.), 500 laps/263 miles.
When: Sunday, April 3
Last year's winner: Denny Hamlin, Toyota.
Qualifying record: Tony Stewart, Chevy, 98.083 mph, Oct. 21, 2005.
Race record: Jeff Gordon, Chevy, 82.223 mph, Sept. 22, 1996.
Last week: Kevin Harvick, who fought Jimmie Johnson for the 2010 Sprint Cup championship, outduelled him in the Auto Club 400 in Fontana, Calif. The top two drove Chevys, followed by Kyle Busch's Toyota.

NATIONWIDE

Race: O'Reilly Auto Parts 300
Where: Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth (1.5 mi.), 200 laps/300 miles.
When: Friday, April 8
Last year's winner: Kyle Busch, Toyota.
Qualifying record: Jeff Green, Chevy, 193.493 mph, April 5, 2002.
Race record: Kyle Busch, Toyota, 151.707 mph, April 5, 2008.
Last week: Kyle Busch, driving a Toyota, collected his third victory in the past four races, seizing the advantage from Carl Edwards and Kevin Harvick late in the Royal Purple 300 at Auto Club Speedway.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Race: Kroger 250
Where: Martinsville (Va.) Speedway (.526 mi.), 250 laps/131.5 miles.
When: Saturday, April 2
Last year's winner: Kevin Harvick, Chevy.
Qualifying record: Jack Sprague, Chevy, 96.327 mph, March 29, 2008.
Race record: Jimmy Hensley, Dodge, 74.282 mph, April 17, 1999.
Last race: Kasey Kahne, making a rare appearance in the series, dominated Darlington Raceway's Too Tough to Tame 200 on March 12. Kahne was substituting for the No. 18 Toyota's regular driver, Kyle Busch, who won the previous Truck race at Phoenix.

MARTINSVILLE DATA

FOX April 3 **Oct. 30** **ESPN**

Distance:.....0.526-mile oval
Length of frontstretch:.....800 ft.
Length of backstretch:.....800 ft.
Miles/Laps:.....263 mi. = 500 laps

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

PAUL MENARD SPRINT CUP SERIES No. 27 SERTA/MENARDS CHEVROLET



In his fifth full season of Cup racing, Paul Menard has battled competitors and five different tracks while staying among the points leaders.

Menard Staying Up In The Ranks

RCR driver a consistent force among top 10 this season

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Paul Menard arrived at Auto Club Speedway in a new role. He was suddenly the sensation of the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series.

Even after settling for 16th place at the Fontana, Calif., track, Menard remained seventh in the points standings, 23 points behind leader Carl Edwards and three ahead of Juan Pablo Montoya, the Auto Club 400 pole winner.

It's been a steady uphill climb for the 30-year-old Menard, who is from Eau Claire, Wis. He landed a ride at Richard Childress Racing this year, and so far, it has made quite a difference.

"We've run strong on four totally different types of race tracks (entering Fontana), which, for a startup team, is a cool thing."

Prior to teammate Kevin Harvick's victory, Menard had been a bright spot at a team otherwise struggling. Menard's three teammates all improved their points positions, with Harvick moving up to ninth, Clint Bowyer to 17th and

Jeff Burton to 25th.

"Everybody is just racing so hard, you're going to have wrecks," said Menard. "The way the points are (now), it's tough to bounce back (and) a bad run really hurts you more so than the past."

Referring to his teammates, he added, "They've got the speed; (and) they've got the talent on the race teams to come back. I don't foresee them being down there for very long."

Menard's best career finish was a second place at Talladega Superspeedway on Oct. 5, 2008. His fifth-place finish in Bristol's Jeff Byrd 500 on May 20 was his second top-10 showing of the season. He has finished no worse than 17th in the season's five races to date.

In 152 career Cup starts, Menard has won a pole and collected three top-five finishes. He won a race in what was then the Busch Series at The Milwaukee Mile on June 24, 2006.

This is Menard's fifth full Cup season. In 2010, he finished a career-best 23rd in the Cup standings while competing at Richard Petty Motorsports.

FEUD OF THE WEEK



Harvick Johnson

KEVIN HARVICK VS. JIMMIE JOHNSON
Harvick has been adamant about what other drivers just gloss over: Johnson must be stopped, and Harvick wants to be the guy who does it. His daring pass at Auto Club Speedway was a step in the right direction.

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "One great advantage Johnson has is that he is relatively unconcerned at this stage. He's the guy with five straight titles."

YOUR TURN

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

No. 43 and Panch Sighted?

This Week welcomes letters to the editor, but please be aware that we have room for only a few each week. We'll do our best to select the best, but individual replies are impossible due to the bulk of mail received. Please do not send stamped and self-addressed envelopes with your letters, which should be addressed to: NASCAR This Week, The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, N.C. 28053.

Dear NASCAR This Week,
Since Richard Petty was the beginning of NASCAR, I was wondering if his number, 43, had anything to do with NASCAR only starting 43 cars? Is this just a coincidence or is there some significance behind it?
Ronald Denk
Clyde, Kan.

It's just a coincidence. The field originally grew to 43 in the 1990s because of the advent of an ex-champion's provision. At the time, the field consisted of 42, plus an ex-champion if he did not otherwise qualify. Eventually the standard size of the field was extended permanently to 43.

Dear NASCAR This Week,
I would like to say that I am very disappointed with NASCAR. The 2011 Daytona 500 marked the 50th race since Marvin Panch won the race in 1961 driving a borrowed, year-old Pontiac and (averaging) just under 150 mph for 500 miles. I watched everything I could during (Speedweeks), and no one even mentioned Panch's accomplishments.
Come on, Mr. Panch is 84 years old, and it looks like NASCAR dropped the ball. ... I just think NASCAR was very disrespectful.
Steve Brinkley
Chinquapin, N.C.

Marvin Panch was honored in some quarters at Daytona, particularly in radio coverage of the events. In fairness, the oversight was probably the fault of television, not NASCAR.

FAN TIPS

'Heaven on Wheels' ahead

On the night before Martinsville Speedway's Sprint Cup race, the Rives Theatre at 215 E. Church St., Martinsville, is hosting a presentation of "Heaven on Wheels," a musical comedy on the history of NASCAR. The evening begins with music from NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton, who wrote a song titled "Martinsville." It all begins at 8 p.m., April 2, and tickets are only \$8.

Johnson's season progressing nicely, thanks

By Monte Dutton
NASCAR This Week

Jimmie Johnson has won more Sprint Cup races (five) than anyone else at Auto Club Speedway, which happens to be the track closest to his El Cajon, Calif., home.

This time he had to settle for second to Kevin Harvick.

There's the matter of five straight championships, too, of course. Johnson is now fifth in the Cup standings, though still awaiting his first victory.

The perennial champion's season to date has been as smooth as a matinee idyl.

"I think we're in good shape," said Johnson. "We're not where we want to be. I think we still have a lot of room for improvement. ... A lot of room to grow."

Come to think of it, Johnson says that every year at this point.

Big to-do about nothing — Spewing forth electronically from Fontana were bulletins to the effect that Carl Edwards still "owes" Kyle Busch one.

It's true. Edwards said he still "owed him one," but the context was no different than what a losing manager might say after the seventh game of the World Series.

NUTS AND BOLTS

What Edwards actually said was: "All this talk is talk, but the reality is that I didn't wreck (Busch) at Bristol. If I could have gotten to him with one or two laps to go, I might have moved him out of the way, but I'm not going to intentionally go try to ruin his day or anything. It's not like that. I just feel like the least he can give me is one little spot at the end of a race."

The heat of battle often changes things, but nothing Edwards said was particularly objectionable or even controversial. Nor were Busch's retorts.

As a practical matter — It was the fictitious Harry Hogue ("Days of Thunder") who most notably said, "rubbin' is racin'." The generally accepted rule of thumb is that nudging a driver on a short track is acceptable ... but knocking him out of the way isn't.

A "rub" is an act of great skill. A "wreck" is an act of great destruction.

It's a bit more difficult to apply, by the way, to an intermediate, high-speed track such as Auto Club Speedway, where speeds and implications are higher.

Smaller openings — NASCAR officials announced the restrictor-plate openings for the April 17 Cup race at Talladega will be 7/8ths of an inch, down 1/64th from the plates used in the Daytona 500 and 4/64ths less than Talladega's two 2010 races.



Five-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson says after the race and no wins in 2011, his car and team is in good shape with room to grow.

LEGENDS AND LORE

Lorenzen's 'Paperclip' streak

The first of Fred Lorenzen's six Martinsville Speedway victories occurred on April 9, 1961. Driving his signature No. 28 Holman-Moody Ford, Lorenzen, from Elmhurst, Ill., outduelled Roy Firestone, also in a Ford. Third-place Glen Wood finished a couple laps back. It was also the first of Lorenzen's 26 victories at NASCAR's premier level, all in a span of 158 career starts.

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Sports

Harvesters play for MLB players to achieve district goal

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Former Major League baseball player Ozzie Smith wasn't born in Pampa, nor did he have any association with the town.

The Pampa Harvesters, though, are in awe of his backflips and his amazing defense. On Tuesday against the Perryton Rangers, the Harvesters dedicated their game to the acrobatic former shortstop. Smith is one of seven major leaguers the Harvesters will try to win games for to achieve their district goals.

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said the idea came about at a team meeting March 26 and added they use that player in preparations for games.

"Our magic number that we came up

with is we wanted to win seven district ball games," Snelgrooves said.

"I got creative and came up with seven different major athletes that wore each number. Each game that's who we are playing for and striving for."

The team has posters in their locker room and in front of the lineup card. Snelgrooves' practice sheet even has the players' name and number.

Senior Tyler Malone said it gives the team motivation.

"It gives us something to look forward to and go at," Malone said. "It gives us a



Snelgrooves



Malone

goal and you see the players that we idol and we want to be like them."

Senior catcher Brent Green said it means a lot to play for former major league players.

"Ozzie is a great player," Green said.

"He wore number one, that was our first district game. We won it and we knew it was for him and it made it a little more special."

Snelgrooves said his players have responded to the idea.

"It's a history lesson plus a little motivation," Snelgrooves said. "They got to see some of the great players, see their



Green

numbers and see their stats. They have something to strive for and are buying in to it."

Saturday at Dalhart they are playing for New York Yankee great Derek Jeter. Snelgrooves said his team will continue playing their games for major league baseball players after they reach their seventh win.

"My dad (Steve) already asked me 'Who is number eight going to be?'" Snelgrooves said. "I said 'Yogi Berra.' He said 'Nine?' Ted Williams. If we go on to the playoffs, hopefully I will find a 10, 11, 12 and we will go on from there."

WheelTimes, Inc. to hold wheelchair soccer Sunday

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

WheelTimes Incorporated is putting on a wheelchair soccer game 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Briarwood Full Gospel Church.

Group founder and mayoral candidate Brad Pingel said he's excited and has gotten a lot of interest.

"A lot of people are calling and wanting to help," Pingel said. "This is our kickoff."

Pingel said only Pampa will be involved. "We aren't playing anyone from

Amarillo or anything," Pingel said. "We are just going to have kids rotate in."

Pingel said he hopes this will have a great impact on the local wheelchair community.

"Hopefully it will teach kids that they have some place to go and compete," Pingel said.

Pingel encourages people to come out and enjoy the afternoon.

"Anyone who wants to come and watch can," Pingel said. "It's a great way to enjoy some family time."

Briarwood is located on the 1800 block of West Harvester Avenue.

Players the Harvesters are dedicating games to

- Win 2: Derek Jeter, New York Yankees shortstop
- Win 3: Babe Ruth, New York Yankees outfielder and pitcher
- Win 4: Lou Gehrig, New York Yankees first baseman
- Win 5: Joe DiMaggio, New York Yankees centerfielder
- Win 6: Stan Musial, St. Louis Cardinals outfielder and first baseman
- Win 7: Mickey Mantle, New York Yankees outfielder and first baseman
- Win 8: Yogi Berra, New York Yankees catcher
- Win 9: Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox leftfielder

A-Rod nearly out-earns Royals

The Kansas City Royals are barely making more than Alex Rodriguez this year.

The salaries for Kansas City's 27 players on its opening-day roster and disabled lists total \$36.1 million, according to an analysis of the major league contracts by The Associated Press.

A-Rod alone makes \$32 million atop the New York Yankees' \$201.7 million payroll. He is baseball's highest-paid player for the 11th straight year.

Overall, baseball salaries were nearly flat for this season, which started Thursday. The average salary for the 844 players on opening-day rosters and disabled lists was about \$3.3 million, up just 0.2 percent from last year. The increase was the lowest since a 2.7 percent drop in 2004.

Kansas City's payroll was cut in half from \$72.3 million at the start of 2010. The Royals traded Zack Greinke, and Gil Meche retired.

"I'm not worried that it's too low," Royals general manager Dayton Moore said. "I look at it as something that gives us tremendous flexibility going forward as an organization to be competitive as we negotiate for players."

The Yankees, as usual, had the top payroll but dropped to \$201.7 million from \$206.3 million at the start of last season.

Philadelphia, once considered a small-market team, was second at \$173 million following the offseason signing of Cliff Lee. The Phillies began last year fourth at \$141.9 million but have been given a financial boost by 123 consecutive home sellouts during the regular season.

"We wouldn't be here if we didn't have the fans supporting us the way they supported us," GM Ruben Amaro Jr. said. "It's really plain and simple: We don't sell out games, we don't give ourselves a chance to be even in this stratosphere."

Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira isn't bothered by competition at the top of the spending list.

"It's great for baseball anytime you get teams willing to go out there and improve their team," he said. "It's great for baseball."

Boston is third on the salary list at \$161.4 million, followed by the Los

Angeles Angels (\$139 million), the Chicago White Sox (\$129.3 million), the Chicago Cubs (\$125.5 million) and the New York Mets (\$120 million). The totals don't include salaries owed released players — Carlos Silva (\$11.5 million for the Cubs) and Oliver Perez (\$12 million) and Luis Castillo (\$6.25 million for the Mets).

The World Series champion San Francisco Giants are eighth at \$118.2 million, up from \$97.8 million. The AL champion Texas Rangers rose to 13th at \$92.3 million from \$55.3 million.

"Obviously I don't make the financial decisions, but as a manager you certainly appreciate how ownership stepped up and kept the team intact after a special year to try to give us a chance to do this again," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "I've been on the other end and seen clubs dismantled. It's frustrating."

Tampa Bay, the 2008 AL champion, dropped from 21st at \$71.9 million to 29th at \$41.9 million, after shedding Carl Crawford, Carlos Pena, Matt Garza and Rafael Soriano. Cleveland fell from \$61.2 million to \$49.2 million.

Pittsburgh's payroll went up from a major league-low \$35 million to 27th at \$46 million. San Diego's increased from \$37.8 million to \$45.9 million.

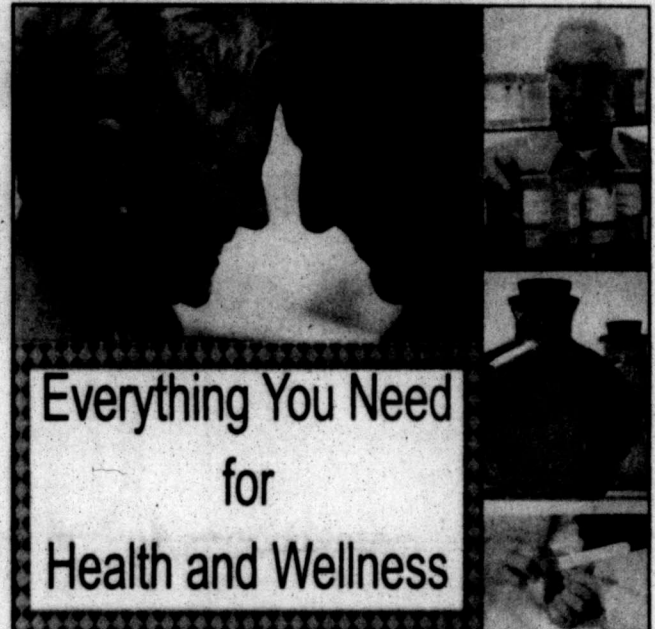
There were 453 players — nearly 54 percent of those in the major leagues on Thursday — making \$1 million or more. That was up from 433 at the start of last season.

Fifty-five players make the \$414,000 minimum, up from 41 at the minimum last year. The median salary, the point at which at equal numbers are above and below, remained at \$1.1 million, down from a record \$1,125,000 in 2009.

Behind A-Rod on the list of top-earning players was the Los Angeles Angels' Vernon Wells at \$26.6 million, followed by Yankees teammates CC Sabathia (\$24.3 million) and Teixeira (\$23.1 million), then Minnesota catcher Joe Mauer (\$23 million) and injured Mets pitcher Johan Santana (\$21.6 million). Figures include salaries and prorated shares of signing bonuses and other guaranteed income. For some players, parts of deferred signing bonuses and salaries are discounted to reflect present-day values.

Boys Basketball Banquet

The Regional Finalist Pampa Harvester basketball team will be honored during this year's basketball banquet. The banquet is open to anyone who would like to attend. The banquet will be Thursday April 7, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Briarwood Family Life Center. Tickets are \$15/each. Meal will be catered by The Plaza. Anyone interested in attending needs to contact the Pampa High School athletics office and RSVP by Monday April 4.



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