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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Teeing off

Girls golf increases lead, boys stay in third in district

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inside:

The Savage Truth on money by Terry Savage



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Tuesday, April 5, 2011

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HOMETOWN HOSPITAL?



staff photo by David Bowser

A core group of Pampa citizens gathered this week to join the Save Our Hospital campaign. They are from left to right, front row, Derek Brewster, Kimberly Moore, Linda Lantz, Alma Lewis, Dr. John Nguyen, Pam Dalton, Lesli Abbott, Connie Hall and Dr. James Hall. Back row, Pam Crain, Stacy Whitehead, Jamilou Williams, Alisha Stroud, Rena Williams, Rahna Abernathy and Gray County Commissioner Gary Willoughby.

Hall stepping up campaign for PRMC

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com
 Dr. James Hall, who heads the Emergency Foundation of Texas, parent to Pampa EMS, is talking about taking another big step. Since Pampa EMS ambulances have taken to the streets in October 2009 the foundation has expanded to provide medi-

cal services for Boy's Ranch and has opened Genesis Clinic on the north end of town. Now, Dr. Hall told the Gray County Commissioner's Court Friday, the foundation wants to buy Pampa Regional Medical Center. Hall said that Pampa Regional Medical Center has been operated as a for-profit hospital by several out of town companies.

He said he wants the hospital to be home-owned and managed by people of Pampa. Signature, the corporation that presently owns the hospital, has announced its intentions of selling it by the end of the year. Hall said the Emergency Foundation of Texas wants to buy the hospital and estimates **HOSPITAL** cont. on page 5

Stock show season wraps for area kids

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

Several local kids recently participated in the Houston and San Angelo Livestock Shows to wrapping up the stock show season. "These youth have fed, cared for, worked with, and spent countless hours with these animals anywhere from six months to fourteen months," said Brandon McGinty of the Gray County Extension Office.

Area youth participating in the steer categories in Houston were Emily Terry (third place, Chianina Steer), Elizabeth Terry (third place, Chianina Steer), Laura Kirkland (eighth place, All Other Breeds Steers), Blake Chisum (11th place, Shorthorn) and Ty Baggerman (Shorthorn).

Kids who participated in the barrow categories were Korbin Payne (ninth place, Chester), Cali Gibson (ninth place, Cross), Elizabeth Terry (ninth place, Dark Cross), J'Cee Holmes (Cross), Ty Youree (Hamp), Josh Bagley (Dark Cross), Emily Terry (Cross), Emily Licklider (Dark Cross), and Cash Manhart (11th place, Dark Cross).

The kids totalled \$14,654 in proceeds from Houston sales.

Youth that participated in the San Angelo Livestock Show include Blake Chisum (fifth place, All Other Breeds), Kenlee Lambert (Spot), and Jayden Lambert (Spot).

McGinty expressed his pride and gratitude over a successful **STOCK** cont. on page 5



staff photo by David Bowser

The 2010 Ford Focus of Carol Steffens sustained heavy damage in a wreck on East Frederic. No one was hurt.

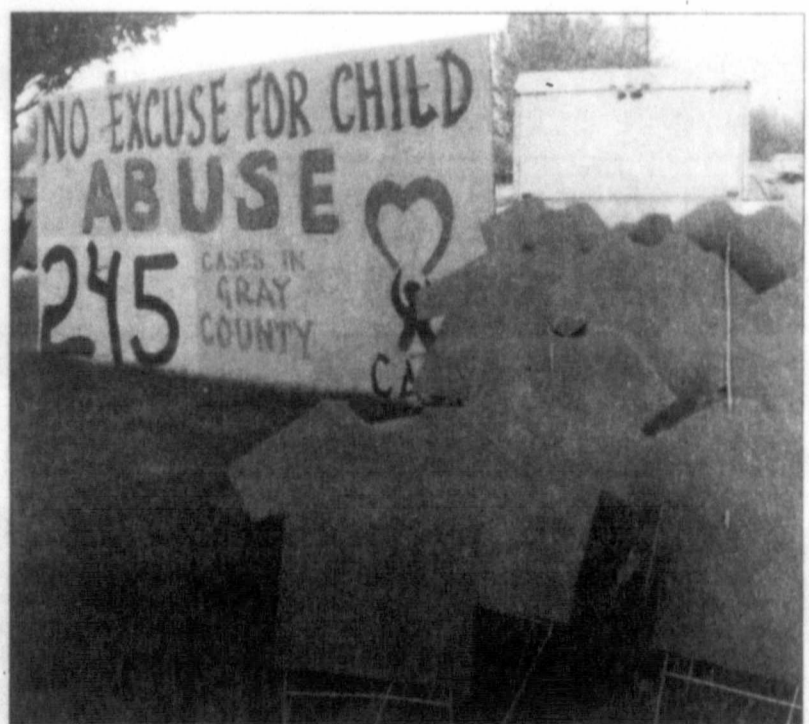
No injuries in car wreck

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Two vehicles were badly damaged when they collided on East Frederic this week, but no one was injured in the crash. Carol Steffens, 71, of Dallas, was eastbound in a 2010 Ford Focus when her car was in a collision with a westbound 1997 Chevrolet pickup driven by Travis Lester, 64, of Pampa, about noon Monday in the 12,000 block of East Frederic, according to Texas Department of Public Safety troopers.

Officers said the pickup appeared to turn in front of the car. Lester was cited for failure to yield right-of-way, troopers said.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH STAY AWARE



staff photo by Randy Pribble

CASA's "No Excuse for Child Abuse" sign adorns the lawn in front of United as CASA and The Bridge kick off April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each of the blue shirt-shaped cutouts represents a case of child abuse within the region, with 245 cases reported in CASA's coverage area over the last year.

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AFTERNOON RUSH

TX adopts new head injury rules

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas high school athletes will soon be required to sit out at least one day after sustaining a head injury.

State Commissioner of Education Robert Scott has signed off on the rule change that had been approved by the University Interscholastic League.

The UIL currently allows players to return if they show no symptoms for 15 minutes. Starting Aug. 1, the change will require athletes to sit out the rest of the day and return only after a licensed medical professional clears them.

The new guidelines also will eliminate the grading of concussions for severity. The changes follow recommendations of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

NM: Tax break for railroad hub

SANTA TERESA, N.M. (AP) — Gov. Susana Martinez plans to sign legislation offering a tax break as an economic development incentive for a rail yard project in southern New Mexico.

The governor is to sign the measure Tuesday afternoon during a ceremony in Santa Teresa, where Union Pacific Railroad plans to spend more than \$400 million for a refueling facility.

The legislation will provide a deduction that lifts a state tax from locomotive fuel starting in July 2013, if Union Pacific builds the project.

Construction is expected to create 3,000 jobs and there will be 600 permanent jobs when the facility is operating.

Union Pacific operates a rail hub in El Paso, Texas and the proposed facility is about 15 miles west in New Mexico near the international border with Mexico

New drug for TX execution

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Cleve Foster looks to the Texas Supreme Court to spare him from becoming the first Texas inmate put to death with a new lethal drug.

The 47-year-old Foster is to die this evening for the fatal shooting of a Sudanese woman he and a friend met in a Fort Worth bar in 2002.

Foster's lawyers contend Texas prison officials violated administrative procedures when they announced last month a switch to pentobarbital as one of three drugs used in lethal injections because of a nationwide shortage of the drug previously used in the cocktail, sodium thiopental. A state district judge and a Texas appeals court already have rejected the argument.

Attorneys also asked Gov. Rick Perry to give Foster a 30-day reprieve to allow more time for review of his case.

Banks warn of email breach

NEW YORK (AP) — With the possible theft of millions of consumer email addresses from an advertising company, several large companies have started warning customers to expect fraudulent emails that try to coax account login information from them.

A dozen companies said over the weekend that hackers may have learned their email addresses because of a security breach at a Dallas-based company called Epsilon that manages email communications.

Among the affected companies are banks such as Capital One Financial Corp., Barclays Bank, U.S. Bancorp and Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., and retailers including Best Buy Co., TiVo Inc., Walgreen Co. and Kroger Co.

The College Board, the not-for-profit organization that runs the SATs, also warned that a hacker may have obtained student email addresses.

Walt Disney Co.'s travel subsidiary, Disney Destinations, sent emails warning customers on Sunday.

Epsilon said Friday that its system had been breached, exposing email addresses and customer names but no other personal information.

The email addresses could be used to target spam. It's also a standard tactic among online fraudsters to send emails to random people, purporting to be from a large bank and asking them to login in at a site that looks like the bank's site. Instead, the fraudulent site captures their login information and uses it to access the real account.

TX House okays aerial hunts

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas hunters could soon be able to book trips on helicopters to shoot wild hogs and coyotes under a plan approved by lawmakers Monday that would dramatically expand the state's strict rules on aerial hunting.

The bill, which passed the Texas House on a 137-9 vote, would allow landowners to sell seats on helicopters for such hunts. Estimates show that as many as 3.4 million feral hogs roam Texas, and bill sponsor Rep. Sid Miller of Stephenville argued that aerial hunting is the most effective way to control the animals.

The hogs - which sometimes weigh more than 300 pounds - destroy crops, trample fences and eat anything in their path, causing an estimated \$400 million a year in damage.

Miller said he decided to add coyotes to the legislation after hearing reports from frightened homeowners who aren't accustomed to seeing them.

"They've ... started encroaching in the urban areas, people are losing pets and they're coming up in their yards," Miller said.

Under current rules, Texans can pay a contractor to conduct helicopter hunts over their land. In 2010, there were 116 active permits for aerial hunting, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife spokesman Tom Harvey.

Bobcats, red foxes, wild dogs and various non-native "exotic" animals also can be hunted from the skies under the program, Harvey said.

The bill that passed Monday would allow landowners to take money from hunters who go up in the helicopters to hunt either feral hogs or coyotes, potentially making a profit.

Rep. Eddie Lucio, a Democrat from Brownsville who voted against the measure, said it was the wrong way to deal with a serious problem.

"It's making a business out of shooting animals out of a helicopter," Lucio said. "They're allowing them to sell those hunts, market those hunts...that's not sport. That's not hunting. That's not the Texas way."

If there's no inflation, why are Medicare premiums going up?

TERRY SAVAGE
Creator's Syndicate

This column is devoted to making sense out of money issues. But some money topics seem to defy logic. And, not surprisingly, most of those illogical money issues revolve around government actions. I'm always wondering how they get away with this stuff.

1. No Social Security benefits increase because of "no" inflation. But Medicare premiums set to rise 4.6 percent!

The government doesn't think there's any inflation around. Here's the Social Security website, explaining why there will be no cost-of-living increase in benefits for Social Security recipients in 2011: "As determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there is no increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from the third quarter of 2008, the last year a COLA was determined, to the third quarter of 2010."

No inflation in the past two years? Where do they live? Even worse, the very same government announces that Medicare premiums are set to rise 4.4 percent over the 2010 levels, for anyone with income over \$85,000. The government's reasoning for the increase in premiums as written on the Medicare.gov website: "The Medicare Part B premium is increasing in 2011 because of possible increases in Part B costs."

Oh, great. The government is actually getting ahead of anticipated cost increases by charging you higher premiums — in advance! But they don't recognize any inflation for the past two years when it comes to Social Security. Does this make any sense to you?

(By the way, your actual Medicare premium is based on your income two years ago — perhaps before you retired — and could be as high as \$369.10 per month, a shocking



fact for many recent retirees.)

2. Property taxes are rising, while home values are falling.

I don't care how many county assessors and village clerks try to explain this to me, it can't possibly make any sense. Even with lagging reassessments, there's no way that property taxes reflect anything like current market values.

For example, in Illinois, Lake County's property tax consumes an average of 6.5 percent of household income — the highest collection percentage in the state and in the nation. In fact, Illinois ranks as the sixth highest collector of property as a percentage of home value.

(You can check these figures for individual states and counties using the property tax lookup tool at interactive.taxfoundation.org.)

Even more astounding is the fact that property taxes in Lake County haven't fallen, despite a 6.3 percent decline in "equalized assessed value."

State and local governments make up for falling home values by increasing assessments through a variety of accounting tricks. But the bottom line remains the same: You're paying more property taxes.

While home prices have fallen as much as 30 percent from their peaks in many states, property tax collections have climbed more than 10 percent nationally since 2008. Only government could get away with this — and that might not last long. Just ask the mayor of Miami, who was ousted in a recall election last week after proposing a 14 percent property tax increase.

3. Universities increase tuition, while graduates can't repay loans. Everyone agrees that education

is the basic requirement for a successful, growing economy — even though today's college graduates can't find jobs and are having huge problems repaying student loans. It's clear that college is being priced out of reach for many struggling families.

But instead of cutting costs and lowering prices to encourage more use of their product, colleges and universities across the nation are raising tuition rates. Last week, the University of Illinois announced a 6.9 percent tuition increase. That's just a reflection of what's happening across the country.

Only one school seems to get it. In Terra Haute, Ind., the new freshman class at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College will be promised that their first-year \$25,000 tuition and fees cannot rise over their four-year course of study. Officials there said the policy is an attempt to increase enrollment and retention.

Finally, someone in college administration is acknowledging the reality of the marketplace: Higher prices destroy demand — unless government subsidizes student loans that can't be defaulted. If we want an educated citizenry, schools will have to make better use of their resources instead of passing on higher costs.

What do all three of these examples have in common? Those who price the "product" don't live in the real world where ordinary people have to make tradeoffs. Governments and universities always have been able to pass along their "costs." But not for much longer. And that's the Savage Truth.

Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at www.terrysavage.com. She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?"

Storms not enough to help Texas' drought

BETSY BLANEY
Associate Press

LUBBOCK (AP) - Storms that swept the eastern part of Texas on Monday did little to relieve an extreme drought that now covers more than 40 percent of the state, and wildfires continued to burn in parts of West Texas, where some ranchers haven't seen a drop of rain since early fall.

The area considered in an extreme drought has tripled in the past month, and weather forecasters expect the drought to continue or get worse through June in most of the state. That means the danger of fire will remain extremely high, National Weather Service meteorologist Victor Murphy said.

"This could end up being one of the more devastating droughts, agriculturally speaking and for wildfires, if we don't start getting normal to above normal rainfall before June," Murphy

said. "The odds of seeing that are likely below normal."

Texas hasn't had a drier October to February period since 1967, state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon said. The five months that ended Feb. 28 saw only 4.8 inches of rain on average across the state. In a typical year, an average of 9.7 inches would fall.

The drought has been made worse by warmer than normal temperatures, said Travis Miller, a drought specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

On Sunday, low humidity and winds up to 55 mph fueled the spread of wildfires across West Texas, and four big ones burned more than 11,000 acres. Some of the fires continued to burn Monday, but they were nothing like the day before, Texas Forest Service spokesman Alan Craft said. Nearly 180 of Texas' 254 counties have burn bans.

Texas is the nation's No. 2 grower of winter wheat, and the drought has hit that crop hard. More than 60 percent

of the state's winter wheat crop was in poor to very poor condition at the end of March, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As examples, Midland got .1 inches of rain in March, while College Station got 6 inches. Usually, those cities would get 4.6 and 19.1 inches respectively.

"Even it rains now it wouldn't do much for it," said Miller, the drought specialist. "It'll be a little better. Instead of dying, it might be worth running a combine through."

Bobby McKnight, who has a ranch in far West Texas, said he's doing OK right now because he still has hay from last summer to feed his cattle. But if no new rain comes, feed could be a problem as the year goes on.

"It's pretty tough," said McKnight, 50. "The only thing that makes this bearable is we got a good June and July. We made some grass."

Dems look to Senate to ease budget pain

APRIL CASTRO
Associate Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - After adopting a bleak state budget that catered to the conservative supermajority with staggering cuts to schools, highways, prisons and other programs, Texas House leaders and Democrats looked to the Senate on Monday to create something more palatable.

Lawmakers in the upper chamber - which isn't wracked by the political pressures that commanded the austere House budget ΓÇö have vowed to find billions more for public schools, nursing homes and other social services.

But even if they do, House and Senate negotiators must then hammer out their differences to reach a compromise that can be approved by both chambers and sent to the governor.

Lawmakers are already digging in. The lead House budget writer, Rep. Jim Pitts, has warned that the Senate will have to bring spending down from its early proposals to win approval from the 150-member House, where leaders said the drastic cuts were unavoidable.

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has said House cuts that could force half of the state's nursing homes to close would be unacceptable to the upper chamber.

And Gov. Rick Perry has cautioned that he won't sign any legislation that raises taxes or taps the state's reserve funds for the 2012-2013 budget.

The budget showdown will certainly stretch into the final days of the legis-

lative session at the end of May, but most observers expect the tussle will drag into a special session this summer.

For Dewhurst, history is not on his side.

During his eight years and four legislative sessions as presiding officer of the Senate, his most contentious negotiations with the House have gone the House's way. In high-pressure showdowns, House negotiators have taken victories on congressional redistricting, school finance, business tax loopholes and numerous budget battles.

Much of the House dominance in the past could be attributed to the bruising negotiating style of former House Speaker Tom Craddick, who was ousted in 2009. With Craddick gone and Dewhurst positioning himself for a run for the U.S. Senate in 2012, the changed landscape has left some observers scratching their heads.

"I really can't tell," said Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics project at the University of Texas at Austin. "I can't think of very many examples where I've seen a chairman as unhappy with his own bill as Pitts is."

Pitts has acknowledged that the plan "is not perfect," but has promised to keep working to make it better.

The unanswered question, Henson said, is how many of the Republican freshman who voted for the \$164.5 billion House bill "voted for it with the hope that they'll get a chance to vote on a bill that has more money?"

With public outrage from teachers,

parents and advocates for elderly and disabled Texans, lawmakers are getting plenty of feedback on the budget.

"It's not clear yet ... how the freshmen are going to respond to that," Henson said. "My suspicion is that they're dug in."

"Many of them were elected in very ideological elections and their first impulse is to remain ideological until the end, even if the public shifts."

Dewhurst recently announced the formation of a special committee aimed at finding "non-tax" revenue to help plug the budget hole. He said staggering cuts can be avoided by selling state land, reducing certain expenses and raising other revenue but not increasing taxes.

The Senate Finance committee has not yet scheduled a meeting to take a vote on its budget plan, which would move it to the full chamber for consideration.

Even if the Senate does find more money, the discussion is still only about how bad cuts will be, with almost zero chance of fully funding public schools.

"At the end of the day, it's going to be very difficult to imagine an outcome that the majority of the voters will like, if for no other reason than nobody in this process is talking about making public education better," said Harold Cook, a Democratic consultant.

"Some legislator somewhere is going to lose their job over it," Cook said.

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 5, the 95th day of 2011. There are 270 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 5, 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death following their conviction in New York on charges of conspiring to commit espionage for the Soviet Union; co-defendant Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison (he was released in 1969).

On this date:

In 1614, Pocahontas, daughter of the leader of the Powhatan tribe, married English colonist John Rolfe in Virginia. (A convert to Christianity, she went by the name Lady Rebecca.)

In 1621, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts on a month-long return trip to England.

In 1792, George Washington cast the first presidential veto, rejecting a congressional measure for apportioning representatives among the states.

In 1811, English philanthropist Robert Raikes, a promoter of Sunday schools, died in Gloucester, England, at age 74.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde lost his criminal libel case against the Marquess of Queensberry, who'd accused the writer of homosexual practices.

In 1964, Army General Douglas MacArthur died in Washington at age 84.

In 1976, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

In 1986, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident which prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

In 1988, a 15-day hijacking ordeal began as gunmen forced a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet to land in Iran.

In 1991, former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, his daughter Marian and 21 other people were killed in a commuter plane crash near Brunswick, Ga.

Ten years ago: The United States and China intensified negotiations for the release of an American spy plane's crew; President George W. Bush, in a conciliatory gesture, expressed regret over the plane's in-flight collision with a Chinese fighter that triggered the tense standoff.

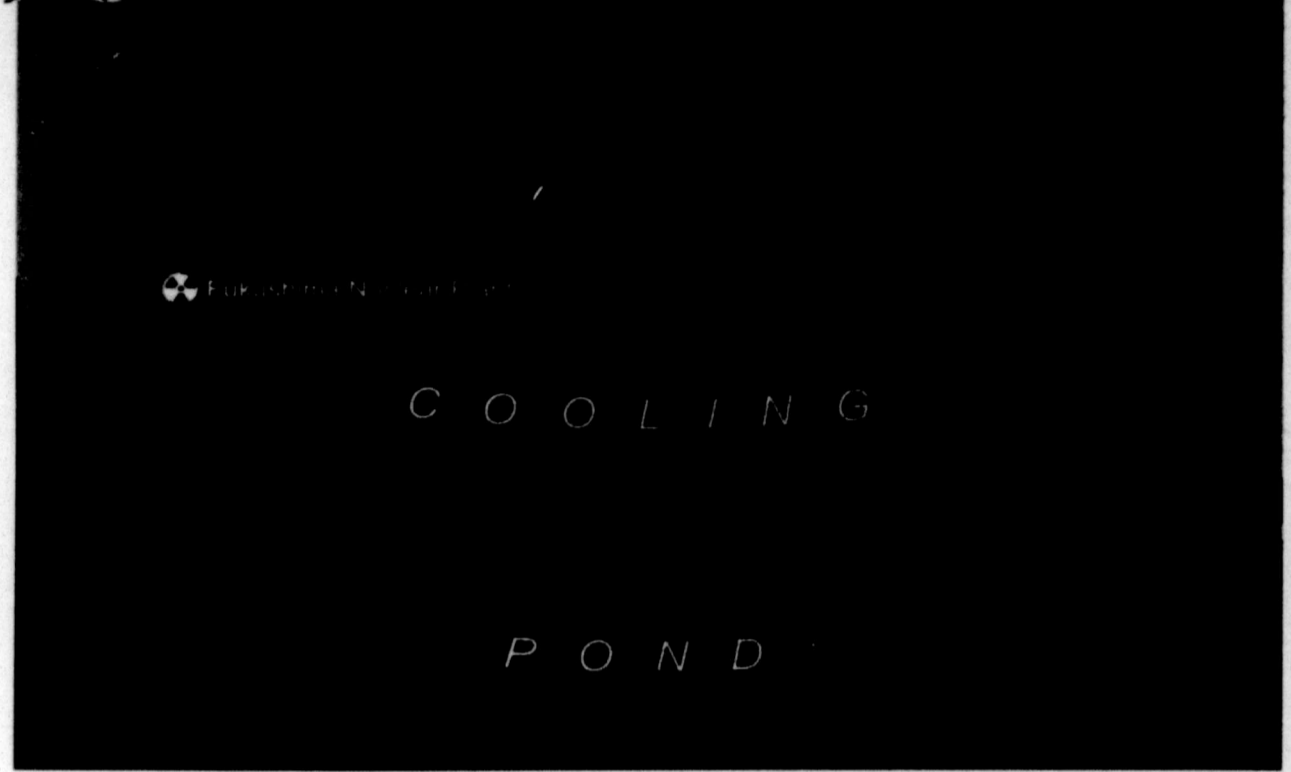
Five years ago: Duke University's lacrosse coach resigned and the school canceled the rest of the season amid a burgeoning controversy involving allegations that three players on the highly ranked team had raped a stripper at an off-campus party. (The rape charges were later dropped, and the players exonerated.)

One year ago: An explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine near Charleston, W. Va., killed 29 workers.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Roger Corman is 85. Country singer Tommy Cash is 71. Actor Michael Moriarty is 70. Pop singer Allan Clarke (The Hollies) is 69. Actor Max Gail is 68. Actress Jane Asher is 65. Singer Agnetha Faltskog (ABBA) is 61. Actor Mitch Pileggi is 59. Rock musician Mike McCready (Pearl Jam) is 45. Country singer Troy Gentry is 44. Singer Paula Cole is 43. Actress Krista Allen is 40.

Thought for Today: "I realized a long time ago that a belief which does not spring from a conviction in the emotions is no belief at all." - Evelyn Scott, American author (1893-1963)

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Conservation compliance in Gray County

In the cropland country in Gray County, the windy days in spring remind us that it is good for farmers to keep plenty of crop residue cover on the soil surface to minimize soil loss through wind erosion.

Most of the crops traditionally grown in the county, like wheat, grain sorghum, corn, and hay provide plenty of cover for soil protection.

Cotton, however, is a different story, and seldom provides ample cover to provide protection from wind erosion, although standing cotton stalks do provide some benefit. With cotton prices on the futures markets as high as they are, there are likely to be even more acres of cotton planted in Gray County for the 2011 growing season.

Producers in the county who are farming fields that have been des-

ignated as highly erodible land (HEL) need to take special consideration when deciding where and how often to plant cotton.

If their current HEL conservation compliance plan for their highly erodible fields does not include cotton as part of their conservation crop rotation, they should visit the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Pampa. NRCS personnel will work with them to determine when and how often cotton can be planted while maintaining soil erosion losses within acceptable limits on those



JOHN WIMBERLEY

fields. The failure of a producer to follow their HEL plan could result in non-compliance with the Highly Erodible Land provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill.

This could not only jeopardize participation in USDA farm subsidy program payments on that specific farm, but also on all farms they operate anywhere in the United States.

For any questions concerning highly erodible land, conservation cropping systems, and HEL compliance, please contact the NRCS office in Pampa at (806) 665-1751, ext. 3, or come by the office in the USDA Service Center at 12125 Frederic Ave, Suite B.

John Wimberley is the District Conservator with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Gray County.

Advancing freedom & democracy in the Muslim world?

On March 20, Pastor Terry Jones, who heads a congregation of 30 at his Dove World Outreach Center church in Gainesville, Fla., conducted a mock trial of the Quran "for crimes against humanity."

Pronouncing Islam's sacred book guilty, Jones soaked a Quran in kerosene and set it ablaze in a portable fire pit.

Few noticed. But Hamid Karzai did.

On March 24, the president of Afghanistan, our presumed ally in the war with al-Qaida and the Taliban, condemned this "crime against the religion and the entire Muslim nation," called on the United States to bring Jones to justice and demanded "a satisfactory response to the resentment and anger of over 1.5 billion Muslims around the world."

Thus the firebrand here is not just Jones, who perpetrated the sacrilege, but Karzai, who made certain his countrymen knew what happened 10,000 miles away and four days before.

Friday, after prayers in Mazer-Sharif, a mob, inflamed by imams denouncing Jones, descended on the U.N. compound. When they left, seven U.N. employees lay dead, two reportedly beheaded.

President Obama denounced Jones' "act of extreme intolerance and bigotry," and added that "to attack and kill innocent people in response is outrageous and an affront to human dignity and decency."

Gen. David Petraeus deplored the Quran-burning as "hateful, disrespectful and enormously intolerant."

Still, on Saturday, rioters waving Taliban flags and shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Karzai" went on a rampage in Kandahar that ended with nine Afghans dead and 80 injured when they tried to march on the U.N. compound and security troops fired on them.

Three more were killed Sunday as riots continued in Kandahar and spread to Jalalabad. Forty more suffered gunshot wounds.

Petraeus then met with Karzai, who issued a new statement demanding that "the U.S. government, Senate and Congress clearly condemn (the Rev. Jones') dire action and avoid such incidents in the future."

In short, our ally seized this opportunity to rub America's nose in what the Rev. Jones did, as though the

U.S. government, whose highest civilian and military officials had condemned Jones, is morally culpable for not preventing his Quran-burning and not punishing him for it.

Nor is this sufficient. Henceforth, the U.S. government is to police its citizenry to ensure no such anti-Islamic sacrilege takes place again. Intending no disrespect, who do these people think they are?

Undeniably, it was an incendiary insult to a religion professed by almost a fourth of the world's people for Jones to do what he did. But what does this murderous reaction to a book-burning tell us about the people for whose right of self-determination Americans are fighting and dying in Afghanistan?

Candidly, it affirms what we already knew.

Many Afghans believe beheading or stoning is the right response to an insult to Islam. And not only that. Five years ago, Abdul Rahman, an Afghan convert to Christianity, faced the death penalty for apostasy and was forced to flee his own country.

In some Muslim countries, death is the prescribed punishment for Muslims who convert, for Christians who seek converts and for any who insult Islam, like that Danish cartoonist who sketched a caricature of the Prophet with a fused bomb for a turban.

Stoning is also seen as proper punishment for women who commit adultery.

In Pakistan recently, the governor of Punjab and the Cabinet minister for religious minorities, both Catholics, were assassinated. Why? Both had opposed a law under which



PAT BUCHANAN

a Christian woman had been sentenced to death after some farmhands accused her of blasphemy.

The governor was murdered by his own bodyguard, who was then hailed by 500 religious scholars who urged all Muslims to boycott the governor's funeral ceremony, as he had gotten what he deserved.

In the last two years, Christians have been burned alive by Muslims in Gorja, Pakistan, and by Hindu extremists in Orissa, India. Christian churches have been torched and scores of the faithful massacred on holy days in Iraq and Egypt. Few of these atrocities have received the media attention of the Rev. Jones' stupid stunt or the Danish cartoonist's irreverent scribbles.

Before America sends more of her sons to die for the freedom of Arabs and Muslims, perhaps we ought to have a better idea of what these folks intend to do with that freedom. For across that Muslim world, the faith that created our world, Christianity, is being persecuted and in some sectors annihilated.

To neocons and liberal interventionists, the goal of U.S. foreign policy should be to use our wealth and power to advance freedom until the whole world is democratic. Only then can we be secure.

But if democracy means rule by the people, ought we not to inquire a little more closely what it is these people, down deep, really want, before we bleed and bankrupt ourselves to win it for them?

Maybe Hosni Mubarak had a point.

Pat Buchanan is a nationally-syndicated columnist.

The PAMPA NEWS

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We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:
• Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
• All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only correspondence from city will be published.
• Defamatory comments will not be published.
• E-mail correspondence will not be published.
• The views and opinions expressed in these letters are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Pampa News.

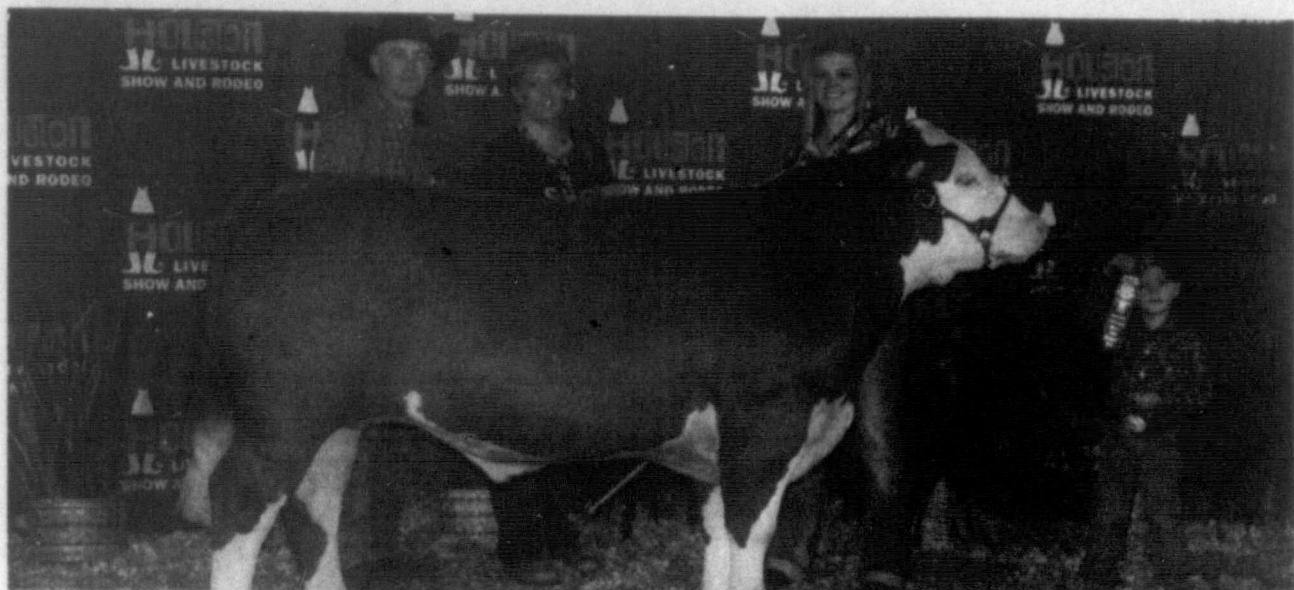


photo courtesy of AgriLife Extension Service

Local winners at the Houston Stock Show included Laura Kirkland (top, eighth place, All Other Breeds Steers) and Korbin Payne (right, ninth place, Chester).



Stock

cont. from page 1

show season for Gray County's kids. "I would like to congratulate all of the youth from Gray County and all of their accomplishments over the past year," he said. "Thank you to all of the parents and leaders for helping these youth."

BANANAGRAMS!

There is one letter that when added to all of the four-letter words below can be used to form new five-letter words. Find the letter that works for all four words, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

CARS WERE

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

DRAW HERS

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

COMMON LETTER

Yesterday's Answer: RUNOFF, FEWEST, SOLACE, FILIAL

Hospital

cont. from page 1

that it will take \$25 to \$30 million dollars to acquire the facility and modernize it.

"The purchase price will be less than that," Hall said. The foundation has launched a fundraising drive to raise money to buy the hospital, Hall said.

He said healthcare financing is undergoing significant changes. There is significant pressure for continued cuts in funding.

Hall said that increasing costs and decreasing reimbursements are making it difficult for rural communities to maintain medical facilities.

As a not-for-profit hospital, he said there would be cost savings available to the hospital. The hospital would be eligible for grant money that a for-profit facility would not be eligible for.

A for-profit hospital has to charge more to pay their bills. A not-for-profit hospital can charge significantly less.

"That savings can actually be reinvested," Hall said. He said reimbursement is also higher for rural hospitals.

That opens up possibilities in reimbursement and investment.

Hall said the fundraising drive is to raise money to buy the hospital. Donors will not own the hospital, but will be paid interest on the money they donate toward its purchase.

The hospital will be owned by the not-for-profit foundation and run locally.

The biggest issue, said Gray County Judge Richard Peet, is quality of service, and he feels that a hospital owned by a corporation in another state or community has no incentive to care about Gray County. Peet said they may care only about their financial return.

Hall said the response to the foundation's fundraising effort for the hospital has already raised a decent amount of funding.

Being a not-for-profit foundation, Hall said the financial situation of the hospital will be completely transparent.

He said the Pampa medical community is receptive and supportive of the idea.

"Everybody is receptive of this," Hall said.

SHEPARD'S CROOK NURSING AGENCY

THE OLDEST HOME HEALTH AGENCY IN PAMPA



Linda Ellison, Bertha Cordova, Robbie Sparks & Katrina Allen



Teresa Henson and Michael Kirkpatrick



Barbara Britten and Ronna Smith



Barbara Britten and Matthew Kirkpatrick



Dauna Wilkinson



Pam Dalton



Suzanne Wilkinson

Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest Road, has its heart in Pampa, but strives to provide quality in-home health care to the entire locality. The agency is symbolic of the care of a shepherd's staff (crook) guiding those in his care to a better path and safety. So are the goals of the Shepard's staff in assisting our clients to a healthier life.

Owners Ernie and Suzie Wilkinson, both Pampa natives, have been in business for 20 years. They are members and ministers of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa.

Suzie and Ernie have a BA in business and a Masters in Health Management. They both have extensive background and training in federal and state regulations, and have served on many state and national boards and committees representing Home Health.

"Our nurses are board certified in home health, pediatrics and wound care," Suzie said.

The agency currently employs 75 skilled workers including licensed RNs and LVNs, a Licensed Occupational Therapist, a Licensed Physical Therapist, a Licensed Speech Therapist, a Physical Therapy Assistant and a number of Texas Certified Home Health Aides.

Michael Kirkpatrick acts as administrator and director of nursing. Teresa Henson is office operations manager. Both have been with Shepard's Crook since its inception.

Shepard's Crook currently serves all counties in the Texas Panhandle and has offices in Pampa, Amarillo, Borger, Clarendon, McLean and Shamrock.

Dedicated to meeting the needs of their individual clients, the Wilkinsons believe a successful business should give back to the community.

Don't trust your in-home health care to just any agency. Give Shepard's Crook a try. The number for the Pampa office is 806-665-0356. Visit our website at:

www.shepards-nursing.com

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

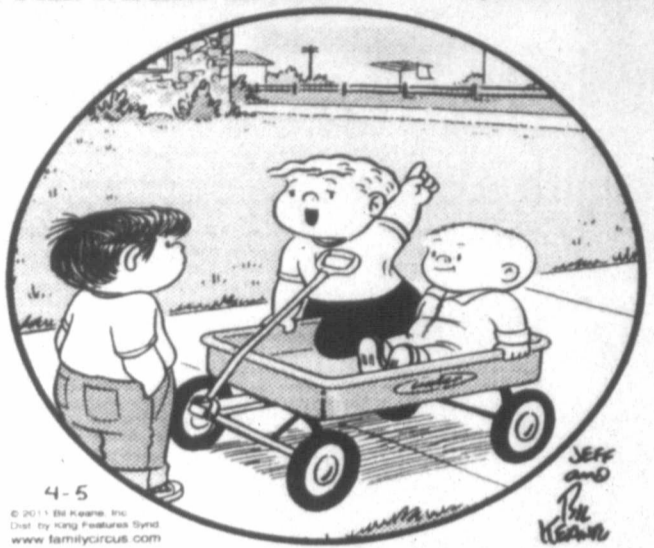
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or 665-1360
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- Prices as Low as \$9.95 Per Day (* plus mileage)

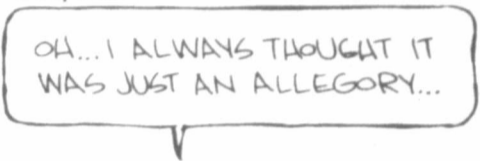
comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"We've got two granddads, too. One lives down here and one lives up there."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 6, 2011:

This year, you are more forthright and direct. Others respond well to your actions, thoughts and personality. Remain confident. You are entering a very lucky year and an 11-year life cycle. If you need to, clarify your desires and long-term goals. You are likely to achieve at least one of your goals. If you are single, you attract many people's attention. Think before leaping. Ask yourself if this is the type of person who can give you what you desire. If you are attached, make it a point to spend more quality time with your loved ones. TAURUS tries hard but can be as hardheaded as you.

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)

★★★★ You notice just how lucky you are right now. Put your best foot forward, and watch everything — well, nearly everything — tumble as you would like, if not better. Taking a risk today is OK. Going to extremes could backfire. Tonight: Indulge in a favorite pastime.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Take a hint from Aries. Recognize just how far you push others. Step back and know that you can undo any of the damages — and that is exactly what you should do. Be kind to someone who serves as a benefactor or a very caring individual in general. Tonight: Just wish upon a star.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Recognize what is happening around you. Continue to watch and observe while clearing your mind of as many judgments as you can. You could be taken aback by how much comes up for you. Tonight: You might try airing out some of your thoughts with a trusted friend or respected individual.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You definitely know where you are going and how to handle a key situation. Take charge, as others sense your savvy in this area. A meeting could prove to be instrumental. A friend — most likely male — wants special time or attention. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You will come out on top if (1) you decide to assume the lead and (2) if you explain how you perceive an event or situ-

ation. You see what others don't. Your high level of charisma speaks for itself. Tonight: Could be a late one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Start combining your mind and emotions more often, especially when dealing with partners. As odd as it seems, soon you will need to be a mind reader in order to figure out what another person wants. Let others think they dominate. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your knowledge helps others achieve more of what they want. Realize everyone has limits, but at this point a key associate doesn't appear to be restricted in any way, shape or form: Enjoy being a follower. Tonight: Take the lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others simply demand to run with the ball. That is the only way they will accept what is happening. Your ability to clear out a problem right now needs to take a backseat. You understand a lot more than what is obvious. Stay mum. Tonight: Don't push your luck.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Whether dealing with a risk or a loved one, you must be carrying a magic wand, as everything somehow works out beautifully for you and everyone else concerned. Wherever you are, at work or off, makes no difference. Tonight: Love the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Remain upbeat. You seem to have an unusual resilience right now, which does make a difference in various situations. You might want to rethink an offer that involves an investment. Tonight: Light up the moment.

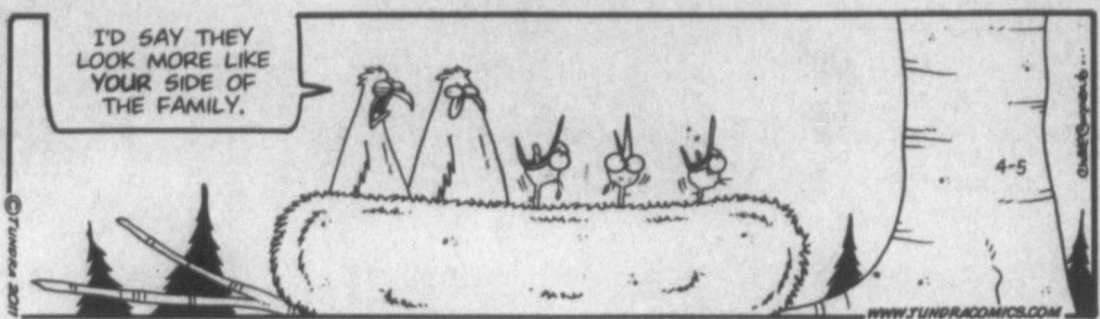
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You have such a convincing manner that someone who decided earlier to give you a "no" in response to a request will say "yes." Make sure this person won't change his or her mind later, or keep it in mind that this is a possibility. Tonight: Head home — all smiles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You could be mixing apples and oranges, despite the fact that you are sure you aren't. Remain optimistic, but do a better job of listening to associates. If everyone is saying the same thing, but not what you think, look again. Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

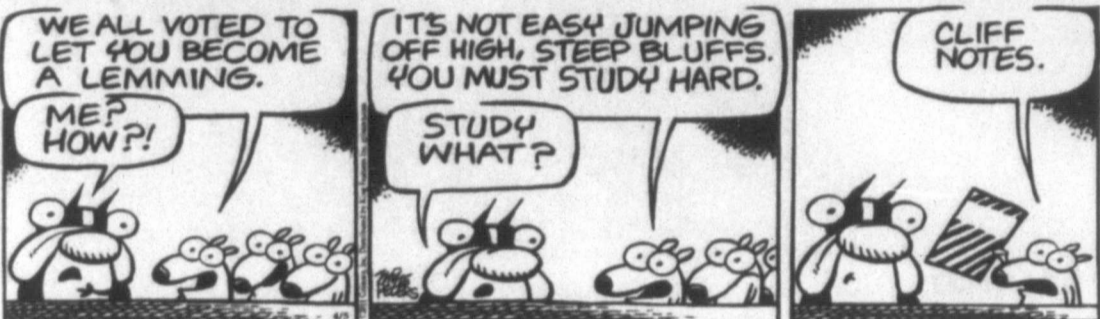
Tundra



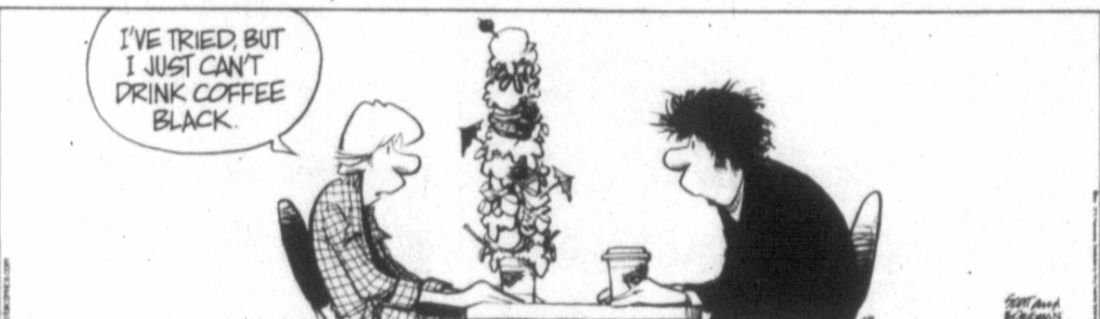
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





The Pampa News'

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Get noticed!

Call Beverly Taylor today to start advertising in The Pampa News' Classifieds!

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806-669-2525

3 Personal

ADOPT College Sweethearts yearn to give 1st baby unconditional LOVE, music, travel, education, sports, joy! Expenses paid. David & Kylie 1-800-352-5741.

5 Special Notices

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10 Lost/Found

LOST: Ladies 14K gold wedding band with diamonds & large Solitaire. Lost Sat. 4/02/11 at Harvester Donuts. Call 806-440-6384

14d Carpentry

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.

NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.

14g Elec. Contr.

RUSSELLCROW Electric for your electric needs! Comm., Resi. 665-0878, 440-1171.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall, landscaping. Free esti. Call 665-3453 leave message. Jesus Barraza. 405-537-4779-cell

14h Gen. Serv.

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

14n Painting

INTERIOR / Exterior Painting. Call Steve Porter, 669-9347 or 662-2574.

14r Plowing/Yard

BOLIN YARD SERVICE Call Tyrel Bolin 806-440-4566

JIMENEZ Multi-Serv. Leaf work, fertilize, yard clean-up, cut trees, tree trim, gardening, haul trash. 669-2618, 806-886-2027.

14s Plumbing

JACK'S Plumbing 715 W. Foster 665-7115

14w Air Cond/Heat

BROWNING'S Refrigeration, Heating & Air Cond. Specialists since 1964!! 665-1212.

19 Situations

THOMAS Mowing & Tree Trimming. Yard Waste Removal. Pet Clean-Up. Housecleaning. 806-662-2049 or 806-662-2066.

WILL clean your house - Pampa only. Call Graciela or Angelica Perez, 440-4823, 663-0691

I clean houses plus businesses. \$10 hr. reg. \$100 2-story. Ironing message. Jesus Barraza. 405-537-4779-cell

19 Situations

NEED a Mechanic?? 20 yrs. exp. Cars & trucks. Beat any price in town! Free est. 664-2756.

21 Help Wanted

PRIVATE Sitter avail. Mon-Fri, possibly weekends. Resume & ref. available. 205-2998

21 Help Wanted

NEED retired couple or single to manage motel in Clarendon. Call 665-1875.

R. Chester Trucking is responsible and dependable truck drivers who are not drug addicts or drunks. We are a Family Based Company looking for the right people to join our family. If interested come and apply at 1800 W. McCullough, Pampa, TX 7am-5pm, or call 806-665-0379

21 Help Wanted

COME & check out our benefits! Positions for FT & PRN CNA's and Part-time RN. St. Ann's Nursing Home, in Pampa, 537-3194.

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for Welder-Fabricators. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa, Tx.

SEEKING Exp Field Maintenance Tech & Relief Pumper for Sunray Area. Send resume to P.O. Box 1422, Pampa, Tx. 79066-1422.

SOCIAL Worker needed. Competitive salary. Wheeler Nursing & Rehabilitation, contact Kenna Howard 806-826-3505 for details.

THE PAMPA EDC is accepting resumes to fill an Unexpired Term on the Board of Directors. Terms usually run 2 years. This term will run through 2012. Please pick up a copy of our By-Laws and Code of Ethics to review prior to submitting a resume. Board members are required to live in or just outside the City of Pampa. Members of the Board of Directors are Volunteer Positions. For additional info, please call 806-665-0800 or stop by our office at 106 N. Cuyler. Applications will be accepted until April 12, 2011.

NEED exp. mechanic to work on chemical pumps, turbine meters, valve & controls, gas prod. units & other type oil field equip. Call Ron T & J Valve. 665-0868

HELPER WANTED. APPLY IN PERSON ONLY, 522 S. Cuyler. Clean driving record and Tx license a must.

APARTMENT MANAGER needed for Pampa's Premier apartment community. Must have previous apt mgmt exp. competitive salary. Fax resume 1-866-311-7899

ELECTRICIANS. Journeyman and apprentices needed for work in Amarillo TX. Call Joe 806-690-5942

BUSY Auto Shop looking for Service Writer with exp, but willing to train the right person. Call 665-4851 or come by 217 E. Atchison.

"HANDS ON" Patient Care Position in a busy Chiropractic office. Put your "people skills" to work. Fax Resume to (806)665-0537

21 Help Wanted

DRIVER needed. 1 yr experience. DOT physical drug screen required. 806-665-2451

21 Help Wanted

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

RED Barn Open Each Sat. 1424 S. Barnes. Sale-New Queen Mattress Sets \$256

TABLES, sofas, freezer, chests, dressers, hutch, love seat, microwave. Call 662-7557

69 Misc.

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Sports

PHS girls golf closes in on title, boys stay in third

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters golf team are closer to winning the district title and the Pampa Harvesters remained in third after Round Three of district Monday at Hidden Hills.

The Lady Harvesters shot a 398 and were 41 strokes better than Borger, who finished second in the third round. Pampa holds the overall lead by 91 strokes with a score of 1,164. Junior Lindsay Brown and Samantha Kelly tied Borger's Clarice Myers for the lowest score in Round Three with a 98. Myers holds the overall lead with a 268. Pampa senior Liz Hoelting dropped back three strokes and has shot 281 overall. Brown is third overall with 290. Alison Alexander is fourth overall with 296. Kelly is fifth overall with 299.

The junior varsity shot a 470 and remain in third with an overall score of 1,409. Nicole Brashears shot a 113 to bring her overall total to 352. Savanna Mertz shot a 120 and brought her overall total to 356. Francheska Bridwell shot a 126 to bring her overall total to 359.

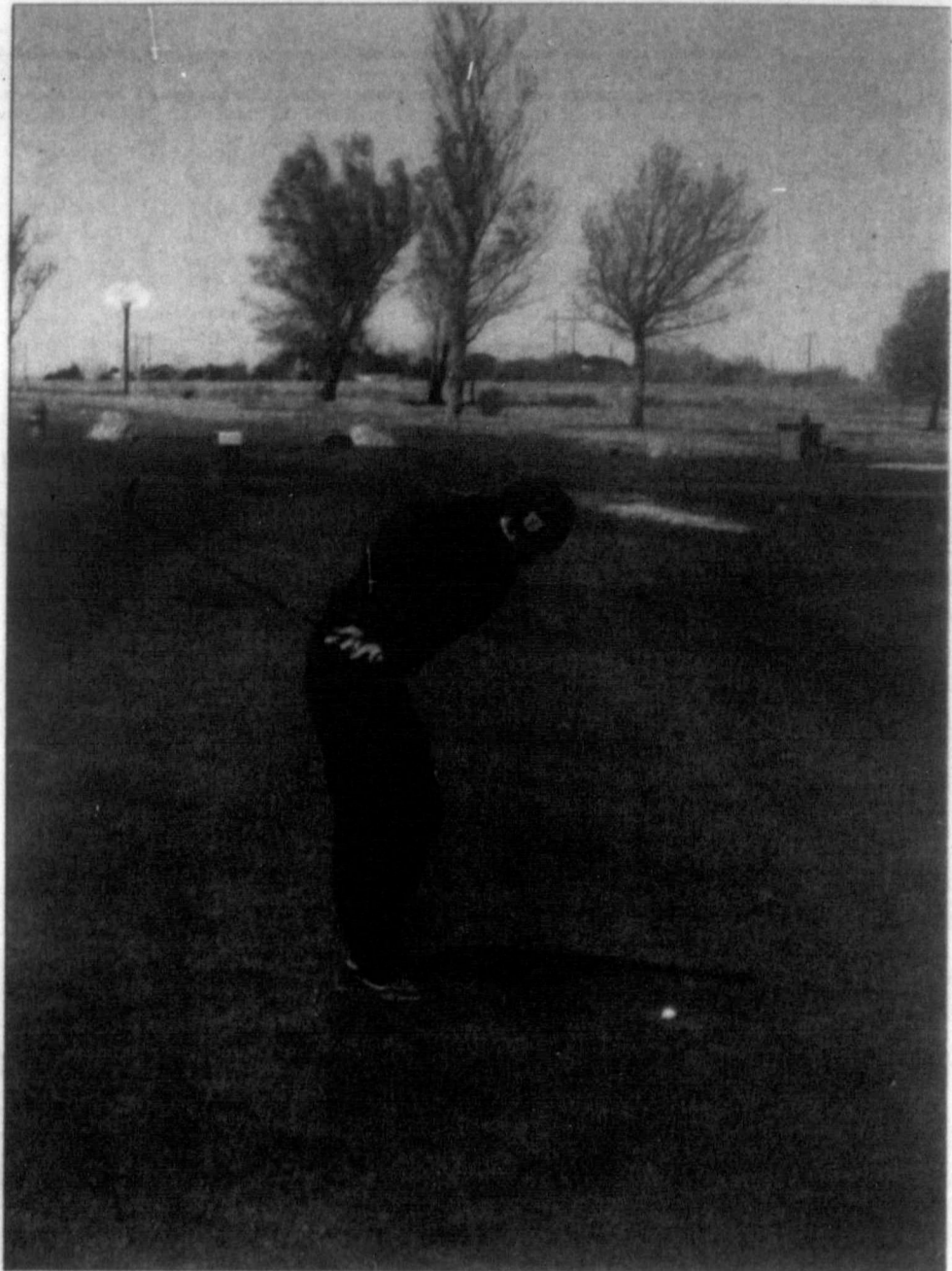
The Harvesters dropped back 20 strokes, as they shot 365 and brought their overall total to 1,035. Logan Reagan shot 90 and brought his overall total to 244 remaining in fourth overall. Senior Joseph Mechelay led the team in Round Three with an 89 and brought his total to 259. Senior Jonathan Polasek shot 92 and brought his total to 267. Brendon Burrell shot 94 and brought his total to 265. Tre Didly shot 112 and brought his total to 349.

The junior varsity shot 431 and brought their overall total to 1,338. Logan Turley shot 100 and brought his total to 303. Calvin Armbrister shot 103 and brought his total to 322. Kyler Payne shot 106 and brought his total to 346. Destry Baten shot 122 and brought his total to 367. Darion Snell shot a 107 as an individual.

Head coach Alan Segura said he is pleased with the progress the junior varsities are making.

"The JV boys and girls continue to make improvements and gain confidence," Segura said.

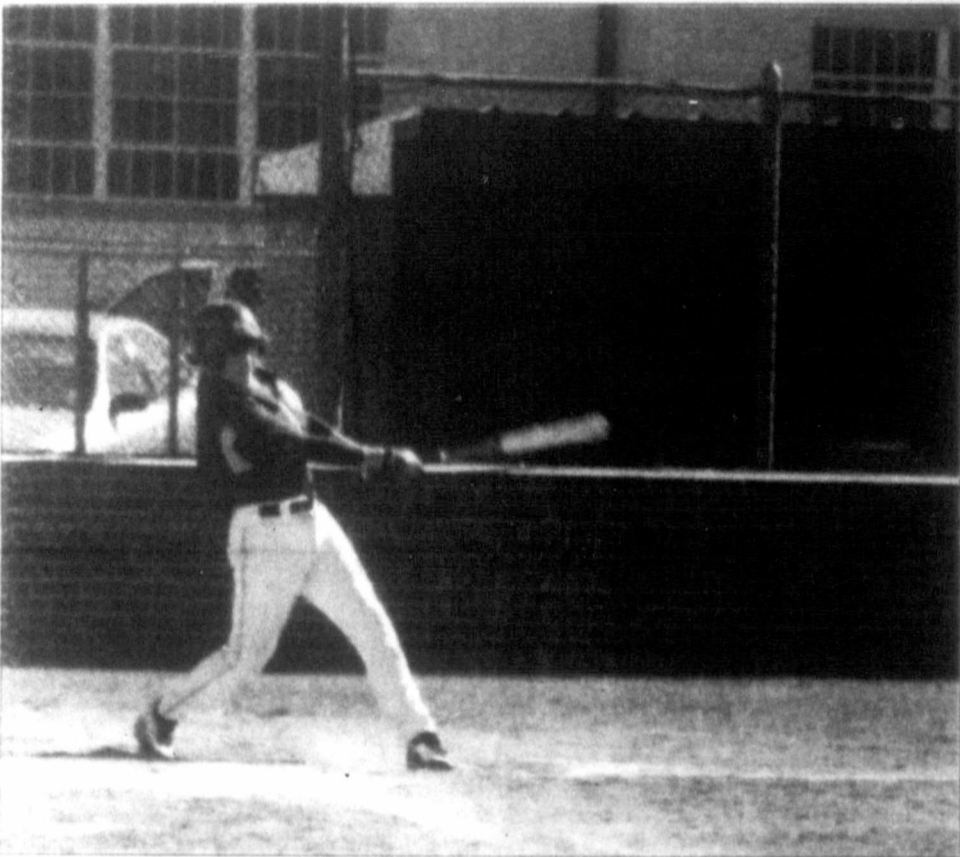
District concludes April 11 in Dalhart.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Joseph Mechelay attempts to chip onto the green Monday at Hidden Hills in Round Three of district. Mechelay had the lowest score on his team with an 89.

JV baseball locks up 'Dogs



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Jordan Lemons hits a RBI single in the bottom of the first to tie the game at two. The junior varsity won 18-8 and finish undefeated in round one of district.

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

For the third straight game, The Pampa junior varsity baseball team run-ruled their opponent, with Borger being their latest victim in a 18-8 victory.

The Harvesters are averaging 17 runs in their last six games and have won five. Coach Dustin Miller said his team is hitting the ball well but need to play a little defense.

"I told them if they get their defense down and limit their mistakes, they are going to be pretty tough to beat one day," Miller said.

The game got off to a shaky start for the Harvesters. Borger's leadoff batter homered. The next batter walked and advanced to second on a groundout. A passed ball advanced the runner to third and the runner scored when freshman catcher Ryan Powell overthrew Sheldon Reeve. The freshman ended the inning with a pickoff.

The Harvesters responded immediately. Jeff Smith led off with a walk and advanced to second on a sacrifice by Powell. Taylor Woods followed with a double and advanced Smith to third. Smith scored on a wild pitch. Jordan Lemons hit a single to left and scored Woods to tie the game at two. Lemons scored on a steal. Pampa had four base hits and led 3-2 after one.

Pampa expanded their lead in the second. Chris Howard and Casey Martindale hit singles to start the inning. Smith moved the runners into scoring position with a sacrifice bunt. Powell drove in Howard with a single to right. Reeve scored Powell with a bases loaded walk. Reeve made the pitcher throw nine pitches. Martindale scored when Woods grounded out to second. Lemons was hit by a pitch. A stolen base and walk advanced Lemons to third. Borger's catcher overthrew the second baseman trying to catch Reeve stealing. Lemons scored and Bray Eddleman advanced to third. The inning

ended with Eddleman and Reeve stranded in scoring position but Pampa led 7-2.

The Bulldogs fought back in the top of the third. With two outs and a runner on first, Borger walked. Hunt hit the next batter. The Bulldogs scored two with one on a single and the other on a throwing error. Borger hit a two RBI double and cut Pampa's lead to 7-6.

The Harvesters added another run in the third. Howard and Martindale singled. Smith struck out and Martindale got caught between first and second. Howard scored while Martindale was caught in a rundown. Martindale was eventually out.

Pampa broke the game open in the bottom of the fourth. The first three batters reached with Lemons and Hunt walking and Reeve reached on an error. Douglas drove in Lemons with a bases loaded walk. Howard drove in Hunt with a single to left. Martindale hit a shallow flyball to right and scored Reeve. An errant throw to second by the pitcher scored Douglas. Martindale advanced to third on a passed ball and scored when Powell grounded out.

Borger scored one more run in the top of the fifth but the Harvesters finished them off in the bottom half. Hunt led off with a walk and scored on a double by Douglas. Reeve reached on an error by the shortstop and scored on a single by Howard. Douglas scored on an error by the third baseman. Smith drove in Howard. Blayne Troxell scored the final run of the game when Woods grounded into a fielder's choice.

Hunt pitched all five innings and allowed eight runs (five earned) on six hits, walked two, hit three and struck out seven. Howard led the team in hitting with four hits and scored three runs. Powell, Woods, Douglas and Howard led the team in RBI with two each. Lemons, Reeve, Martindale and Smith each had one.

The junior varsity (7-2, 3-0) host Boys Ranch 5 p.m. Friday.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Derisive sound

1 Treaties

6 Ways to go

11 Once more

12 Quiver item

13 Stopping play, in a way

15 French summer

16 Phone bill addition

17 Glimpse

18 Money-back offers

20 Pointer

21 Tie the knot

22 Confront

23 Do a fan's job

26 Cruise ship

27 Coop group

28 Visibility lessener

29 Blunder

30 Pizza topping choice

34 Pigeon sound

35 Play on words

36 Writer

37 Braod off

40 Cove

41 Gung-ho

42 Comfy spots

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Yesterday's answer

10 Street cleaner	26 Hotel areas
14 Must have	28 Satyr's kin
19 Impresses	30 Rotisserie parts
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23 Get one's hotel room	32 Arcade patron
24 Jane Eyre, for one	33 Wield
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