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The PAMPA NEWS



TODAY IN SPORTS
Running ahead
 PHS track takes third, sends several to regionals
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Friday, April 15, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 9 75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

RnR Fusion to perform at St. Matt's Sunday

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

RnR Fusion's unique brand of "fusion music," Rick Land said, is kind of a happy accident. "It just kind of evolved," Land said of the duo's musical style, characterized by live acoustic organ-music with accompaniment from an electronic synthesizer.

"One Sunday two or three Easters ago, we needed some percussion (at Pampa's St. Matthew's Episcopal Church), and we said, 'Hey, why don't we bring the synthesizer over?'"
 "It just grew and grew from there."
 The aforementioned synthesizer is a Yamaha Motif Integrated Sampling Sequencer, which Land

described as a versatile instrument with a spectrum of diverse sounds. It's a spectrum of sound that's going to be on display this Sunday when RnR Fusion presents "A Lenten Season Special Event: Music of Transcendence" at 3 p.m. this Sunday at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.
 The concert will be a blending of sounds between the Moller pipe

organ in the nave of St. Matt's and the Yamaha synthesizer.
 The show is free and non-denominational, Land said, with the public encouraged to attend.
 "We're excited to share the music with everyone," Land said. "We just love making the music that's meant something with us and fusing it with new sounds to"
FUSION cont. on page 12

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FLOWER POWER



photo courtesy of Marsha Poole

Ready for their annual Geranium Sale are local 4-H members (back row, left to right) Susan Joiner, Emily Hart, Walker Kennedy, Holland Poole Kaitlyn Hart; (middle row) Alyson Chisum, Laura Kirkland, Blaine McGinty Cody Jacoby; (front row) Delaney Riggs and Marlee Youree. The sale will be from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 28, and Friday on April 29, at Coronado Shopping Center in the old Albertsons parking lot.

Area prisons earn high audit scores

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The prisons to the east of Pampa won high marks during a national audit this week.
 The Jordan and Baten Units of the Texas Correctional Department, according to their auditors, scored the highest marks possible for the audit.
 Warden Michael Savers credited the prisons' staff with the outstanding report given by a team of three experts from the American Correctional Association, which accredits prisons across the country.
 J. Patton Dellow from Illinois was the senior auditor. The other two were from Oklahoma and Minneapolis.
 Dellow, a 32-year veteran of the Illinois correctional system, has been involved in more than 100 correctional facility audits across the country.
 Dellow said the correctional officers and staff at the prisons in Pampa do a good job on a daily basis.
 He said the audit is to ensure that the best set of practices is maintained in institutions across the nation.
 The ACA traces its origins to Rutherford B. Hayes after the Civil War. Before he was President of the United States, Dellow said, Hayes helped establish the standards for
PRISONS cont. on page 5

Chamber's Pampa Bucks to have expiration date

RANDY PRIBBLE
 rpribble@thepampanews.com

There will be a slight change to the Pampa Chamber of Commerce program called "Pampa Bucks."
 Pampa Bucks are coupons redeemable dollar for dollar at a participating Chamber member business. In the past, the redeemable period has been open-ended. From now on, they will have an expiration date.
 "Pampa Bucks is a good way to support local businesses," said Joe Weaver, the Chambers' executive director. "If you wanted to give a friend a \$25

gift or you wanted to give an employee a \$100 bonus, you can come here and purchase Pampa Bucks on a dollar for dollar basis. It is a good way to ensure the dollars are spent in the community."
 "It's not hard to find a place that will redeem them"
 Weaver said the problem with the program is that there are outstanding bucks out there with no way of knowing when they might come in.
 "They need to turn those in by Sept 30," he said.
 For more information, call Weaver at the chamber office, 669-3241.

PAMPA H2O CONSTRUCTION LET THERE BE LIGHT



staff photo by David Bowser

Buried deep inside a control room of the Pampa H2O Aquatic Park, Cody Stafford of Bean Electric organizes the wires that will light up the park when it opens this summer.




Chamber Luncheon
 April 19 - 11:45 am - \$10.00/person
 200 N. Hobart Ave. (Room 1000) (no parking)
 Who? Local business owners, community leaders, and anyone interested in Pampa's future.
 What? A luncheon featuring a presentation by local energy leaders.
 Why? To generate ideas and support for Pampa's future.
 How? By attending the luncheon and participating in the discussion.
 For more information, call 669-3241 or email rpribble@thepampanews.com

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PAMPA FORECAST

| Saturday | Sunday | Monday |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| High 72 Low 43 | High 81 Low 48 | High 88 Low 53 |

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 31. Windy, with a north northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind around 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Windy, with a west southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. Windy, with a southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

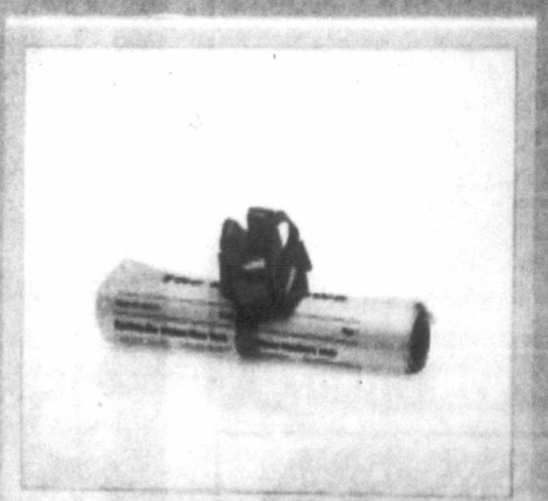
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- BORGER DOWNTOWN Merchants' Moonlight Madness, Fri., Apr. 15th, 9pm-10pm.** Poker Run, Sales & Refreshments! Various businesses open.
- OPEN RACES Sat., Pampa Slot Car Speedway at 7 pm.** Come visit our hobby center!
- PAWS ADOPTION Event!** United Parking Lot, Sat. 1-4pm.
- RACHEL'S PAGES, 115 W. Kingsmill Used and New Books.** Local author Carol Hermanski to sign her new book "An Ordinary Cat" Sat. Apr. 16, 2-4pm. Specials throughout the store!
- YES SIR, Hobart Gardens is fully stocked!** Come check us out



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Call Kera Kent at (806) 669-2525 or email circulation@thepampanews.com

Donations sought for wildfire assistance

FORT WORTH — The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) is encouraging Texans who wish to make financial donations to ranchers affected by the recent Texas wildfires to do so through the Texas Department of Agriculture's Star of Texas Agriculture Relief (STAR) fund.

The STAR fund will use financial donations to help purchase hay and fencing supplies for ranchers in the affected areas. Donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made at www.texasagriculture.gov or by

calling 512-475-1615.

"Many ranchers across parts of West Texas have been completely devastated by the raging wildfires. Thousands of grazing acres have been burned, cattle have been lost, and hundreds of miles of fences have disappeared," said Joe Parker, Jr., a rancher in Clay County and president of TSCRA.

"Thankfully, most of these fires are under control; however, the dry and windy conditions continue to pose serious threats which has us all feeling a little uneasy.

"The flood of support from Texas ranchers, the industry, and state and local officials has been remarkable. We here in the cattle industry know what it means to work together to help each other out, which is why the continued effort to support those affected by the fires is so important. TSCRA would like to thank Commissioner Staples for his ongoing support and efforts for these ranchers."

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is a 134-year-old trade organization.

105-year-old Texan loses houses to fire

ASPERMONT (AP) — N.L. Winter says that in his 106 years on the rolling plains of West Texas, he has never seen anything like the fires of the past week.

The man known to friends and family as "Boss" saw three of the homes where he has lived burn in a vast wildfire that spread across his ranch and parts of four counties north of Abilene.

"It is the worst fire I've ever seen," he told the Abilene Reporter-News.

Among the places reduced to ashes was the half-dugout where he was born on April 30, 1905. Five years later, his father built a two-room house about a half-mile away. That's gone now, too. So is the house where Boss and his late first wife, Leta, raised their three children.

"He's cried a few tears," said

daughter Betty Rash Whigham, 81, of Abilene.

Gladys Winter, Boss' 99-year-old second wife who married the life-long cowboy in 1991, lost the home where she lived for 46 years.

"It was devastating," she said.

The houses, all unoccupied, were among eight buildings that burned on Boss' 1,400-acre Winter Estate ranch that burned in what the Texas Forest Service had named the Swenson Fire. That fire blackened 162 square miles of rolling plains about 50 miles northwest of Abilene and 170 miles west of Fort Worth.

Boss says he remembers the day in 1910 when, at age 5, his family moved into the two-room house. His chin quivered as he used two canes to move up close to its ruins.

"It stood right where he put it

until last week," he said. "When I see this, I think about home sweet home."

Boss still likes a chew of tobacco, saying that he started sneaking chew from his father when he was 4.

"He kept it in-between the mattresses to keep it moist," he said. "I'd slip in there and get me a little chew while he was out."

Although this week has been the worst, Boss Winter is no stranger to drought.

When he was 13 in 1918, a drought forced his father and him to drive their horses and cattle about 110 miles to the northwest to near Palo Duro Canyon on the High Plains. He remembers the covered wagon they used to get there and the tent in which they lived.

Lawmakers give schools more flexibility

AUSTIN (AP) — Educators who have begged state lawmakers for more freedom to deal with lower funding got a small victory Thursday when a state Senate committee voted to let school districts cut salaries and furlough contract personnel for a limited time.

They also agreed more work needs to be done.

The legislation approved Thursday allows districts to reduce contract employee salaries and furlough personnel for up to six non-instructional days, but only while the Foundation School Program entitlement remains below 2010-2011 funding levels.

Public education has taken the brunt of cuts as state lawmakers slash spending across the board to deal with a budget shortfall that could reach \$27 billion.

The bill was co-authored by Republicans and Democrats on the Senate Education Committee who spent six weeks meeting with education professionals to reach a compromise between teachers and administrators. It now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, emphasized the bill's requirements that school districts maximize furloughs and salary cuts before laying off a teacher for financial reasons.

"This is a place where we felt satisfied and recognized both the needs of schools and teachers,"

said Davis, who co-authored the bill. "I hope that districts will use reduction in force as an absolute last resort."

School superintendents have been asking lawmakers for permission to cut employee pay and give teachers unpaid days off IÇö which current state law doesn't allow IÇö to absorb some of the harsh cuts. Though grateful for the legislation, most school officials testifying before the committee weren't completely satisfied with the bill lawmakers came up with.

Dr. Wanda Bamberg, superintendent of Aldine ISD, was concerned with a provision that says districts have to use salary cuts and furloughs in proportion to the percentage of state funding the district loses. She argued that teachers in a district taking a massive cut will be unfairly suffering when their salaries are cut in relation to revenue loss.

"I'm going to be creating a negative work environment by increasing their challenges and their anxiety and then significantly reducing their pay," Bamberg said. "I'm going to have teachers that can't make their car payments, that can't make their house payments. This could be very damaging to the very people we're trying not to cut."

The bill also eliminates the "last in-first out" principle that generally makes newest teachers the first ones to be laid off and allows dis-

tricts to notify teachers they won't be renewed only 10 days before the last day of instruction instead of 45.

Eric Hartman with the Texas chapter of the American Federation of Teachers said that could leave teachers with anxiety and uncertainty about the coming school year. He also wants a firm expiration date on the time that salary reductions can be used, though lawmakers say they can't predict when the financial crisis will end.

He said a definite expiration date would "keep pressure on the Legislature" to fix the real budget issue - a 2006 business margins tax that didn't generate enough money and that will give Texas a recurring hole in the budget if not addressed.

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, was the only committee member present that voted against the bill. She said school districts will have already cut employees by the time the legislation becomes law and reminded fellow lawmakers that the margins tax remains the real issue.

"I'm just so sorry it's our teachers and classrooms that are plugging this budget hole because it's our biggest expense," Van de Putte said. "Unless we have the courage to stop this craziness with the revenue stream we have, we're going to be making these decisions every year."

Obituaries

Clara Hudson Jones, 90

Borger—Clara Hudson Jones, 90, died April 14, 2011, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Jones was born August 25, 1920, in Peydon, Okla. She attended schools and graduated from Canadian High School. She married Rex Keach in Boise, Okla., in August of 1941. She later married

Fred Wall in August of 1952 in Amarillo. She then married Cleve Hudson on September 28, 1968, in La Junta,



Jones

Colo. He preceded her in death in 1985. She married Herman Jones in 1991 in Borger. He preceded her in death in 2003. She worked in retail sales for many years. She was a member of the Eastern Star, Moose Lodge, Rebekah Lodge and V.F.W. Clara's main interest was studying genealogy and keeping records for her family. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Borger.

Survivors include four sisters, Georgia Thomas of Canadian, Maxine Larsh of Iowa Park, Doris Cook of Clinton, Okla., and Willa Fitch of Locust Grove, Okla.; three grandchildren, Ronnie Jones, Richard Jones and René Seger; and numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Shirley Hoskins in 2006; four brothers, Wayne, Eddie, Bobby and Jimmie Davenport; two sisters, Joyce Steidle and Ava Tesson; and a grandson, Randy Seger.

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

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The PAMPA NEWS
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AFTERNOONRUSH

Palin speaks in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Sarah Palin is returning to Oklahoma.

The 2008 vice presidential candidate and former governor of Alaska is set to speak about faith and family at the Women of Joy conference in Oklahoma City today. Palin is scheduled to speak at 7:30 p.m. at the State Fair Arena. The event is sponsored by the Phil Waldrep Evangelistic Association.

In a news release, Waldrep says many people know Palin as a political figure, but her personal testimony gives hope to other women facing obstacles in life.

Palin spoke at two Women of Joy events in 2010. Palin last visited the state in September when she spoke at the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs' annual Liberty Gala in Tulsa.

New ed board district map ok'd

AUSTIN (AP) — A new map for the 15-member Texas State Board of Education has won approval from the House.

The map was approved Thursday by a 99-45 vote. Democrats largely opposed the plan, arguing that the plan didn't give Hispanics enough of a voice on the board. Rep. Burt Solomons, who sponsored the legislation, said the map was fair and kept more communities of interest together than the current map.

The board sets curriculum standards for Texas classrooms and oversees the state's endowment fund for public schools.

After one more procedural House vote, the plan next goes to the Senate.

Using new Census figures, the Legislature is drawing new district boundaries for the education board, members of the Legislature and Texans who serve in the U.S. Congress.

Hockey brawlers suspended

FARMERS BRANCH (AP) — A disciplinary panel has suspended two hockey players for 2 to 2 and a half years over a fight during a state title game of high school hockey clubs in Dallas that left a player with a broken jaw.

One player each from the Keller High School club team and the Martin High School club team from Arlington drew the suspensions Thursday after a closed hearing Tuesday night before officials of the Texas Amateur Hockey Association.

The brawl was captured on videotape toward the end of the March 27 game between Keller Hockey Varsity and Arlington Martin Warrior Varsity. Keller won the game and the Silver Division championship 9-3.

The suspensions are appealable. The teams, which use players from several high schools, aren't sanctioned by the school districts or the University Interscholastic League.

Paul edges toward 2012 bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — GOP Rep. Ron Paul of Texas is taking a step toward a presidential bid in 2012 by setting up a committee to help him test the waters for a possible run.

His spokesman, Jesse Benton, says the congressman is "beginning to lean more strongly toward running" and this new step puts the machinery in place to move quickly if Paul gets into the race.

Paul, who sought the GOP nomination in 2008, is expected to say in May whether he's running again.

No ceiling yet for TX gas prices

IRVING (AP) — Climbing retail gasoline prices still have found no ceiling in Texas nor nationwide.

The weekly AAA Texas gasoline price survey released Thursday shows a gallon of regular unleaded climbed by an average of 10 cents across Texas to \$3.75 per gallon. The national average rose 9 cents to \$3.81.

Dallas and Fort Worth have the state's most expensive gasoline at \$3.79 per gallon, 12 cents more than last week. San Antonio has the state's least expensive gasoline at \$3.67 per gallon, up 9 cents this week.

The Texas average is a dollar more than at this time last year, and the state and national averages are the highest that they've been since August 2008.

TX jobless rate at 8.1 percent

AUSTIN (AP) — The unemployment rate in Texas has dropped slightly for the second straight month as the state continues to add jobs.

The Texas Workforce Commission said today that the jobless rate for March was 8.1 percent, down from 8.2 percent a month earlier. The February rate was down from 8.3 percent in January.

The state added 37,200 nonfarm jobs in March, the sixth consecutive month of job growth.

The U.S. unemployment rate for March was 8.8 percent.

Professional and business services led the state's job sectors with an increase of 10,800 jobs.

Midland maintained the state's lowest local jobless rate at 4.6 percent for March. Brownsville-Harlingen is the highest at 12.0 percent.

Thousands lose power in storms

DALLAS (AP) — Strong thunderstorms with hail the size of golf balls have pelted parts of North Texas and interrupted power.

Crews from Oncor worked Friday to restore electricity to nearly 3,800 customers who lost power in the bad weather that began Thursday night. The utility reported most of the outages were in the Dallas area and East Texas.

No injuries were reported. The National Weather Service received reports of large hail and winds of around 70 mph in the northern suburbs of Dallas and Fort Worth. At least two homes in Honey Grove, about 70 miles northeast of Dallas, suffered storm damage.

Rain and wind early Monday knocked out electricity to about 90,000 homes and businesses in North Texas.

www.thepampanews.com

Install concrete driveway correctly

Dear Pat: I am tired of repairing and sealing my asphalt driveway, so I want to replace it with a concrete one. Some seem to hold up well, and others crumble and crack. Why do some hold up so much better? — Alexandra F.

Dear Alexandra: From an aesthetic standpoint, the driveway is the first thing guests see and walk on when they visit your home. An asphalt driveway is probably more attractive when brand-new than concrete, but over its entire life, concrete wins out. Also, there basically is no regular maintenance required for a concrete driveway.

When a concrete driveway deteriorates, it is generally caused by improper installation techniques. The quality of the concrete itself is seldom the problem because it is mixed at the concrete plant under controlled conditions.

If you live in an area where much road salt is used during the winter, the salty water can cause problems. Although concrete feels very hard, it is porous, and the salty water will penetrate the surface. This does not harm the concrete, but it will make the steel reinforcing rods corrode. When steel corrodes, it expands, and this cracks the concrete.

To minimize this problem, use a clear concrete sealer on the driveway after it has fully cured. Sealers are available at most home center and hardware stores. If you cannot find it, contact SaverSystems at (800) 860-6327 for local retail outlets.

Since the quality of the installation is critical for a long-lasting concrete driveway, contact several contractors and do not necessarily accept the lowest bid. There are ways a contractor can lower the costs, but the driveway may begin to fail quickly if not installed properly.

As with most home-improvement projects, the initial preparation of the driveway is an important step. Keep in mind, concrete is very strong in compression. When it is bent or stretched, it is extremely weak. Having a strong, stable base under the concrete ensures it is compressed under the weight of your car and not bent or stretched over voids from an

HOME HOW-TO

unstable base. Creating a suitable base may increase a cost estimate significantly.

Ask the contractors about the type of concrete each plans to use. The proper type to use for a driveway is a 4,000-psi (pounds per square inch) concrete. There are weaker concrete mixtures available. Also, request a 5-inch thick driveway. Some contractors recommend only 4 inches to lower the costs. The extra inch thickness typically costs only several hundred dollars more, depending upon the size of your driveway.

Ask them about how the reinforcing steel will be installed. Some just

lay it loosely over the ground and then start pouring concrete. For the maximum strength and longevity of the driveway, the reinforcing steel should be placed well up in the concrete. The driveway should be sloped slightly so water does not stand in puddles, especially with salty water.

No matter how well everything is done, some cracks are unavoidable. This is because concrete shrinks as it cures. The contractor should make deep control joints in the concrete so any cracking occurs in the joints and is not noticeable. If a proper base was laid, the surface should remain even. The best type of surface for a driveway is a light broom or wood trowel finish.

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

HOME HOW-TO

Concrete Driveway

Concrete driveways are versatile, preferred for durability, appearance and low maintenance for homeowners. How well your driveway looks and performs long term is largely related to the quality of workmanship and materials that go into it.

MIX STRENGTH
Concrete is rated by compression strength. A mix of 3,000 psi is standard for most driveways. Higher ratings of 4000 psi or greater are available.

CONCRETE SEALANT
Periodically sealing a concrete driveway will protect it from water or chemical absorption.

CONCRETE THICKNESS
Driveways are poured at a thickness of approximately 3 to 4 inches. Increasing the thickness from 4 inches to 5 inches will add an additional 50% to load-carrying capacity.

SITE PREPARATION
Aggregates of 1 inch are generally used for a base.

REINFORCING STEEL
The use of rebar and/or mesh helps to reduce cracking.

Texas, California officials tout job creation

AUSTIN (AP) — One of them is a conservative Republican who often sides with the tea party. The other is a lifelong Democrat who has promoted gay marriage and supported universal health care.

But Texas Gov. Rick Perry and California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom staged something of a bipartisan summit Thursday in Austin, where a delegation from the Golden State came to see how jobs are being created in the Lone Star State.

Both states are facing huge state budget gaps and public sector layoffs, but Texas' economy has been stronger.

Newsom, a Democrat, said he joined the group of businessmen and politicians visiting Texas out of "frustration and admiration" over the state's successful effort to lure companies here to create jobs. He offered "lovingly," he said - some observations about Texas' job-stealing ways.

"I'm sick and tired of Gov. Perry coming to California," Newsom said, applauding the Republican governor's visits to company executives in an attempt to lure their business to Texas. Newsom even took

a job at his own party. "I'm a pro-job Democrat ...," Newsom said. "My party needs to get back into the business of jobs."

Newsom quickly threw in some praise of California Gov. Jerry Brown, saying the Democrat "gets it" when it comes to economic development.

Perry, who has spent most of his career skewering Democrats, said he agreed with Newsom about Brown. The anti-tax populist was channeling so much bipartisan goodwill that he also told the gathering that Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York was doing "some darned smart things" in Albany.

The longest-serving governor in the United States, Perry has made job creation his top priority, and he has often criticized California's high-tax, high-spending ways as economically ruinous. Clearly, he was more than happy to welcome the state Capitol a group whose stated mission was to find ideas in Texas that California could copy.

It was led by GOP Assemblyman Dan Logue.

The two-day trip is not intended to bash California but rather to examine how Texas has been able to lure companies in recent years. Logue said. According to figures he supplied, Texas has added 165,000 jobs during the past three years while California has lost 1.2 million jobs.

But Texas is also facing staggering budget cuts and the specter of massive layoffs. Last month, Texas' non-partisan Legislative Budget Board released data showing

the state would lose 335,000 jobs - both public and private - if a bare-bones House budget proposal became law. That budget would make huge reductions to public education and health care programs for the poor.

Perry downplayed the state's budget problems - and dismissed the jobs report as "a bunch of bunk."

The California bashing was gone, too. "California is one of the most beautiful places I've ever been to in my life," Perry said.

CREATE a Beat's
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SPRING FLING
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, April 15, the 105th day of 2011. There are 260 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 15, 1861, following the Confederate takeover of Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln declared a state of insurrection and called out Union troops.

On this date:

In 1817, the first permanent American school for the deaf opened in Hartford, Conn.

In 1850, the city of San Francisco was incorporated.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died, nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington. Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

In 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic sank in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland, less than three hours after striking an iceberg; some 1,500 people died.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, baseball's first black major league player, made his official debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers on opening day. (The Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves, 5-3.)

In 1959, Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Washington to begin a goodwill tour of the United States. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles resigned for health reasons (he was succeeded by Christian A. Herter).

In 1980, existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre died in Paris at age 74.

In 1986, the United States launched an air raid against Libya in response to the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin on April 5; Libya said 37 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

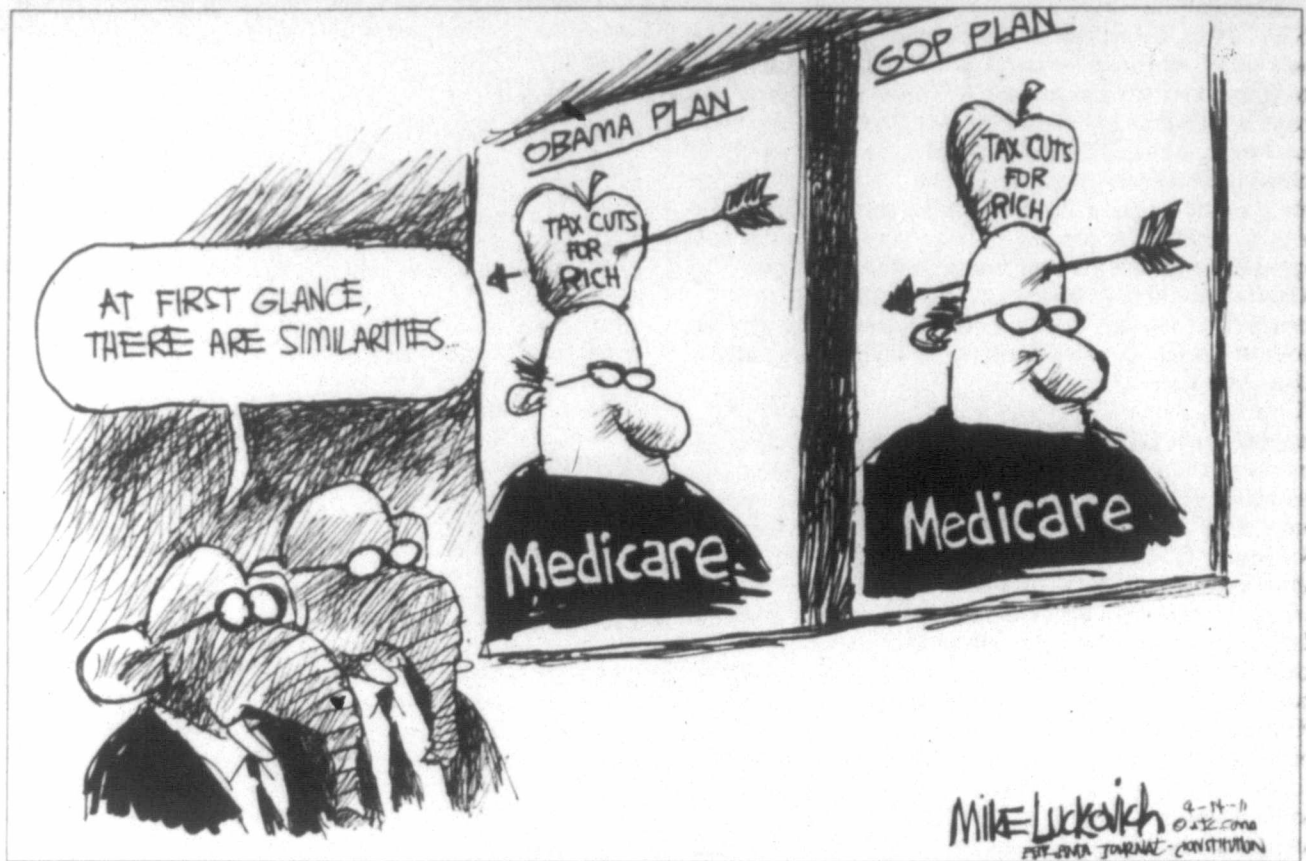
Ten years ago: U.N. investigators arrested Bosnian Serb army officer Dragan Obrenovic in connection with the Serbian Army's slaughter of some 7,000 Muslim men and boys. (Obrenovic later pleaded guilty to five war crimes charges and testified against his one-time superior officers; he was sentenced to 17 years in prison.)

Five years ago: A U.S. airstrike aimed at militants holed up in eastern Kunar province in Afghanistan mistakenly killed seven civilians.

One year ago: An ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano drifted over northern Europe, causing the largest disruption of flights since the 2001 terror attacks.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Michael Ansara is 89. Country singer Roy Clark is 78. Author and politician Jeffrey Archer is 71. Rock singer-guitarist Dave Edmunds is 67. Actor Michael Tucci is 65. Actress Lois Chiles is 64. Writer-producer Linda Bloodworth-Thomason is 64. Actress Amy Wright is 61. Columnist Heloise is 60. Actress-screenwriter Emma Thompson is 52. Bluegrass musician Jeff Parker is 50. Singer Samantha Fox is 45. Rock musician Ed O'Brien (Radiohead) is 43. Actor Flex Alexander is 41. Actor Danny Pino is 37. Actor-writer Seth Rogen is 29. Actress Alice Braga is 28. Actress Emma Watson is 21.

Thought for Today: "We do not know what we want and yet we are responsible for what we are - that is the fact." - Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980)



Obama tiptoes on proposed tax hikes

CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press Analysis

WASHINGTON (AP) - With his striking choice of words, President Barack Obama clearly outlined the greatest perils for Republicans - and for Democrats - in the nation's highest-stakes debate over spending and social programs.

Obama used vivid, populist language in a forceful speech Wednesday to denounce the GOP plan for cutting spending and revamping Medicare and Medicaid. The Republicans, he said, have concluded that "even though we can't afford to care for seniors and poor children, we can somehow afford more than \$1 trillion in new tax breaks for the wealthy."

But the president's language was tortured and opaque when it came to one element of his own proposal: raising taxes for certain Americans, mostly high earners. Obama said he wants "to reduce spending in the tax code." That code, he said, is "loaded up with spending on things like itemized deductions."

By any measure, spending in the tax code "is a curious phrase. It likens tax revenue to a source of money that "spends" down its total when tax cuts are enacted and conversely "reduces spending" when taxes go up, including cases in which temporary tax cuts are ended.

Long gone are the days when Democrats employed frank language on taxes, as presidential nominee Walter Mondale did in 1984. "Mr. Reagan will raise taxes, and so will I," Mondale said in accepting the nomination. "He won't tell you. I just did."

Obama left no doubt he believes some taxes should go up. But he couched it in careful terms designed to distance himself from proverbial "tax-and-spend Democrats" almost as much as he distanced himself from what he suggested are heartless Republicans.

Throughout his 43-minute speech, Obama portrayed himself as a fair but frugal leader willing to trim popular agencies, including the military, and to raise taxes only on wealthy people who have benefited disproportionately in recent years. It's part of a broader appeal to independent voters, who swung dramatically from Democratic candidates in 2008 to Republicans in 2010 and who hold the key to his re-election hopes next year.

Letter to the Editor

Reader suggests 'bailout bonds'

To the Editor:
It's time for war bonds, or maybe call them "bailout bonds."

Whatever you want to call them — now is the time! It's time for the real American citizens to take back their beloved country. Let the mega money minions support the United States to justify their tax advantage by supporting "our" country.

Let the highly overpaid entertainment segment get out in support of this effort to show they love the United States. (With bonds in) various denominations — payable in increments of 10, 15, and 20 years — we can rapidly become sol-

Americans are showing increased alarm at the fast-growing federal debt. It's coupled with concern, along with sometimes conflicting emotions and beliefs, about the nation's biggest social programs, Medicare and Social Security.

Both parties face political opportunities and risks as they confront these issues. And both parties are seeking phrases and slogans to best exploit their openings while minimizing their weaknesses.

House Republicans plan this week to pass an ambitious 10-year plan that would convert Medicare to a voucher program and turn Medicaid into a state block grant program, saving the government billions of dollars. The bill would reduce tax rates for corporations and high earners, while ending some tax-avoidance loopholes.

Democrats feel the GOP is overreaching, chiefly in its proposed changes to Medicare, the rapidly expanding federal health care program for older Americans and the disabled. They think voters will recoil at the notion of higher medical costs for the elderly, especially if income tax rates are falling for high earners.

Obama ripped the Republican plan. "It's a vision that says America can't afford to keep the promise we've made to care for our seniors," he said. "It ends Medicare as we know it."

Republicans, meanwhile, have virtually perfected their attacks on any Democrat who suggests a tax increase of any kind. Several top Republicans criticized Obama's long and multilayered speech on that topic alone.

Obama "doesn't get it," said Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, a likely presidential candidate. "The fear of higher taxes tomorrow hurts job creation today."

"The real problem is that Washington spends too much, not that it taxes too little," said Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn.

Numerous bipartisan and non-partisan analysts say it is almost impossible to solve the nation's debt problem without some combination of tax increases, spending cuts and substantial changes to Medicare and Social Security.

After calling for an array of spending cuts Wednesday, Obama made the case for targeted tax increases, albeit in roundabout language.

Because Medicare and Social

Security are popular with both parties, he said, "and because nobody wants to pay higher taxes, politicians are often eager to feed the impression that solving the problem is just a matter of eliminating waste and abuse, that tackling the deficit issue won't require tough choices."

He said he would not repeat last year's decision to extend Bush-era tax cuts - now scheduled to expire before 2013 - for families earning more than \$250,000 a year. "We cannot afford \$1 trillion worth of tax cuts for every millionaire and billionaire," the president said.

He renewed his call for limiting itemized deductions "for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans." Such deductions apply to money spent on mortgage interest payments, charitable gifts and other items.

Obama described such goals as "reducing tax expenditures."

"I think it was very, very smart" to use such unfamiliar and indirect language, said Matt Bennett, vice president of Third Way, a Democratic-leaning think tank that praised Obama's speech. "Why not put it in those terms?" he said in an interview. "It's what the Republicans' Frank Luntz would do."

Luntz is a GOP adviser known for pushing carefully crafted political terms, such as referring to levies on estates as the "death tax."

Bennett said Republicans have demonized even reasonable and necessary tax increases to the point that "it's a gigantic problem" for solving the nation's fiscal woes. If a "term of art" will blunt GOP attacks, he said, it could help Obama advance his agenda and give political cover to Republican lawmakers who believe some element of tax increases must be part of a deficit-reduction drive.

In his closest brush with an explicit call for tax increases Wednesday, Obama chastised the most insistent Republicans.

"Some will argue we shouldn't even consider ever, ever raising taxes, even if only on the wealthiest Americans," the president said. "It's just an article of faith for them. I say that at a time when the tax burden on the wealthy is at its lowest level in half a century, the most fortunate among us can afford to pay a little more."

It fell far short of Mondale's candor. But it was enough to unleash a barrage of GOP criticisms, certain to resound through the fall of 2012.

Now is the time for action!

Betty Ireland

Pampa

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We welcome your letters

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- 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 your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.

Hotline swamped after info exposed

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A hotline for about 3.5 million Texans who had their Social Security numbers and other personal information exposed to the public remained overwhelmed with calls Thursday — three days after the security breach was divulged.

Some callers to a toll-free number established by the state comptroller's office got only a recording: "All lines are currently busy. Agents are answering calls 24 hours a day, so please call again later as your call is important."

Others were forced to wait on hold for extended periods since the hotline received 33,500 calls during just its first two days of operation, said comptroller's office spokesman R.J. DeSilva.

The FBI and state Attorney General Greg Abbott's office are investigating after personal data was left in some cases for more than a year on a comptroller's office server that was accessible to the public. An undisclosed number of comptroller's office personnel involved were dismissed.

Comptroller Susan Combs announced Monday that the exposed information was blocked from public access after her office discovered the problem March 31. Those affected did not learn of the problem until the announcement was made, however, and the hotline wasn't established until Tuesday.

Costing \$40,000, the hotline is scheduled to be in operation at least three weeks, DeSilva said. He said a minimum of 50 operators are taking calls and that their ranks have increased to as high as 115 during peak times. Asked if authorities are considering adding more call-takers, he said, "it's a daily thing we look at."

The peak calling period on Tuesday ran from 1 to 5 p.m., while by Wednesday it stretched from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. How long each call takes varies greatly based on what questions are asked.

"We expect folks to keep calling," DeSilva said. "There's a lot of questions."

Names, addresses and Social Security numbers were among the data divulged and some peoples' driver license numbers and birthdates were too. The comptroller's office has said there's no evidence any of the information was misused, but the Texas attorney general's office has declined to comment yet on what effects the breach had, citing an ongoing investigation.

The personal information was exposed after the comptroller's office attempted to return unclaimed cash and assets to state employees and asked three state agencies, the Teacher Retirement System, the Employee Retirement System, and the Texas Workforce Commission, for electronic information about their members.

That effort returned more than \$41 million in unclaimed assets, DeSilva said, but it also created the mistake that exposed details about 3.5 million state employees.

The comptroller's website also warned callers that they might not get through immediately. "We are currently receiving high call volumes," said a statement posted there. "Our phone lines are open 24 hours a day; if you have trouble getting through, please try later. Thank you for your patience."

The site also warned, "Please do NOT call 911 or local law enforcement unless you see evidence of specific identity theft."

Jerry Strickland, spokesman for the state attorney general's office, said Thursday that his office had received 40 calls since the comptroller's office announced the blunder. But he said a number of those were from the office's own employees, since the attorney general's office issued its own internal email detailing the breach and suggesting steps to prevent identity theft, after Combs' announcement.

"It certainly has not been a groundswell of calls," Strickland said. "But I wouldn't think our office would be the first call people make since they were given a hotline number."

The comptroller's office also began mailing letters to those affected on Wednesday, at a cost of \$1.2 million, according to DeSilva.

Texas legislature ups traffic violation fees

AUSTIN (AP) — In a year the Republican-dominated Texas Legislature has vowed not to raise taxes, the Senate voted Thursday to add \$10 to the court costs assessed on millions of municipal traffic violations and other misdemeanors.

The increase is designed to pay for criminal and civil legal aid for the poor. But several cities are fighting back, calling the boost a shadow "tax" that shy lawmakers want their police and courts to collect for them.

The measure by Sen. Jose Rodriguez, an El Paso Democrat, got initial approval by the Senate on Thursday. A similar measure is pending in the House.

According to a legislative analysis, the bill would raise about \$77 million over the next two years. Rodriguez said that money is needed to meet the state's constitutional obligation to pay for legal help to those who can't afford it on their own.

Federal, state and local money to help pay for those programs is drying up in the tough economy or getting cut by governments, including Texas, facing massive budget shortfalls.

Rodriguez said his plan sets up a dedicated source of money that will ultimately help pay for legal help for veterans, domestic violence victims and the elderly. The additional court costs would be assessed on traffic cases such as speeding or running a red light, and on low-level criminal cases such as disorderly conduct or simple assault.

According to Rodriguez, annual statewide expenses for indigent defense have gone up from \$91 million in 2001 to \$195 million last year. In 2010, the state provided \$30 million to help with those expenses.

Current budget proposals for the next two years would cut state help by about \$8.6 million.

"If we're going to live up to our ideals of equal justice for all ... we have to do this one way or another," Rodriguez said.

But the Texas Municipal League is fighting the measure. The group notes that since 2002, the state portion collected from municipal court costs in traffic cases has doubled from \$40 to \$82.

Texas issues more than six million traffic tickets every year. Raising court costs any higher will make traffic violations unaffordable for many drivers and many will simply not pay at all, the group said.



J. Patton Dellow (left) and Warden Michael Savers at the Rufe Jordan Unit east of Pampa talk about how well the prison did in the American Correctional Association audit this week.

Prisons

today's modern correctional facilities.

There were 535 standards to the audit, Dellow said.

"There are 61 mandatory standards," Dellow said.

Six of them were not applicable to Pampa's units, he said.

Of the 55 that were applicable Dellow said the unit was rated at 100 percent.

There were 470 non-mandatory

standards. He said 37 of those were non-applicable. The unit was rated at 98.4 percent.

"Seven were found to be non-compliant," Dellow said.

Every one of those, he said, dealt with Texas Department of Correction policies that didn't agree with American Correctional Association policies or they dealt with physical plant issues.

Consequently, Dellow said that

means the prison and its staff couldn't have done any better than what they did.

He said the staff was fair, firm and consistent.

"As far as I'm concerned," Dellow said, "it was 100 percent."

The auditor's report will now go to the ACA commission for review.

"I'm not anticipating there will be any problems," Dellow said.

cont. from page 1

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Worship

The blessings and joys of Holy Week

This Sunday the Church embarks on the holiest week on the Church calendar. It is a week that observes and commemorates the Lord's Passion leading up to His glorious resurrection. These services of the Church allow us to journey with Christ through the Word and the Sacraments to the cross and to the tomb. It is not an easy week, but it was not an easy week for our Lord either. Though attending many services may be demanding, the joys and blessings of hearing Christ's words and following Him through these events of Holy Week are spiritually edifying and give countless blessings.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion. As you can see by its name this service reflects the contrasting attitudes toward Jesus that were evident during the days leading up to His crucifixion. The service really consists of two parts. First the congregation gathers outside (often with palms) to process into the sanctuary. The procession dates back to the fourth century. Ritually and symbolically the sanctuary becomes Jerusalem for the time of the service, and Jesus again enters His city. The future is also foreshadowed when Jesus will lead His people into the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city on the Last Day. But as the Passion Gospel reminds us (the second part) the joyful words of triumph, "Hosanna, to the Son of David" would soon turn to, "Crucify Him!" by the bloodthirsty crowd.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week are festival days, just like the rest of Holy Week. Each day one of the Passion readings is read from Matthew, Mark, or Luke. The shorter readings from John 12 and 13 can be substituted to emphasize some of the events and teachings of Jesus during Holy Week. The Passion readings highlight all of the events that lead up to Jesus' crucifixion.

Holy or Maundy Thursday begins what the Church has labeled Triduum: the three services that embark on the Lord's Passover. The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin, mandatum which means command. The traditional reading for this day was from John 13, where Jesus gives His disciples a "new command" to love one another, as He has loved them. More importantly, Holy Thursday is about the institution of the Lord's Supper.

This service begins with corporate confession and absolution, then the Service of the Word, followed by the Service of the Sacrament. It concludes with the Stripping of the Altar. Here the cloths and linens that adorn the altar are reverently stripped off, after all the communion vessels have been removed. The altar represents Christ and the stripping reminds us of His humiliation rendered to Him by the Roman soldiers as Jesus was stripped of His garments as He fell into the hands of sinners. This reverent action portrays the depth of Christ's servanthood.

Good Friday is a day for repentance over sin and restrained joy and praise for the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross. The music remains reserved and to a mini-



MICHAEL ERICKSON

the good word

mum, the altar remains bare, and elaborate words of praise are eliminated. The Chief Service contains many ancient elements such as the reading of St. John's Passion, the Bidding Prayer, and the Reproaches. This service is often held during the hours that Christ hung on the cross: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Many congregations observe what is called Tenebrae Vespers. Tenebrae means "darkness". It is an evening service which consists of extinguishing church lights throughout the service. Darkness was a part of the crucifixion account (Luke 23:44). After psalms and hymns are sung candles are extinguished. St. John's Passion account is the central reading of this Vespers. The service ends with some collects and parishioners leave a darkened church in silence.

And so thus the Easter Vigil begins in darkness with the Service of Light on the next evening at dusk. It is one of the richest and most meaningful celebrations in the Church. It is the final day of Holy Triduum and the Vigil ushers in the celebration of The Resurrection of our Lord. The Service of Light consists of parishioners being led into a darkened church by the assisting minister carrying the Paschal Candle. He chants the beautiful Exsultet (Easter Proclamation) sounding forth the joys of salvation won for mankind through Jesus' resurrection. Now we hear how that the ancient darkness has been forever banished by the resurrected Savior!

The Easter Vigil's richness is evident as God's power in Baptism is strongly connected with remembrance of His saving acts and promises in the Old Testament. This can be seen in creation, the flood, Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea, and others. If there are baptisms or confirmations they happen on this night. The Vigil ends with the reading of St. Mark's account of the resurrection and the assurance that we will rise to live with Him in righteousness and purity forever.

Holy Week comes to an end with the full celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. The lilies adorn the decorated chancel, hymns are sung about Christ's triumph over the grave, and the Gospel is proclaimed again. People hear the pastor say: "Christ is risen." They respond: "He is risen indeed! Alleluia."

All of these holy days and observances feed our hungering souls for they point us to Christ and His sacrifice and victory. Jesus Christ died and rose for you. There is much to ponder and take in during Holy Week. May you find peace in Him during these holy days.

Michael Erickson is the reverend at Zion Lutheran Church

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

FBC to put on Easter pageant

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

First Baptist Church will have a full house when it presents their Easter pageant "Jesus...No other Name 7 p.m. Saturday an Sunday. Music pastor Barry Owens said the pageant is a dramatic portrayal of the life of Jesus and added that adults and children are in the production. "We've been rehearsing since September," Owens said. "It takes a lot of preparation to pull something

this large." Owens said the final preparations have gone well and is excited about presenting it. "We have had good rehearsals and I'm looking forward to performing it," Owens said. First Baptist gave away tickets but encourages the public to attend. "It's open to the community," Owens said. "We encourage people to bring someone with them." First Baptist is located on the 200 block of N. West Street.

First Church of Nazarene invites you to Easter Services

First Church of the Nazarene invites you to join them on Easter Sunday. The Church of the Nazarene will have an outdoor Sunrise service April 24th 7 Am, followed by breakfast at 8. The morning worship hour will be at 9 Am in the sanctuary with child dedication, communion, and focus on the resurrection of our Lord. First Church of the Nazarene is located on the corner of West and Buckler.

Pampa Church Directory

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Assemblies Of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Baptist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 806-669-1155 203 North West Street • First Free Will Baptist Church 806-665-2545 731 Sloan Street • Grace Baptist Church 806-669-7967 824 South Barnes • Harvest Fellowship Church 806-665-4922 2100 W. Kentucky • Highland Baptist Church 806-665-3300 1301 North Banks Street • Hobart Baptist Church 806-669-3212 1100 Crawford Street • Iglesia Bautista Emmanuel 806-665-4330 1021 S. Barnes • Lighthouse Baptist Church 806-665-0262 725 West Brown • Macedonia Baptist Church 806-665-4926 441 Elm Avenue • New Hope Baptist Church 806-665-4044 404 Harlem Street • St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church 806-665-8933 810 West 23rd Ave • First Christian Church 806-669-3225 1633 North Nelson Street • Hi-Land Christian Church 806-669-6700 1615 North Banks Street • Church of Christ 806-665-0031 1342 Mary Ellen Street • Church of Christ 806-665-0004 500 N. Somerville • Southside Church of Christ 806-669-3912 11927 McCullough Street • Kentucky Ave. Church of Christ 806-665-2572 1612 W. Kentucky • Church of God 806-669-6372 1123 Gwendolyn Avenue • Church of God of Prophecy 422 N. West St. • Open Door Church of God in Christ 806-665-6132 402 Oklahoma Street • Priest Park Church of God 669-6372 1123 Gwendolyn • Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church 806-665-0701 727 West Browning Avenue • Saint Mark CME Church 806-665-6743 406 Elm Ave. | <p>Fellowship of Christian Ministries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinity Fellowship Church 806-665-3255 2225 N. Hobart • Full Gospel • Briarwood Full Gospel Church 806-665-7201 1800 West Harvester Avenue • Independent • Body of Christ Church 806-669-9599 210 N. Ward St. • Faith Bible Church 806-688-9266 110 W. Kingsmill • Frost Street Missions 806-669-9000 600 North Frost Street • Harvest Bible Church 806-669-2923 300 W. Browning Ave. • Iglesia Casa Del Alfarero 806-665-5898 500 N. Duncan • Iglesia Cristiana Ca-naan 806-669-3330 905 E. Beryl St. • New Hope Missionary Baptist Church 806-665-4044 912 S. Gray St. • The Carpenter's Church 806-662-9700 • 806-662-9600 639 South Barnes St. • Jehovah's Witnesses • Jehovah's Witnesses 806-669-9355 1701 Coffee • Latter-Day Saints • Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints 806-669-2967 411 East 29th Ave. • Lutheran • Zion Lutheran Church 806-669-2774 1200 Duncan Street • Methodist • First United Methodist Church 806-669-7411 201 East Foster Avenue • St. Paul United Methodist Church 806-665-8951 511 N. Hobart • Nazarene • Church of the Nazarene 806-669-3144 500 North West Street • Pentecostal • First Pentecostal Holiness Church 806-665-8192 1700 Alcock • Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship 806-669-6915 1733 N. Banks • United Pentecostal Church 806-665-3676 610 Naida • Presbyterian • First Presbyterian Church 806-665-1031 525 North Gray Street • Salvation Army • Salvation Army 806-665-7233 701 N. Cuyler • Seventh Day Adventist Church 806-665-4492 421 N. Ward Street |
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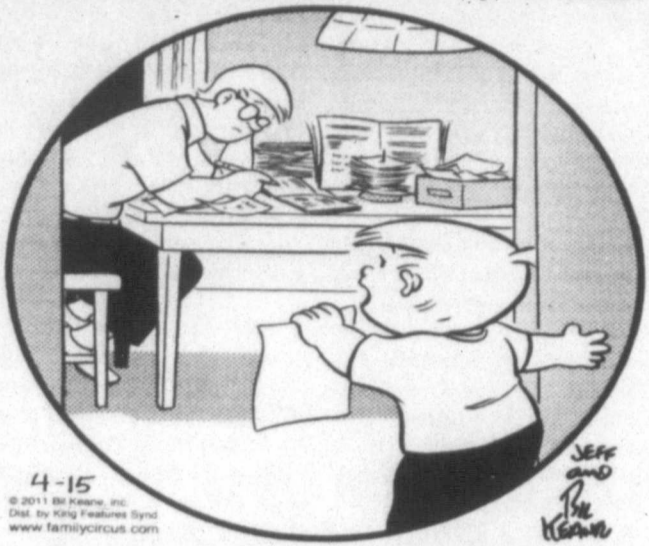
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"May God Be With You During The West"
Ken & Stephanie Rheams

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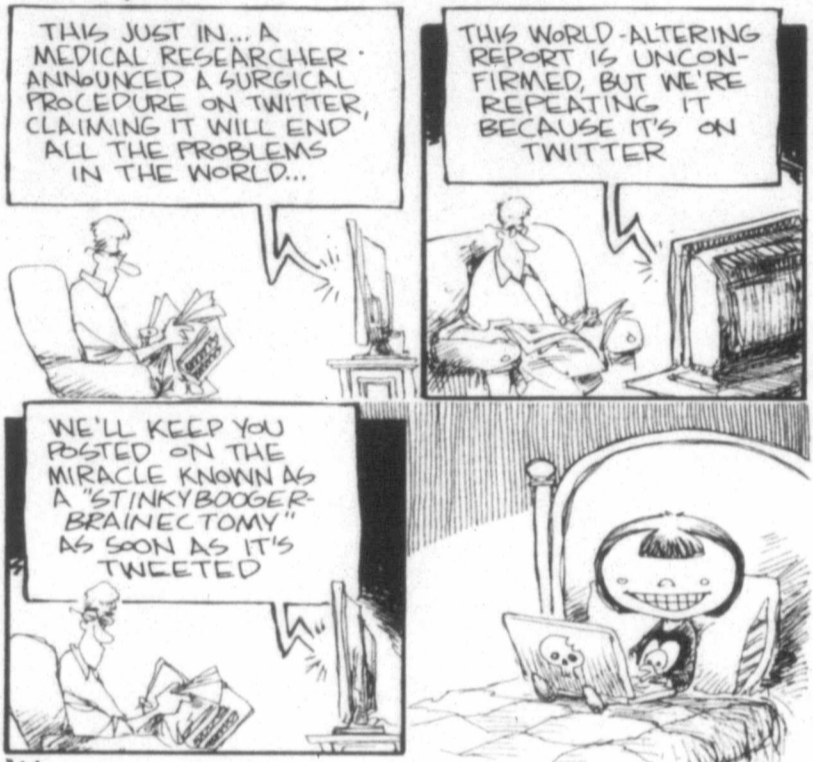
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-15
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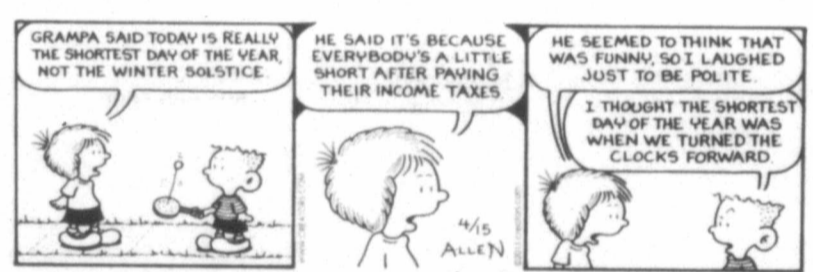
"Daddy, when you finish your tax homework, can you check my math homework?"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, April 16, 2011:
This year, you have more impact than you have experienced in many years. You also are setting up a new life cycle, and it could be a very fortunate one if you handle stress well. If you are single, many people would like to be your sweetie. You have quite the lineup of admirers! But who do you want? Be pro-active. If you are attached, the two of you can have a lot of fun, if you juggle your roles well. LIBRA reflects many of your issues.
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 might be juggling two different interests regarding the same situation. What you wish and what seems possible could be in direct conflict with each other. Can you merge these interests? Do they have anything in common? Curb your temper. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Dig into a project, even if you feel semi-lazy. Just don't add any unnecessary pressure. You need some time off as well. Share more of what is on your mind with a friend or loved one. This person's support helps. Tonight: Remember, it is your Saturday night, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You are very playful and full of fun. Lighten up when dealing with an older friend. You could be amazed by what you see. Remember what is ultimately important in your relationships. Allow the child within you out when with a loved one. Tonight: Enjoying every single moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You absolutely are a sign that adores your family, and often your deepest friends come from your family. A little argument doesn't need to be anything else, if you play it smart. Know when to remain quiet. Let the other party regain his or her senses. Tonight: Laugh at confusion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ The situation could be volatile if you are not careful. Make it easy for others to express their seemingly controversial feelings while at the same time let them know what you think and feel. Take an overview if possible. Tonight: Make sure

you have company.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Curb a need to go overboard. You can enjoy yourself without an extravaganza. Understand what it takes to help someone relax. Your sense of humor comes out with a very close friend. You have a lot in common. Tonight: Treat someone to dinner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use the moment. Has there been someone you have wanted to speak to or share with? Make your approach, even if you have to deal with another person's anger or a general attitude of confusion. You can and will get past the issue. Your sense of direction makes a big difference. Tonight: Do only what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Take some time for yourself. You are a sign that gets into reflection. You know what you need. You could be pushed or handling more responsibility than before. You might be angry as a defense to being hurt. Take some time to work through a problem. Tonight: Mystery works.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Happiness occurs when your friends surround you. Your creativity likes interacting and brainstorming. A child or new friend adds more spice and excitement to your plans. Enjoy the moment and let go of recent stress. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Shore up some details with a boss or older relative or friend. Free yourself to go and be with the people you want to spend time with. Understand what is happening and that you might want to take the lead in an event. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Take another look at what is happening with a detached and/or non-triggered attitude. Use time as an ally. You need more space to make a solid decision. If need be, find an expert or two. Tonight: Where your mind can relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Deal with partners and friends individually. You could be overly tired and cranky. If that is the case, do yourself a favor — slow down and take a nap before having a hot discussion. The end results will be better. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



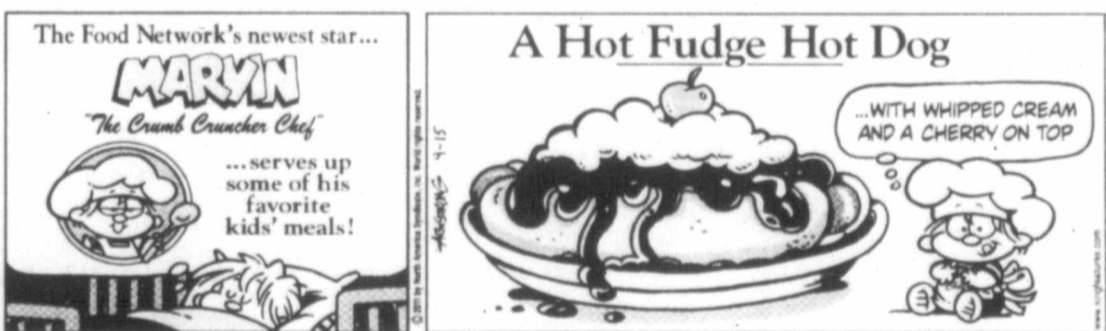
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



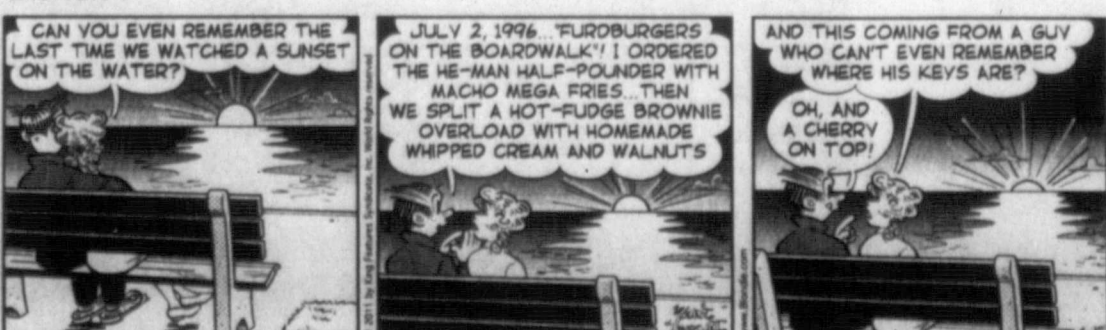
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Could you please reprint a letter you ran a few years ago about the dangers of purchasing a pet rabbit for children at Easter? As a rabbit owner for eight years, I'm all too familiar with the misconceptions and ridiculous theories associated with these delightful creatures. Every point in that letter rang true to me, and I beg anyone considering giving a child a rabbit to reconsider.

When I bought my bunny, it was near Easter time. Most pet stores didn't offer them, and I was told it was because of the large number of rabbits found dead or abandoned on city streets because the selfish, inhumane people who bought them for the holiday disposed of them the next day. These poor little animals deserve own-

ers who will love and respect them. Please don't waste their lives. — CAITLIN IN L.A.

DEAR CAITLIN: I'm happy to oblige. The letter you requested carries an important message that can't be repeated often enough:

DEAR ABBY: Easter is coming. Many families still purchase live rabbits as pets for their children. Parents often think rabbits are good "starter" pets and don't understand what they are getting into. As a result, many of these poor creatures end up in animal shelters, and children learn that pets are disposable.

Before getting rabbits, people should consider:

1. Are they willing to make a seven-to-10 year commitment? That is the average lifespan of

a rabbit.

2. What will happen if their child gets bored with the bunny after six months?

3. Is there a place in their house for a rabbit cage?

4. Are they willing to pay to get it spayed/neutered and provide vet care?

5. Do they know that most rabbits hate to be held? Will their child accept that?

6. Are they willing to ensure that children under 7 won't pick up the rabbit without supervision? Rabbits are fragile; their legs or spine will break if accidentally dropped.

7. Can they provide three hours of exercise every day in an escape-proof area outside its cage?

8. Do the adults want the rabbit, too? A rabbit should be

a family pet. If people have questions about rabbits and their care, please ask them to contact my organization. We are happy to answer questions. Our website is www.rabbitnetwork.org, and our phone number is (781) 431-1211.

Finally, if a rabbit is right for you and your family, please adopt one from a shelter or rescue group. You'll enrich your family with a new member and also teach your kids the value of saving a life. Thank you.

— SUZANNE TRAYHAN, PRESIDENT, HOUSE RABBIT NETWORK

DEAR SUZANNE: The topic of bunnies, baby chicks and ducklings as Easter gifts is one that recurs every year. I hear from people who work in

animal shelters deploring the fact that these helpless little creatures are later dumped when they cease to be novelties. I hope readers will take to heart what you have written, particularly the suggestion that if a rabbit is going to be adopted, a shelter or rescue group can be an excellent resource.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



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| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Notice NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS The State Office has received bids for the following contracts: 1. State Office Construction - Main Division 2001 Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78701 Phone: 512-416-2510 Dist. Div. Offices: Amarillo District Engineer, 715 Canyon Dr. Amarillo, Texas 79105-3708 Phone: 806-356-1283 Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. ENDOE ensure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin. 3/24/11 - 4/1/11 | 10 Lost/Found FOUND male dog around North side of Pampa 2 wks ago. Call 449-6938 for more info. FOUND white puppy with black ears & eyes, four hair. Call 665-9444. FOUND cross in Wall Mart parking lot. Call 669-9410. FOUND Gray & Cream Kitty. Call & describe. 662-1801. | 14r Plowing/Yard JIMENEZ Multi Serv. Yard work, fertilize, leaf clean up, cut trees, tree trim, garden, haul trash. 669-2618, 806-886-2027. RICO'S Lawn Care & Handyman Service. Lawnmowing, tree & shrub trimming, removal. Clean up & haul off items. 662-4971. | 21 Help Wanted NEED exp. mechanic to work on chemical pumps, turbine meters, valve & controls, gas prod units & other type oil field equip. Call Ron I & J Valve. 665-0868. 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. | 21 Help Wanted LVN FT & PRN are needed at St Ann's Nursing Home in Pampa. Come in and apply, or for more info call 537-3194. Chemical Delivery Driver Oilfield exp. helpful. Mandatory drug test and background check. CDL w/ Hazmat and air brake endorsement will be req. during employment. Good benefits. 401k after 1st yr of employment. Pampa, Perryton, Canadian area. 1-806-228-5463 806-228-3462 for application. | 69a Garage Sales MENS, womens & kids clothes, knick-knacks, dishes. Sat 8-5, 526 N. Wynne. CALAMITY Jane Cleaned House! Sale, Sat 8am-6pm Sun noon-7. Household, clothes, furni., jewelry, tools, antiques, 14810 Hwy 152, Mobeetie, back of Blue Moon Store, watch for signs. 2519 CHRISTINE SAT ONLY 8AM-3PM YARD SALE Sat 8am-3pm 704 N. Somerville BACK YARD Sale Car buffer, dog crate, personal beauty shop supplies, clothes sz. 6-14, lots of nick nacks. Sat 8-9:30 N. Gray. 1908 N. Zimmers, Sat 8-5pm Mower, clothes, dryer, most things \$1, fishing equip., total gym, home decor, misc. MOVING: 2376 Beech Ln., Sat 8-7. Furni., tools, freezer, bicycles, clothes, wood tennis rackets, misc. household. Cash Only. GARAGE Sale, Sat. April 16th, 1117 Terry. Come see what we have! 7 am to ??? Rain or shine. PAMPA Swim Team Garage Sale, 1510 N. Sumner, Sat Only 8-3pm. 5 Family Sale 1044 S. Sumner Fri. & Sat. 8am-7 YARD Sale, Fri. & Sat. Chainsaws, guns, etc 1128 Sirroco. 2112 N. Christy, Sat. 8-7. Sofa, exercise bike, dresser, window air conditioners, prom dresses, lots of misc. BABY stuff, elec. organ, lots mick nacks, furni. Sat. & Sun. 7am-12, 1408 E. Browning 2101 N. Banks, Sat. 8am-7. Clothes, lots of jewelry, lots of misc., & scrubs. 1908 N. Dwight. Small boat, 05 Dodge truck, household, misc. Sat. 8am-7 77 Livest/Equip. 15 Head Angus Bulls for Sale, 15 mo. to 2 yrs. old. \$1500 each. Frog, 806-662-4861 | 80 Pets & Suppl. PAWS ADOPTION EVENT! United Parking Lot, Sat. 1-4pm. 89 Wanted To Buy NEED Money Now? We will give you top \$\$ for your house. Call us today. 665-1875. 95 Furn. Apts. All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any" preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis. 1 bdrm's avail. starting \$435/mo \$100 off 1st mo. Rent w/ 7 mo. lease. Corp. units: utilities, linens, basic cable. Caprock Apts. 665-7149. 96 Unfurn. Apts. \$100 off 1st Mo. Rent 1 bdr starting \$395 / mo. On-site laundry. Caprock Apts. 665-7149. 1 and 2 bdr. avail. now at the Gwendolen Apts. Call today, they won't last long! 665-1875 2 & 3 bdr starting at \$559 / mo. \$150 off 1st mo. Rent w / 7 mo. lease. W/d hookups in all units. Caprock Apts, 665-7149. ALL BILLS PAID 1 & 2 Bdrm. Apts. No Sec. Deposit (817)909-4766 APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386 MINUTES from downtown-efficiencies. Short term leases avail. 806-665-4274. NO transportation, not a problem. These large 1 bdr. apts. w/ appliances, are in walking distance to everything you need. 665-4274. SCHNEIDER Apartments. Call for special rates. Short term lease. Business people welcome. 665-0415 | 98 Unfurn. Houses PICK up rental list, in the Black Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa. 2 bdr., 1 ba. Fenced yard. Austin School distr. \$475 mo. Call 806-881-9798 1 and 2 bedroom homes for rent or sale. Owner will not carry. Call 665-1122. 99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes 665-0079, 665-2450. 102 Bus. Rental DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823 OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841 LG office building with reasonable monthly rate available soon. Also large garage building available now. Call 665-1875 103 Homes For Sale 1601 Grape Ln. 4 bdr, 3 ba, 2777 sq. ft. Corner lot. For info: r_robben25@hotmail.com 2745 sq. ft., new appl., 4 bdr., 2.5 ba. Finished basement, bonus rm. Move-in ready! 2108 Lynn 440-2866. 3/1 with 13 lots in Skelkytown. House needs work. \$7000 for all! Call 806-273-7578. |
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Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.
KOYOIE Trucking needs. Full Time Flat bed Truck Driver. 2 yrs. driving exp. req. Apply in person, 734 S. Cuyler, Pampa

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80 Pets & Suppl.
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2 orange & white male tabbies-1 declawed to give away. Call 662-8287
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10 mo. Shih-Tzu 1-male \$175, 1 female \$365. Call 662-1914.

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307 W. 8th White Deer Sun. Apr. 17th 2-4pm. Price Reduced! (MLS 11-8899)
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AXYDLBAAXR 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.

4-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

R D O G O S L K B G O R D W X B X O
C W F R B Z M G X W Z B B P. W X Y
R D O C B G H Y S L J M H H B J
N O B N H O G M X X S X E W Z B M R
C S R D H S R K W R A D O L

— G W F Z G W Y Z M G F
Yesterday's Cryptquote: THE RIGHT TO BE LET ALONE IS INDEED THE BEGINNING OF ALL FREEDOM. — WILLIAM O. DOUGLAS

Field Technicians Needed
Come join the ERF Wireless communications team at our office in Pampa. ERF Wireless is looking for experienced Technicians to install wireless communications equipment at Oil & Gas Rig locations and commercial/residential locations. Oil & Gas safety trained and tower climber certification preferred. If interested, e-mail humanresources@erfwireless.com.

SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

BANANAGRAMS!

For each phrase below, rearrange the letters to spell two new words that are opposites in meaning. For example, WEAR CAPE becomes WAR and PEACE.

LEVEL

BUDDY LOITERS
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

PREVUE TOXINS
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

FUEL RATES
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

DREAM DOVE
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Yesterday's Answer: LOCATOR, NOMADIC, UNHITCH, BELIEVE

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Some wedding music providers
- 6 Purse part
- 11 Sung story
- 12 Tick off
- 13 Board
- 14 Band-leader Shaw
- 15 Purposes
- 17 Dry biscuit
- 18 Farm chunk
- 20 Miles off
- 22 Near star
- 23 Opposed to
- 26 Hiking route
- 28 Loosen, in a way
- 29 Completes the bill
- 31 1040 org.
- 32 Portal
- 33 Great serves
- 34 Poet Sandburg
- 36 Wine holder
- 38 In the future
- 40 Harpoon
- 43 Cut's counterpart

- 44 Aquarium fish
- 45 "Barnaby Jones" star
- 46 Dawn

DOWN

- 1 Glutton
- 2 Big galoot
- 3 Envelope feature
- 4 Most writing
- 5 Reasonable
- 6 Place for a mud bath
- 7 Topography
- 8 Coming-home needs

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | I | D | S | V | I | S | I | O | N |
| E | R | I | C | O | N | E | T | W | O |
| N | A | S | A | I | N | C | A | N | T |
| O | N | C | R | E | D | I | T | | |
| | O | A | R | | N | O | D | E | S |
| A | R | U | B | A | | G | R | I | P |
| B | E | N | | | | S | E | A | |
| L | A | T | T | E | | M | A | M | E |
| E | D | S | E | L | | A | G | O | |
| | | S | A | O | | P | A | U | L |
| P | O | R | T | I | A | | S | N | I |
| O | R | I | E | N | T | | S | T | A |
| E | R | O | D | E | S | | I | S | M |

Yesterday's answer

- 9 Rara —
- 10 Quick look
- 16 Decline
- 18 Hammett pooch
- 19 Tofu base
- 21 Ersatz
- 23 Choir member
- 24 Royal address
- 25 Hardy heroine
- 27 Set apart
- 30 Rainbow shape
- 33 Colorado resort
- 34 Zorro
- 35 Obsessed captain
- 37 Regarding
- 39 Fox hole
- 41 Have life
- 42 Scoundrel

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| | | | | | | | | | |
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4-15

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Sports

PHS track teams finish third, send many to regionals

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Last year the varsity boys track team only sent one to regionals. This year the team will have a larger contingency as seven people and two relay teams advance to regionals Thursday in Perryton.

The team finished third with 117 points. Dalhart won the overall district title with Head boys track coach Tad Smith said he was proud of how his team competed.

"It's an impressive bunch," Smith said. "It's going to be exciting. Got Reid (Miller) in the 110 (hurdles), Samuel (Smith) won both the sprints. Trent McAnear came up big for us and won the 3200 yesterday and finished third today. Great effort by Joseph Vizcaino in the 300-meter hurdles."

Sophomore Samuel Smith won the 100-meter (11.23) and 200-meter (23.04) dashes and advanced with the 400-meter relay and the 800-meter relay teams. Smith said it was amazing what the relay teams did in practice.

"We ran great times and I couldn't have done it without my teammates," Smith said.

This will be Smith's first trip to regionals and the sophomore is looking forward to it.

"I feel pretty good going as a sophomore," Smith said. "I'm looking forward to facing the tough competition."

Zane Robles also advanced to regionals in the 100 with a third place finish (11.75). Robles is a member of the 400 and 800-meter relay team.

Keenen Odell just missed advancing in the 200-meter dash (24.57), finishing .51 seconds behind third. Odell qualified as a member of the 800-meter relay team.

Junior Reid Miller also advanced on those relay teams and won the 110-meter hurdles (15.51). Miller said he accomplished what he wanted to.

"At this point in time it's about moving on, not times," Miller said. "I did that today, so it was successful."

Junior Trent McAnear, who won the 3200 Wednesday, advanced to regionals in the 1600-meter run (5:10.64) with a third place finish. Joseph Vizcaino finished third in the 300-meter hurdles (46.59) and advanced. Jonathan Cox advanced in the high jump (5-06) with a third place finish.

Though they didn't qualify for regionals, Pampa had several place. Senior Trent Carter placed with a sixth place finish (12.36). Flavio Gonzalez finished sixth in the 800-meter run (2:15.01). Senior Reid Bradley placed fourth in the discus with a throw of 123-08. Luis Romero finished fifth with a distance of 115-10.

Other performances included Skyler Been who finished eighth in the 200-meter dash (25.06), Colten Adams finished seventh in the 800-meter run (2:15.74). Gonzalez finished seventh in the 1600-meter run (5:25.43). Jose Hernandez finished ninth (5:43.45). Pampa finished fourth in the 1600-meter relay with a time of 3:57.23. Timothy Smith placed seventh in the Long Jump with a distance of 18-03 1/2. Schrade Thompson finished seventh in the discus (113-03).

The Lady Harvesters finished third with 119 points. Perryton won the district title with Head girls track coach Gene Valentine said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"We got quite a few," Valentine said. "The only races we didn't qualify anybody was the 300-meter hurdles and the 200."

Kristin Ladd advanced to regionals in the 100-meter dash (13.09) with a sec-

ond place finish. Francheska Bridwell advanced in the 400-meter dash with a third place finish (1:08.72). J'Cee Holmes, who advanced in the 3200 Wednesday finished third in the 1600-meter run (6:04.88). Savanna Hulsey advanced in the 100-meter hurdles with a third place finish (17.39). Joleen Pittman finished third in the 800-meter run (2:35.63).

All three relay teams advanced. Pampa finished third in the 400-meter relay with a time of 53.67. Team members included Bridwell, Maddie Fatheree, Taylor Giles and Hulsey.

The Lady Harvesters finished third in the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:55.21. Team members include Hulsey, Kailyn Troxell, Madison Joyce and Ladd.

Pampa finished second in the 1600-meter relay with a time of 4:33.65. Bridwell, Giles, Pittman and Ladd were the runners.

The Lady Harvesters had several runners place. Joyce finished fifth in the 200-meter dash (28.88). Troxell finished sixth with a time of 29.71. Stephanie Allen finished fifth in the 100-meter hurdles (18.49). Hulsey placed fifth in the long jump (14-08 1/4). Rikki Earnest finished sixth in the discus (77).

Other performances included Michelle Rivera finished seventh in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:49.66. Kendle Ramie placed eighth in the 1600-meter run with a time of 6:38.50. Fatheree finished seventh in the long jump with a distance of 14-07. Chelsie Whinery finished eighth with distance of 14-02 1/4.

The junior varsity girls finished second with 139 points. Perryton won with 174.

Megan Pirtle finished second in the 100-meter dash (13.99). Myra Tinajero placed third in the 400-meter dash (1:14.24). Mariela Resendiz finished fourth (1:14.99). Tinajero won the 800-meter run (2:42.19). Resendiz finished fourth (2:47.41). Ambryn Deanda finished fifth in the 1600-meter run (7:15.99). Isbella Leal finished sixth with a time of 7:16.10.

Pampa won the 400-meter relay (56.22). Pirtle, Elizabeth Woody, Patrizia Nieman and Diamond Marrufo were the runners. Pampa won the 800-meter relay with the same runners as the 400. The Lady Harvesters finished second in the 1600-meter relay with a time of 5:04.11. Tinajero, Woody, Marrufo and Nieman were the runners.

Taylor Smith finished third in the triple jump with a distance of 26-07. Lindsey Carpenter finished seventh in the shot put with a distance of 19-11 1/2.

The junior varsity boys finished second with a 162 points. Dalhart won with 223. Blake Caldwell won the 100-meter dash (11.86) and finished second in the 200-meter dash (25.16). Daymon Flores finished third (25.43). Mario Rivera finished fifth in the 800-meter run (2:27.13). Chris Melendez finished sixth (2:31.48). Keenen Hughes finished fourth in the 110-meter hurdles (21.27) and third in the 300-meter hurdles (52.80).

Pampa finished third in the 400-meter relay with a time of 48.27. Alex Barraza, Daymon Flores, Quaid Chennault and Chris Howard were the runners.

The Harvesters finished second in the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:42.31.

Brett Troxell won the pole vault (9-06). Austin Johnson finished second (8-06). Joseph Slatten finished third (8). Marshal McGrath finished third in the triple jump (33-11 1/2). Slatten finished fourth (33-05). McGrath finished second in the shot put (37-09 1/4). Johnny Price finished third (36-09 1/4). Cody Parks finished fourth (35-06).

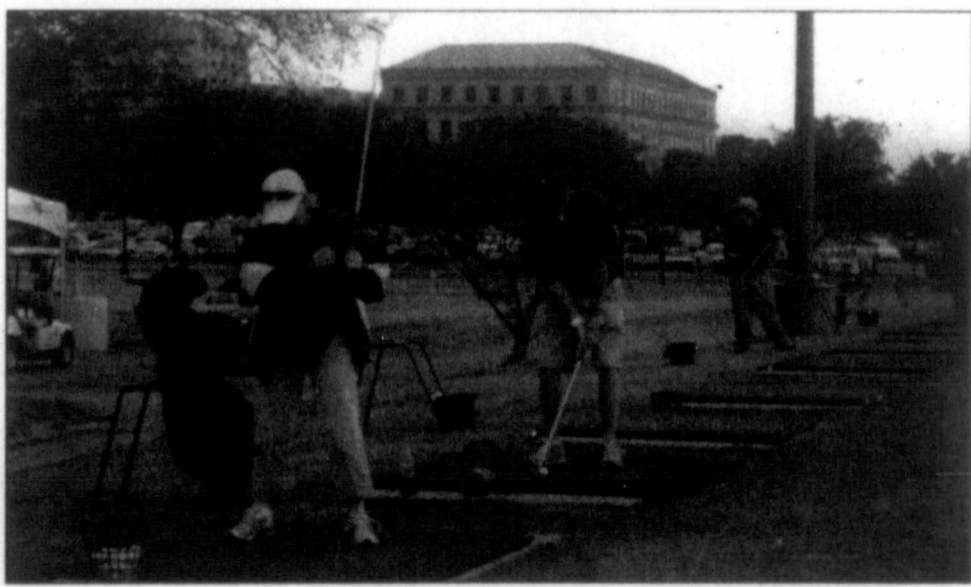
Regionals are May 2 and 3 at Texas Tech.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Sophomore Samuel Smith separates himself from the crowd in the 100-meter dash Thursday. Smith won the race and the 200-meter. The sophomore also advanced in the 400 and 800-meter relays.

Special Olympics golf scramble seeking teams for 2011



submitted photo

Ashley Abbe and Gary Turley warm up before the state tournament last year. The Special Olympics golf scramble is April 30.

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Fifth Annual Cindy Cooper Special Olympics Golf Scramble is April 30 and Pampa Special Olympics is looking for teams. Janet Abbe said the event was fairly successful last year.

"We had 88 golfers participate in last year's event," Abbe said. "The money raised is used to fund all expenses of Pampa Special Olympics Texas Team."

The event is at Hidden Hills golf course in Pampa and starts at 9 a.m. Entry fee is \$180 per person. The price includes cart and green fees and lunch. Abbe said the money raised at the scramble will help with the team's travel.

"It pays for all travel to tournaments,

those in our area and those out of area," Abbe said. "Last October we attended the state golf tournament in College Station. It also funds all expenses associated with traveling to tournaments, meals, hotel rooms, etc. as well as uniforms and all equipment. All of our coaches are volunteer, as well."

Abbe said teams from all over the Texas Panhandle compete in the event. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and others given away in drawings.

The event is named after Cindy Cooper, who was the head of delegation for Pampa Special Olympics for many years. Cooper passed away six years ago. Team entries are to be turned in to David Teichmann at Hidden Hills golf course by April 22.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Kristin Ladd (left) tries to sprint past a Lady Wolf in the 100-meter dash at the district meet Thursday. Ladd finished second and advanced to regionals.

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NASCAR THIS WEEK

ON THE TUBE

All times Eastern
Sprint Cup
 Aaron's 499,
 1 p.m., Sunday

Nationwide Series
 Aaron's 312,
 3 p.m., Saturday

Truck Series
 Bully Hill Vineyards 200,
 8 p.m.,
 April 22

BURNING ISSUES

► One consequence of the new points system is a wild week-to-week change in the standings. This, of course, will subside as the season runs its course, but the erratic nature of the standings will increase again when the Chase begins.

► Entering the Samsung Mobile 500 at Texas, Brad Keselowski had led a total of 59 laps in 59 Sprint Cup races. He greatly increased that ratio by leading 32 at TMS.

► Already this season, points leader Carl Edwards has a first, two seconds and (at Texas) a third.

► The latest Cup race at Texas Motor Speedway was hardly a classic, but the one before, in Nov. 2010, was probably the track's most eventful.

► Edwards' Nationwide win marked the first trip to victory lane by a Mustang in the series.

► Over two seasons, Jimmie Johnson hasn't won any of the past 15 races, which would not be considered much of a concern by any other driver.

► Paul Menard finished fifth for the second time this season and has three finishes in the top 10. The new ride at Richard Childress Racing seems to have made all the difference for Menard, who is a surprising 11th in points.

► Denny Hamlin, who nearly won the championship last year, languished 20th in points after yet another subpar showing at a track where he prospered in 2010.

► Somehow Tony Stewart moved into the top 10 in points in spite of a 12th-place Texas finish that could have — and should have — been much better.

2011 STANDINGS

| Sprint Cup | Pts. |
|-----------------------|------|
| 1. Carl Edwards | 256 |
| 2. Kyle Busch | 9 |
| 3. Matt Kenseth | -13 |
| Jimmie Johnson | -13 |
| 5. Kurt Busch | -16 |
| 6. Dale Earnhardt Jr. | -21 |
| 7. Ryan Newman | -23 |
| 8. Juan Montoya | -24 |
| 9. Kevin Harvick | -28 |
| 10. Tony Stewart | -43 |
| 11. Paul Menard | -47 |
| 12. Clint Bowyer | -55 |

Nationwide Series

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. | 218 |
| 2. Jason Leffler | -14 |
| 3. Justin Allgaier | -24 |
| 4. Elliott Sadler | -30 |
| Reed Sorenson | -30 |
| 6. Aric Almirola | -31 |
| 7. Trevor Bayne | -37 |
| 8. Brian Scott | -45 |
| 9. Kenny Wallace | -54 |
| 10. Mike Bliss | -68 |

Camping World Truck Series

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Johnny Sauter | 150 |
| 2. Matt Crafton | -5 |
| 3. Timothy Peters | -7 |
| Cole Whit | -7 |
| 5. Ron Hornaday Jr. | -9 |
| 6. Clay Rogers | -19 |
| 7. Austin Dillon | -20 |
| 8. Todd Bodine | -28 |
| 9. Max Papis | -29 |
| 10. Miguel Paludo | -41 |



WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

► **Who's hot:** Matt Kenseth's Texas victory enabled him to improve from ninth to third in the Sprint Cup points. ... Third place lifted Carl Edwards to the top spot, nine ahead of Kyle Busch.

► **Who's not:** Mark Martin crashed at Texas and fell from 10th to 15th in points. ... The good news for Jeff Burton was moving up three spots; the bad news was that he remained 25th.



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 mdutton@gastongazette.com

SPRINT CUP

Race: Aaron's 499
Where: Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway (2.66 mi.), 188 laps/500.08 miles.
When: Sunday, April 17
Last year's winner: Kevin Harvick, Chevy.
Qualifying record: Bill Elliott, Ford, 212.809 mph, April 30, 1987.
Race record: Mark Martin, Ford, 188.354 mph, May 10, 1997.
Last week: Matt Kenseth dominated the Samsung Mobile 500 at Texas Motor Speedway, easily outdistancing runner-up Clint Bowyer for the 19th victory of his career. Kenseth's Ford teammate, Carl Edwards, finished third and assumed the points lead.

NATIONWIDE

Race: Aaron's 312
Where: Talladega (Ala.) Superspeedway (2.66 mi.), 117 laps/311.22 miles.
When: Saturday, April 16
Last year's winner: Brad Keselowski, Dodge.
Qualifying record: Joe Nemechek, Chevy, 193.517 mph, April 24, 1997.
Race record: Mark Martin, Ford, 168.937 mph, April 26, 1997.
Last week: Carl Edwards' victory at Texas Motor Speedway was doubly significant because it was the first series victory for a Mustang. Brad Keselowski took second place in his Dodge Challenger.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Race: Bully Hill Vineyards 200
Where: Nashville Superspeedway, Lebanon, Tenn. (1.333 mi.), 150 laps/199.95 miles.
When: Friday, April 22
Last year's winner: Kyle Busch, Toyota
Qualifying record: Erik Darnell, Ford, 162.116 mph, Aug. 12, 2006.
Race record: Scott Riggs, Dodge, 132.466 mph, Aug. 10, 2001.
Last race: Chevy driver Johnny Sauter passed Kyle Busch, in a Toyota, and went on to win the Kroger 250 at Martinsville Speedway. It marked career victory No. 3 for the Neocada, Wis., driver.

TALLADEGA DATA

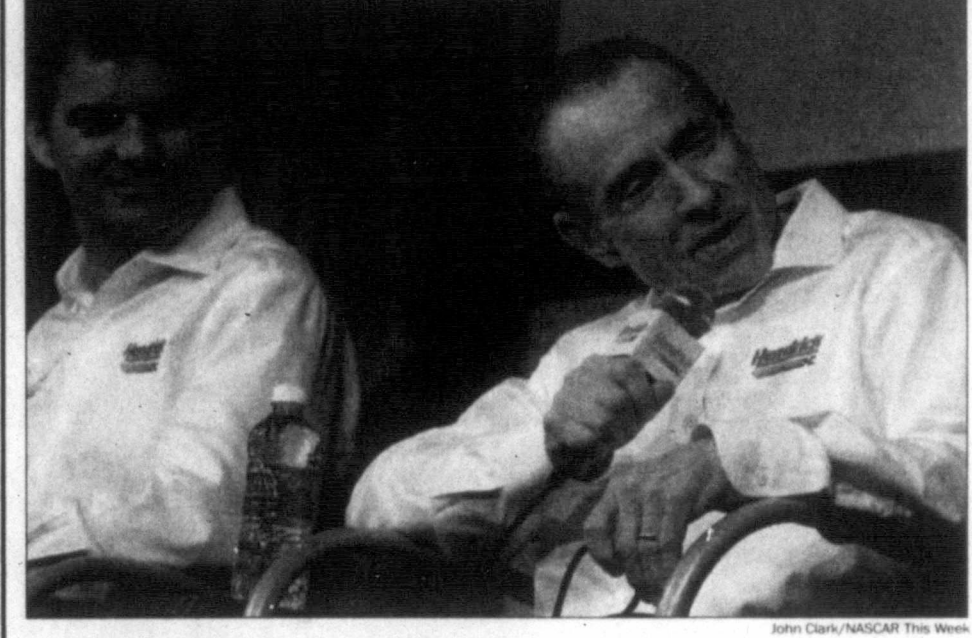
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MARK MARTIN SPRINT CUP SERIES No. 5 GoDaddy.com CHEVROLET



Mark Martin's been around the track a few times, and his take on each track comes from a seasoned career of races on the Cup circuit.

Martin's Been There Before

Veteran driver using what he knows about the tracks

By Monte Dutton
 NASCAR This Week

FORT WORTH, Texas — When the Sprint Cup Series moves from one track to another — oh, say, Martinsville to Fort Worth to Talladega — a lot changes and a lot doesn't. Or said Mark Martin, who has seen them all innumerable times.

"Texas has its own personality," said Mark Martin entering the Samsung Mobile 500. "It's fast, and it's flat for as fast as it is. It doesn't have a lot of banking in relation to the speed that you're able to make around it."

"It's amazing. It's a great place to race, the location as well as the facility. They put a lot of money into this place, and I think it represents our sport well."

But it's just another track, which, in that rather general sense, makes it like ... Martinsville, where Martin, 52, finished 10th on April 3.

"It's the same as Martinsville," he said. "You're almost a wreck at Martinsville, and you're almost a wreck here. If you're not almost a wreck, then you're not driving fast enough. The miles an hour aren't what scare you. It's the loss of control."

Martin knows what it's like to finish first, second, third, fourth and fifth at Texas Motor Speedway ... and at most every other track. He's taken his lumps, too, which proved to be the case in the Samsung Mobile 500, where Martin found his No. 5 Chevy collected in a crash. He wound up 36th.

In the season's first six races, Martin finished no better than 10th (twice) and no worse than 20th. That consistency was good enough to rank him 10th in the points standings ... until the Texas catastrophe dropped him to 15th.

Martin said the difference between first and 20th isn't as great as it seems.

"There's a little bit in speed and a little bit in track position, but the cars are relatively close nowadays," he said. "You squeeze every ounce of time out of every single component in the whole sport. You can't leave anything alone. You've got to squeeze every bit of it from pit-road speed to pit stops to restarts to handling and everything."

As such, Martin believes victory, not mention the finishes better than 10th, will come in its own sweet time.

FEUD OF THE WEEK

V E R S U S

TRUEX JR. VS. KESELOWSKI

The Samsung Mobile 500's final caution flag waved as a result of the crash on lap 215 that relegated Truex to 35th place. Martin Truex Jr. pointed a finger at Brad Keselowski, who escaped the wreck that also sidelined Mark Martin and Ryan Smith. "We were going to battle to a decent finish tonight," said Truex. "We sure didn't need to be wrecked. ... The '2' (Keselowski) checked up in front of me. I checked up and got hit from behind."

NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take: "It's not surprising that it happened. It's surprising it doesn't happen more."

YOUR TURN

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Cutting Back

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,

... I, for one, can tell you that instead of forking out \$125 per ticket and another \$160 for a camping spot with no hookups, I and my RV, were camped in a Virginia State Park at \$25 per night with water and electric hookups watching the races (at Bristol Motor Speedway) via DirecTV. Much cheaper, much more relaxed, and I didn't have some idiot behind me spilling beer all over me.

Gone are the years that we planned our vacation around Bristol race week. I have four more vacation days to plan elsewhere, and I get to keep the \$500-\$700 that we spent each year at Bristol. The only race we will attend this year is the (Sprint) All Star Race, and that's only because my boss gave me tickets for Christmas. The All-Star Race was another race we attended for 14 years straight, and now I'm only going because the tickets were given to me. That's my two cents of where my RV is these days, and apparently a lot of others have theirs elsewhere as well ...

Christi Metcalf
 Lynchburg, Va.

FAN TIPS

Lee Petty In Focus

The Speed cable/satellite channel debuts its profile of Lee Petty, one of this year's NASCAR Hall of Fame inductees, on April 15. "Describing the type of grandfather Lee Petty was is tough because racing was all he cared about," said Kyle Petty. "If you didn't race, that was OK, but get out of the way because he was going to the race. He was a typical grandfather. I had two grandfathers and they were pretty much the same. They were from that generation — from the Depression — and I don't think they ever told anyone they loved them. I don't think they ever hugged another guy in their life. ... They were just tough guys who knew what the value of a dollar was and knew that providing for their families was the most important thing. From that perspective, he was a really good grandfather because he worried about the family more than anything else."

Kurt hoists the Dodge flag ... almost alone

By Monte Dutton
 NASCAR This Week

FORT WORTH, Texas — Some think Dodge's Sprint Cup program pales in comparison with others. It can't be proven by Kurt Busch.

The 2004 Sprint (though then Nextel) Cup champion is fifth in the current standings. The only other regular competing Dodge drivers are Kurt's teammate, Brad Keselowski, and Robby Gordon. They are 22nd and 31st, respectively.

"What NASCAR always strives for is the parity amongst manufacturers, the teams, of course," said Kurt Busch. "It could be just random circumstances that we have the situation we have with points right now."

"For us being the only Dodge, we have to go out and carry that banner the best we can, make sure they're being held up to the standard that they need to be, and [are] comparable with the rest of the group."

The bottom line — Tony Stewart said he knows that Kimi Raikkonen is an exceptional talent. But ... this is different. "I'm not interested in having Kimi [Raikkonen] ride over," said Stewart.

NUTS AND BOLTS

"There's no doubt that he can drive a race car and has a lot of talent, but he's got to drive a stock car quite a while before we're going to look at somebody like him to jump in a car."

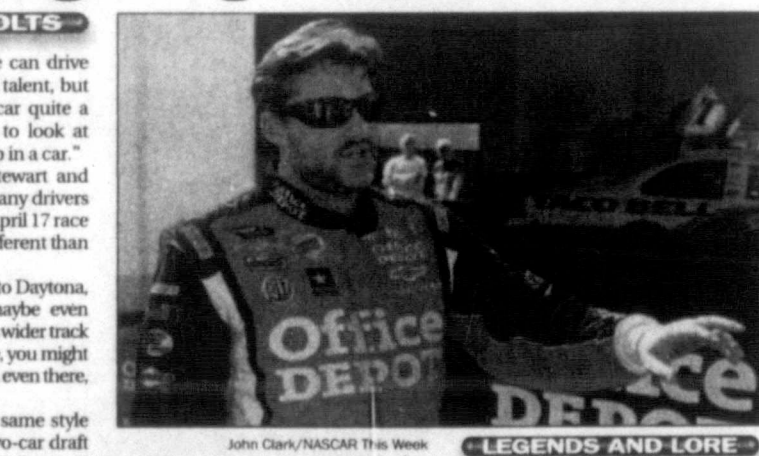
Forecast the same — Stewart and Kurt Busch were among many drivers who see no reason for the April 17 race at Talladega to be much different than the Daytona 500.

"I think it will be identical to Daytona, actually," said Stewart. "Maybe even more guys being wider. It's a wider track so, instead of just three wide, you might be able to get guys four wide, even there, pretty comfortably."

"We're going to see that same style draft," said Busch. "The two-car draft is just so potent. I mean, any time you can tell a race-car driver he can go four seconds faster a lap and give him the recipe on how to do it, he's going to go and put it into play, [and] that's that two-car draft."

Not much — Mark Martin has been around much longer than most of his peers. As such, he knows more about race cars from a mechanical perspective.

Does that make a difference? "It matters a whole lot less now," he said.



John Clark/NASCAR This Week
 Tony Stewart, a former open wheel driver, says Kimi Raikkonen has talent. However, the former Cup champion says the newcomer will have to adjust to driving a stock car.

LEGENDS AND LORE

The Right Combo

In the mid-1970s, the combination of driver Buddy Baker and owner Bud Moore formed an unbeatable combination at what was then Alabama International Motor Speedway (now Talladega Superspeedway). When Baker took the checkered flag in three consecutive races, he beat the best. On May 4, 1975, the runner-up was David Pearson. On Aug. 17, 1975, Richard Petty finished second. On May 2, 1976, Baker

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inspire people," added Russ Tapp, the other half of the musical tandem.

"The type of music we're creating with the pipe organ and the Yamaha synthesizer, not a whole lot's been done," Tapp added. "It's going to be kind of a new thing for a lot of people, I think."

Land said that, for many people who have a preconceived notion of synthesized music, Sunday's concert promises to be a bit of an eye (or ear) opener.

"It's not what people think when they think of a synthesizer," said Land, a Pampa native. "When people think of synthesizer music, a lot of times, they think of that old Moog (analog) synthesizer with that electronic, funky sound... These days, they've evolved and they're so incredibly accurate at reproducing sound (from other instruments). You'd

swear that it wasn't a synthesizer at all."

That accuracy has become — pardon the pun — instrumental in bringing a new musical experience to places like Pampa.

"A great orchestra is wonderful, but up here in the Panhandle, it can be hard to find," Land said. "In small churches, it's very rare... Well, now with the kind of range that the synthesizer has, we're able to bring big, orchestral pieces to places like ours, and it's wonderful."

"When you combine that with the pipe organ, a living, breathing acoustical instrument, it's really awesome."

Tapp said that RnR's first concert of this nature was at First Christian Church in Amarillo a couple of weeks ago, with the audience offering a lot of positive feedback.

"One lady came up and said, 'This must

be what music in heaven is like,'" Tapp said. "She said she was an avid symphony goer and she had tears in her eyes. It was a big compliment."

The show's set list, Land said, is in three parts, transitioning from praise music (Louis Vierne's "Kyrie Eleison

from Solemn Mass," for example) to secular pieces (the theme from "On Golden Pond") and back.

"We're going to do a lot of things that people probably haven't heard before," he said. "We hope that people come and enjoy it with us."

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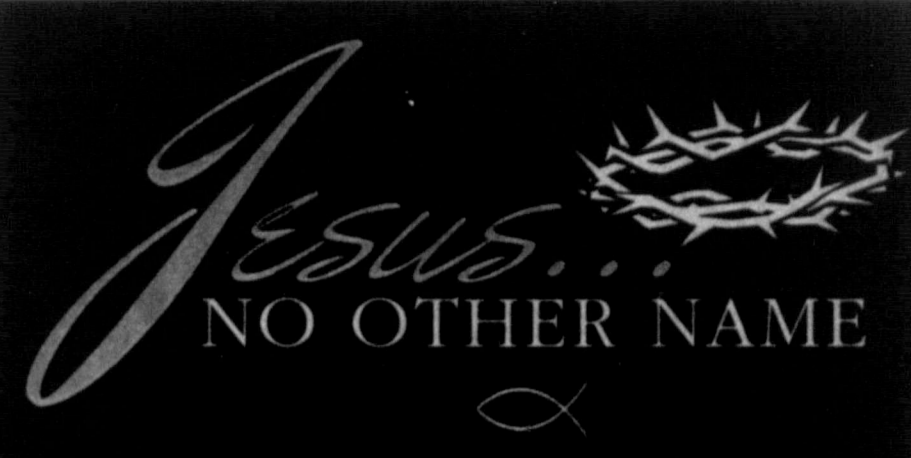
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