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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Regional ready

Pampa track teams prepare for regional meet

Page 10

inside:

The Savage Truth on money by Terry Savage



Page 3

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 18

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AND THEY'RE OFF!



staff photo by David Bowser

Mayoral candidates Joy Combs and Brad Pingel were among the city candidates who spoke at the Top O' Texas Republican Woman's Club's candidate forum on Monday.

Early voting to kick off on Monday

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

With the campaign season in full swing, Gray County residents will have their first chance to voice their choices next week when early voting begins at 8:30 a.m. on Monday.

Early voting will be held at the non-jury courtroom on the first floor of the Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell, and will run until Tuesday, May 10.

According to Gray County Election Administrator Linda Lewis, there will be two twelve-hour days during the early voting period; people will be able to cast their early ballots from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3 and 4.

All other early voting days will go from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Election Day proper is Saturday, May 14 at the M.K. Brown Auditorium for all precincts within the city.

This year's election, Lewis said, has been designated an "at large" election, which means that while candidates for the three commissioner posts must reside in the ward they are running for, voters may vote for all three posts whether or not they live in those specific wards.

"Anyone (who lives) anywhere within the Pampa city limits can vote for any of the commissioners," Lewis said.

In addition to the Pampa city elections, Grandview-Hopkins Independent School District voters are

ELECTION cont. on page 5

City candidates speak at forum

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

At Monday's city candidates' forum hosted by Top O' Texas Republican Women's Club, mayoral candidate Joy Combs — for many a virtual unknown entity in this election — spoke her mind about why she decided to enter the race.

Joy Combs, candidate for mayor in the May election, criticized her opponent, City Commissioner Brad Pingel, for supporting the building of the city's new water park and the costs associated with it.

"I believe all citizens should be heard and

have input," said Combs, the first of the candidates to speak.

She went on to say that she thinks Pampa needs more restaurants and jobs in industry and retail.

"We need things to make Pampa grow," Combs said.

She said that Pampa needs to be a better place.

"When our kids go on to college," Combs

FORUM cont. on page 5



Bowers to receive conservation honor

RANDY PRIBBLE
 rpribble@thepampanews.com

Charles Bowers of Pampa will be honored for his outstanding contributions to the Texas soil and water conservation program at a Conservation Honors Banquet for Area I on Tuesday, May 3. The banquet will be held at 7 p.m. at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview. Area I consists of 52 counties in the Panhandle area.

Categories in which awards will be presented include Outstanding Conservation District; Resident Conservation Rancher; Resident Conservation Farmer; Business/Professional Individual and Wildlife Conservationist. Awards will also be presented to area youth winners of the poster and essay contests.

The purpose of the Conservation Awards Program is to recognize and honor Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and individuals who have dedicated their time, efforts and talents to making wise use of renewable natural resources.

Sponsors of the Area Conservation Awards Program are the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the 216 SWCDs in Texas.

BOWERS cont. on page 3

CULBERSON STOWERS CELEBRATES A NEW FRIEND



staff photo by ReDonn Woods

One-year-old Bella Garcia makes a friend in Pokey the Clown at Culberson Stowers this past weekend. The reigning Pampa Business of the Year is celebrating its 84th year of serving the Pampa community.

Pampa Partnership Golf Tournament
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 26, the 116th day of 2011. There are 249 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 26, 1986, a major nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine (then part of the Soviet Union) as an explosion and fire caused radioactive fallout to begin spewing into the atmosphere. At least 31 people died fighting the plant fire, but the number of other deaths resulting from the disaster remains in dispute.

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Va., on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1785, American naturalist, hunter and artist John James Audubon was born in present-day Ham.

In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Bowling Green, Va., and killed.

In 1909, Abdul Hamid II was deposed as sultan of the Ottoman Empire.

In 1937, planes from Nazi Germany raided the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit the first of his 61 home runs during a 162-game season (compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season) as he hit a roundtripper off Paul Foytack at Tiger Stadium.

In 1968, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called "Boycar."

Ten years ago: Ukraine's communist-dominated parliament dismissed reform-oriented Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and his government, plunging the nation into political chaos.

Five years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld paid a surprise visit to Iraq, where they embraced the country's fledgling leaders as independent and focused on the future.

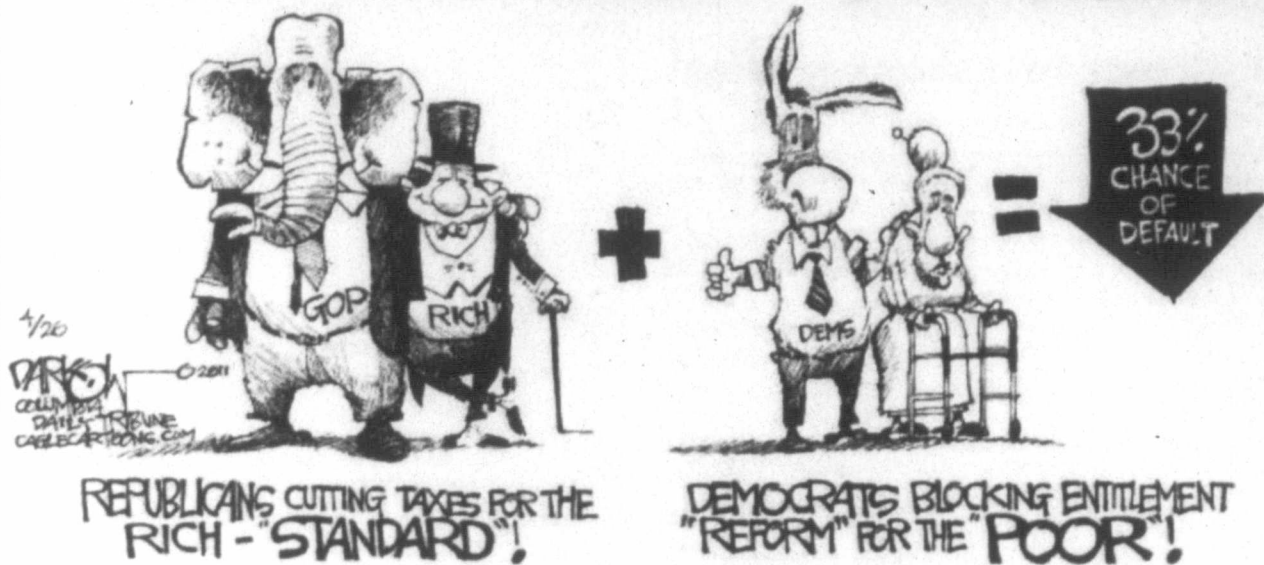
One year ago: A Haitian judge dismissed kidnapping and criminal association charges against 10 American missionaries who'd been detained for trying to take a busload of children out of the country after the Jan. 2010 earthquake, but said that Laura Silsby, the last of the 10 still in jail, would face a lesser charge.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-comedian Carol Burnett is 78. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maurice Williams is 73. Songwriter-musician Duane Eddy is 73. Singer Bobby Rydell is 69. Rock musician Gary Wright is 68. Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 53. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 51. Actress Joan Chen is 50. Rock musician Chris Mars is 50. Actor-singer Michael Damian is 49. Actor Jet Li (leee) is 48. Rock musician Jimmy Stafford (Train) is 47. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 46. Country musician Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts) is 40. Actor Jason Earles is 34. Actor Leonard Earl Howze is 34. Actor Tom Welling is 34. Actress Jordana Brewster is 31. Actress Marnette Patterson is 31. Actor Channing Tatum is 31. Actor Aaron Weeks is 25.

Thought for Today: "Perfect order is the forerunner of perfect horror." — Carlos Fuentes, *Mexican Culture*

A Friendly warning from the rating agency...

STANDARD & POORS



'Fast and furious' White House gun control

JEANNIE KEVER
Hearst Newspapers

The political transformation of Texas is almost complete, as power follows the population to the cities and suburbs, leaving vast stretches of rural West Texas and the Panhandle with fewer representatives in Austin and Washington, D.C.

"The voice for anything west of Interstate 35 has diminished every time there is a redistricting," said Pete Laney, a Democrat from Hale Center who spent 34 years in the Texas House, including a decade as speaker.

Most of the discussion during the current round of redistricting — redrawing political boundaries based on the 2010 Census — has been centered around translating the state's growing Latino population into more Latino local, state and national officeholders.

But West Texans worry that, after producing generations of political leaders, they are being shut out of decisions that will shape their futures.

"We are small, rural West Texas, but the education of my children is just as important as any child in Texas," said Guillermo Mancha, superintendent of the 475-student Culberson County-Allamore Independent School District. "I already feel under-represented. The representatives I do have represent more communities. That translates into less voice."

The changes, in the making for decades and sure to accelerate with redistricting, reflect the shifting reality of Texas, a state that is increasingly urban and suburban.

"Texas is no longer the open range and the cowboy herding cattle," said Renie Cross, associate director of the Hobby Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston.

"That image of West Texas is history."

The people left behind are bracing for the fallout: less money for small schools that must transport children long distances, pressure to consoli-

date school districts and even counties, fewer highway improvements and reduced funding for health care and other services.

The current budget cuts will affect all parts of the state, of course, but West Texans worry that future decisions will be made primarily by people with little connection to the barren scrublands where the consequences will play out.

"It's very concerning," said John Benham, superintendent of the Wink-Loving Independent School District. The district takes in \$14 million in property taxes, generated by the currently booming oil and gas fields, but sends more than half to the state, to be redistributed to "property-poor" districts elsewhere.

"We don't think that's fair," Benham said, noting that small districts have challenges that urban areas do not. "But if you live in Houston, you think, 'Why are they able to keep all that money?'"

Increasingly, rural areas will be linked with suburban or urban areas in ever-larger districts.

Different in the past "It's the passing of an influence, as districts that only represent rural Texas are becoming fewer," said Tyron Lewis, R-Odessa, who also represents rural Andrews and Winkler counties.

He said there are 19 House members from west of Interstate 35, a number expected to drop to 17 or 18. Harris County, by comparison, has 25.

It hasn't always been this way. "For decades, we've had more power in rural areas than their population has necessarily warranted," Cross said.

Laney served as speaker from 1993 until 2003, followed by Tom Craddick of Midland.

But efforts to win the post by a third West Texan, Warren Chisum of Pampa, fizzled earlier this year, as Joe Straus, who represents San Antonio, one of the largest urban areas, was re-elected to a second term.

The ranks of possible successors

are thin. Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, "is probably the only one on the horizon right now," Laney said.

And Duncan's district almost certainly will be larger in the future.

His colleague, Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, said it's possible to represent disparate interests, but it isn't easy.

His district encompasses 26 counties in the Panhandle and the Permian Basin, including the cities of Amarillo, Midland and Odessa. It has 17,108 fewer people than in 2000, indicating it will gain even more counties in redistricting.

Common goals Still, Seliger said, rural districts share some goals with their urban and suburban counterparts.

"We want kids to have a good public school system, whether they live in the city or the country," he said, listing nursing homes and services for children with developmental disabilities as other common goals.

Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics project at the University of Texas at Austin, said common interests will allow rural politicians to remain coalition players in the Legislature.

"But inevitably, there are going to be fewer of them," he said.

And the iconic larger-than-life Texas figure will continue to fade to a more generic, modern version.

No more Wilsons

Laney and Craddick "are the soul of what it means to be Texan, the 1950s Hollywood version," said Sean Theriault, a government professor at UT.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, on the other hand, "personifies this businessman-law-and-order Republican," he said. "You can imagine John Cornyn representing Minnesota or Iowa."

And that's the point, Theriault said.

"Texas politics is going to look a whole lot more like John Cornyn than (colorful longtime East Texas congressman) Charlie Wilson," he said. "The days of Dick Armye and Tom DeLay are gone."

The PAMPA NEWS

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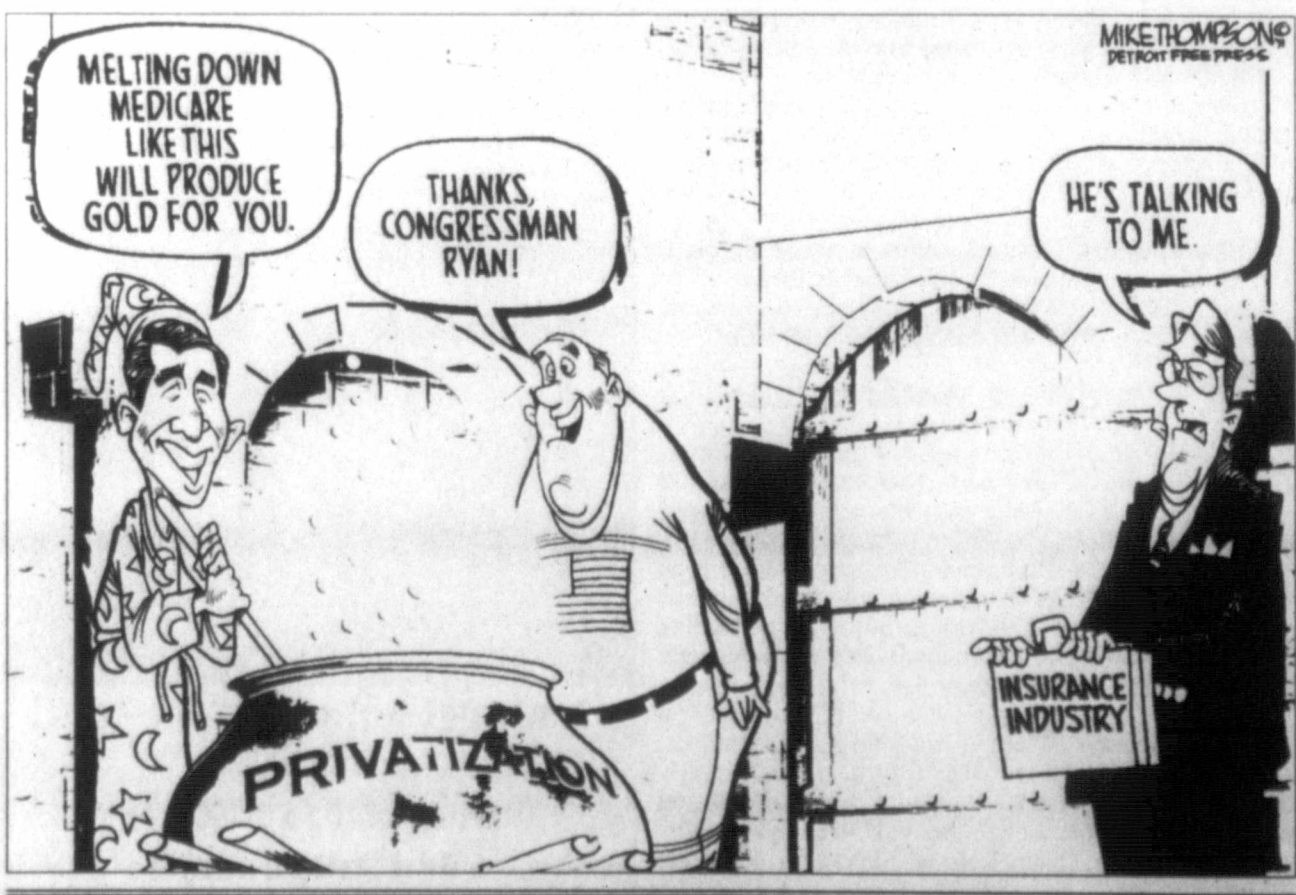
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Your 2011 City Commission Candidates

Ward 1



Cleo Meaker John Studebaker Gary Winton

Ward 2



Ed Copeland Becky Holmes Mike Price

* Ward 3 Incumbent Robert Dixon is unopposed.

Forum

cont. from page 1

said, "they want to come back."

She said that they want to raise their families here.

"This town has so much potential," Combs said.

She attacked her opponent for supporting the water park being built in Pampa. She also accused Pingel of raising taxes.

"If elected mayor," Combs said, "I will change all that."

Pingel said he was elected commissioner from Ward 1 in 2005 and since then, he's learned a lot about Pampa.

He recited his resume. He's married and has two daughters and works at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors and is part owner of Top of Texas Monument.

Pingel said he's also president and founder of WheelTimes, Inc., a recreational sports group.

He's active in the Lions Club, Meals on Wheels and in his church.

Pingel says he enjoys his volunteer work.

"My vision for Pampa is to see Pampa grow," Pingel said.

Ward 1 is one of two City Commission races this spring with three candidates vying for a seat on the City Commission. Pingel is vacating the seat to run for mayor.

Cleo Meaker, one of the Ward 1 candidate for City Commission, is a lifelong resident of Pampa.

He said his opponents are good people, but Meaker believes that he is more qualified than they are to run for the City Commission.

"City government is as close to the people as it gets," Meaker said. "We should all work for the betterment of Pampa."

John Studebaker, another candidate for the City Commission for Ward 1, said he is from Nebraska. He came to Pampa to work for Titan Industries 16 years ago. He is now their Information Technology manager. He is married with two children.

Studebaker said he would like the opportunity to serve the community on the City Commission.

Gary Winton, the third candidate for City Commission for Ward 1, also a life-long resident of Pampa, is a retired firefighter from the Pampa Fire Department and is involved in real estate in Pampa.

"I've enjoyed living in Pampa all my life," Winton said. He has four children.

Winton said he comes from a long line of homebuilders. His grandfather and uncles were homebuilders in Pampa.

He said he wants Pampa to progress, move forward and prosper.

Winton said he would like to see Pampa attract new business to fill up some of the empty homes in town.

Ward 2 also has three candidates for City Commissioner.

Rebecca Holmes said she has spent her career in accounting. She is married and has two daughters. She works for Rick Leverich.

She was appointed to fill out the rest of the term for the late Bill Allison as City Commissioner.

Holmes said she's excited about the proposed industrial park at the old Celanese plant west of town and would like to see Pampa grow and be a nice place to live.

Ed Copeland is one of Holmes opponents for City Commissioner in Ward 2.

He's married with two children.

Copeland said he's proud of his family's tradition of public service.

"My father's been in law enforcement for close to 50 years," he said. "My mother's worked for Pampa Junior High for 27 years."

Copeland said he's worked for the Pampa Fire Department, the Gray County Sheriff's Office and as a probation officer.

Election

cont. from page 1

also voting on whether or not to issue \$1,000,000 worth of bonds towards the renovation of school buildings and to levy a tax for the bonds' payment.

Voters within the Lefors and McLean ISDs will also be electing trustees for their respective school boards. There is no school board election for the Pampa ISD; all candidates (including write-in candidate Richard Qualls) are running unopposed.

Lewis said that Grandview-Hopkins, Lefors and McLean voters may also avail of early voting at the Gray County Courthouse.

The voter registration deadline has already passed, Lewis said, but voters can still apply to submit their ballots by mail. To qualify for this option, a voter must either be over 65, out of the county during the election, or incapacitated or disabled.

For more information, call Lewis at the election office at 806-669-4003 or contact her via e-mail at linda.lewis@graych.com. Applications for ballots by mail must be received by the election office by Friday, May 6.



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May 14, 2011 - 14 de mayo de 2011

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Instruction Text:
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Correct **Incorrect**

CITY OF PAMPA
SPECIAL ELECTION
CIUDAD DE PAMPA
ELECCION ESPECIAL

Commissioner, Ward 2 - Unexpired Term
Vote for none or one
Comisionado, Distrito 2 - Duración Restante del Cargo
Vote por ninguno o uno

Mike Price
 Ed Copeland
 Becky Holmes

CITY OF PAMPA
GENERAL ELECTION
CIUDAD DE PAMPA
ELECCION GENERAL

Mayor
Vote for none or one
Alcalde
Vote por ninguno o uno

Joy Combs
 Brad Pingel

Commissioner, Ward 1
Vote for none or one
Comisionado, Distrito 1
Vote por ninguno o uno

Gary L. Winton
 John Studebaker
 Cleo Meaker

Commissioner, Ward 3
Vote for none or one
Comisionado, Distrito 3
Vote por ninguno o uno

Robert W. Dixon

Sample Ballot 12000040110065

10000250159

Sample Ballot

0593031132

image courtesy of Linda Lewis/Gray County Election Office

Above is the sample ballot with the candidates' names listed for the upcoming city elections. City elections are set for Saturday, May 14. Early voting begins on Monday.

He says there's a need for volunteers in the community. Mike Price, the third candidate for City Commission from Ward 2, said he's been a Pampa resident for 47 of his 57 years.

"I feel very fortunate, very blessed, to be a Pampa resident," Price said. "I come from good stock."

He said he served on several committees, on the Pampa Federal Credit Union board, the Top of Texas Livestock Association, 4-H and FFA.

"In all honesty," Price said, "I don't have a platform or an agenda or an ax to grind."

He said that he feels that he is now at a point in his life where he can give more time to the community.

"That's a desire I've always had," Price said. "Pampa's been good to me, and I'd like to give back to the community."

Robert Dixon is the incumbent City Commissioner for Ward 3. He is running unopposed.

"This is my 12th election," Dixon said.

He said he's won 11 and lost one.

This year, he said, he'll complete 20 years of public service.

Dixon said it is very important to get out and vote.

Richard Qualls will take his place on the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees. He is unopposed.

"Since 1999 to 2009," said Qualls, "employment has swelled by 70 percent in Texas schools."

The student population, however, has grown by 34 percent, he said.

The reason for the faster growth in employment, Qualls said, is due to government regulations.

"I think those are some things that need to be looked at," said Qualls, a construction superintendent for Enbridge Pipelines.

The city elections are scheduled for Saturday, May 14. Early voting begins May 2.

Editor's Note: Profiles of the individual candidates are scheduled to run in The Pampa News later this week.

BANANAGRAMS!

Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, the path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

ARCH	ZINC
KIND	FLEW

Yesterday's Answer: BLOOD/ANNEX;
LADLE/DECAY; FRAUD/VALET

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Beginner

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



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The Pampa News

Administrative Professionals Day

April 27

Since 1952, the International Association of Administrative Professionals has honored office workers by sponsoring Administrative Professionals Week. Today, it is one of the largest workplace observances outside of employee birthdays and major holidays.

In the year 2000, IAAP announced a name change for Professional Secretaries Week and Professional Secretaries Day. The names were changed to Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day to keep pace with changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of today's administrative workforce.

Today, there are more than 4.1 million secretaries and administrative assistants working in the United States, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics, and 8.9 million people working in various administrative support roles. More than 475,000 administrative professionals are employed in Canada. Millions more administrative professionals work in offices all over the world.

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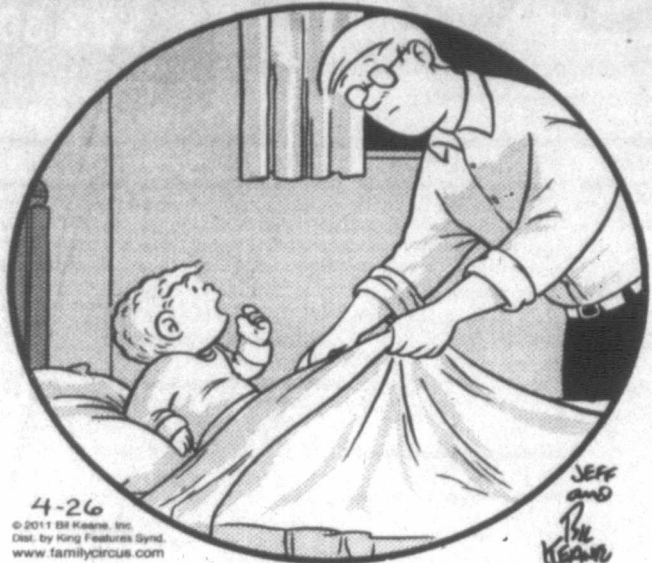
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The **PAMPA NEWS**

comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-26
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www.familycircus.com

“When I’m older will I get to snore like you?”

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 27, 2011:

This year, you get a new beginning. In June, you enter a new life and luck cycle. Often, the first year of this period draws unusual events — some longed for, and others unexpected. During this period of expansion, if you’re not careful, you could gain some weight, as expansion also refers to your waistline. No matter — you will land on your feet like a cat with nine lives. If you are single, you could meet someone of significance this year. What role this person plays will be determined by you. If you are attached, the two of you seem to exchange happiness rays between you. PISCES can be counted on.

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 want to assume a less dominant profile. A change from activist to observer will draw more information and insight. What you see could alter your mental perception. Test this view on those you trust. Tonight: Get some much-needed R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might want to take a stand and revise a project or plan. Sometimes you don’t say enough and allow the collective to run with your idea. If it goes haywire, who is really to blame? Tonight: Get tickets for a ballgame.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You will want to visualize more of what you want. Work on conveying these abstract ideas in a more concrete manner. You will need supporters, and they need to understand more. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Go till the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take an overview rather than get into a catchfit. Details might count, but not as much as the concept. Look for unity instead of problems. The little details can be negotiated if you are on the same page. Tonight: Let your imagination flow. Go with an idea.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You move from one situation to the next. Understand that your flexibility is unique. Some people get stuck. Allow others to get more involved, though you might need to rework the schedule or let go of an

idea. It won’t hurt. Distinct for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might not have the strength or power you want to make an imprint on an issue. Rethink a decision. Others approach you with various requests. Pick and choose by what appeals to you. Tonight: Defer. Everyone likes to think he or she has the final say.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Honor what needs to happen between you and an associate. Though you might be uncomfortable with your role, you will follow through. Your creativity funnels into a daily situation, making it more interesting. Tonight: Easy works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your imagination might be difficult to ignore, as you have so many crazy thoughts. Let in someone who cares. Allow greater give-and-take between you and a neighbor or sibling. A change might be needed. Tonight: Only where you can enjoy yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Consider how you might be able to spend more time at home. Perhaps a home-based business could work, or simply working more from home. A major change could be in the offing. Tonight: Be honest with yourself about what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ A change of pace or different lifestyle needs to get greater attention. You might not be as sure of yourself as in the past. Part of the issue is that you are walking in your old shoes and need ones that fit and suit you better. Tonight: Call a friend and make plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Understand what is happening behind the scenes. What is for sure is that much more than you realize is occurring. Though at first you might be uncomfortable with what you hear, trust that you will adjust. Know that there is something better ahead. Tonight: Keep your own counsel.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A meeting brings about a different message than individual talks would. Understand what is going on between you and another person — is that coloring your interactions? Be willing to process an attitude. Tonight: Where your friends are.

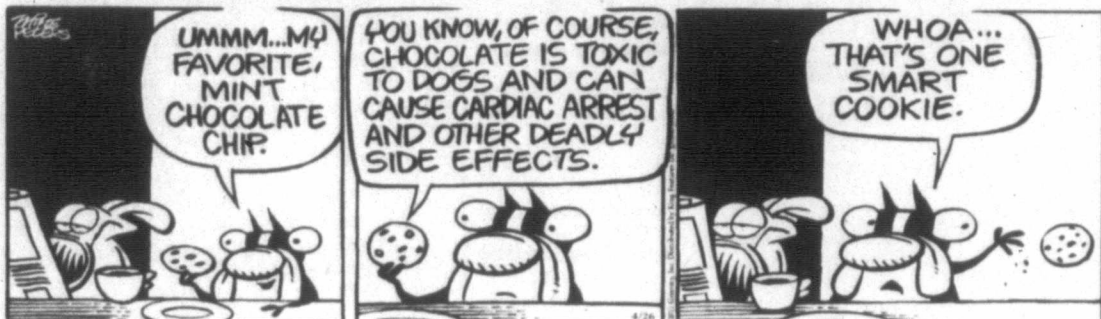
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



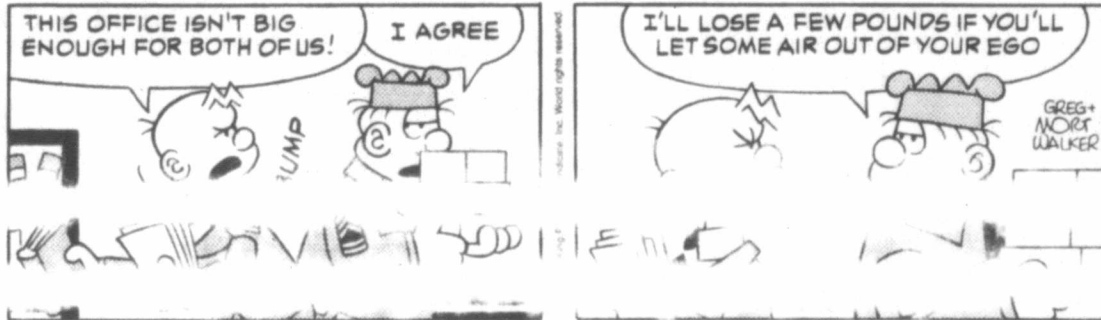
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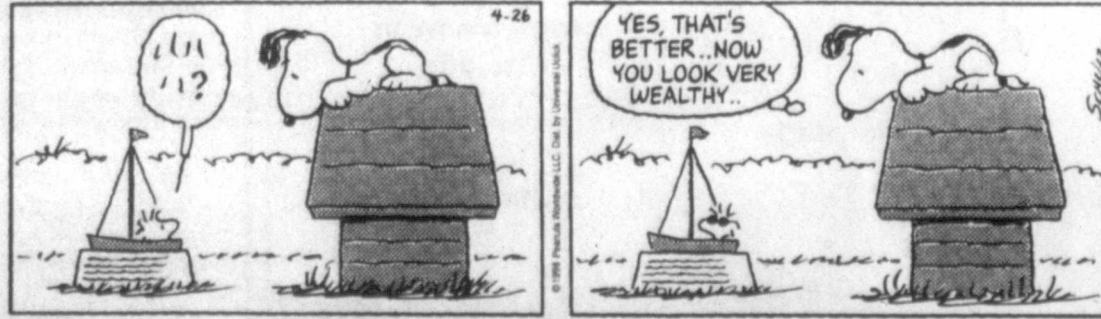
Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Sports

Regional track qualifiers prepare for upcoming meet

ANDREW GLOVER
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The regional track meet is May 2 and 3 at Texas Tech. Pampa's regional qualifiers are getting prepared.

The Harvester and Lady Harvester qualifiers competed at the regional qualifier meet in Panhandle Thursday. Regional qualifiers from 4A to 1A competed. Sophomore Samuel Smith finished fourth in the 200-meter dash (2:23.23). Trent McAnear placed sixth in the mile (5:00.60) and sixth in the 800-meter run (2:10.18), though he won't compete in the event at regionals. Junior Reid Miller finished second in the 110-meter hurdles (15.49).

Miller said he is looking forward to regionals, though he is a little nervous.

"Our times keep getting better and better," Miller said. "Who knows we could crack the finals. I'm really looking forward to it to say the least."

Pampa finished sixth in the 800-meter relay. The Harvesters also qualified in the 400-meter relay.

For the Lady Harvesters, Kristin Ladd finished fifth in the 200-meter dash (2:47.44), though she won't compete in this event at regionals. Junior Kailyn

Troxell tied for fourth in the high jump with a distance of 4-10.

Head coach Gene Valentine said the meet went OK and everyone improved their times.

"We put kids in different events to work differently as far as seeing their times and let them run something different than they had been," Valentine said. "Everyone that ran their times are still getting better. Their mindset and us knowing we are still improving and obviously with us being so young that's the biggest deal that they continue to see improvement."

The Lady Harvesters were missing sophomore Maddie Fatheree (back) and freshman Savanna Hulsey (illness). Both should still compete in regionals and are looking forward to it.

"I'm still completely ready and haven't got to the nervous point yet," Fatheree said.

"I'm kind of nervous but I'm really ready," Hulsey said.

In her first regionals, Hulsey has set a high goal.

"I'm going for first place on hurdles," Hulsey said.

The top two in each event qualify for state.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Junior Reid Miller sprints while Jose Vizcaino prepares to hand off the baton during the 400-meter relay at the district meet April 13-14. Miller will compete in the 110-meter hurdles and the 400 and 800-meter relays at the regional meet May 2 and 3 at Texas Tech.

Pampa Regional Qualifiers

Lady Harvesters

- Kristin Ladd-100-meter dash; 800-meter relay; 1600-meter relay
- Francheska Bridwell-400-meter dash; 400-meter relay; 1600-meter relay
- Joleen Pittman-800-meter run; 1600-meter relay
- P'cee Holmes-1600-meter run; 3200-meter run
- Savanna Hulsey-100-meter hurdles; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
- Maddie Fatheree-Triple Jump; 400-meter relay
- Taylor Giles-400-meter relay; 1600-meter relay
- Kailyn Troxell-800-meter relay; High Jump
- Madison Joyce-800-meter relay

Harvesters

- Samuel Smith-100-meter dash; 200-meter dash; 400-meter relay
- Zane Robles-100-meter dash; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
- Trent McAnear-1600-meter run; 3200-meter run
- Reid Miller-110-meter hurdles; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
- Joseph Vizcaino-300-meter hurdles; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
- Keenen Odell-800-meter relay
- Jonathan Cox-High Jump

NFL LOCKOUT

NFL players can return to work

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The NFL is a long way from playing football again — even if players are welcomed back to work with no lockout to stop them.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson granted the players' request for an injunction to lift the lockout on Monday, ending the NFL's work stoppage in its 48th day but prompting an immediate notice from the league that it will appeal. "And players? They were told to show up ready for work — or workouts — on Tuesday."

Carolina Panthers kicker John Kasay was holding a sheet of paper when he arrived at Bank of America Stadium on Tuesday morning. Kasay, who served as the team's union player representative before decertification on March 11, spent about 10 minutes inside the facility.

Asked why he showed up, Kasay said: "We're just walking through the process." He declined to answer further questions.

Bills safety George Wilson confirmed that the NFLPA emailed players after Nelson's ruling suggesting they show up at team facilities. He said players were told if they are denied access that teams would be in violation of the judge's ruling.

"We have received inquiry from a number of players and agents. We have simply responded and told them we don't see anything wrong with it," NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Players are organizing stuff on their own."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said any player who shows up at team facilities will be allowed in and "treated courteously and with respect."

"As soon as Judge Nelson lifted the lockout this afternoon, a number of my teammates called and asked me if they could return to work," Browns linebacker Scott Fujita said. "Basically, I told them I don't see why not."

Others weren't ready to go that far.

"The ruling created more questions than answers," said Kyle Vanden Bosch, a Detroit Lions player representative. "It seems like the dust still has to settle over the next couple of days."

Vikings linebacker Ben Leber, a free agent and one of the nine NFL players who are plaintiffs in the still-pending antitrust lawsuit against the league, said he was assured by NFLPA leadership that

liability should not be a concern.

"We should feel free to try to get workouts in and try to resume any sort of normalcy that we had before," Leber said.

Things will be anything but normal — Leber called it the "Wild West" — for a while.

The NFL has filed a notice of appeal questioning whether Nelson exceeded her jurisdiction, seeking relief from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis. It also wants Nelson to put her ruling on hold to let the appeals process play out.

If the injunction is upheld, the NFL must resume business in some fashion.

It could invoke the 2010 rules for free agency, meaning players would need six seasons of service before becoming unrestricted free agents when their contracts expire; previously, it was four years. The requirement for restricted free agents would be four years rather than the three years before 2010. There also was no salary cap in 2010, meaning teams could spend as much — or as little — as they wanted.

All of this was in the background for this week's draft, which has a weird feel as teams prepped for picks without free agency or the ability to swap personnel.

Jim Quinn, an attorney for the players, said the pressure is on the league.

"They better act quickly, because as of right now there's no stay and, presumably, players could sign with teams," Quinn said. "There are no guidelines as of right now, so they have to put something in place quickly."

Nelson's ruling was another rebuke of the NFL in the federal courts in Minnesota, which was established years ago as the venue for the league's collective bargaining system. Three weeks ago, NFL attorney David Boies suggested to Nelson that she shouldn't have jurisdiction over a dispute with an unfair bargaining accusation against the players pending with the National Labor Relations Board.

In her ruling, Nelson rejected that contention and recognized the NFL Players Association's decision to "de-unionize" as legitimate because it has "serious consequences" for the players.

Nelson even referenced her colleague, U.S. District Judge David Doty, who has frequently ruled for the players in the past.

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