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The
NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS

 10

Grand slam
 Baseball lands four on first team All-District
 Page 8

inside:
 Social Security and you by Tom Margenau

 Page 3

Monday, May 23, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 41 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

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TANKSGIVING

Finally, tank makes it to new home

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Armed Forces Day 2011 is a day Andy Epps won't soon forget. Armed Forces Day is always celebrated on the third Saturday in May. This year, Epps, curator of the Freedom Museum USA in Pampa and an Air Force veteran, spent it moving an armored M-60 tank from the Potter County Courthouse lawn in Amarillo to the southeast corner of the Pampa museum.

The Potter County Courthouse is undergoing renovation and the Texas Historical Commission, which is putting \$5 million towards the project, said the Desert Storm era tank was not appropriate and must be moved.

Potter County donated the tank to the Freedom Museum in Pampa.

Mike Hard, Potter County facilities manager, said the tank was brought in a decade ago and driven into place by Potter County Judge Arthur Ware, then the engine and transmission were removed in accordance with government regulations.

Ware and Pampa native Paul Chaney were part of the reserve detachment of C Company, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, that served in Iraq and Kuwait.

"We trained in the M-60," Chaney said as he watched the tank being loaded on a truck Saturday in Amarillo, "and then got the M-1 Battle Tank in Iraq."

Homer Aikin with Barnhart Crane out of Borger, however, came to the rescue. His company provided the crane to lift the 60-ton tank from its resting place at the Potter County Courthouse and placing it on the lawn of the Freedom Museum.

TANK cont. on page 2



staff photo by David Bowser

Water park set to open on Monday

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Pampa Assistant City Manager Shane Stokes stood high atop one of the water rides at the Pampa H2O aquatic park today surveying the progress to the park that is scheduled to open on Memorial Day.

"Our plan is to open Monday, May 30, at noon," Stokes said. "There's still a lot of work to be done."

He said the construction crews have done a lot of work during the last couple of weeks.

"I think we're going to get there," Stokes said.
H2O cont. on page 2

Hammond finds niche with police

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Originally from Burleson, Jon Hammond found his calling in Pampa. He has also found a home. Hammond spent two years with the Pampa Police Department.

"I wanted to get into patrol at that time," Hammond said. "This is where I started my patrol career."

After a couple of years in Pampa, Hammond returned to the **HAMMOND** cont. on page 3

HOMETOWN HEROES

CAR SHOW AT FBSW

AUTO ZONE

TOP: Jerry Heasley stands with his 1965 Shelby American Cobra at the First Bank Southwest Customer Appreciation Car Show on Friday. RIGHT: Ron Eccles and his 1932 Chrysler-based Hot Rod.




staff photo by David Bowser

Boomtown Block Party & Business Expo and Top O' Texas BBQ Cook-off
 July 9 at Recreation Park/Rodeo Grounds
 Registration forms available at the Chamber Office
 200 N. Ballard

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PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday



High 88 Low 54
High 77 Low 50
High 75 Low 56

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Very windy, with a southwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 30 and 35 mph. Winds could gust as high as 45 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. Windy, with a west wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Windy, with a northwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. Windy, with a north northwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 75. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

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MADLINE GRAVES Dance & Gymnastics Center Summer Registration, All Ages-All Levels, Tues. May 24, 4-7:30pm, MG Center, 1345 S. Hobart.

PHS CLASS of 2011 All Night Drug Free / Alcohol Free Senior Party is requesting merchandise and cash donations from businesses and individuals for give-aways at their party. Call 806-664-0438 for info., or to make donations.

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.

5-23 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

S P W V N A E X V
N U U V A N A E N Q S V B V A N U V
E P Q V N U U V A N A E N Q S C

B V A N U U V B. — U P Q V U E R U P A E
Saturday's Cryptoquote: HOPE IS LIKE PEACE. IT IS NOT A GIFT FROM GOD. IT IS A GIFT ONLY WE CAN GIVE ONE ANOTHER. — ELIE WIESEL

BANANAGRAMS!

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

G A T E
[] [] [] []

L I N E
[] [] [] []

S H A R E
[] [] [] []

Yesterday's Answer: Common W; SNOWCAP, RENEWAL, RAWHIDE, WIRETAP

Mo. officials say tornado killed at least 89

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP) — A massive tornado that tore a 6-mile path across southwestern Missouri killed at least 89 people as it slammed into the city of Joplin, ripping into a hospital, crushing cars like soda cans and leaving a forest of splintered tree trunks behind where entire neighborhoods once stood.

Authorities warned that the death toll could climb as search and rescue workers continued their efforts. Their task was made more miserable as a new thunderstorm with strong winds, heavy rain pelted part of the city with quarter-sized hail.

City manager Mark Rohr announced the number of known dead at a pre-dawn news conference outside the wreckage of a hospital that took a direct hit from Sunday's storm. Rohr said the twister cut a path nearly 6 miles long and more than a half-mile wide through the center of town. Much of the city's south side was leveled, with churches, schools, businesses and homes reduced to ruins.

Jasper County emergency management director Keith Stammer said about 2,000 buildings were damaged, while Joplin fire chief Mitch Randles estimated the damage covered a quarter or more of the city of about 50,000 people some 160 miles south of Kansas City. He said his home was among those destroyed.

An unknown number of people were injured, and officials said patients were scattered to any nearby hospitals that could take them.

Officers from the city and neighboring towns and counties manned virtually every major intersection. Ambulances came and went, sirens blaring. Rescuers involved in a door-to-door search moved gingerly around downed power lines and jagged debris. A series of gas leaks caused fires around the city overnight, and Gov. Jay Nixon said some were still burning early Monday. Nixon said he feared the death toll would rise but also expected survivors to be found in the rubble.

"I don't think we're done counting," Nixon told The Associated Press, adding, "I still believe that because of the size of the debris and the number of people involved that there are lives to be saved."

Crews found bodies in vehicles the storm had flipped over, torn apart and left crushed like empty cans. Triage centers and temporary shelters quickly filled to capacity. At Memorial Hall, a downtown entertainment venue, emergency workers treated critically injured patients.

At another makeshift unit at a Lowe's home improvement store, wooden planks served as beds. Outside, ambulances and fire trucks waited for calls. In the early hours

of the morning, emergency vehicles were scrambling nearly every two minutes.

After daybreak, survivors picked through the rubble of their homes, salvaging clothes, furniture, family photos and financial records, the air pungent with the smell of gas and smoking embers. Some neighborhoods were completely flattened and the leaves stripped from trees, giving the landscape an apocalyptic aura. In others where structures still stood, families found their belongings jumbled as if someone had picked up their homes and shaken them.

Kelley Fritz, 45, of Joplin, rummaged through the remains of a storage building with her husband, Jimmy. They quickly realized they would never find the belongings they stored there. They had lost much of what was in their home after the tornado ripped away the roof. Their sons, ages 20 and 17, both Eagle Scouts, went outside after the storm.

"My sons had deceased children in their arms when they came back," Fritz said. "My husband and I went out and saw two or three dead bodies on the ground."

Fritz said she was surprised she survived. "You could just feel the air pull up and it was so painful. I didn't think we were going to make it, it happened so fast."

Obituaries

Alma Goodner, 91

Alma Goodner, 91, of Amarillo, died Thursday, May 19, 2011.

Services will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, May 24, 2011, in Memory Gardens Cemetery Mausoleum in Pampa, TX. Arrangements are by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors, 2800 Paramount Blvd.

Alma was born in Mobetie, on May 24, 1919 to Oscar and Melinda Gober. She volunteered with the First Methodist Church by serving meals; she loved quilting and was a member of a local quilt club. She worked most of her life in the retail industry.

She married Haskell Goodner in 1940 with him preceding her in death in 2004, after 63 years of marriage.

Survivors include two sons, Jerry W. Goodner of Amarillo and Lonnie Dale Goodner and wife Carolyn of Guthrie, Okla.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest memorial donations be made to First United Methodist Church of Pampa, 201 E. Foster, Pampa, TX 79065.

Leave online condolences at www.boxwellbrothers.com.



Alma Goodner

Frank Daugherty, 87

Frank Daugherty, 87, died May 22, 2011, in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Judy Walling, 73

Judy Walling, 73, died May 21, 2011, in Pampa. Memorial services were held 10 a.m. Monday, May 23, 2011 at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, chaplain of Interim Hospice, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Walling was born Dec. 6, 1937, in Dallas and had lived in the Panhandle area most of her life. She married Delbert L. Walling in 1975. He preceded her in death in March of 2011. Judy loved decorating and collecting antiques and working in her yard. She was an avid animal lover.

Survivors include two daughters, Brandy Ketchum and husband Larry of The Woodlands and Brenda Crocker of Amarillo; a son, Benjamin Crocker of Pampa; three grandchildren, Brooke Bolf and husband Joe, Holly Smith and husband Matt, and Chris Ketchum and wife Brandy; four great-grandchildren, Dawson Bolf, Sara Smith, Micah Smith, and Gideon Smith.

Memorials may be made to PAWS, P. O. Box 2095, Pampa, TX 79066-2095, or SPCA, 11901 S. Coulter,

cont. from page 1.

H2O

He said there is a meeting set for Wednesday to go over everything that still needs to be done before the park opens.

A final walk-through inspection by city officials is scheduled for Friday.

"We're planning on having a soft opening on Sunday night for city employees," Stokes said.

That will give the staff a chance to see how the aquatic center will run with crowds in the park.

"It lets us show our appreciation for the employees for their hard work," Stokes said.

The Pampa City Commission set fees for the park earlier this year at \$5 for those four to 17 years of age and \$6 for those 18 and over.

Children under three are free, Stokes said.

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Tank

Joe Reed with Koyote Trucking provided the transportation from Amarillo to Pampa. Epps said the companies

were generous enough to give the museum rates that would fit within the its budget.

A little after 10 a.m. Saturday, John Anderson, the crane operator with Barnhart, began setting up to move the tank from its display area over construction buildings at the Potter County Courthouse.

By 3 p.m., Anderson and his crew were lowering the tank into place at the Freedom Museum after Reed had trucked the tank up U.S. Highway 60.

An hour later, Epps was standing before the crowd that had gathered around the tank, grinning from ear to ear.

cont. from page 1

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

LEGACY

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1:00-5:00
Contact
Johnny Russell ext 22
Lorie Starbuck ext 23

AFTERNOONRUSH

'Click It or Ticket' has begun

AUSTIN (AP) - Better buckle up in your car, truck or other vehicle.

Today marks the beginning of the 10th annual Texas "Click It or Ticket" seat belt enforcement campaign. Through Sunday, June 5, troopers of the Texas Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement officers will beef up enforcement of state laws requiring all riding in motor vehicles to buckle up.

Also, children younger than age 8 must be in a child safety or booster seat unless they're taller than 4-foot-9.

The DPS says that since the first campaign in 2002, seat belt usage in Texas has increased from 76 percent to almost 94 percent. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that's resulted in more than 2,800

Water conservation for tax breaks?

AUSTIN (AP) - A plan to offer property owners tax breaks for water conservation is making its way through the Legislature as most of Texas struggles with drought.

A final vote was expected Monday in the Texas House.

The measure, which secured initial approval Saturday, offers property tax reductions for those who set aside open-space land for water conservation.

Backers say the tax breaks would encourage water conservation without forcing state government to pay. Critics say some of the bill's language overlaps with existing tax incentives for protecting wildlife.

The U.S. Drought Monitor map released Thursday showed more than 97 percent of Texas is in at least moderate drought.

More than 47 percent of the state has the most severe designation, categorized by the USDM as "exceptional drought."

The regular legislative session ends May 30.

\$1B renovation for GBIA

HOUSTON (AP) - Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport is getting an updated look.

A news conference was planned Monday afternoon to announce the \$1 billion renovation project for Terminal B.

Mayor Annise Parker was scheduled to be joined by leaders of United Continental Holdings Inc. and the Houston Airport System to provide details of the upgrade.

George Bush Intercontinental is Houston's largest airport. The airport, which opened in 1969, handled more than 40 million passengers in 2010.

Survivors benefits always part of SS

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Q: I thought the column you wrote criticizing people for what you called "disability bashing" was very worthwhile and well-spoken. People do become disabled and need assistance. Social Security's real problems are those freeloading families who get benefits from a deceased parent.

Several houses down my street, I have a neighbor in her early 40s with three school-aged children. Her husband was a bum who never worked and got killed. Insurance paid off the outstanding mortgage to the home. So, now she lives mortgage-free in a home with a swimming pool. She drives a BMW. I think that she's a tramp! I was told she and the kids collect \$3,000 a month from Social Security and will continue to do so until the kids are out of college.

Now I ask you: What is wrong with that picture? Multiply it a million times across our society, and you'll come up with what's wrong with Social Security. In my day, families took care of one another after someone died. This woman is capable of supporting herself and her kids yet she's on the dole with Social Security.

A: Gosh! A bum? A tramp? A swimming pool? A BMW? And on the Social Security dole to boot! This family has really put a bee in your bonnet, hasn't it?

I'm not really sure where to begin. You asked "what's wrong with that picture?" Well, I suppose it would be best to start out correcting all the things that are wrong in your question. You said the "bum" never worked. Well, he must have worked and paid Social Security taxes or his family would not be collecting Social Security benefits. And he must have worked for quite some time and paid quite a bit in payroll taxes in order for his children to qualify for \$3,000 per month.

And I'm afraid you've got some-

Social Security and you



thing wrong about the "tramp." She is not getting Social Security benefits for herself. She is receiving a monthly check sent in her name for the children.

You're also wrong when you state that the kids will get Social Security benefits until they are out of college. That's just not true. Benefits for each child will stop when he or she reaches age 18.

But even putting aside those errors, I am a little puzzled about your resentment toward people getting survivors benefits. And in this case, you're hitting pretty close to home. You see, my dad died when I was a little kid. My mom was left with four small children. She worked, but she barely made enough to pay the rent, let alone raise four kids on her own. What would we have done without Social Security benefits?

As I've pointed out in my column before, the payment of benefits to the family members of someone who has died isn't something new that has recently been tacked onto the good old Social Security retirement program. Survivor's benefits have been part of Social Security since 1939 -- before the first monthly retirement benefits were even paid.

Almost every country in the world has a Social Security system, and EVERY one of those systems includes benefits to the children of a family breadwinner who has died. This is what a civilized society does. We come together as a people and say that we will take care of retirees, we will take care of people with disabilities, and we will take care of the widows and children of a deceased father or mother.

Of course, every once in a while, one of those deceased fathers is

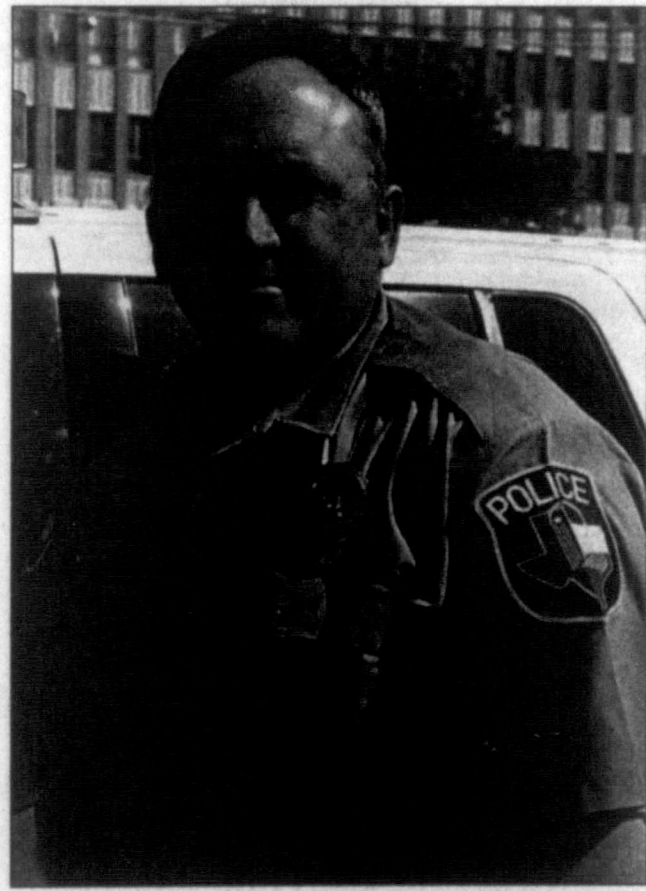
going to be a "bum." And one of those widowed mothers is going to be a "tramp." (At least in the opinion of some neighbors!) But what are we going to do about that?

As part of the debate on health care in this country, some political candidates and pundits foolishly referred to a "death panel" of bureaucrats who would decide who lives and who dies (i.e., who would get critical life-saving care and who would not). Of course, that is nonsense. But maybe you want to do the same with Social Security survivor benefits? Perhaps, you should be the sole judge of who "deserves" such benefits and who doesn't? Your neighbors: He was a bum and his wife is a tramp, so as you make clear in your question, their kids get the "thumbs down." But my dad was a nice guy and my mom was a model parent, so can I assume you would have been OK with the benefits that were paid to us back in the 60s?

As you stated in your question, are we all freeloaders? What was my dad thinking when he took a job as a janitor in a small church that offered no pension plan or health benefits? And why in the world did he have to die at age 47? And how come my aunts and uncles didn't step in to help us after dad died, even though they were all just barely getting by with minimum wage jobs? I've got a hunch I wouldn't be where I am today (writing a nationally-syndicated column about Social Security benefits) if we hadn't gone on the "Social Security dole" and received those "freeloading" benefits.

A special note to my readers: I will be traveling and away from my home (and my email) for the entire month of May. So, please hold off on sending your questions to me until after June 1. Thank you.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.



staff photo by David Bowser

Jon Hammond fell in love with law enforcement after a career in construction. A single father, he said he intends to raise his son in Pampa, his adopted home.

Hammond

Burleson area to be near his family, but he remained in law enforcement.

"Originally, I was in construction," Hammond said. But it was something he did not enjoy.

"A friend of mine was in law enforcement," Hammond said. "He had a position open where he was working."

At 30 years old, Hammond made a career change. "I fell in love with it," he said of law enforcement.

Hammond worked for different agencies but came back to Pampa to be with his son.

A single parent, he said he intends to raise his son here.

Hammond said the police department in Pampa is great.

"Everybody gets along," he said. "Everybody's happy."

Everybody in the police department is professional that he works with here, Hammond said.

The equipment is updated and officer safety is good. "I can actually get out on my radio here," he laughed.

That hasn't always been the case in some of the places where he's worked.

"It's a great atmosphere," Hammond said of Pampa. He said there is no competition with other cities, so there's no bad blood with other police departments.

"We get along great with the county," Hammond said. "We get along with the Texas Department of Public Safety. Everybody gets along."

That's very unusual, he said.

cont. from page 1

"Where I come from, it's not like that," Hammond said. "It's highly competitive down south."

Each department has its way of doing things, and everybody wants to do it their own way, he said.

That leads to conflicts between departments. There's not that kind of conflict in Pampa, he said.

That's what makes Pampa a good place for his son to grow up.

As for Hammond, he said his plan for the future is to stay in Pampa and raise his son.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2011. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1911, the newly completed New York Public Library was dedicated by President William Howard Taft, Gov. John Alden Dix and Mayor William Jay Gaynor (the library was opened to the public the next day).

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

In 1701, William Kidd was hanged in London after he was convicted of piracy and murder.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1873, Canada's Parliament voted to establish the North West Mounted Police force.

In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, La.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide while imprisoned in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships, an action which precipitated war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.

In 1991, talk show host Johnny Carson stunned an NBC affiliates' meeting in New York by announcing his retirement from "The Tonight Show," effective in one year.

Ten years ago: The Senate passed an 11-year, \$1.35 trillion-dollar tax cut bill.

Five years ago: In a recording posted on the Internet, a voice purported to be that of Osama bin Laden said Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person convicted in the U.S. for the 9/11 attacks, had nothing to do with the al-Qaida operation.

One year ago: In a new al-Qaida video, U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki advocated the killing of American civilians, accusing the U.S. of intentionally killing a million Muslim civilians in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 86. Actor Nigel Davenport is 83. Actress Barbara Barrie is 80. Actress Joan Collins is 78. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 75. Actress Lauren Chapin is 66. Country singer Misty Morgan is 66. Country singer Judy Rodman is 60. Singer Luka Bloom is 56. Actor-comedian Drew Carey is 53. Country singer Shelly West is 53. Actor Linden Ashby is 51. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 50. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 44. Actress Laurel Holloman is 43. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 41. Singer Lorenzo is 39. Country singer Brian McComas is 39. Singer Maxwell is 38. Singer Jewel is 37. Actor Lane Garrison is 31. Actor Adam Wylie is 27.

Thought for Today: "You can construct the character of a man and his age not only from what he does and says, but from what he fails to say and do." — Norman Douglas, British author (1868-1952)



Great things happening within PISD, Pampa

I have just finished my first year on the PISD School Board. I have learned many things about our schools and appreciate the hard work our administration and teachers perform on a daily basis. I wanted to take an opportunity to touch on a few impressive things I have been apart of this year.

I recently was invited to attend a banquet for our Honors Graduates. These are the Top 10% of the 2011 graduating class. It was a wonderful time to spend hearing all their accomplishments and meeting the students and their parents. Coach Bryon May did an outstanding job speaking to the students and encouraging them to continue to grow in their education and that Pampa will always be a bright memory to them in the years to come. We actually have four students that are graduating from High School and also receiving their Associates degree from Clarendon College. What an outstanding job!

Another bright spot in Pampa is the Pampa Education Foundation. Many people in town do not realize or even know what this foundation is all about. The Pampa Education

County Class



MATT BROCK

Foundation was created to support and enhance the education of all students in the Pampa ISD. The board of directors represents a cross-section of citizens who are dedicated to education and share a vision for excellence in Pampa's public schools. Their mission statement is as follows: "Our mission is to create and sustain a coalition of business and citizens to support funding for innovative programs and initiatives that enrich education opportunities for Pampa ISD students and staff." Beginning in January the foundation is awarding three iPads per six weeks at the Pampa Junior High for attendance

awards for a total of nine iPads. They have also awarded \$10,000 in grants this school year to teachers for different programs. We as citizens of Pampa need to be supporting this great organization that is making a difference in the education of our students in Pampa.

The Pampa High School in the fall will be starting a new program to get a computer in the hands of each student. The 1:1 laptop program will help students be better prepared for a future of rapid change and will foster their abilities to reason, to solve problems, and to use technology. This has all been made possible through the vision of our High School staff and a grant awarded by the state for the technology.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to let the community know that we as a Board, along with our administration and teachers, are dedicated to education and providing tools to help our student succeed in years to come. Great things are truly happening in Pampa.

Matt Brock is a member of the Board of Education at Pampa Independent School District.

Rising revenue ups pressure to undo cuts

SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press Analysis

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Wisconsin's Republican governor and GOP leaders in several other states are facing increasing pressure to back off from deep spending cuts to education and social programs in light of higher than expected revenue projections as the economy improves.

The surge in revenue is giving rise to an awkward question — are the governors making the deepest cuts because they have to or because they choose to?

The issue is unfolding in Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, Colorado and several other states where tax revenue forecasts have turned up just as legislatures are working through budget reduction packages.

In Wisconsin, local school board members and superintendents are pressing lawmakers and Gov. Scott Walker to scale back his proposed 8.4 percent cut in aid to public schools and 5.5 percent reduction in how much schools can collect from state money and property taxes combined. The Republican-controlled Legislature has backed Walker's agenda so far, but did not reject this appeal outright.

Miles Turner, director of the Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators, said the earlier cutbacks were based on a leaner budget outlook. Continuing with the entire reduction now, he said, would show "there's a greater interest in following through with an ideological campaign against public education than there is to support public education."

Many school districts have been planning to lay off teachers, increase class sizes and cut back programs like music and foreign languages to cover the reductions.

Elsewhere, the Colorado

Legislature has approved \$22.5 million less in education cuts than originally proposed by Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper following improvements in the state's revenue projections. In Michigan, Republicans who control the Legislature and Republican Gov. Rick Snyder are reducing their original proposed cuts to schools by as much as two-thirds.

A similar effort isn't getting much traction in New Jersey where Republican Gov. Chris Christie has refused to back off his program of cuts although revenues are projected to increase between \$500 million and \$900 million over two years.

Tax revenue projections in Wisconsin were revised last week to show the state will receive \$636 million more through the end of the budget cycle than expected. The increase amounts to only 1.6 percent, but would be enough to reduce layoffs and cuts in school programs. Milwaukee, the state's largest school district, expects to eliminate about 1,000 fulltime teaching and staff positions.

Republican Sen. Alberta Darling, co-chair of a budget committee, said Republicans were considering softening the cuts for some schools that would be hurt the most. She wouldn't say how much of Walker's cuts might be rolled back.

She and other Republican leaders also no longer plan to go along with Walker's plan to change a popular prescription drug program for seniors. Walker had targeted that program for \$15 million in savings.

But education advocates say they doubt the Legislature will pull back as much as it could. They charge that Walker and his conservative allies want to reduce support for public schools as part of a larger goal of expanding school vouchers and curtailing the public sector.

"It's pretty clear there's a real

reluctance to spend on schools," said Joe Quick, government relations specialist for the Wisconsin School Boards Association. "The goal is to hold property taxes down."

When Walker unveiled his budget, he said the deep reductions were necessary because the state could no longer afford all of its programs and expenses. "It's time to start paying our bills today so our kids are not stuck with even bigger bills tomorrow," he said in March.

When Wisconsin received the rosier budget news last week, Walker was quick to say the extra money should go to pay down the state's debts. Wisconsin faces a \$3 billion shortfall, down from the earlier \$3.6 billion projection. The state has added 25,000 private sector jobs since January as the economy improves.

Walker said Friday that school districts can soften the budget blow by managing their employee health insurance and pension costs better. "We're not cutting without giving options," he said. Republican budget committee co-chair Rep. Robin Vos insisted the deep cuts were still necessary, and not just to fulfill conservatives' small-government ideology. "The ideology is about balancing the budget," he said.

Walker hasn't completely shut the door on revisiting some of his proposed cuts. But with one of the most expansive veto powers of any governor in the country, he has wide latitude to reject changes the Legislature might make.

Walker isn't the only governor holding the harder line. In Ohio, Republican Gov. John Kasich said he isn't backing off his budget cutting plans, even though the economy in his state is improving. Any increased revenue would go toward cutting taxes, he said.

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



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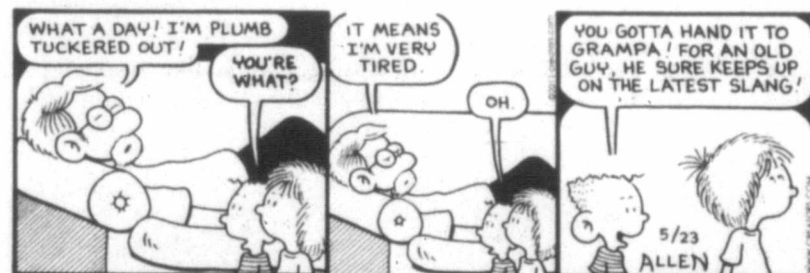
“... so why does my day always end at the same time?”

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



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daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, May 24, 2011:
This year, you contact many people, many of whom are not easygoing. You also could be in an unusually sensitive period in which your feelings are vulnerable. Travel, education, reading and/or yoga might help you to detach. Or you might have another preferred method of relaxing. If you are single, you open a door to a friendship or move in a new direction. Meeting people happens easily. If you are attached, share more often with your sweetie when you feel vulnerable or off. **PISCES** often interferes with you.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You have been like a freight car lately. It might be hard to slow down. You miss details when you push that hard. Your ability to bring other people out is significant. You seem to sense where they are coming from. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ The ball is in your court. You have been impatiently waiting for this moment. Curb going overboard with spending to make a good impression. Clearly, someone feels very strongly about a work or day-to-day situation. Tonight: Charm works wonders.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have been given an unusual amount of space and freedom, though you might not recognize it. Responsibilities call, giving you very little wiggle room. Take the lead on a project or community matter. A partner or associate seems to be morphing in front of your very eyes. Tonight: Could go till the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching for the stars. What appears to be rather complicated really isn't. Discover what is needed to make a situation work through a process of detaching and gaining more understanding. Recharge with a brisk walk. Tonight: Surf the Net.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Being in sync happens with ease. Opportunities arise from those at a distance. Be aware of another person's response. Your way of stating your boundaries might be a bit austere. Revise your work schedule. Tonight: Togetherness happens naturally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Defer to others. Your instincts will guide you to understand what is best for all parties involved only once you detach. You could have mixed feelings. Pressure builds, pushing you to accomplish an inordinate amount of tasks. Reprioritize if you hit a snafu. Tonight: Pace yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Move past an immediate issue. Tap into your creativity in order to find answers. Your sense of direction combined with some old-fashioned ingenuity helps you steer the proper course. Your instincts encourage you to hold back. Refuse to let that occur. Tonight: Make it easy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ It is difficult to accomplish anything today. You will need to close your door and screen your calls. Worrying about missing a special person also could interfere. You might not see an immediate solution. Negativity impacts your energy and interactions. Ask yourself how a situation would look if you were upbeat. Tonight: Try being silly.

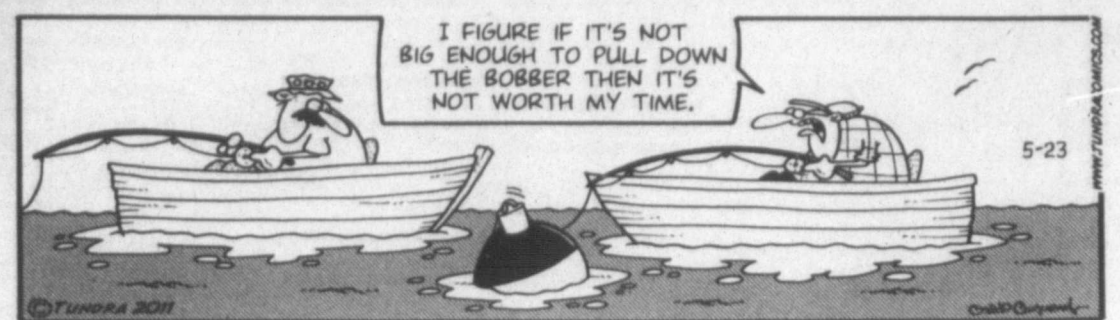
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to act on your words in order to get the response you desire. Laughter surrounds a personal issue, once you demonstrate your involvement and caring. Curb wild spending. Come from a new space. Tonight: Head home early.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Clearly you have more information on a key topic than many others. How you express this knowledge will determine the manner in which it is received. A boss or higher-up is easily challenged. Listen to suggestions more openly. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep the conversation moving. You might not be aware of the impact of a specific topic until you see everyone put in their two cents. Your ability to read between the lines needs to emerge. Someone at a distance could be extremely negative. Tonight: Price a new item.

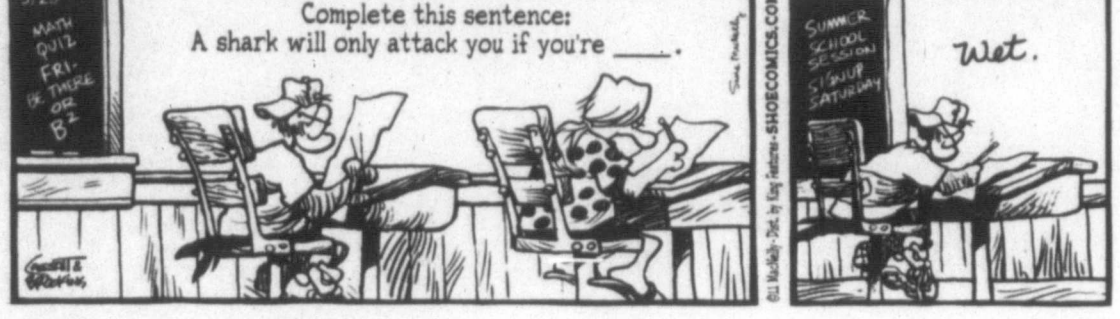
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Take up an information-gathering effort. You need more facts before you make a decision, even though you believe you are ready at this moment. If a partner acts withdrawn, know that no matter what you do, it won't make a difference. Only this person can decide to open up. Tonight: Togetherness works.

Tundra



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Shoe



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Mother Goose and Grim



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Zits



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Garfield



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Beetle Bailey



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Marvin



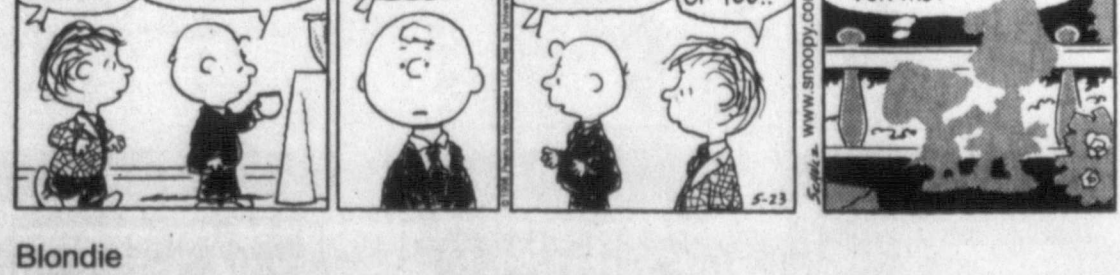
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Hagar The Horrible



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Peanuts



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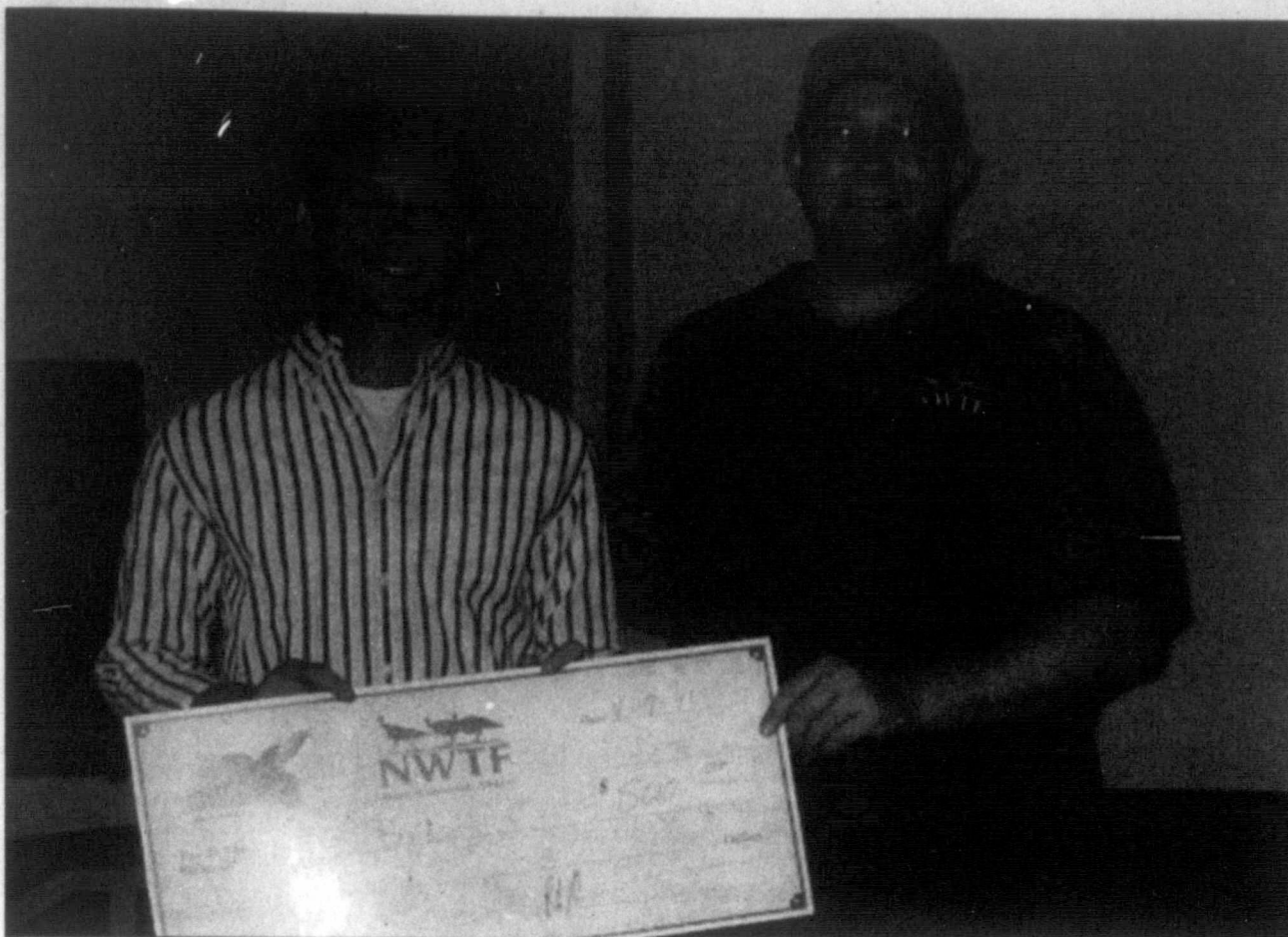
Blondie



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Sports

Boyd presented with NWTF scholarship



Olin Boyd holds a \$500 check presented by NWTF president Richie Thompson at the NWTF Banquet last April. Boyd will be valedictorian in the upcoming Pampa High School graduation.

SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

The Top of Texas Longbeard Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation presented a \$500 check to both the 4-H Air Rifle project and to the 2011 scholarship recipient Olin Boyd at their 2011 Hunting Heritage Banquet held on April 9th.

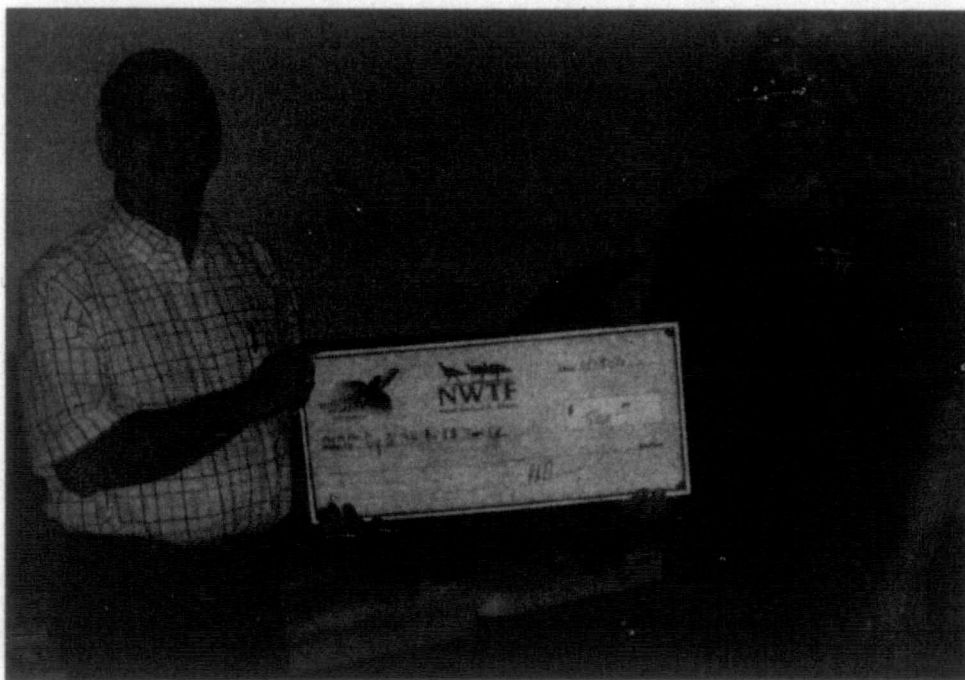
NWTF Chapter President Richie Thompson also presented 4-H Air Rifle Team Eagle representative Jeff Boyd with a check for \$500.

The funds donated to Team Eagle will assist in procuring shooting supplies and awards for the coming year.

Since 1973, the NWTF has been

dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and to the preservation of all hunting traditions and the outdoors. The local chapter believes that by donating to organizations such as Team Eagle, hunting traditions will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

submitted photo



submitted photo

Jeff Boyd receives a \$500 donation to the 4-H Air Rifle project. The donation will help procure shooting supplies.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm desperate for guidance. I have no mentors to consult nor anyone with more life experience because I have no family left I can talk to anymore.

Five years ago, when I was 22, my father committed suicide. My mother and I were witnesses. His family blamed me for not trying to wrestle a loaded gun from him. (I know I did the right thing.) Dad's family cut Mother and me off completely.

Mom always had a problem with drinking, but it became worse after Dad killed himself. The last five years have been spent putting my life on hold to pick up the pieces. Mom loses jobs for being drunk, is all but blacklisted in the city she lives in and is often short of rent money. If I give her money to pay her rent, she blows it on alcohol. She'll sleep with strangers for money when she's facing eviction.

It kills me knowing the mother who loved me is going to eventually end up on the street, but I can't be her mother anymore. I didn't have a childhood because I was always dealing with her alcoholism, and Dad's, too. I can't bear the thought of her homeless and hungry, but I know picking

her up only enables her drinking. Please help me. I don't know what to do. — DESPERATE FOR GUIDANCE IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR DESPERATE: You are a caring and dutiful daughter, but the burden you have assumed will crush you if you don't put it down. No one can save someone who doesn't want to be saved or isn't ready to be. Until your mother realizes she needs help for her addiction, she'll continue on the path her drinking is leading her.

It is extremely important for your emotional well-being to let go of your guilt for being unable to "mother your mother." An excellent place to begin would be to attend some Al-Anon meetings. There you will find support from friends and relatives of alcoholics who help each other through the same trials you are experiencing. The meetings are free and confidential. To find one in your area, call (888) 4AL-ANON ((888) 425-2666). Someone will always answer during business hours Eastern time. Or, visit the website at Al-AnonFamilyGroups.org.

DEAR ABBY: My sis-

ter is having a baby, and we're wondering if there is an acceptable way to let people know that she wouldn't mind getting used items as gifts — especially the "big" things. No one in our family is well off, but this is her first child and she does need stuff.

Would a note in the shower invitation be tacky? In this money-saving time, I think our idea is a good one. How do we convey the message? — LIKES "LIKE-NEW" IN OHIO
DEAR LIKES "LIKE-NEW": I'm glad you asked, because a note in the shower invitation would be tacky. The way that message should be conveyed is verbally, when prospective guests ask what the mother-to-be needs.

However, before your sister uses a secondhand toy or nursery equipment, it would be a good idea to check the website run by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to make certain the item hasn't been the subject of a safety recall. (More than 300 products of various types are recalled each year.) The website to visit is www.recalls.gov.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Dark-greenish blue
 - 1 Swimming spot
 - 5 Stow cargo
 - 9 TV's Abdul
 - 10 Checkout line count
 - 12 Top floor
 - 13 One of the Marx Brothers
 - 14 Atlanta team
 - 16 Advanced in years
 - 17 Theater box
 - 18 Houston team
 - 21 Bullfight cry
 - 22 Like post-workout athletes
 - 23 Apple drink
 - 24 Work over
 - 26 Gorilla, for one
 - 29 San Diego team
 - 30 Region
 - 31 Yale student
 - 32 Detroit team
 - 34 "The Zoo Story" playwright
 - 37 Dull finish
 - 38 Puzzle out
 - 39 One of the Kennedys
- DOWN**
- 1 Sentry duty
 - 2 Power problem
 - 3 Martini garnish
 - 4 Doily stuff
 - 5 Singer Phair
 - 6 Had supper
 - 7 Send overseas
 - 8 Hire
 - 9 Painter Picasso
 - 11 Supplies with turf
 - 15 Shop waste
 - 19 Ooze
 - 20 Road sealer
 - 22 Location
 - 23 Auto
 - 24 Voter's page
 - 25 Fit for consumption
 - 26 Singer Franklin
 - 27 More impudent
 - 28 Painter's stand
 - 29 Pod fill
 - 30 Banded rock
 - 33 "How — Your Mother"
 - 35 Juan Perón's wife
 - 36 Snaky fish

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OPIUM								GENOA
PENNA								EXACT
END								DES POE
SUEDES								LION
PROM								QUEEN
								TAUNT
								TEENIDOLS
BUYS								RENOWN
AXE								PER LIE
SELMA								GRIPE
IDIDIOT								OPTED
LODES								MASS

Saturday's answer

- 15 Shop waste
- 19 Ooze
- 20 Road sealer
- 22 Location
- 23 Auto
- 24 Voter's page
- 25 Fit for consumption
- 26 Singer Franklin
- 27 More impudent
- 28 Painter's stand
- 29 Pod fill
- 30 Banded rock
- 33 "How — Your Mother"
- 35 Juan Perón's wife
- 36 Snaky fish

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Sports

Baseball lands four on first team

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters earned four first team selections and four second team selections on the District 1-3A All-District team.

Senior pitcher Garrett Ericson, senior catcher Brent Green, junior first baseman Collin Killgo and senior outfielder Tyler Malone were selected. Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said their first team selections are a result of the success they had.

"Any time you have four of the nine defensive positions, you are going to be successful," Snelgrooves said. "I couldn't be happier for those eight guys. They deserve any award they receive. They are all very deserving."

Ericson also earned first team selections in football and basketball. The senior said it's an honor.

"It was kind of a surprise but I'm excited," Ericson said. "I'm honored to be recognized. I kind of didn't see the day coming. I played all four years and to get recognized in all three sports is a good way to go out."

Green said the selection was icing on the cake for him. "I had a blast playing catch this year and I enjoyed



Snelgrooves



Ericson



Green



Killgo

sophomore utility player Tyler Powell earned second team selections.

Killgo said they had a good season and is looking forward to next year.

"We did pretty good and all of us have our confidence up," Killgo said. "Hopefully we will all make first team next year."

The Harvesters went 13-16 and 5-4 in district qualifying for the bi-district round.



Malone

every minute of it," Green said. "Making first team All-District just makes it all better."

Malone said he was thrilled about his selection. "It's good to get recognized for my pitching," Malone. "I don't think my pitching was recognized enough. All in all had a good season all around."

Killgo said he was not surprised about his selection.

"I feel pretty good," Killgo said. "I thought I was going to get it."

Junior outfielder Cole Engle, junior third baseman Jared Lusk, sophomore shortstop James Thompson and player Tyler Powell earned second

Mavericks look to gain 3-1 advantage

OKLAHOMA CITY The Oklahoma City Thunder are trying to use the same formula as the Dallas Mavericks to even up the Western Conference finals. Get angry and get a win.

After claiming home-court advantage with a win in Dallas in Game 2, the Thunder got flattened in the first quarter of Game 3 and gave it right back. They fell into a humbling 23-point hole in the first 14 minutes on their home floor, and never could climb their way out of it.

"You lose a home game, you have to be angry," All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook said Sunday. "You got to take care of home court."

Dallas used exactly that approach after losing at the American Airlines Center in Game 2 and yielding home-court advantage. The Mavericks intensified their defense, building a 35-12 lead in the first 2 minutes of the second quarter, then turning away a late rally by Oklahoma City for a 93-87 win.

The Mavs lead 2-1 heading into Game 4 tonight in Oklahoma City.

"If you think about it, this is a must-win at the end of the day," Thunder guard Daequan Cook said. "If we win tomorrow, it's a three-game series. Two of the three games are in Dallas, so you want to take advantage of this opportunity to win at home tomorrow night and hopefully

go to Dallas and win one, too."

After yielding only 88.3 points per game through the first two rounds, Dallas had allowed the Thunder to average 109 in the first two games. Coach Rick Carlisle said he thought the Mavs might have gotten out of their defensive habits because of Oklahoma City transition-based, perimeter-oriented offense.

"We got to play with a certain edge. We didn't do that at home," Carlisle said. "We were able to recapture it in Game 3, and now we got to keep it with us going forward."

"It's hard with the emotional ebbs and flows of a series," he added. "It's hard to win and not have a let-down."

A day after suggesting that Oklahoma City defense against Dirk Nowitzki was stretching the rules and "the line may be crossed at times," Carlisle took a step back from those comments. He said Sunday he didn't want to get into "what legal or not legal" and instead said the Mavericks must put Nowitzki in better positions to succeed against Nick Collison.

"He's a hell of a player and he's making a hell of an effort, and we got to make some adjustments to make it tougher for him," Carlisle said.

Nowitzki production has been shrinking throughout the series. He gone from

making 24 of 24 from the foul line and scoring 48 points in Game 1 to earning only three free throws one of them after a technical foul and managing only 18 points in Game 3.

"They were physical. Trying to drive, there was really not much being called for me," Nowitzki said. "I think I adjusted a little bit and had to shoot it off the dribble and not get all the way to the basket. I think that worked."

Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said he didn't think that either team necessarily benefited from the game being called tightly or loosely. After all, Dallas won when Nowitzki was living at the foul line and when Collison kept him from getting there until the Thunder had to foul him while trailing in the final minute.

"(Collison) fights every possession," Brooks said. "He tries his best every possession, and Dirk is one of the best players at that position ever. That probably the toughest person to guard in this league because he has such a great offensive game and he does so many things."

"Nick plays him well because his effort is always there, he doesn't give him a lot of room, doesn't give him angles as much."

Oklahoma City superstar, Kevin Durant, was buying into the angry talk after he was limited to 22 points on 7-for-22 shooting, including 0 for 8 from

3-point range.

"That's how he thinks. If he doesn't play well, he wants to play," Brooks said. "I mean, he would go back-to-back the same night. That's the way he's wired. He's wired to always play well and if he doesn't, he's disappointed in himself."

In Game 4, Brooks wants Durant and the rest of the Thunder to get aggressive from the start.

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Be sure to ask about our Brown Bag Specials. They are the perfect lunch when you are headed out of town for the day.