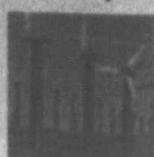
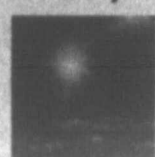







### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
		
High 41 Low 17	High 47 Low 23	High 51 Low 26

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 41. Wind chill values between zero and 10. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 17. Wind chill values between 8 and 13. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 47. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 26. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

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**CAJUN DINNER** by PHS Softball Booster Club. Tues. Jan 31, 5-7pm @ PHS Commons. Jambalaya, Etouffee', Gumbo, Shrimp & Bowtie Pasta, Bread Pudding, All You Can Eat \$20/ticket. Call 669-2232, 663-1365 for tickets.

**FIRST BAPTIST Church** of Pampa is now on Pampa's CableOne Channel 8. Sunday 11:00 am and 6:00 pm services.

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## Obituaries

### Lonnie Edward Kotara, 94

Lonnie Edward Kotara, 94, passed away January 7, 2012 in Athens, where he had resided since 2005 with his son, Ronald Kotara.

He was born February 6, 1917, in White Deer, to Edward and Gertrude Kotara. Lonnie graduated from White Deer High School where he played football and then worked on the family farm until he joined the Army in 1942, serving as a medic in the American and Asiatic Pacific theaters until he was discharged in January, 1946. He married La Verne Austin on leave in 1942, and they resided in Pampa after his military service. Lonnie worked in the water well business until his retirement.

Lonnie was the quintessential story teller. He entertained his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and others with his many stories based on his experiences and world view, amazing everyone with his vivid and colorful recollections of events from long ago and his sense of humor about the many challenges he had lived through and overcame. He was an avid sports fan. The Texas Rangers Baseball team was always on his mind as were the horse racing exploits of his son, Ronnie.

Lonnie was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Henry and Gertrude Szeapanik Kotara; his wife of 62 years, La Verne Austin Kotara; great-grandson, Allen Harlton Sheffield; brother, Conrad Kotara; sisters, Proxie Hendricks and husband Otho, Severin Jones, and Lillian Kotara.

Survivors include his sister, Dallen Romack (Joe); two sisters-in-law, Christine Austin Waters and Frances Kotara; daughter, Sherrian Batson-Hill (Steve) of Angleton; sons, Ronald Kotara of Athens, Larry Kotara (Kitten) of Lubbock, and Gary Kotara of Pampa, as well as seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2012, at Memory Gardens Chapel of Peace, 2215 North Price Road, Pampa, TX 79065.

Prayers will be said for Lonnie in a mass on January 13, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in White Deer.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that a donation be made to the Wounded Warrior Project; [www.woundedwarriorproject.org/](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/); Wounded Warrior Project, 4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, Jacksonville, FL 32256

### Harriet LaFern Smiley, 62

Harriet LaFern Smiley, 62, died January 10, 2012, in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, January 13, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Pastor Ronnie Goode, associate pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church, officiating.

Burial will be at Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Smiley was born April 22, 1949, in Pampa where she had lived most of her life. She loved spending time with her family and friends. She was known as "Mom" to many and was always willing to help. Harriet valued education and was pursuing her teaching degree throughout her illness. She was a master dog groomer and owned her own business for years. She had a passion for animals and gardening. Harriet's motto was "always do a good job or don't do it at all." Her laugh was unmistakable and contagious, and she will be missed by all.

Survivors include two daughters, Rachel Hill and husband Richie of Pampa and Anna Rutledge of Bonham; a brother, John Dulaney and wife Jeri of Houston; husband, Gary Smiley of Pampa; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Clea Dulaney; and a nephew, John Wayne Dulaney.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Fellowship Church, 2225 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065, or St. Matthew's Episcopal School, 727 W. Browning, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



Kotara

### Mildred Lillian Cooper, 95

Mildred Lillian Cooper, 95, died January 9, 2012, in Fort Worth.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Cooper was born May 6, 1916, in Wilbarger County. She had been a resident of Pampa since she was twelve years of age, and she was a graduate of Pampa High School. She married J.L. Cooper on July 16, 1935, in Wichita Falls. He preceded her in death in 1990. She was a member of Central Baptist Church. She was a quiet, but strong woman forged by the depression era, who watched her husband go to the Pacific in World War II and raised a family during the expansion of the Panhandle oil field industry. She was a creator of beautiful prize-winning yard floral displays and of colorful, intricate crochet. In her later years she became an avid Texas Rangers fan and looked forward to every game.

Survivors include a son, Bobby Mack Cooper and wife Barbara of Pampa; a daughter, Sandra Lake and husband Ray of Fort Worth; six grandchildren, Debbie Amaral and husband Tom of Fallon, Nev., Kathy Mills also of Fallon, Scott Cooper and wife Sandra of Wellington, Lannie Lake of Burleson, Dannie Lake of Amarillo, and Robert Lake and wife Doris of Fort Worth; 21 great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren. Mildred was preceded in death by two great-grandsons, Michael Lake and Dustin Cooper.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

### Johnna Kay Birkes, 45

AMARILLO—Johnna Kay Birkes, 45, died January 10, 2012, in Amarillo, following a brief illness.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 14, 2012, at Polk Street United Methodist Church, with John Curry of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Johnna was born January 29, 1966, in Crosbyton. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Johnnie and Barbara Brown.

Johnna graduated from Plains High School in 1984. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Tech University in 1987 and her Master's degree from Texas A&M in 2004 where she graduated with honors.

Johnna loved the theater and was in numerous plays throughout her high school and college years. She was very creative and enjoyed refurbishing old things. Johnna was an avid reader and encouraged her children and students to embrace a love for reading.

Johnna was a member of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Johnna and her husband, Dean, moved with their three children to Amarillo in 2005 where Johnna worked as an educational consultant at Region 16, assistant principal for Randall High School and Greenways Intermediate School and, most recently, principal for River Road High School. Johnna touched the lives of many as her passion for education was evident to all who knew her.

Johnna loved her family and is survived by her husband, Dean; her daughter, Lexi Summers; sons, Jake and Andy; her father-in-law, Wallace Birkes of Pampa; two sisters, Connie Fletcher and her husband, Bruce, of Sag Angelo, and Sue Baker and her husband, Tom, of College Station; half-sister, Judy Bryant of Dallas; sister-in-law, Cheryl Smith and her husband Mike, of New Braunfels; nieces, Kristy Dexter, D'Lee Fletcher and Stephanie Honsberger, nephews, Luke Fletcher, Aaron Baker, Lane Baker, Landon Baker, Travis Smith, and Clay Smith, and many great nieces and nephews.

The family suggests donations be made to the benefit account that has been set up in Johnna Birkes name at Amarillo National Bank. Checks can be mailed to Amarillo National Bank, P.O. Box 1, Amarillo, TX 79105, payable to: Benefit of Johnna Birkes. Donations can also be made to: Johnna Birkes Scholarship Fund, Attn: Lori Vickers, 9500 US Hwy. 287N, Amarillo, TX, 79108.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).



Birkes



Smiley

## For the record

cont. from Tues.

### Sheriff's Office

Amador Leal, 57, was ar-

rested by deputies on a jail sentence.

Todd St. Louis, 35, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

Trent Logan Murray, 18, was arrested by police for failure to signal a lane change and failure to stop for a school bus.

**Saturday, January 7**  
Amber Sky Bradford, 21, was arrested by police for theft under \$50 and capias pro fine times one.

Patricia Ramirez, 33, was arrested by deputies for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ronald Wolhford, 48, was arrested by police for public intoxication.

Marcos Villarresal, 20, was arrested by police for public intoxication and consumption of alcohol by a minor.

**Sunday, January 8**  
Ivan Santillana, 25, was

arrested by police for assault causing bodily injury.

Andrea Collin Shelley, 33, was arrested by deputies on capias pro fine regarding no valid driver's license, failure to appear in court and issuance of a bad check.

...

### Police Department

The Pampa Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Tuesday, January 10 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 19 traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents reported 13 animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Pampa Fire Department responded to four medical calls.

**Monday, January 9**  
Accidents occurred at the

intersection of Cuyler and Foster and the intersection of 23rd and Perryton.

Suspicious persons were reported at the 300 block of East Browning and the 1000 block of North Mary Ellen.

Harassment was reported.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1200 block of East Darby.

A domestic disturbance occurred at Hobart and Sierra.

Forgery was reported.

Thefts occurred at the 1300 block of North Coffee and the 100 block of North Somerville.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 500 block of North Frost, the 1200 block of East Foster and the 100 block of West 30th.

A burglary of a motor vehicle occurred at the 1000 block of South Neel.



# MORNINGRUSH

## Abortion law in limbo

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals may have ruled that Texas can implement a new abortion law, but that doesn't mean the law will be enforced anytime soon.

The law requires doctors to conduct a sonogram before performing an abortion, make the image viewable, play the fetal heartbeat and describe the fetus.

Doctors have challenged the law. At issue is how much the state can control what a doctor tells their patient. The law's supporters say it is necessary to make sure a woman fully understands what an abortion entails.

The appeals court said the law can go into effect Jan. 31, unless the doctors appeal. The judge hearing the case has scheduled arguments for Jan. 20. If he determines the law is unconstitutional, the law will remain on hold.

## Mistrial in deer antler dispute

FORT WORTH (AP) — A mistrial has been declared in the official oppression trial of two former North Texas deputies who allegedly admired and then took some deer antlers a collector found in a park.

A judge in Fort Worth barred attorneys in the trial of William E. Fox Jr. and George "Tom" Wood from mentioning the two were dismissed as deputy marshals after the 2010 incident. The judge declared a mistrial Tuesday after a witness referred to the firing.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports collector Anthony Brown considers the shed antlers worthy of trophy status.

Brown testified the deputies gave "excuses" about needing to have the rack studied, then did him a "favor" by not citing him for illegally driving his four-wheeler nearby.

The defense challenged where the antlers, which jurors examined Tuesday, were found.

## Widow: Body not my husband

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — A woman whose husband was presumably killed on a lake on the Texas-Mexico border says she's sad that remains found at the lake recently are not those of her husband.

Tiffany Hartley says her husband, David, was shot in the head on Falcon Lake on Sept. 30, 2010, when they were using personal watercraft.

She told KUSA-TV in Denver on Monday that test results from the Mexican government show clothing on a human skeleton found at the lake recently don't match what her husband was wearing, and the skull does not have a bullet wound.

Her husband was 6 feet tall. The skeleton was 5 feet 10 inches. The legs were bound together and it was partially clothed.

Tiffany Hartley now lives in La Salle, Colo.

## San Antonio strikes solar deal

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — OCI Solar Power is moving its headquarters to San Antonio and is partnering with the city for a solar project that will power an estimated 80,000 homes.

CPS Energy announced the deal Wednesday. The nation's largest municipally owned utility said the partnership with OCI will bring solar manufacturing plants to San Antonio and more than 800 new jobs.

The deal calls for a 25-year purchased power agreement to provide 400 megawatts of solar energy.

OCI Solar Power was formed in 2009 and is currently based in Atlanta. Its parent company is South Korea-based OCI Co., a chemical company.

Construction of the first solar facility in San Antonio is expected to begin in 2013.

## Mother calls FBI on son

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas-area bank robber whose mother identified him to the FBI faces up to 20 years in prison for three holdups last year.

Prosecutors say 19-year-old Anthony Blue of Garland pleaded guilty Tuesday in Dallas to three counts of bank robbery.

Sentencing has been set for April 9 for Blue, who was captured after his mother called the FBI to say she believed her son robbed two banks last June 14.

Investigators say Blue held up State Bank of Texas in Garland, then robbed Community Bank in Rockwall by using the same note demanding cash.

Authorities say Blue robbed American Nation Bank in Quinlan last July 8 using a different note.

## Decapitated bodies left at mall

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexico City prosecutor's office says two decapitated bodies were found inside a burning car at the entrance to a posh Mexico City shopping mall.

A prosecutor's statement says the heads and a threatening message were dumped nearby.

Local media published images of the charred car at an entrance to the Santa Fe shopping mall early Wednesday. They report that a note left with the heads was signed by the drug gang "Mano con Ojos," or "Hand with Eyes."

The spokesman was not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

Santa Fe is a manicured bubble of modern, heavily secured high-rises on the western edge of the capital. It is home to multinational corporate offices and the homes of wealthy Mexicans and foreigners.

## Eight years for lying about rape

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A woman accused of a falsely accusing a boyfriend of rape, leading to the man's murder, has been sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading "no contest" to robbery in a plea deal.

Melissa Ann Ramos was originally charged with manslaughter in the June 2007 shooting death of Nathan Ramirez. The 23-year-old woman's attorneys had asked for deferred adjudication probation.

The San Antonio Express-News reports she is the third of four people to be sentenced in the Ramirez slaying. Forty-year prison terms have been assessed convicted triggerman John McBurnett and Ramos' other boyfriend, James "Clay" Kelly, who was convicted of arranging the killing.

Still to be sentenced is John "Bubba" Rodriguez, who testified against the others.

# Perry banking on heritage in Carolina

PICKENS, S.C. (AP) — Rick Perry is pouring on the down-home charm as he seeks a campaign revival in South Carolina, betting that geographic kinship will pay off now that the GOP presidential race is finally shifting to his comfort zone.

The Texas governor has settled in for two solid weeks of campaigning ahead of the Jan. 21 primary in a state that's critical for him after he suffered a disastrous finish in Iowa and all, but skipped New Hampshire.

In the past few days, Perry has made a point of chowing down on grits, inspecting mounted animals like the kind he's shot back home, showing off his custom cowboy boots and letting his drawl hang out. His message: I'm one of you.

Perry left his son-of-the-South calling card everywhere he went one day this week as he and his wife, Anita, ducked into shops along a classic Main Street.

"Honey, what does this remind you of?" Perry asked as they stood in a clothing store that sells flannel shirts and cowboy boots and has big-game trophies on the walls.

"Home," she answered. A few doors down the couple impressed patrons at a barbecue joint by recognizing okra, a Southern specialty, on their plates.

In town after town, Perry eagerly shares that he's from tiny Paint Creek, a cotton farming outpost his dad referred to as "the big empty." The casual "yes, ma'am" and the stretched "a" in "South Carolina" sound perfectly natural as he greets possible voters. He also draws a common bond between Texas and South Carolina, whose citizen soldiers fought to help Texas gain its independence from Mexico in the 1830s.

"There wouldn't be a Texas without South Carolina," he says.

Perry's challenge is steep: He placed a distant fifth in Iowa's leadoff caucuses and didn't even bother to put up a fight in New Hampshire, where he finished last. He needs his fortunes to turn around dramatically if he has any hope of becoming the first candidate in modern nomi-

nation history to prevail in South Carolina after not winning either of the two initial contests.

Perry offered a positive outlook on the two early losses, insisting that the race for a conservative alternative to Romney remains wide open.

Just a few months ago, South Carolina looked like somewhat of a lock for this Republican candidate. He used the state to formally launch his campaign in August. His military service, states' rights message and religious conservatism seemed tailor-made for the state.

In a 60-second TV ad released Wednesday, Perry stresses his time as an Air Force pilot in the 1970s. The ad features Medal of Honor winners attesting to his character and promoting him as a capable commander in chief.

And Perry secured key backers quickly, including former state GOP Chairman Katon Dawson and House Speaker Bobby Harrell.

"He was incredibly popular. He was like a rock star," said Barry Wynn, a GOP luminary and megadonor in South Carolina who backs Perry.

Now, Wynn said, people are "searching for that story line to change back to what it was. They'd love to believe again, but there's a lot of head-scratching there."

As is the case elsewhere, Perry loyalists acknowledge that the good feeling evaporated here as he stumbled through debates and slid from his temporary perch as Mitt Romney's chief competition.

For all of Perry's efforts, Southern ties don't always matter.

Consider what hap-

pened four years ago when former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson competed here - and paved the way for victory by Arizona's John McCain.

For now, Perry is competing with former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia to be seen as the most socially conservative alternative to Romney.

Perry doesn't hide the fact he plummeted in the race after a promising start.

"God gives us what we can't give ourselves - and that's the gift of redemption," he told a breakfast crowd at a diner. "If you watched my debate performances, it's good to get a little bit of redemption every now and then, to get a second chance."

Perry hopes voters here give him that chance and

vote for him as he wields a job-creation message and Southern appeal.

The latter may be resonating. A Pickens restaurant owner was downright giddy that Perry ordered a cup of grits; she let his campaign put a Perry sign in the window.

And Glenn Brock, who runs a 54-year-old clothing store that carries the family name, got to bend the candidate's ear for a few minutes about hunting the coyote, bears, hogs and other animals on the shop's walls. He said he'll be voting for Perry a week from Saturday.

"When it was bottomed out here, I couldn't believe how much Texas was booming. They didn't even realize the recession was going on," Brock said. "If he can run the country like he did the state of Texas, the country would be a better place."

## Cinema 4

<p><b>Movies Showing</b> Friday, January 6 through Thursday, January 12</p> <p><b>Mission Impossible 3 (PG-13)</b> Fri 7:15 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15 Mon/Thu 7:15</p> <p><b>Chipwrecked (G)</b> Fri 7:00 9:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thu 7:00</p> <p><b>Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13)</b> Fri 7:30 10:00 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Thu 7:30</p> <p><b>We Bought A Zoo (PG)</b> Fri 7:15 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15 Mon/Thu 7:15</p>	<p><b>Showing Friday!</b> Friday, January 13 through Thursday, January 19</p> <p><b>War Horse (PG-13)</b> Fri 7:00 9:45 Sat 2:00 7:00 9:45 Sun 2:00 7:00 Mon/Thu 7:00</p> <p><b>Darkest Hour (PG-13)</b> Fri 7:30 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Thu 7:30</p> <p><b>Mission Impossible 4 (PG-13)</b> Fri 7:15 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15 Mon/Thu 7:15</p> <p><b>We Bought A Zoo (PG)</b> Fri 7:00 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thu 7:00</p>
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## Post-split IR directors named by Conoco

HOUSTON (AP) — ConocoPhillips on Wednesday named new investor relations directors for the companies that will be formed from its planned split this year.

Clayton Reasor will serve as investor relations vice president at Phillips 66, the oil refining company, and Ellen DeSanctis will serve in the same position for ConocoPhillips, the independent exploration and production company.

Reasor is currently the investor relations director at Conoco, and DeSanctis most recently worked in corporate communications for Petrohawk Energy.

ConocoPhillips announced the split last year. It expects to complete the separation this year.

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2012. There are 354 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 12, 1912, textile workers at the Everett Mill in Lawrence, Mass., (most of them immigrant women) walked off the job to protest wage cuts. The "Bread and Roses Strike," as it came to be known, spread to other mills in Lawrence and lasted until the following March.

### On this date:

In 1773, the first public museum in America was organized in Charleston, S.C.

In 1828, the United States and Mexico signed a Treaty of Limits defining the boundary between the two countries to be the same as the one established by an 1819 treaty between the U.S. and Spain.

In 1915, the House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, after serving out the remainder of the term of her late husband, Thaddeus.

In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that state law schools could not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race.

In 1959, Berry Gordy, Jr. founded Motown Records (originally Tamla Records) in Detroit.

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson said in his State of the Union address that the U.S. should stay in South Vietnam until Communist aggression there was ended.

In 1969, the New York Jets of the American Football League upset the Baltimore Colts of the National Football League 16-7 in Super Bowl III, played at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

In 1971, the groundbreaking situation comedy "All in the Family" premiered on CBS television.

In 2010, Haiti was struck by a magnitude-7 earthquake, killing as many as 300,000 residents and leaving over 1.5 million people homeless.

**Ten years ago:** The United States intensified its anti-terror campaign in eastern Afghanistan, dropping bombs on suspected al-Qaida and Taliban hide-outs.

**Five years ago:** Two kidnapped boys, Ben Ownby and Shawn Hornbeck, were found alive in the same suburban St. Louis apartment, four days after Ben vanished and four years after Shawn disappeared. (The boys' abductor, Michael Devlin, is serving multiple life terms for kidnapping and sexual assault.)

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama visited Tucson, Ariz., the scene of a deadly shooting rampage, where he urged Americans to refrain from partisan bickering and to embrace the idealistic vision of democracy held by 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green, the youngest of the shooting victims.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Luise Rainer is 102. Country singer Ray Price is 86. Singer Glenn Yarbrough is 82. The Amazing Kreskin is 77. Country singer William Lee Golden (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 73. Rock musician Cynthia Robinson (Sly and the Family Stone) is 68. Singer-musician George Duke is 66. Actor Anthony Andrews is 64. Movie director Wayne Wang is 63. Radio commentator Rush Limbaugh is 61. Actress Kirstie Alley is 61. Writer Walter Mosley is 60. Country singer Ricky Van Shelton is 60. Radio personality Howard Stern is 58. Rock musician Tom Ardolino (NRBQ) is 55. **Writer-HISTORY** cont. on page 5A



## Analysis: Romney's GOP critics will get more heat

CHARLES BABINGTON  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - Mitt Romney's back-to-back victories in Iowa and New Hampshire will force his weak-but-still-standing GOP rivals to make a crucial decision: Keep eviscerating the man that many see as the inevitable nominee, or temper their criticisms and dampen whatever hopes they have of overtaking him.

"President Obama wants to put free enterprise on trial. In the last few days, we have seen some desperate Republicans join forces with him," Romney said in his victory speech Tuesday night, chastising his critics while acting as though he is already the nominee. "This is such a mistake for our party and for our nation."

The former Massachusetts governor's easy win in the New Hampshire primary comes just as two of his opponents have opened the most scathing line of attack yet in the Republican contest. Seizing on Romney's record at the venture capital firm Bain Capital, they are painting him as a heartless profit-seeker who shuttered dozens of workplaces in the 1980s and '90s, laying off thousands of workers.

The attacks have delighted President Barack Obama's backers as they brace for an election focused on jobs. They planned all along to bash Romney with the Bain legacy and are happy to see Republicans get it started.

But the events have alarmed a cross section of establishment Republicans and conservative leaders who feel Romney can beat Obama next fall if he's not badly bloodied in a nominating process he has led from the start.

With New Hampshire over, the campaigning now moves to South

Carolina. It has a history of brutal, even nasty campaigning in GOP primaries. It also has a much higher unemployment rate than Iowa and New Hampshire. Both factors might make the state fertile ground for rivals to depict him as a millionaire politician who vacuumed money out of companies and tossed them aside.

"We are quickly approaching the moment when GOP leaders will announce or reaffirm their support for the front-runner and call for a civil tone in the debate so the focus can be directed toward the current officeholder," said Republican consultant Danny Diaz.

A group backing former House Speaker Newt Gingrich plans to air TV ads showing distraught people who say they lost their jobs to Bain's restructuring practices during Romney's tenure years ago. Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday likened Bain to vultures that ruin people's lives.

And former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, who finished third in New Hampshire, has taken a similar line of attack. He berated Romney for telling a breakfast group Monday: "I like being able to fire people who provide services to me."

Romney was talking about underperforming insurance companies. But his ill-timed remark played into the Bain narrative of a tycoon who doesn't mind killing jobs in the name of efficiency and profits.

The exchanges have triggered an intraparty debate about free enterprise. That debate should not be allowed to scorch the party's front-runner, Romney's allies say.

"It's a sad day in South Carolina and across this country if Republicans are talking against the free market," said South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley. "The free market is being able to hire and fire and do what you need to in terms of being a

business or a consumer."

GOP consultant Terry Holt, said, "the last 48 hours have been about skinning Romney. But he comes out of New Hampshire stronger and looking more like the nominee, not less."

New Hampshire voters, Holt said, "might have helped inoculate Romney from future Bain Capital attacks."

Gingrich may be the central player in the drama. Friends say he has every right to fume over hard-hitting attack ads that seriously damaged him in Iowa. A group backing Romney aired the ads, and Romney refused Gingrich's pleas to denounce them.

Campaigning in New Hampshire, Gingrich seemed eager to fire back. He said Bain "apparently looted the companies, left people totally unemployed and walked off with millions of dollars."

Among those condemning Gingrich's attacks were conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, a frequent Romney critic. "Newt is parroting what The New York Times is writing about Romney," Limbaugh said on a recent broadcast. "This is payback time. It drove him nuts, that series of ads that Romney's super PAC ran in Iowa, and this is the result of it."

Some veteran Republicans are urging calm. Primaries always turn rough, they say, noting that Hillary Rodham Clinton showed little mercy on Obama in 2008.

Others, however, said the pro-Gingrich group is going too far with attack ads based on a movie that rips Romney's record at Bain.

"We've seen it time and again," said Phyllis Woods, New Hampshire's Republican National committeewoman. "The Democrats tape it, preserve it and regurgitate it in their own campaigns."

## The PAMPA NEWS

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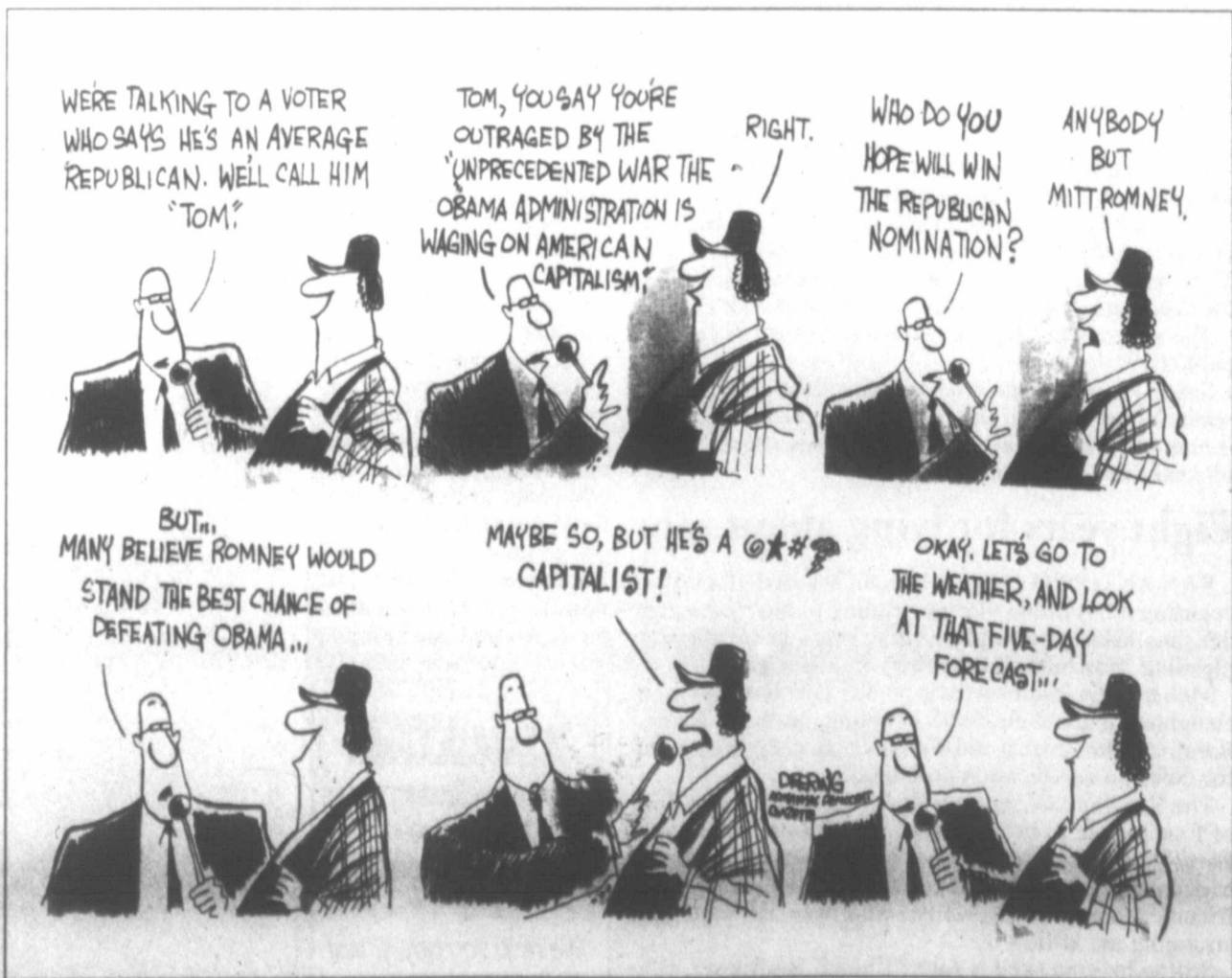
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# TransCanada exec says Asian markets an option

SEAN MURPHY  
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - If the U.S. government doesn't approve plans for the 1,700-mile Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to Texas, Canadian oil producers will look to Asian markets, a company executive said Tuesday.

Robert Jones, TransCanada Corp.'s vice president for Keystone pipelines, said that while the company prefers to ship oil from the tar sands in western Canada to Gulf Coast refineries in Texas, he acknowledged Asian markets, particularly China, are an attractive option.

"China's economy is growing at a rate of 9 to 11 percent every year, so they are very interested in buying Canadian oil," Jones said during a meeting of the Downtown Rotary at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City. "Personally, I think it makes much more sense for us to continue to develop oil in the nation and

keep it within the continent, because it benefits both countries and it's just efficient. However, if the border is shut to Canada, we will go west. We will go to Asian markets. There's no question about that."

A payroll tax bill President Barack Obama signed into law last month includes a Republican-sponsored provision that sets a Feb. 21 deadline for Obama to make a decision on whether to approve the pipeline. The project has been a politically thorny issue for Obama because it pits two key Democratic constituencies against each other - unions that support the jobs it would create and environmental groups concerned the pipeline could foul underground and surface water supplies and increase air pollution around refineries.

Meanwhile, TransCanada on Tuesday released a breakdown of the 20,000 jobs the company says the \$7 billion Keystone XL project would create in the

U.S., including 13,000 in construction and 7,000 in manufacturing.

"These are new, real U.S. jobs," TransCanada's President and CEO Russ Girling said in a statement. "Thirteen thousand Americans would be put to work constructing our Keystone XL project. Seven thousand more jobs would be created in the U.S. manufacturing sector, making the materials needed to build Keystone XL."

Opponents of the project say those figures are inflated, and a State Department report last summer said the pipeline would create up to 6,000 jobs during construction.

The project suffered a setback when Nebraska lawmakers voted to delay construction over concerns it could threaten the environmentally sensitive Sandhills region of northern Nebraska that supplies water to eight states. Jones said Tuesday the company is working closely with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to develop an alternative

corridor in that state.

"I anticipate that to happen fairly quickly though, so we can get public comment and feedback and then start acquiring the property easements that we need to get through Nebraska," Jones said.

The pipeline has enjoyed tremendous support in Oklahoma, even from independent oil producers who say the southern section of the Keystone XL that runs from the pipeline hub in Cushing to refineries in the Gulf supply at Cushing that is driving down the price of Oklahoma crude oil.

"Increasing amounts of crude oil at the Cushing pipeline hub has outpaced outgoing pipeline capacity there, forcing more oil into storage and glutting the local market," said Mike Terry, president of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association. "The result is Oklahoma Sweet crude oil has become less valuable. Today, Oklahoma Sweet trades for \$10 less (per barrel), and has traded for

as much as \$28 less, than crude oil produced on the Louisiana coast or in the North Sea."

OIPA estimates that a \$10-per-barrel price difference costs royalty owners an estimated \$1.5 million per day and costs the state about \$75 million annually in gross production and income taxes.

Gov. Mary Fallin, who visited Tuesday with Jones and other executives from Oklahoma oil and gas companies, sent a letter to Obama asking him to immediately approve the Keystone XL project.

"The pipeline represents an enormous and undeniable opportunity for job-creation and economic stimulus at a time when the nation is sorely in need of both," Fallin wrote. "The creation of the pipeline will also help to

ensure our nation's future energy needs are met with resources from politically stable regions of the world right here in North America."

The next phase of the Keystone XL project is to build the section from Cushing to the Gulf Coast, and TransCanada already has secured 99 percent of the rights of way in Oklahoma, Jones said.

Three construction crews of about 700 workers each would start building at three locations "and literally march about 200 miles until they were complete," he said.

Even though the company has the necessary permits needed to start construction in Oklahoma and Texas, Jones said work on that part of the project cannot begin until all a federal permit are issued.

## Valero won't appeal tax break rejection

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Valero Energy Corp. will not appeal the Texas environmental agency's rejection of its request for a large tax break and potential \$92 million refund at six Texas refineries, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

The San Antonio-based energy giant had hoped for a tax exemption for equipment installed at the refineries to remove sulfur dioxide from crude oil. However, the company decided not to appeal the rejection of its request by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Valero spokesman Bill Day said.

Valero had no comment on its decision, he said. Valero had until Tuesday

to appeal the TCEQ rejection of requests Valero first made in 2007. Valero had argued that the hydrotreater equipment should be exempt because they help reduce pollution, and Texas grants tax breaks to companies that install pollution-reducing equipment at its plants. The rule is designed to encourage them to make expensive upgrades at old, dirty plants and refineries.

The hydrotreaters were installed after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2006 began requiring refineries to remove sulfur dioxide from crude oil.

In rejecting Valero's initial request, the TCEQ stated the pollution reductions were being enjoyed

in other regions, not where the refineries are located. Valero appealed and the commissioners asked the agency's staff to consider a partial rejection. That, too, the TCEQ rejected.

Valero was among the nation's largest oil refineries seeking huge tax refunds that could cause school districts and local governments across Texas to return tens of millions of dollars.

Consequently, Texas school district and municipal officials had long opposed the requests. School districts were espe-

cially concerned because if a refund had been granted it would have come on the heels of a \$4 billion cut in state funding to public schools.

The TCEQ, a three-member commission appointed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry, is evaluating 16 refund requests that could add up to more than \$135 million, according to county tax data and application documents analyzed by The Associated Press. If the commission granted all requests, at least 12 other refineries that have not

## History

cont. from page 5A

producer-director John Lasseter is 55. Broadcast journalist Christiane Amanpour is 54. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 52. Actor Oliver Platt is 52. Basketball Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins is 52. Actor Olivier Martinez is 46. Rapper TBird (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 45. Model Vendela is 45. Actress Farrah Fokke is 44. Actress Rachael Harris is 44. Rock singer Zack de la Rocha is 42. Rapper Raekwon (Wu Tang Clan) is 42. Singer Dan Haseltine (Jars of Clay) is 39. Rock musician Matt Wong (Reel Big Fish) is 39. Singer Melanie Chisholm (Spice Girls) is 38. Contemporary Christian singer Jeremy Camp is 34. Rhythm-and-blues singer Amerie is 32. Actress Naya Rivera is 25. Actor Will Rothhaar is 25. Actor Andrew Lawrence is 24.

**Thought for Today:** "Necessity does the work of courage." - Nicholas Murray Butler, American educator (1862-1947).

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# Thousands killed in Mexico due to ongoing drug violence

## More than 47,000 victims in five years, says gov't

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two decapitated bodies were found inside a burning SUV early Wednesday at the entrance to one of Mexico's most luxurious malls, feeding fears drug violence is infiltrating privileged realms previously thought safe.

Police recovered the mutilated bodies before dawn off a toll highway at a shopping mall entrance in the heart of the Santa Fe district that's a haven for international corporations, diplomats and the wealthy. The heads and a threatening message were dumped a few yards away, Mexico City prosecutors said in a statement.

Hours later, the government released a drug war body count recording more than 47,000 victims in five years, echoing independent death tolls tabulated by Mexican media.

Local media published images of the charred car and reported that a note written on hot pink paper was signed by the drug gang Mano con Ojos, or Hand with Eyes.

The victims, a man and a woman in their 30s, had not been identified, prosecutors said. They said the SUV with license plates from neighboring Mexico state had been stolen.

Mexico's sprawling capital has been something of a haven from the brutal cartel violence that has claimed thousands of lives along the U.S. border and in outlying states. But gangs have been fighting over an increasingly lucrative local drug market for more than a year, mainly in the capital's working class outer neighborhoods and suburbs.

The Santa Fe district has been spared much of that violence and managed to maintain its reputation as a manicured bubble built atop a former landfill on the western edge of Mexico City.

The district houses the Mexican headquarters of major corporations, Hewlett Packard and IBM among them, and Iberoamerican University, one of Mexico's top private schools. Modern, heavily guarded high-rises where wealthy Mexicans and foreigners live dot the hilly landscape.

The mall where the charred car was found is one of the country's largest and most glamorous, housing high-end retailers such as Coach, Prada, Hugo Boss, Saks Fifth Avenue and Mexican department store Palacio de Hierro (Iron Palace).

But as the fight among splintering drug cartels intensifies, brazen attackers have

reached even into the country's most guarded districts.

Erubiel Tirado, a security expert who teaches at Iberoamerican University, said the attack shows the government's law enforcement strategy has not dissuaded increasingly brutal drug traffickers.

"We are talking about an area that is under 24-hour surveillance by police and private security and supposedly one of the safest in the capital and in the country, and yet they can act with impunity," Tirado said.

Roberto Herrera, a 52-year-old salesman for a bottling company headquartered in a building across the street from the mall, wasn't surprised by the news.

"We have lived with this situation for a while and we are no longer shocked because this is what's been happening in Veracruz, Acapulco and Monterrey," said Herrera, who was having lunch with a group of co-workers a T.G.I. Friday's restaurant inside the mall.

In October, the Manos con Ojos gang claimed responsibility for leaving two severed heads on a street across from the nation's top military base in Mexico City.

The gang was once part of the Beltran Leyva drug cartel, and authorities say it has killed dozens while trying to forcefully recruit local drug dealers to its ranks.

Nationwide, 47,515 drug-related killings occurred from December 2006, when President Felipe Calderon deployed thousands of troops to drug hot spots, through September 2011, the Attorney General's Office said Wednesday.

Drug-related killings rose 11 percent in the first nine months of 2011, when 12,903 people were killed, compared to 11,583 in the same period of 2010, the office said.

The figures indicate that three-quarters of all homicides in Mexico are now linked to the drug war.

The Attorney General's Office found one small consolation: "It's the first year (since 2006) that the homicide rate increase has been lower compared to the previous year's."

There was a 70 percent jump in drug-related killings for the same nine-month period of 2010 compared to January-September 2009, when 6,815 deaths were recorded.

Prosecutors said the vast majority of last year's killings occurred in eight of Mexico's 32 states.

# New year, New York, new hope

## Dog Talk with Uncle Matty



MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS  
Creator's Syndicate

to abuse an animal. If I kick my Chihuahua and beat it, I'm getting arrested, so that animal has rights. If they have criminal rights, why not put rights on a damaged leg or a heart condition? If we're not equating (a pet) to a human being, and we're not equating it to a table, there has to be something in the middle."

One New York City resident is kicking off 2012 with a weighty goal: to change the legal status of pets from "property" to "living souls."

Elena Zakharova has filed a civil suit in New York against the Upper East Side pet store that sold her a Brussels Griffon puppy, now named Umka. According to the suit, "Umka suffers a disorder causing her pain, her legs hurt, she cries when she is in pain, she drags herself with her front paws, she cannot run like other puppies."

MSNBC reports that "Zakharova is seeking compensation for past and upcoming surgeries and other medical treatment involved with Umka, which totals at least \$8,000. She also wants a full return of the dog's sale price plus interest since the date of purchase in February of last year."

But the suit is not about the money, at least not in the obvious sense. Zakharova's attorney, Susan Chana Lask, says her client intends to donate any monetary awards to an animal welfare organization. The real target of this lawsuit? Puppy mills.

According to MSNBC, "The suit seeks to hold the store liable for the dog's pain and suffering, as well as its medical bills, as if it were a person rather than an inanimate product."

And Lask argues, "It's already a felony

And that "something in the middle," that new legal status, could be just the thing to scare pet store owners into thinking long and hard before buying from puppy mills. The fear of being dragged into court and getting hammered with substantial damages from lawsuits could be the impetus for real change in an industry for which change is long overdue.

Sandra DeFeo, executive director of The Humane Society of New York, says, "I don't know where this case is going to go, but it's good that it brings awareness that pets are not just a commodity and that we have to take this seriously. ... We feel that animals are living, breathing beings, not a piece of furniture."

A dog isn't a lamp. Return policies and "lemon laws" aren't the answer. Most people fully bond with their new dog in days if not hours, and returning a dog to a pet store typically means the dog will be put down.

Lask, an animal lover herself, has been waiting for just the right time to bring this suit and wage this war. Millions of dogs and dog lovers are hoping 2012 is their year.

Woof!

*Dog trainer Matthew "Uncle Matty" Margolis is co-author of 18 books about dogs, a behaviorist, a popular radio and television guest, and host of the PBS series "WOOF! It's a Dog's Life!"*



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# Business

## Pampa Regional welcomes OB/GYN Romeo to medical staff

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
mbryant@thepampanews.com

Dr. Bruno Romeo, obstetrician/gynecologist, has joined the staff at Pampa Regional Medical Center this month.

Romeo went to medical school in Columbia, and in 2011 completed his residency program at the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in New Jersey.

Romeo said that he became interested in the medical profession at an early age.

"Since I was a kid, I always wanted to be a physician, and the main reason was, when I was a kid, I was really curious about the way the body works, the way the body functions, how it gets sick," he said. "It was just curiosity. Then as I got older, it became an interest to help, because what I learned is life is really complicated. But I learned that the one thing you can give to people in order to make things better is their health."

Romeo was attracted to different areas of medicine, and wanted to find a specialization that utilized them all.

"An OB/GYN (specialization) is the only one that gives you a combination of everything, because you



Romeo

of the baby, and you have the baby in your hands, and then at that same moment, you look at the eyes of mom, and there is for a milisecond this moment that is very particular, and it's really hard to describe what you feel in that moment. That's one of the reasons I did OB/GYN, because there is nothing like that emotion. There is nothing that compares to that. It's a moment of connection. It's a moment that you're really helping somebody, and at the same time, you're bringing a new life, so it's very rewarding."

For Romeo, moving to a rural community like Pampa was part of a commitment to nurturing rela-

tionships with his new patients.

"The reality is that when you graduate, going to work in the big cities, you're just going to be another brick in the wall, as opposed to if you go to a smaller town," he said. "In a smaller town, you can be yourself. You can actually make a difference. People know you're there, people know you're involved in the community, and then you know that they can count on you, and that's another reason you get into OB/GYN. OB/GYN is a long-term relationship with your patients. You start with the prenatal care of babies, and then you continue the care of this mother throughout their lives, so you want to make a difference...In a small town, you can build long term relationships with all of your patients. They get to know you, you know them, and you're there for them."

Getting started practicing as an OB/GYN has been a thrill for Romeo.

"It's very exciting, because you study for so long, and you finally get to the point that you are going to do what you really wanted to do," he said. "Finally, you're going to build these relationships with your patients, you're going to get to know our community, their needs, and finally be able to help them."

## Economy ended '11 with strongest weeks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The final weeks of 2011 were among the economy's strongest as Americans shopped and traveled more, ending the year with a shot of optimism for 2012.

That's the bright picture the Federal Reserve sketched in a survey released Wednesday. It said all but one of its 12 banking districts experienced some growth from late November through the end of the year.

Some sectors of the economy, notably housing, remain weak, the Fed said. But consumers spent more freely. Factories made more goods. Americans stepped up travel. And the auto industry enjoyed its best stretch of the year.

Economists noted greater confidence in the tone of the report. For example, the central bank described auto manufacturing as "vibrant" in several districts. Consumer spending was deemed "robust" in the Dallas region.

"It has been quite a while since we have seen the Fed use words like vibrant and robust to describe any part of the economy," said Brian Bethune, an economics professor at Amherst College. "I think one of the things driving the stronger language is that things are better than the Fed had been expecting."

The one district that didn't experience growth was Richmond, Va., although even there, the Fed said economic activity either "flattened or improved slightly."

The report comes just six months after the economy nearly stalled under the weight of high food and gas prices and supply disruptions from Japan that slowed U.S. manufacturing.

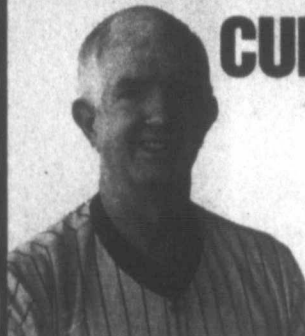
The economy and the job market have both improved since then. And December may end up being the strongest month of 2011. Employers added 200,000 jobs. And the unemployment rate fell to 8.5 percent — the lowest rate in nearly three years.

"The Fed's report Wednesday confirms what everyone else has been seeing in the economic data from retail sales to auto sales and manufacturing — activity is improving," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Most of the Fed's districts reported holiday sales increased over last year. In particular, New York and Dallas' districts reported healthy gains. Boston, New York and Minneapolis reported exceptional growth in online sales.

Consumers are spending more on cars and travel, the survey noted. Auto sales in the Atlanta area were the best sales in more than two years. Boston, New York, Richmond and Atlanta experienced gains in tourism from a year ago. In Boston alone, businesses expect double-digit growth in hotel revenue in 2012.


U.S. manufacturing continued to lift the economy, particularly in industries that make heavy equipment and steel. That has helped boost energy, farming and auto manufacturing sectors, the report said.



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# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



1-12  
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www.familycircus.com  
By artist JEFF KEANE

"Grandma, if you're thinking of buying me a treat, it can be our little secret."

## Non Sequitur



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## Nest Heads



ALLEN 1/12

## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Friday, Jan. 13, 2012:

You are very energetic this year. Foreigners, higher education and a willingness to grow mark the next 12 months. A foreigner also could play a significant role, and/or you could travel, making a long-desired trip. Communication flourishes. Often you seem to know who is calling before you even pick up the phone. If you are single, you will put yourself out there more, increasing your chances of meeting Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, this year presents many different opportunities to become even closer. Don't worry about an occasional quarrel. VIRGO points to greater intellectualism.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
★★★★ Being detail-oriented is excellent, but don't get so involved that you lose sight of your major interest and direction. Discussions within your circle of friends help solidify ideas and encourage opening up to yet another view. Tonight: Easy works.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★★ Consider testing the waters before you leap in. You might feel or hope a situation or person is one way, only to discover just the opposite or find some tragic flaw weaving into the scenario. The Bull is known for its patience. Use that quality with good timing. Resist a snap judgment. Tonight: Let your hair down.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★ Consider what is going on behind the scenes or with an important friend or loved one. A thread of what is hidden is about to rear its ugly head. Though you might not want this information, do use it and discover the power of reality. Drop the rose-colored glasses. Tonight: Invite a friend to join you.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★ Start moving in a new direction. You could be baffled by what is going on. Test the waters to separate fact from misinformation. Base plans on reality, and success becomes more likely. Weaving through an illusion could result in failure. Tonight: Accept an invitation to join your friends.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★ Be aware of your need to possess or be in control. Your imagination takes you in many different directions to achieve the end goal. Let go of that need — at least this once — and see what people do without your push. Tonight: Enjoy, but do remember your budget.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★★★ You seem to have more steam and energy than usual. Others sense this energy. Don't be surprised by another person's efforts to touch base with you. Confusion could affect a work or personal matter. Slow down and get feedback. Tonight: All smiles.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★ In order to understand the dynamics around you, slow down and observe more. Also understand that your mind could be filtering the information that comes forward. Curb a knee-jerk reaction. Given time, you will see the situation differently. Tonight: Play it low-key.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★★ Don't hesitate to take the lead; others will follow. Unfortunately, you could be witness to some deluded thinking within your immediate circle. One person, probably male, could push the envelope. Tonight: Where your friends are.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★★ You might send mixed messages without intending to. Pressure comes from a public commitment or professional matter. At the same time, don't delude yourself about a personal issue. You might not be content in the long run. Tonight: Could go to the wee hours.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★★ Keep reaching out for more information and/or a key person at a distance. You are able to make an imprint by taking a conversation to another level. Make sure your audience follows as well — if you want to be effective. Tonight: Off to the movies or listening to music.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★★ You have the ability to make a difference when dealing with individuals. If you surround yourself with too many people, your uniqueness melts into the group. A partner or associate takes a strong stand. Follow through on a strong instinctive reaction. Tonight: Togetherness.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★★ Defer to others, knowing full well you can reverse courses if you want to. If someone feels that strongly about a key issue, this person needs to see what happens when he or she takes the position behind the steering wheel. Tonight: Sort through the possibilities. The more people, the merrier.

## Tundra



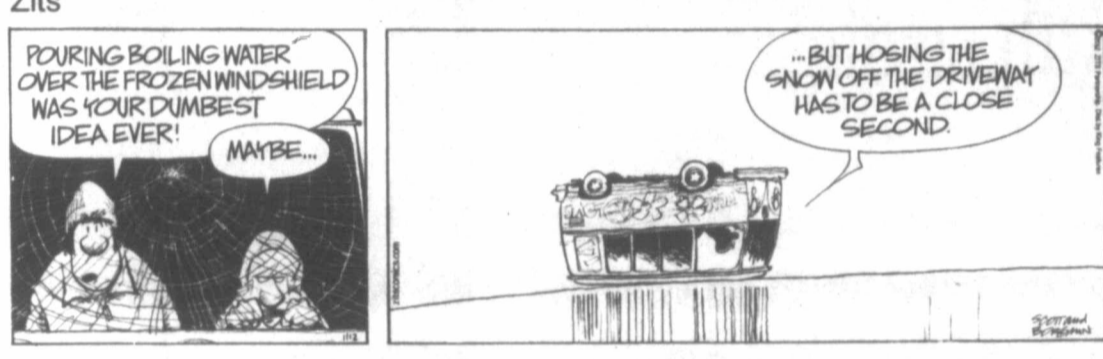
## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grim



## Zits



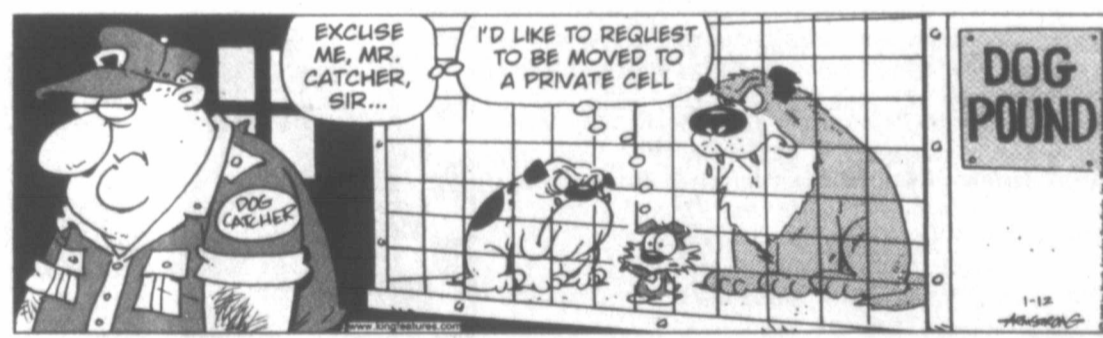
## Garfield



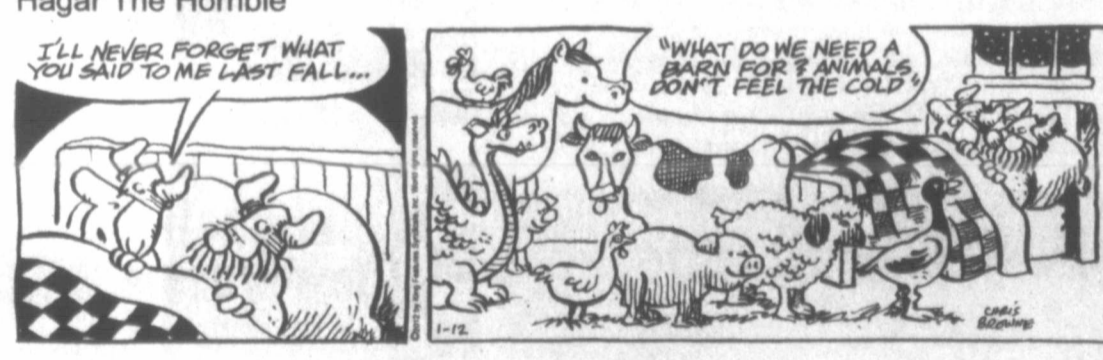
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie





# Sports

## PHS girls soccer hopes to reach postseason in 2012



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

**Senior Meganne Fraser** kicks the ball during a passing drill Wednesday. The Lady Harvesters open the season with the Frenship Tournament Friday.

**ANDREW GLOVER**  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters soccer team will enter 2012 under new leadership with Libby Garza taking over for John True as head coach. With a new coach comes a new focus: Chemistry.

"Coach True did an amazing job on the soccer side," Garza said. "We are really going to focus on chemistry and team stuff this year."

"The team is closer this year," senior Ellen Cambern said. "We've done a lot of team bonding."

Pampa hopes its stronger bond will result in a trip to the playoffs.

Garza, who was an assistant coach the last three seasons, inherits a team that only won one game and was shut out in 12 of 16 games. The three-year assistant said she is excited about taking the reins.

"This is a really good group of girls," Garza said. "They deserve the best and deserve attention."

Garza is also the head volleyball coach and admitted it's been a challenge managing both.

"Trying to end volleyball and get soccer started, being at two places at once is going to be tough," Garza said. "My assistant coach (David) Willis has done a great job of holding down the fort until I got here. It's been tough but these girls



**Garza**



**Cambren**

are worth it."

Also new to the staff Willis, who was also an assistant coach on the football team. Along with the changes in leadership, Pampa will be facing new opponents. The Lady Harvesters open the season Friday in the Frenship Tournament. On January 24, the Lady Harvesters host Lubbock High. Dumas is joining Pampa's district.

Garza said she wanted to have her girls compete in games they would feel good about.

"In the past we have gone to the Dallas area," Garza said. "Soccer down there is bigger than in the Panhandle. ... Confidence is huge in sports. You don't have confidence you aren't going to go anywhere."

Senior Meganne Fraser said it will be fun to see different teams.

"It will be interesting because we won't know what to expect," Fraser said. "We'll just have to play hard."

The Lady Harvesters return an experienced team that only graduated three last season. Cambern said it's a nice advantage.

"We've played together for several years," Cambern said. "We know how to work with each other."

Pampa scrimmaged at Borger Monday. Garza said she is seeing improvement.

"They working the ball really well up and down the field," Garza said. "Our passes are a lot better. Our vision of the field is better. We are talking a lot better."

Fraser said playoffs is possible for this team if they execute.

"We have to want it," Fraser said.

Garza said there is no reason why this team can't compete for playoffs.

"Borger lost a really good player," Garza said. "Caprock is good with 14 seniors. Canyon and Randall are always good. I fully expect to make playoffs."

## UNWELCOME MAT

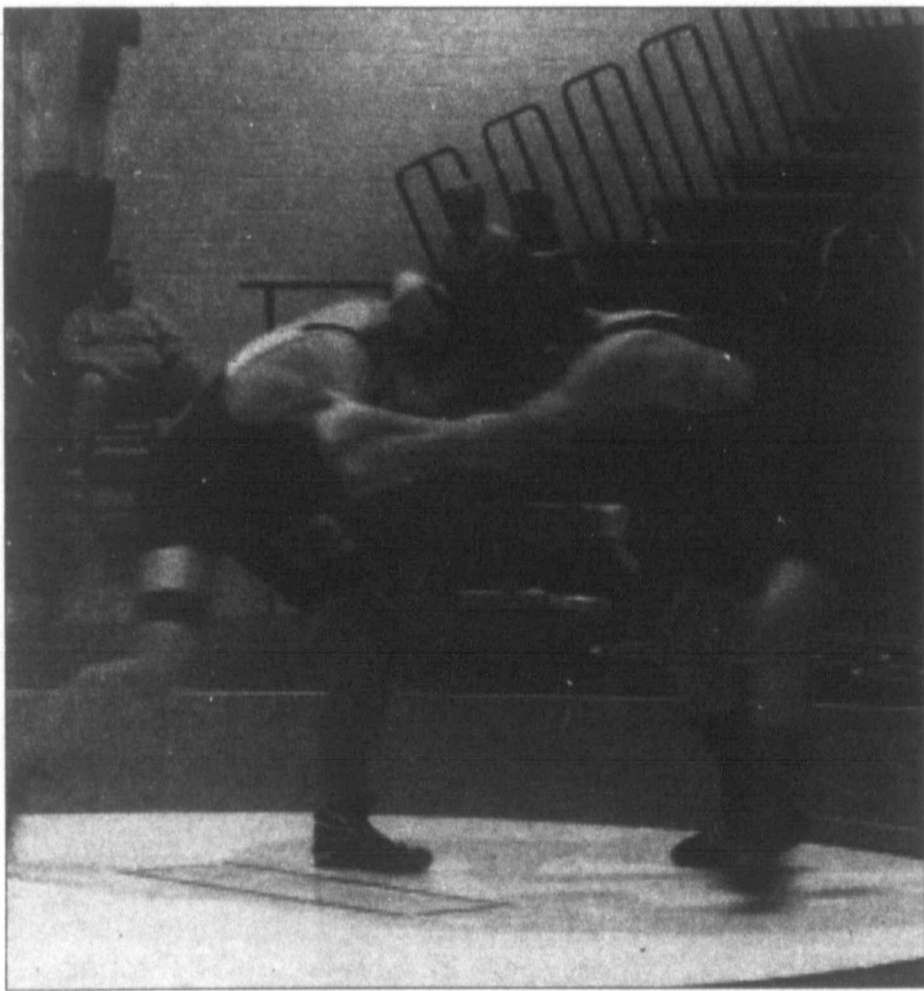


photo courtesy of **Leah Pearson**

**Senior Robert Radke** battles a Bushland wrestler Tuesday in Borger. Pampa dualled Borger and Bushland, winning both.



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

**Senior Ellen Cambern** kicks the ball during a drill in Wednesday's practice. Cambern is one of three senior captains.

Thank you  
for not driving  
buzzed last night.  
You saved my life.

Liz Osaki

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for more information contact  
**Kevin Davis 664-2542**



# Sports

## Baylor's RG3 declares for NFL draft

WACO (AP) — Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III is headed to the NFL.

Griffin made it official Wednesday, announcing that he would skip his senior season to enter the NFL draft after a record-breaking college career. The announcement comes a month and a day after the dual-threat quarterback became the first Baylor player to win college football's highest individual honor.

"It was a tough decision, I love the people at this university, love my coach for giving me a chance to be a quarterback," Griffin said.

Stanford's Andrew Luck, the Heisman runner-up, and Griffin are likely to be the first two quarterbacks selected next April.

Griffin arrived at Baylor along with coach Art Briles before the 2008 season. Briles was at Griffin's side Wednesday, both still basking in a season that ended with the Bears ranked No. 13 -- the first time since

1986 that they were in the final poll of the year.

"I talked to coach, neither of us broke down, surprisingly," said Griffin, though Briles broke in to add: "Not on the outside."

Small wonder. Losing a talent like Griffin would be a blow for any coach.

Griffin set or tied 54 school records while playing 41 games at Baylor over the past four seasons. The fourth-year junior has another season of eligibility remaining at Baylor because he got a medical redshirt after he tore the ACL in his right knee in the third game of the 2009 season.

The Bears tied a school record with 10 wins this season, including a six-game winning streak to end the year. They finished with a record-setting 67-56 victory over Washington in the Alamo Bowl, their first bowl victory since 1992.

Griffin is Baylor's career passing

leader. He completed 800 of 1,192 passes (67 percent) for 10,366 yards with 78 touchdowns and 17 interceptions. His 2,254 yards and 33 TDs rushing are records for a Bears quarterback.

He completed 291 of 402 passes (72 percent) for 4,293 yards and 37 TDs with only six interceptions this season, when he also ran for 699 yards and 10 more touchdowns. He was the nation's second-most efficient passer with a 189.48 rating, just behind Wisconsin's Russell Wilson, whose 191.78 rating came with 93 fewer pass attempts.

Griffin arrived at Waco as a 17-year-old freshman in January 2008 after graduating from high school a semester early. He completed an undergraduate degree in political science in December 2010 and has been working on master's degree in communications.

## Trio of rookies help Texans in playoffs

HOUSTON (AP) — When the Texans opened training camp, right tackle Eric Winston was expected to bring much from the incoming rookie class.

It was that Winston lacked confidence in the choices coach Gary Kubiak and general manager Rick Smith made in the draft. Winston just hadn't seen many first-year players mature quickly enough to make dramatic impacts.

J.J. Watt, Brooks Reed and T.J. Yates turned out to be exceptions.

The three have played pivotal roles in helping the Texans (11-6) survive a myriad of injuries to reach the postseason and advance to the second round. Houston plays at Baltimore (12-4) on Sunday for a berth in the AFC championship game.

"Any time you have this many injuries and you have contributions not from vets, but from rookies stepping up and making big plays in big games," Winston said, "that why a team goes as far as it does."

Watt, who started all 17 games at defensive end, leads the Texans in tack-

les for loss and made the defensive play of the season, returning an unlikely interception for a touchdown in last week 31-10 win over Cincinnati.

Yates kept Houston afloat after season-ending injuries to quarterbacks Matt Schaub (right foot, Lisfranc) and Matt Leinart (broken left collarbone).

Reed ably moved into a starting role at outside linebacker and made sure the defense didn't miss a beat when star Mario Williams went down.

"You never know how a season going to go," Winston said. "You never know if you going to be blessed from an injury standpoint, or you going to have to have guys that have got to go (play)."

"We definitely had one of those years that we had guys who had to go."

The 6-foot-5, 288-pound Watt was pegged as a starter from the moment Houston took him with the 11th overall pick. Texans fans were initially turned off by the selection, with more recognizable names still on the board, and Watt took notice.

"I remember a lot of

people in Houston reaction on draft day and obviously, I don't have any problem with it," he said. "It was warranted at the time. But it was always my goal from Day 1 to prove to them that I was the football player that the city of Houston would hopefully come to love and I always continue to work to make the city proud."

And Watt proved to be NFL-ready, manhandling linemen and swatting away passes from early on in August workouts. He recovered a fumble in the opener, got his first sack in the third game and won over fans with his relentless energy.

Then came Saturday playoff game. Watt timed his jump just like he done in practice all season, snatched Andy Dalton pass with both hands and sprinted 29 yards for a score that put the Texans ahead to stay.

"You want your top picks to be a good player, but they usually don't develop that quickly," defensive coordinator Wade Phillips said.

The 6-3, 250-pound Reed was a second-round

pick out of Arizona. He moved into the starting role after Williams tore a chest muscle in Week 5. He played defensive end in college, and has made a seamless adjustment to outside linebacker, with six sacks, three pass deflections and two fumble recoveries this season.

"You know, you lose Mario Williams, you got to step in there for Mario Williams," Kubiak said, "so how is he going to react to that?"

### BANANAGRAMS!

For each word below, rearrange the letters and place them in the blanks so that, together with the two letters that have already been placed, they form a new word.

LEVEL

BAITS  
A \_ \_ \_ \_ N

GRACE  
A \_ \_ \_ \_ E

TRUES  
G \_ \_ \_ \_ E

RAVEL  
O \_ \_ \_ \_ P

Yesterday's Answer: GIBBIT, CANAIRY

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

SUDOKU

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Level: Intermediate

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Detest
  - 6 Wooden
  - 11 Took the wheel
  - 12 Asian capital
  - 13 Titled women
  - 14 Wing
  - 15 Types in
  - 17 Writer Stanislaw
  - 19 Sort
  - 20 Block up
  - 23 Change over time
  - 25 Mystery writer
  - 26 Roger Ebert, for one
  - 28 Dust Bowl character
  - 29 Opera's Stratas
  - 30 Called once
  - 31 Write hastily
  - 32 Kitten call
  - 33 2006 Winter Games setting
  - 35 Wheel tender
  - 38 Belly feature
  - 41 Nimble
  - 42 Acid type
  - 43 Like the Capitol
  - 44 Run-down
- DOWN**
- 1 Throw in
  - 2 Lingerie buy
  - 3 Vacation footage, e.g.
  - 4 Chef's need
  - 5 Uneasy
  - 6 Marine predator
  - 7 Works leather
  - 8 Road-house
  - 9 Rival
  - 10 Predicament
  - 16 Member of a college
  - 17 Cleaner scent
  - 18 Conjure up
  - 20 Romance, often
  - 21 Come into being
  - 22 Showy parrot
  - 24 Golf position
  - 25 Knightly address
  - 27 Eye parts
  - 31 Kiddled
  - 33 Yarn
  - 34 Résumé heading
  - 35 Blue
  - 36 Hitherto
  - 37 Pitcher
  - 39 Terminus
  - 40 Myrna of movies

SCOUR SEAM  
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OPTED PAGAN  
PURR BELIZE  
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THIS NICK  
DUCKSOUT  
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ISING ERATO  
NEST GETIN

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Cleaner
- 27 Eye parts
- 18 Conjure up
- 31 Kiddled
- 20 Romance, often
- 34 Résumé heading
- 21 Come into being
- 35 Blue
- 22 Showy parrot
- 36 Hitherto
- 24 Golf position
- 37 Pitcher
- 25 Knightly address
- 39 Terminus
- 40 Myrna of movies

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1-12



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a very feminine 23-year-old woman who lives at home with my father. I am completely uninterested in getting married or having children now or in the future. I don't believe it's the end of the world to be a woman and not want children, but my dad and my grandmother act as though I'm abnormal. Dad says he blames himself for "failing to raise me right."

He also blames himself for the fact that I'm not interested in guys. The thought of being intimate with a guy is disgusting to me: I identify as mostly asexual, although I have had passing infatuations with women. Dad takes this personally like HE is responsible for my desires, or lack thereof. Grandma is worse. She constantly makes excuses to my male friends about how I'm just "not ready yet" and that they should be "patient."

Abby, I know nothing I say will change their minds, but is there something I can do to make them understand they didn't fail? This is who I AM. How can I end the guilt trip and keep the peace? — BORN THIS WAY IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR BORN THIS WAY: People who have no sexual feelings are asexual. People who are attracted

to members of the same sex are gay, and they, too, are born that way. It has nothing to do with the way they are raised.

You cannot live your life trying to please your father and grandmother, and you have nothing to apologize for. If you need help explaining why you are the way you are, contact PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), an organization that can provide you with literature that will explain it to them. You can find more information at [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 37-year-old wife and mother of three. My mother visits us when she's in town during work-related trips, so it's not like she's around all day, thank heavens. But when she's here she constantly corrects my children (ages 8, 14 and 18) and instructs my husband and me how we should spend our money. She also doesn't like it when I swear (which I usually don't do unless she's around) or mention what I think of people she has sent my way who have burned me.

By the time she leaves — usually four days — I am so stressed and emotional that I

cry at the drop of a hat. I cannot, nor do I want to, continue to have her here when she doesn't respect my rules. I respect her rules when I visit her home.

Obviously, there is much more, but I'm stressed to the max and nearly at the point of being done. Abby, can you give me any pointers to deal with this? — VISIT OR NOT?

DEAR VISIT OR NOT?: After you have calmed down, and before your mother's next "raid," write her a letter. Explain that while you love her, her visits are taking a significant emotional toll on you. Say she is welcome as long as she refrains from correcting your children because that's YOUR job. Say also that she must stop telling you what to do with your money and correcting your language because you're an adult now. Remind her not to send any more people your way, and why. If she can accept those terms, she'll be welcomed with open arms. Some people need ground rules spelled out for them, and your mother appears to be one of them.



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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JUANITA BROWER, Deceased, were issued on January 9, 2012, in Docket No. 9891 pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas to: RICKY A. BROWER. Claims are required to be presented within the time and manner prescribed by law in care of Don R. Lane, attorney for the estate's representatives, P.O. Box 1781, Pampa, TX 79066-1781. DATED the 9th day of January, 2012  
Ricky A. Brower  
B-45 Jan. 12, 2012

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## Showcase

cont. from page 1

McNeely Fieldhouse so the commons would be less crowded.

PISD Director of Federal Programs Robert Rumph, who is helming the fine arts side of this year's showcase, said that he was excited for the various performances and other artistic exhibits to be on display on Monday.

"You're going to hear from every group," Rumph said, "from high school choir, middle school choir, high school and middle school band. You're going to have artwork from the high school as well as the other grades. We have an elementary choir that's going to combine forces, so we have Austin and Wilson that are going to join together and Lamar and Travis that are going to join together. It's a good opportunity for those kids to sing with other students that they may not know. There are probably 12 to 15 performing groups, and I forgot to mention theatre as well. It's kind of a smorgasbord of mini-performances. That's how I would describe it."

Rumph said that some performances that were held in the high school's rotunda last year will be moved to other areas to allay any traffic jams at the showcase's main entry and exit point. The performances, he added, will be spread out between 5:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

"There's something going on literally all the time during the showcase," Rumph said. "You'll be able to see someone perform pretty much the whole time."

## Programs

cont. from page 1

Reserve Program (CRP) land; eligible producers are paid \$10 per acre to keep their expired CRP acreage in grass.

For cropland, on the other hand, EQIP offers financial aid for the installation of terraces, diversions and waterways. It also offers funds towards the implementation of a no-till/strip till program, with an incentive of \$25 an acre to reduce tillage operations and increase crop residue. Another option available involves the planting of cropland to grass (native or introduced).

Similarly, AWEP offers monetary assistance to producers who agree to improve water conditions on their property. AWEP practices in Gray County include the use of irrigation pipelines, converting existing pivots to more efficient ones and replacing pivots that are at least 20 years old. To be eligible, producers must have irrigated the offered acres in two of the last five years.

Finally, the WHIP provides funds to develop habitat for wildlife and fish on private land. In exchange for participants agreeing to a wildlife habitat development plan, the NRCS will offer cost-share assistance for the initial implementation of certain practices, including prescribed grazing and range planting.

The NRCS accepts applications for EQIP, AWEP and WHIP, but the year is divided into certain funding periods for all three programs. The current funding period ends on Friday, Feb. 3, and to be considered in this funding period, applications must be received before that date.

For more information or if interested in these programs, visit the Pampa NRCS office at 12125 E. Frederic or call 806-665-1751, ext. 3.

# Home of Texas prison rodeo torn down

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A piece of entertainment history is tumbling as workers demolish a Texas prison rodeo arena that hosted many stars through the years.

The brick and concrete stadium on the grounds of the state's oldest prison, the Huntsville Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, has sit silent since its last rodeo in 1986. Engineers determined the structure, which for more than five decades hosted a spectacle billed as "The Wildest Show Behind Bars," was no longer safe.

Prison system officials, who were faced with a choice of using limited resources to fix the place or focus on keeping inmates locked up, decided to scrap the tradition that attracted big-name entertainers and thousands of spectators each Sunday in October.

"It is a piece of history but a safety hazard at the same time," Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark said Wednesday as crews worked the rubble of concrete, steel reinforcement bars and red bricks that match the distinctive walls of the prison in downtown Huntsville, where most folks know it as the Walls Unit.

The wrecking crew moved in because of concerns the crumbling structure could topple into the street that borders the prison. Work is expected to be finished next month.

In its heyday, the rodeo would pack upwards of 20,000 people into the half-circle arena to watch inmates in traditional rodeo fare and unique contests such as the "Hard Money Event," where 40 inmates wearing red shirts would try to snatch a tobacco bag placed between the

horns of an angry bull. Inside the bag was at least \$50, although donations could bolster the dollar amount well into the hundreds.

Through the years, the rodeo featured a who's who of country singers from Roy Acuff in the 1950s to Willie Nelson and Dolly Parton in later years. George Strait, before making it big, appeared at the rodeo once as a fill-in for an act that canceled at the last minute.

"If you had to work there, you got to see those people," said Jim Willett, who rose through the ranks to become warden at the Huntsville Unit.

Willett, now director of the Texas Prison Museum, worked the rodeo as an officer from 1972 to 1982 and fondly recalled seeing Parton up close. "She didn't see me," he laughed.

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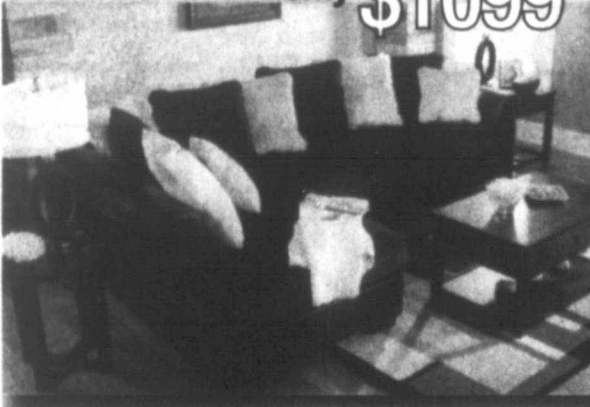
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