

Dinnerand a Show

> PHS choir department serves up an "Evening on Broadway"

challenge for CoC's Weaver Weaver to make stage debut, perform in Amarillo show

> Mollie BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

Pampa's Joe Weaver will play the part of the boss in the upcoming Amarillo Little Theater production, "Of Mice and Men." Performances will run at the theater on 2019 Civic Circle in Amarillo at 8 p.m. on January 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28, and at 2:30 p.m. on January 29.

Weaver, the executive director of the



Pampa Chamber of Commerce, is no stranger to getting up in front of a crowd, but acting has been a new and welcome experience for him.

TOP: Senior Marshall McGrath serves salad to a table of guests at the Pampa High School choir's "Evening on Broadway." **RIGHT:** Junior Kirsten Ladd (right, as Galinda) and senior Ashley Stucker (as Elphaba) of the Pampa High School choir department perform the song "Popular" from the Broadway hit "Wicked."



# CERT a hot topic for Pampa officials

Program already has three prospective volunteers

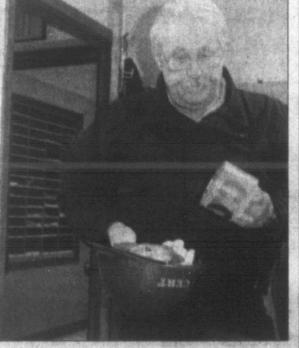
### MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

Since last year, the city has been working on developing a Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT. The team will assist first responders during disasters when there's a high demand for fire or medical services, and generally advocate for disaster preparedness and safety.

"CERT teams become triage sort of people," said Fred Courtney, emergency management coordinator for the City of Pampa. "They become light rescue. For instance, after a tornado, we'd get our CERT team together, and they would go in, along with the Fire Department, and be a part of the rescue effort. They're going to be able to do some first aid, and they're going to be able to do the light rescue. They are going to help people get out of the area. There's going to be a lot of things they can do."

Courtney says the program already has three prospective volunteers for CERT, which requires about five people for a team. Volunteers receive 24 hours of training in areas including disaster preparedness, fire suppression, first aid and light search and rescue.

"The training will just enhance their own lives in their personal emergency preparedness, and of



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

**Fred Courtney**, the city's emergency management coordinator, goes through the contents of a CERT volunteer's emergency kit, including a helmet and caution tape.

course will make a good volunteer," said Courtney. City Manager Richard Morris and Courtney both CERT cont. on page 12A

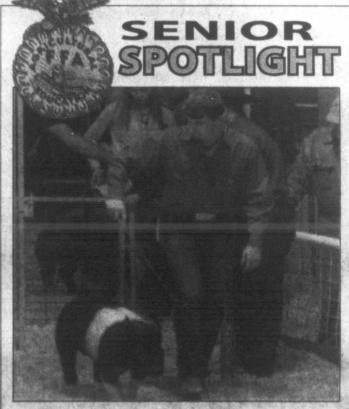


photo courtesy of Charla Shults

**Pampa High School** senior FFA member George Patterson exhibits his lightweight Hampshire pig. Patterson and other local 4H and FFA exhibitors will participate in the Gray County Livestock Show Saturday at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion and sale Monday at MK Brown Auditorium. For show information or to support these kids as a sale buyer, contact Becky Bailey at 806-669-8033.



### **PAMPA FORECAST** Today Friday Saturday High 60 High 62 High 62 Low 25 Low 35 Low 37

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. Wind chill values between 26 and 36 early. North northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southeast.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 35. Wind chill values between 27 and 32. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. North northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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## LAST MINUTE ADS

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ACOUSTIC JAM at FIRST BAPTIST Church Woody Guthrie Folk Music of Pampa is now on Pampa's Center, Fri. Jan. 20, 6:30pm.

CableOne Channel 8. Sunday 11:00 am and 6:00 pm services



# U.S. rep testifies on Texas redistricting

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. Rep. three-judge panel will decide whether Eddie Bernice Johnson said Wednesday she's long been concerned that the redistricting process in Texas is done in a way that doesn't ensure both blacks and Latinos have representation in Congress.

"I'm concerned about the overt and intentional discrimination against African-Americans and Latinos" in redistricting, Bernice Johnson said.

The Dallas-area Democrat testified on the second day of a two-week hearing on whether political maps drawn earlier this year by Texas lawmakers to reflect new census data violated the federal Voting Rights Act. A to throw out Texas' political maps.

Bernice Johnson, who was first elected to Congress in 1992, said she's been in a constant fight to hold on to her district and ensure proper minority representation in Congress. She said she is also concerned by attempts to put Latino and black citizens together when each group could have its own congressional seat.

"The problem is we are denied these opportunities by splitting (groups') population up, by cracking our population," she said.

She said it would become a bigger issue in the future if something isn't

done about it.

Testimony in the redistricting hearing will continue this week.

Texas, which will add four House seats in 2012, redrew its political maps earlier this year to reflect new census data. But under the Voting Rights Act, Texas is one of nine states that must submit new maps to the Justice Department to get pre-clearance because of a past history of discrimination.

The department, along with some Democrats and minority groups, are challenging the new maps, saying they don't protect minorities' politica. clout.

# Exonerated man convicted of old assault

DALLAS (AP) - A North Texas jury convicted a man Wednesday of assaulting a 7-year-old girl more than two decades ago, a case jumpstarted when another man was exonerated of a separate crime.

Robert Warterfield faces up to life in prison. He's expected to be sentenced Thursday.

Warterfield had been implicated in the 1989 assaults of two girls, ages 7 and 9, after authorities exonerated Stephen Brodie in a separate sexual assault case involving a third girl. Brodie served 10 years in prison before DNA testing exonerated him of the crime and linked Warterfield to the two assaults.

In both, an unknown man entered the bedrooms of the girls, placed pillowcases over their heads, led them outside and sexually assaulted them, authorities said.

There were more than a dozen sexual assaults of young girls in the late 1980s and early 90s in the north Dallas area. Warterfield had pleaded guilty to one of them. He was given 10 years of probation, violated the conditions of his release and would serve 10 years in prison.

Warterfield was suspected by Dallas police in the other unsolved assaults, but never charged because authorities thought they had the right man in Brodie, convicted of assaulting a 5-year-old girl.

But there was a lack of physical evidence tying Bro-

die to the scene, and Brodie - who is deaf and uses sign language - was questioned for hours by police in suburban Richardson without an interpreter, court documents say.

Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins would eventually re-open Brodie's file and support his release in 2010. DNA evidence sitting in authorities' files on the unsolved assaults was retested and linked to Warterfield. Warterfield has not been charged in the assault of the

5-year-old. On Wednesday, the victim who was 7 described how

the attack has affected her for the rest of her life, from having nightmares as a child to raising her own children with trepidation. She asked for a sentence of life in pris-

The Associated Press typically does not identify the victims of sexual assault.

"I would say that my entire outlook has changed," the victim told jurors.

Family members of other alleged victims also attended court Wednesday.

Watkins declined to comment Wednesday, citing a judge's gag order while the case is still pending. Warterfield's attorneys did not speak to reporters after he was sentenced.

# Obituaries

## Lisa Johnson Dupuis, 50

Lisa Johnson Dupuis of San Antonio, passed from this life at her home, surrounded by her family & very dear friends on Saturday, January 15th, 2012, at age 50. All who knew her will agree that her illness had a long battle with her, not the other way around. A petroleum engineer's daughter, she was born on May 29, 1961, in Levelland. The oil industry also Dupuis



ter of Science in Nursing from UT Medical Branch at Galveston. She practiced as a Cardiac Nurse Practitioner at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio under the direction of Dr. ManojPanday, for whom she had the greatest respect.

She is preceded in death by her father, Robert Nase Johnson and survived by her mother, Jimmie Jean Bomparte Johnson of San Antonio; her sister and brother-inlaw, Ann and Don Lievrouw; niece and nephew, Leah Grace and Joseph Dell all of Helotes; her beloved companion, Greg Sandford and his sons, Berkley and Houston of San Antonio. "Aunt SaSa" is also survived by many dear and loyal lifelong friends, her precious "YaYas" and adored pets, Bennie, Noel and Taylor.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday, January 19, at 10:30 a.m. at Oak Hills Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, Lisa has designated that memorials be

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took her family from Lub-

bock, Fort Worth, Andrews, and finally to Pampa, where she graduated with the Class of 1979. After high school, she received a B.A. in Psychology at UT Arlington, a B.S. in Nursing at Lamar State University, and a Mas-

# Fortherecord

cont. from Weds

## Sheriff's Office

Luis Geraldo Jimenez, 32, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance.

Martin Avila, 21, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance

Randall Hatcher, 21, was arrested by deputies on charges of possession of a controlled substance, tampering with physical evidence, running a stop sign and failure to appear in court.

William Thomas Hoch, 21, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

Justin Wayne Ditirro, 20, was arrested by police for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Monday, January 16

Brandi Carol Brewer, 38, was arrested by police on charges of driving with license invalid, expired motor vehicle registration, nonpayment of court cost and fines and not having a driver's license.

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 48 hour period ending Wednesday, January 18 at 7 a.m.

occurred at the 1000 block Pampa PD reported 37 of South Neel. traffic related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Pampa Fire Department responded to 19 medical calls.

Animal Control agents and the Pampa PD reported 13 animal related incidents.

Monday, January 16 Criminal mischief occurred at the 800 block of

North Dwight. An offense against family and children was reported. and the 1300 block of A burglary of a motor North Charles. vehicle was reported at the 500 block of West Brown.

An accident occurred at the 1300 block of North Hobart. Disorderly conduct oc-

ville curred at the 100 block of North Warren and the 900 reported at the 1900 block block of East Frederic. of North Christy. Disorderly conduct was

reported.

A suspicious person was reported at the 900 block of North Duncan.

Criminal mischief occurred at the 2500 block of North Christine. Phone harassment was

reported. reported at the 1000 block

made to Oak Hills Presbyterian Church in gratitude to Rev. Katheryn Barlow Williams for her superb pastoral care and the many prayers of church members.

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West Cook

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A sexual offense oc-

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Disorderly conduct was

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curred at the 4000 block

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An assault oc

of North Hobart.

100 block of East Craven.

900 block of East Brown-

A suspicious vehicle was

**Tuesday, January 17** 

A suspicious vehicle was

reported at the 2500 block

400 block of West Harlem.

4000 block of North Bad A threat occurred at the Cattle Company.

A threat was reported at An assault occurred at the the 2800 block of North Charles.

An accident occurred at Frederic and Hughes. reported at the 600 block of A theft occurred at the 1100 block of South Chris-A suspicious person was ty.

reported at the 1800 block A domestic disturbance occurred at the 100 block of North Nelson.

Wednesday, January 18 A prowler was reported at the 900 block of South A domestic disturbance Sumner.

## Sheriff's Office

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 2300 block The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the Suspicious persons were 48 hour period ending reported at the 1200 block Wednesday, January 18 at of North Hobart and the 7 a.m.

Monday, January 16

Phone harassment oc-Joseph Ryon Gross, 23, curred at the 1000 block of was arrested by deputies on a warrant for theft in an Suspicious persons were amount \$50 or greater but reported at the intersection less than \$1,500. of Mary Ellen and Texas

Mercedes Denise Larrazola, 21, was arrested by deputies on capias pro fine. A suspicious vehicle was

Lisa Ann Lang, 44, was reported at the 1600 block arrested by police on a warrant regarding theft of A theft occurred at the property in an amount \$50 600 block of North Someror greater but less than \$500. A suspicious person was

Tuesday, January 17 Jason Kelly Mulanax, 33, was arrested by police for injury of a child, elderly or curred at the 1200 block of disabled person with intent of bodily harm.

Destiny Renee Fitzer, 20, was arrested by police for injury of a child, elderly of disabled person with intent of bodily harm.

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The Pampa News — Thursday, January 19, 2012 — 3A

# MORNINGRUSH

## Protesters ride burros to Capitol Online retailers Zappos.

AUSTIN (AP) - Protesters rode burros to the Texas Capitol and delivered a petition with 100,000 signatures asking an end to shooting the animals in the wild.

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The Wild Burro Protection League's petition asks Gov. Rick Perry to stop Texas Parks and Wildlife officials from hunting wild burros in Big Bend Ranch State Park. The state agency considers the 300 wild donkeys that live in the park to be a destructive invader. The state says the burros destroy the habitat of bighorn sheep, which were once extinct in the park.

But the league considers the burros a heritage species because it played such an important role in human settlement of the area. They oppose killing the animals. The league delivered the petition Wednesday.

## Nat. gas stations helped by grants

AUSTIN (AP) — The state has made up to \$4.5 million in grants available to help establish natural gas vehicle fueling stations near some interstate highways. The funding was announced Wednesday by the Texas

Commission on Environmental Quality. The application deadline is April 16.

The sites must be near interstates connecting Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth. TCEQ says the public fueling stations must be located no more than three miles from the highways.

Preference will be given to stations providing both by attorneys for jailed liquefied natural gas and compressed natural gas at a single location and to stations not more than a mile from an interstate highway.

## Docs to appeal abortion rule

AUSTIN (AP) — The Center for Reproductive Rights says it will appeal a federal court opinion that says Texas may require a sonogram before an abortion pending resolution of a court challenge.

Three judges from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the center last week and said Texas can to conduct a sonogram, display the image to the patient natural gas vehicle push begin immediately enforcing a law that requires doctors and describe what the image shows. The center, which is representing doctors who perform abortions, says the law violates the doctors First Amendment rights and interferes with the doctor-patient relationship.

The center says it will ask for a rehearing by the entire Fifth Circuit, which could include at least 18 federal judges. Lawyers representing the doctors say last week's ruling is seriously flawed.

## Life for former death row inmate

FORT WORTH (AP) — A woman removed from death row after her attorneys found prosecutors had withheld evidence at her trial has received a life sentence for masterminding the murders of her boyfriend's parents.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports Chelsea extradites Richardson was sentenced Tuesday in Fort Worth.

She had been convicted of plotting the December 2003 Texas kidnap killings of Rick and Suzanna Wamsley at their home in the Fort Worth suburb of Mansfield so he could inherit their \$1.56 million estate.

However, her attorney, Robert Ford, said a prosecutor failed to give Richardson's trial lawyers notes from a psychologist that suggested another woman masterminded the plot. Tarrant County prosecutors agreed in November to not seek the death penalty if she pleaded dited a man accused of guilty, meaning Richardson will get life and become parole eligible after 40 years.

### LAS VEGAS (AP) com and Amazon.com are being sued in Kentucky by a Texas woman alleging that she and millions of other customers were harmed by the release of personal account information

Officials representing Zappos in Nevada and parent company Amazon in Seattle declined comment Wednesday on the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Louisville, Ky.

The lawsuit was filed Monday, after Zappos chief executive Tony Hsieh alerted employees and customers by email Sunday that names,

phone numbers and email addresses of the shoe retailer's customer may have been accessed in a hacker attack. The company said customers' credit card and payment information weren't stolen.

Zappos, Amazon sued over data breach

Zappos urged customers to reset passwords to Zappos.com accounts and any other websites where they use similar passwords.

Zappos said the hacker gained access to its internal network and systems through one of the company's servers in Kentucky. Zappos is based in Henderson, near Las Vegas. It is owned

### by Seattle-based Amazon. com Inc.

Attorney Mark Gray seeks class action status for plaintiff Theresa D. Stevens of Beaumont, Texas, and 24 million other customers for what Gray alleges was a violation of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Gray didn't immediately respond Wednesday to messages.

The civil negligence lawsuit seeks unspecified millions of dollars in compensatory and exemplary damages for emotional distress and loss of privacy, along with a court order for the company to pay for customer credit monitoring and identity theft insurance and periodic audits to ensure customer data is secure.

Zappos representative Diane Coffey in Boston and Amazon spokeswoman Mary Osako in Seattle said both companies have policies against commenting on litigation.

The Las Vegas Sun Wednesday reported on the case, which has been referred to U.S. Magistrate Judge James D. Moyer in Louisville. Court records show that company lawyers haven't answered the lawsuit, and no hearing dates were immediately set.

## Judge declines to delay financier Stanford's trial

HOUSTON (AP) - Afederal judge has declined a last-ditch attempt Texas financier R. Allen Stanford to postpone his trial set to begin next week.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner rejected efforts to delay the trial in a hearing Wednesday. He has denied several other

Eight states on board with

trial.

scheme.

begin Monday.

on natural gas.

signed on.

Since then,

Stanford is accused of

DENVER (AP) — Eight states have now signed up in an effort to encourage U.S. automakers to develop affordable vehicles that run on natural gas.

The governors of Colorado and Oklahoma announced in November that their states, along with Pennsylvania and

Mexico suspect

MEXICO CITY (AP) Mexico says it has extra attempts within the last month to postpone the Jury selection is to

while jailed in Houston Hittner last month ruled that Stanford was competent to stand trial.

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prison hospital after he was declared incompetent due to an anti-anxiety drug addiction developed

Cinema 4 bilking investors out of \$7 billion in a massive Ponzi Last year, he spent iday, January 20 through Movies Showing Friday, January 13 through Thursday, January 26. more than eight months The Devil Inside (R) under treatment in a Thursday, January 19. Fri 7:30 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45 North Carolina federal War Horse (PG-13) Fri 7:00 9:45 Sat 2:00 7:00 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Mon/Thur 7:30 Sun 2:00 7:00 Mon/Thur 7:00 derworld 4 (R) Fri 7:00 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45 Darkest Hour (PG-13) Fri 7:30 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00 Mon/Thur 7:00 Wyoming, intended to The Darkest Hour (PG-13) Fr17:30 9:45 Mon/Thur 7:30 seek proposals to replace sion Impossible 4 vehicles in their state (PG-13) Fri 7:15 9:45 Sat 7:30 9:45 Sun 7:30 fleets with ones that run Mon/Thur 7:30 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45 Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15 War Horse (PG-13) Fri 7:00 9:45 Maine, Mon/Thur 7:15 Utah, New Mexico and Sat 2:00 7:00 9:45 Sun 2:00 7:00 Mon/Thur 7:00 We Bought A Zoo (PG) Fri 7:00 9:45 Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45 West Virginia also have We Bought A Zoo (PG) Fri No Showings Sat 2:00 4:30

The idea is to drive demand for vehicles that run on alternative fuel – and for fueling stations that serve those vehicles.



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## Cockfighting ring broken up

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Investigators who broke up a cockfighting ring in South Texas have cited more than 70 people and seized about 140 roosters.

The Bexar (bayr) County Sheriff's Office also confiscated blades, cages, harnesses and about \$42,000.

A Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter was used in Sunday's raid in southwest Bexar County.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Tuesday that deputies cited 74 people and impounded 26 vehicles left unclaimed after the alleged participants tried to flee.

Animal Care Services helped remove the live roosters, plus about 20 dead ones.

## Food stamp charge for grocer

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A South Texas grocer has been sentenced to almost four years in prison and must repay nearly \$2.5 million over electronic food stamp fraud

Prosecutors say 56-year-old Parviz Sheikh Rezaei ran Pariz Dollar Supermarket in Brownsville.

A federal judge in Brownsville on Tuesday sentenced the businessman to 46 months in prison.

Rezaei in August pleaded guilty in the fraud investigation involving swapping card benefits from participants in the food stamp program for discounted amounts of cash. Prosecutors say Rezaei would then charge the government for the full value of the Lone Star card transaction

## Neglected cats won't be returned

LA MARQUE (AP) — A judge in Southeast Texas has declined to return more than 180 neglected cats to a sanctuary operator.

A judge in La Marque on Tuesday night rejected the request from Wydell Dixon of the Whiskerville Animal Sanctuary Inc. in Texas City.

The Galveston County Daily News reported Wednesday that the animals were seized Jan. 3, in filthy conditions, and placed with the Galveston County Animal Resource Center. More than two dozen cats were found dead.

Veterinarian Scott Johnson of Texas City, whose clinic treated more than a dozen rescued cats, says he believes some of the animals had not eaten for more than a week. Dixon says an employee was supposed to care for the

www.thepampanews.com

cats while she was gone in December.

Dixon plans to appeal the court ruling.

sexually assaulting a girl and trying to kidnap the teenager and her mother to prevent them from testifying against him.

Suspect Ezequiel Moreno faces charges in Dallas. In 2008, Moreno allegedly masterminded a plot to abduct the 16-yearold girl and her mother from a Dallas mall.

Two people allegedly flashed fake immigration agent badges to abduct the pair. The mother escaped in Austin and the girl was released in San Antonio.

Moreno was mistakenly freed on bail in the U.S. and fled before a courtordered bail increase was registered in court computer systems.

The federal Attorney General's Office said Wednesday suspect Ezequiel Moreno has been turned over to U.S. authorities



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## **Today** in History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2012. There are 347 days left in the year. **Today's Highlight in History:** 

On Jan. 19, 1862, Union forces won a victory over the Confederates in the Civil War Battle of Mill Springs in southeastern Kentucky.

On this date:

In 1807, Confederate general Robert E. Lee was born in Westmoreland County, Va.

In 1861, Georgia became the fifth state to secede from the Union.

In 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record by flying his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., in 7 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds.

In 1960, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America was signed by both countries in Washington, D.C.

In 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India.

In 1970, President Richard M. Nixon nominated G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court; however, the nomination was defeated because of controversy over Carswell's past racial views.

In 1981, the United States and Iran signed an accord paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months.

In 1992, German government and Jewish officials dedicated a Holocaust memorial at the suburban Berlin villa where the notorious Wannsee Conference had taken place.

Ten years ago: Israeli troops set off a powerful explosion that gutted the official Palestinian broadcasting building, dealing another retaliatory blow two days after a Palestinian gunman killed six Israelis at a bat mitzvah celebration.

Five years ago: Denny Doherty, a member of the 1960s folk-rock group The Mamas & the Papas, died near Toronto at age 66.

One year ago: Chinese President Hu Jintao, visiting the White House, declared "a lot still needs to be done" to improve his country's record on human rights; the exchange with President Barack Obama over human rights was balanced by U.S. delight over newly announced Chinese business deals expected to generate about \$45 billion in new export sales for the U.S.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Jean Stapleton is 89. Actor Fritz Weaver is 86. Actress Tippi Hedren is 82. Former PBS newsman Robert MacNeil is 81. Movie director Richard Lester is 80. Singer Phil Everly is 73. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 70. Actress Shelley Fabares is 68. Country singer Dolly Parton is 66. ABC newswoman Ann Compton is 65. TV chef Paula Deen is 65. Rock singer Martha Davis is 61. Singer Dewey Bunnell (America) is 60. Actor Desi Arnaz Jr. is 59. Actress Katey Sagal is 58. Comedian Paul Rodriguez is 57. Rock musician Jeff Pilson (Foreigner) is 54. Actor Paul McCrane is 51. Actor William Ragsdale is 51. Rock singer Whitfield Crane (Ugly Kid Joe) is 44. Singer Trey Lorenz is 43. Actor Shawn Wayans is 41. Rock singer-musician John Wozniak (Marcy Playground) is 41. Actress Drea de Matteo is 40. Comedian-impressionist Frank Caliendo is 38. Actress Marsha Thomason is 36. Actress Jodie Sweetin is 30. Actor Logan Lerman is 20. Olympic gold medal gymnast Shawn Johnson is 20.

There's a very troubled company out there called U.S. Government Inc. It's teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. And it badly needs to be taken over and turned around. It probably even needs the services of a good private-equity firm, with plenty of experience and a reasonably good track record in downsizing, modernizing, shrinking staff and making substantial changes in management. Yes, layoffs will be a necessary part of the restructuring.

A quick look at the income statement of this troubled firm tells the story. Just in the past year (FY 2011), the firm spent \$3.7 trillion, but took in only \$2.2 trillion in sales revenues. Hence its deficit came to \$1.5 trillion.

Just in the first three months of the new year (FY 2012), the firm's troubles continued. Outlays for all purposes came in at \$874 billion, but income was only \$554 billion. So the shortfall was \$320 billion. No hope of a self-imposed turnaround here. ageable number for a venture like this. Total compensation for this company is roughly twice the level of its privatesector counterparts. And its retirement and health-insurance benefits are so large in relation to contributions paid that its benefit plans are careening toward insolvency

In fact, the total debt of this firm now equals its total income -- an unsustainable position that suggests to many observers that future financing needs will not be met.

The product line of this troubled firm has been rejected over and over by growing segments of its customer base. And its product pricing (taxes) is not even remotely competitive. Even worse, heavily unionized work rules and regulations are so onerous that the prospects for even reasonable productivity and efficiency are long gone.

its credit rating? That's been marked down, with more downgrades expected in the future.



LAWRENCE KUDLOW

way to 10th. In fact, over the past 10 years, the firm has barely grown and its share price has been flat. Without the kind of radical change that comes from a takeover and turnaround, more economic slippage is baked in the cake.

Restructuring this company seems a hopeless proposition. But wait a minute. There's a highly regarded private-equity

operation located in Boston that has a good (but not perfect) track record in turning around hopeless ventures. Though there have been failures for this firm, notable successes include Staples, The Sports Authority, Domino's Pizza and Steel Dynamics.

Anyone operating in business knows full well that even the smartest reorganizing firms are prone to failure as well as success in our free-market capitalist system. But the customer base of the troubled U.S. Government Inc. seems like it. is desperate enough to go the takeover route. Some are concerned that privateequity specialists are too hard-hearted. But in these tough times, people are willing to take a risk. That even includes the current CEO of the KUDLOW cont. on page 5A



## Bainful turnaround: What America needs?

Thought for Today: "Love without passion is dreary; passion without love is horrific."-Abraham Cowley, English poet (1618-1667).

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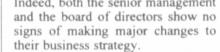
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Hope for future profits? That's out of the question. The firms only chance of survival is a takeover.

Worldwide employment for U.S. Government Inc. is estimated to be over 2 million, a completely unman-

The very troubled U.S. Government Inc. had long been either number one or in the top three worldwide in terms of economic freedom. But as a result of all these deteriorating conditions, it has fallen four years in a row in this category, slipping all the

## Just one question for Republican candidates

Since the very first days of this president's administration, the drugfueled cartel violence in Mexico has provided a stalking horse for the gun control agenda.

Early on, both Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Attorney General Eric Holder cited Mexican violence as a reason to renew the Bill Clinton gun ban of 1994. After those trial balloons were shot down, the ball was passed to Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who repeatedly has blamed American gun rights for Mexican violence. And more recently, the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives cited cartel mayhem as justification for an attempt to mandate the reporting of all multiple long gun sales in border states. This regulation would force dealers to report all purchases of more than one long gun if the guns are magazine-fed and larger than .22 caliber -- effectively creating a registry.

But now, shocking revelations that grow bigger every day completely undercut the argument for additional restrictions. In fact, they illuminate bureaucratic arrogance, recklessness and hypocrisy of the highest order in the hallways of the Obama admin-

istration -- including the spreading stench of a massive cover-up.

As it turns out, the ATF was already aware of efforts by shady characters to undertake mass gun purchases in border states, because law-abiding gun dealers reported the attempted purchases voluntarily. But ATF agents acting on "orders from Washington" encouraged gun dealers to complete

these transactions against the dealers' better judgment. Worse yet, the guns -- thousands of them -- then were allowed to be smuggled, or "walked," into Mexico and into the hands of drug cartels.

And worst of all, these guns now are turning up at crime scenes -including where a U.S. federal agent was murdered.

The operation is called "Fast and Furious," and it's absolutely appalling -- but it's all true, and there is still much more to come. Attorney General Holder has attempted to deflect the call for an investigation by asking the inspector general of the Justice Department to look into the matter. Sounds good on paper, but this is the same IG whose office



**NORRIS** 

ignored the first expressions of concern from rank-and-file agents who now have turned into whistle-blowers.

The ATF has been stonewalling inquiries from Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and now Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., has joined the fray -- and he has subpoena power as chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform

Committee. CBS reporter Sharyl Attkisson is on the story like a bloodhound, in a performance decidedly atypical

of the mainstream media. You can catch up on the major developments on her page at http://bit.ly/dNDBJP. I'm not a law enforcement officer; I just played one on TV. But you don't have to be Walker, Texas Ranger, to understand that there are

very good reasons that law enforcement agents, as a rule, do not allow guns to "walk" into the hands of criminals.

And to their credit, numerous rankand-file ATF agents understood this truism, as well, objecting to the "Fast and Furious" operation from NORRIS cont. on page 5A

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# We welcome your letters

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

The Pampa News — Thursday, January 19, 2012 — 5A

# **Obama rejects Canada-Texas oil pipeline - for now**

### MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) Raising the stakes on bitter election-year fight with Republicans, President Barack Obama on Wednesday rejected a Canadian company's plan to build a U.S.-spanning, 1,700-mile pipeline to carry oil across six U.S. states to Texas refineries. Though the project promises thousands of temporary jobs for the recovering U.S. economy, Obama said a February deadline set by Congress would not allow for a

proper review of potential harm from the \$7 billion Keystone XL project. "As

the State Department made clear last month, the rushed and arbitrary deadline insisted on by congressional Republicans prevented a full assessment of the pipeline's impact, especially the health and safety of the American people, as well as our environment," Obama said.

The plan proposed by Calgary-based TransCanada would carry oil from tar sands in western Canada to Texas, passing through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. Republicans assailed

job-killer and said the fight wasn't over. State And the

Department said the decision was made "without prejudice," meaning TransCanada can submit a new application once a route through environmentally sensitive areas of Nebraska is established.

Russ Girling, TransCanada's president and chief executive officer, said the company plans to do exactly that. If approved, the pipeline could begin operation as soon as 2014, Girling said.

Republicans were not assuaged.

Newt Gingrich, campaigning for the GOP nominapresidential tion in South Carolina, called Obama's decision "stunningly stupid," adding: "What Obama has done is kill jobs, weaken American security and drive Canada into the arms of China out of just sheer stupidity.'

Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., has said of the Canadian crude oil: "It's going to go to China if we don't build it here."

But Alex Pourbaix. TransCanada Corp.'s president for energy and oil pipelines, said last week the company soon will have a new route

**Kudlow** 

### cont. from page 4A

failed U.S. Government Inc., one Barack Obama. He just announced plans to merge the Department of Commerce, the Small Business Administration and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. In other words, he's borrowing a private-equity tactic.

Alas, this move is way too small and way too late. Much more radical surgery will be necessary

At a recent family election in New Hampshire, the former head of the Boston takeover firm, one Mitt Romney, emerged victorious with a sweep of all the key voter segments. Sounding like Ronald Reagan on the evening of his victory, the former turnaround CEO expressed confidence that the troubled U.S. Government Inc. could be saved. He was even optimistic.

But he warned that if family members expected a bidding war for more unpaid-for benefits with excessive price tags, well, he wouldn't be the man for that job. Tough measures would be necessary instead.

So now the question is, will America Inc. ask this former turnaround CEO to prevent the bankruptcy of U.S.

Obama's decision as a through Nebraska "that economy. Environmental energy that creates jobs everyone agrees on."

For now, though, Mitt Romney, the Republican nomination front-runner, called Obama's decision "as shocking as it is to Obama's re-election revealing," adding that it campaign to protest the "shows a president who project, which opponents

groups fear the pipeline could lead to an oil spill disaster.

Some liberal donors threatened to cut off funds

TransCanada planning to reapply for pipeline permit

HOUSTON (AP) - The Canadian company seeking to build a Canada-to-Texas pipeline says it will reapply for a permit after President Barack Obama announced he had rejected the current proposal.

TransCanada's CEO and president Russ Girling says Obama's announcement on Wednesday was not entirely surprising. He says the company plans to reapply for a presidential permit for the proposed 1,700-mile Keystone XL pipeline.

Obama says he turned down the proposal because Congress gave him a 60-day deadline that did not allow for a thorough review of the project. He made clear the company was free to reapply for the permit.

TransCanada says it is working with officials in Nebraska to find a route through the state that avoids environmentally sensitive areas.

once again has put politics ahead of sound policy."

House Speaker John Boehner said Obama was breaking his promise to create jobs.

"This is not the end of this fight," said Boehner, R-Ohio. He called the pipeline good for the U.S. economy and a major job creator.

The pipeline proposal has forced the White House to make a politically risky choice between two important Democratic constituencies. Many labor unions back the project because of the prospects of new jobs in a fragile

## Citrus plant disease confirmed

spread.

AUSTIN (AP) - State agriculture officials say a destructive citrus plant disease that has wiped out crops in Florida has been confirmed in Texas.

The Texas Department of Agriculture on Wednesday announced that a section of Hidalgo County has been placed under temporary quarantine. That came after the agency confirmed citrus greening on tree in a commercial grove in San Juan.

and reduces our dependence on oil," Obama said.

Under his administration, domestic oil and natural gas production is up, while imports of foreign oil are down, Obama said.

"In the months ahead, we will continue to look for new ways to partner with the oil and gas industry to increase our energy security," Obama said.

To underscore the point, Obama signaled that he would not oppose development of an oil pipeline from Oklahoma to refineries along the Gulf of Mexico. TransCanada already operates a pipeline from Canada to Cushing, Okla.

Refineries in Houston and along the Texas Gulf Coast can handle heavy crude such as that extracted from Canadian tar sands ГÇö the type of oil that would flow through the Keystone XL pipeline. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper

said he was profoundly. disappointed that Obama turned down the pipeline.

Sen. Kent Conrad,

D-N.D., said he doesn't believe the Keystone XL is a dead project. He said the Obama administration did not have enough time to review the project, given the Republicanimposed timeline.

"I don't believe this is the end of the story," Conrad told The Associated Press. "My personal view is that it should be constructed. It's clear Canada is going to develop this resource, and I believe it is better for our country to have it go here rather than Asian markets."

Bill McKibben, an environmental activist who led opposition to the pipeline, praised Obama's decision to stand up to what he called a "naked political threat from Big Oil." Jack Gerard, the oil industry's top lobbyist, had said last week that Obama faced "huge political conse-quences" if he rejected the pipeline.

"It's not only the right thing, it's a very brave thing to do," McKibben said. "That's the Barack Obama I think people thought they were electing back in 2008."

## **Boehner: Keystone breaks** Obama's jobs promise

WASHINGTON (AP) - House Speaker John Boehner says President Barack Obama is breaking his promise to create jobs by rejecting a plan to build an oil pipeline from Canada to Texas.

Boehner says Republicans will keep fighting for the Keystone XL pipeline because the project is good for the U.S. economy because it would create thousands of jobs.

The president says he's turning down the project not because it isn't worthy, but because of what he calls an arbitrary Feb. 21 deadline he was given by Congress to make a decision. The deadline was set by a GOP-written provision as part of a tax bill that Obama signed into law just before Christmas.



extract. Obama said his decision was not based on the pipeline's merits but on what he called an arbitrary Feb. 21 deadline set by Republicans in Congress. GOP lawmakers set the deadline as part

say would transport "dirty

oil" that requires huge

amounts of energy to

of a tax bill that Obama signed into law just before Christmas. "I'm disappointed that

Republicans in Congress forced this decision, but it does not change my administration's commitment to American-made

far the disease may have

region to identify how

Government Inc.? Isn't a Bainful turnaround exactly what America needs?

Lawrence Kudlow is a nationally syndicated columnist and also hosts his own blog. He is a contributing editor of National Review magazine and he anchors CNBC's "The Kudlow Report"

## Norris

### cont. from page 4A

the get-go. Their superiors told them they "have to break some eggs to make an omelet" and then apparently threatened the agents with career discipline if they continued their objections.

The agents also were warned that the operation had been approved at the highest levels of the Justice Department -- levels that are populated by presidential appointees, not career law enforcement officials. And now the Mexican government has elevated the scandal into an international incident, launching its own investigation and warning that "sanctions will have to be carried out with the full force of law to (whoever) could have been responsible."

Barack Obama himself was questioned about the scandal by a reporter from Spanish-language station Univision. He quickly passed the buck, claiming ignorance of the operation and saying, "There may be a situation here (in) which a serious mistake was made, and if that's the case, then we'll find out and we'll hold somebody accountable."

But a presidential effort to pin the tail on the donkey ignores the tremendous scope of "Fast and Furious, which apparently involved personnel from not only the ATF and Justice but also the Homeland Security and State departments. Any attempt to lay this massive botch at the feet of an individual ignores systemic problems that "Fast and Furious" illustrates in the federal bureaucracy. (See my remarks above about arrogance, recklessness and hypocrisy.)

At least one federal bureaucrat was better-prepared than Obama to launch the tactics of diversion. When this explosive story first began to unfold, the ATF's chief spokesman, Scot Thomasson, issued a memorandum to ATF field offices nationwide. The memo said, "ATF needs to proactively push positive stories this week, in an effort to preempt some negative reporting, or at minimum, lessen the coverage of ('Fast and Furious') in the news cycle by replacing them with good stories about ATF."

It's going to take a lot more than that to cleanse this stain. In the meantime, proponents of gun control -including the White House -- should focus on bringing U.S. government agencies into compliance with our existing laws before pushing new restrictions on the rest of us.

Chuck Norris is a syndicated columnist and the former star of "Walker, Texas Ranger."

Texas is the nation's second-leading state in grapefruit production and ranks third in producing oranges.

Agriculture officials say citrus greening poses no threat to human health and only affects the tree, and not the fruit. The bacterial disease attacks a plant's vascular system and can cause a tree to die within a few years.

Agriculture officials say they're surveying the

## Woman with gun arrested on airplane at DFW

FORT WORTH (AP) - Authorities say that a woman has been arrested for carrying a gun on to an American Airlines plane at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

An airline spokesman said Wednesday that the plane was headed for the runway when it returned to the gate and was met by airport police.

The Transportation Security Administration, which operates airport security checkpoints, says that screeners detected a gun in the woman's carryon bag, but she left the checkpoint before giving up the gun.



# Romney tries to sidestep tax furor Ariz. officials amend

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (AP) - Mitt Romney tried doggedly Wednesday to sidestep the political furor he had started a day earlier by revealing he pays federal taxes at a rate of about 15 percent, less than millions of middle-income American families.

Facing a new controversy, his campaign confirmed that Romney has money invested in the Cayman Islands but said he was not getting any tax break.

Newt Gingrich, his main rival in this weekend's South Carolina primary, poked at Romney anew and disclosed that his personal tax rate is more than double that of Romney.

Just before Saturday's South Carolina voting, Romney is trying to wrap up his push for the Republican nomination, but it's been anything but smooth. He's spent nearly two weeks answering questions and criticism about his personal wealth and tenure at Bain Capital, the private equity firm he founded, and those subjects are sure to come up again in Thursday night's debate.

Gingrich slapped at the GOP front-runner, saying in Winnsboro that he himself paid 31 percent of his income in taxes for 2010, more than twice what Romney said he paid. Gingrich's campaign said the 31 percent was the effective federal rate on income, apparently not including Social Security payroll taxes

Gingrich told reporters that he is not criticizing Romney for paying a tax rate below what many wage-earning Americans pay. Gingrich has proposed a plan that would give Americans the option of paying a 15 percent flat tax — which he notes is the same rate Romney is citing.

"My goal is not to raise Mitt Romney's taxes but to let everyone pay Romney's rate," Gingrich said.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry says he intends to push it anew on Thursday. "If Mitt Romney intends to be our nominee, he needs to open up his tax records today, no later than tomorrow by debate time," Perry told CNN on Wednesday.

There may be more fallout

Romney's campaign was confronted with new questions about his finances Wednesday when ABC News reported that Romney has millions of dollars of personal wealth in investment funds set up in the Cayman Islands, known as a tax haven for Americans. The report said that Romney had the ability to pay a lower tax rate by investing in funds located offshore.

A spokeswoman for Romney's campaign confirmed that the Romneys have money in the Caymans. But the campaign did not say why. Spokeswoman Andrea Saul also said: "ABC is flat wrong. The Romneys' investments in funds established in the Cayman Islands are taxed in the very same way they would be if those funds were established in the United States. These are not tax havens and it is false to say so."

Aides to the former governor refused to expand on the information, declining to say how large his investment is in the Cayman Islands and why it is there, as opposed to in the U.S.

Nor would the campaign say whether Romney has investments anywhere else outside the United States. Advisers said Romney's assets are managed on a blind basis and that he does not have control over how they are managed.

While a supporter rushed to Romney's defense, the former Massachusetts governor tried to duck the issue entirely on Wednesday, making no mention of his tax returns or tax rate during a rally at Wofford College here and declining to take questions from the news media. Instead, he delivered his standard campaign speech and assailed Gingrich, who has been running second in opinion polls in South Carolina.



Romney aides, too, refused to comment about his tax returns or details of his tax rate when pressed. His campaign held a conference call featuring surrogates who tried to cast Gingrich, the former House speaker, as an unreliable leader, but the wealth and taxes issue showed no signs of going away.

At an event in Rock Hill, S.C., Romney kept away from the issue of his taxes, but he criticized Republicans who "jumped on that bandwagon" of criticizing free enterprise. "My goodness, I listened to Speaker Gingrich the other night talk about the enterprises I've been associated with," Romney said. "I'm proud of the fact that I worked in the private sector, that I've achieved success."

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who has endorsed Romney, sought to help by defending Romney's tax status on TV. But that may have backfired when Christie, on NBC's "Today" show, suggested Romney put out his tax returns "sooner rather than later.

"It's always better in my view to have complete disclosure, especially when you're the front-runner," Christie said.

After months of resistance and under pressure from Republican presidential rivals, Romney now says he will release tax information for 2011 - but not until April, close to the tax filing deadline and when, presumably, the GOP race will have been decided.

Romney disclosed for the first time on Tuesday that, despite his wealth of hundreds of millions of dollars, he has been paying in the neighborhood of 15 percent, far below the top maximum income tax rate of 35 percent, because his income "comes overwhelmingly from investments made in the past." During 2010 and the first nine months of 2011, the Romney family had at least \$9.6 million in income, according to a financial disclosure form submitted in August.

Further focusing attention on his wealth was Romney's offhand remark to reporters that his income from paid speeches amounted to "not very much" money. In the August disclosure statement, he reported being paid \$373,327.62 for such appearances for the 12 months ending last February, a sum that alone would him in the top 1 percent of U.S. taxpayers.

It recalled other politically awkward moments for Romney in which he unintentionally put a spotlight on his own wealth, including his offer to wage a \$10,000 bet with Texas Gov. Rick Perry during a GOP debate last month over a disagreement on health care policy. He also joked to a group of voters that, since leaving Bain in 1999, he has been "unemployed."

Romney has been consolidating GOP support before Saturday's South Carolina primary in which a victory could all but seal his nomination.

But the focus on his wealth is an unwanted distraction for him as he seeks to win votes in a state where the unemployment rate, at 9.9 percent, is among the highest in the nation, and amid rising public concern over income inequality. President Barack Obama's campaign advisers contend voters are unlikely to back a wealthy Republican with financial-industry ties at a time of lingering economic distress.

And White House spokesman Jay Carney said Wednesday that, "as a matter of fairness, it does not make a lot of sense for millionaires and billionaires to be able to pay taxes at a much lower rate than somebody making \$100,000 a year."

The maximum marginal U.S. income tax rate of 35 percent applies — in theory more than practice — to households with taxable income of over about \$388,500.

But like many wealthy people, the Romneys have been helped by changes in federal tax policy that have placed much lower tax rates on investment income - from dividends, interest and capital gains from the sale of stocks and other assets than on wages and salaries, the source of income for most Americans

Under the Bush-era tax cuts strongly supported by most Republicans, such income, including gains on securities held r a year or longer, is subject to a tax rate of 15 percent

# wolf release policy

ALBUOUEROUE, N.M. (AP) - A month after voting to oppose any new releases of Mexican gray wolves, officials with the Arizona Game and Fish Department have amended their policy and reaffirmed their support for conserving the endangered animal.

The troubled effort to reintroduce wolves in Arizona and New Mexico became more clouded in December when the Arizona game commission voted not to support any releases until the federal government revamped its decades-old recovery plan for the species.

Critics voiced concerns, saying it could be another year before a draft of the new plan is released.

Lynda Lambert, a spokeswoman for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, said Wednesday that the commission realized they needed to address questions over releases in the short term.

"By no means were they trying to decrease the population or discourage the program," she said. "It was something they had not considered."

With the new amendment, the replacement of lost wolves will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

In the case of an illegal shooting or other unlawful act in which a wolf is killed, the Arizona game director will have the authority to approve a wolf release. In all other cases, any releases to replace lost wolves would have to go through the game commission.

The commission said in a statement that it will continue to support the wolf program financially and with infrastructure support. The statement came after the commission's regular meeting Friday.

The federal government started its reintroduction effort along the New Mexico-Arizona border in 1998 with the release of 11 wolves. Biologists had hoped to have more than 100 wolves in the wild by 2006, but the numbers continue to hover around 50.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is working on its annual wolf count. There's some hope for improvement given the number of pups that were spotted with some of the packs last summer.

In the last five years, there have been more than a dozen transfers of wolves around the reintroduction area, which spans millions of forested acres in Arizona and New Mexico. But only once during that time - in 2008 - have wildlife managers released a new wolf as part of the program.

Under the program's rules, initial releases can only happen in Arizona.

Eva Sargent with the group Defenders of Wildlife said the softening of Arizona's no-release policy is good news for the program.

"With only about 50 wolves in the wild in Arizona and New Mexico combined, more lobos need to be released or the population will likely spiral toward extinction," she said.

Biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife have said that releases planned last year were hampered by everything from politics to the massive Wallow fire that burned through wolf territory in Arizona and part of southeastern New Mexico.

## Perry jabs Romney for

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In addition, the Romneys are able to claim another tax break because of his 15 years with Bain. Although he retired from there in 1999, Romney is still able to benefit financially from the firm's profitable investments and from "co-investment" deals in which he can invest alongside Bain.

A provision in the tax code treats profits earned by private equity funds such as Bain and hedge funds as "carried interest" and thus subject to the 15 percent capital gains rate - rather than as ordinary income.

In addition, only income up to \$106,800 is subject to the separate payroll tax that funds Social Security and Medicare, so the wealthy often pay much lower effective rates on their total income than other Americans.

According to the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, an average federal tax rate of 15 percent - including both income and payroll taxes - would apply to households with taxable incomes of from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Those with incomes below \$94,000 earn less than 4 percent of their income from capital gains, interest and dividends, according to the Congressional Budget Office, while such investment income represents 43 percent of the income of households earning more than \$1.87 million a year.

Obama and his wife paid federal taxes of just over 25 percent of their 2010 income of \$1.7 million, mostly from the books he's written.

Perry and his wife paid roughly 24 percent of their 2010 income of \$217,447.

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# flip-flop on abortion

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Wednesday that Mitt Romney changed his position on legalized abortion out of political convenience, one of the sharpest allegations leveled yet in the South Carolina GOP presidential primary.

Romney, who had supported legalized abortion while Massachusetts governor, says he changed his mind after weighing legislation that "would have created new embryos for the purpose of destroying them.'

Perry, who is struggling to keep his presidential hopes alive, has criticized

Romney before, but not always so pointedly. He told an anti-abortion forum in Greenville, S.C., that it's hard to understand how a public official could change his views on something as fundamental as abortion in his 50s, after decades to think about it.

"This is a decision that Gov. Romney made for political convenience, not an issue of his heart," Perry said.

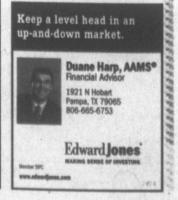
Perry has shifted his own views on abortion somewhat. He recently said he no longer supports legal abortions in cases of rape and incest.

"If you're going to be prolife," he said Wednesday, "then you've got to be prolife all the way.'

Presidential contenders Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum also spoke at the forum, and Ron Paul spoke by video feed from Washington. All three said human life begins at conception.

Romney declined to attend the "Presidential Pro-life Forum."

Gingrich, the former House speaker, said, "we are fully human upon conception" and that all constitutional rights "should attach at that moment."



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THE FIRST TIME

## Texas gets \$13M in emergency ag funding

DALLAS (AP) - Texas will receive almost \$13 million in emergency assistance funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Wednesday announced about \$308 million in aid to states. The money is coming from federal watershed and conservation emergency funds.

USDA Natural Resources Specialist Claude Ross tells The Associated Press that about half of that money earmarked for Texas will cover damage in South Texas from Hurricane Alex two summers ago.

The USDA initially said Texas would receive \$12.5 million, but revised its figures later Wednesday.

Missouri and Utah will take in about \$109 million together.

Vilsack says Texas has received other federal emergency money in the midst of a devastating drought and last year's wildfires. He says the latest grants were based on criteria that favored other states.

### **States getting aid:**

\$6,470,000 \$443,000

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# **US Border Patrol to make decision** on south New Mexico substation

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) -The U.S. Border Patrol will make a decision Friday on a much-debated planned substation for southern New Mexico's Animas Valley, the agency recently announced.

Federal officials said the agency will hand down its final decision following a public forum scheduled for Friday in Animas.

U.S. Border Patrol Doug Mosier said the substation, also known as a forward operating base, is needed in the isolated southwest corner of New Mexico because of changing patterns of illegal immigration and drug trafficking due to beefed up enforcement in Arizona and around El Paso. He said it's also needed because agents must drive about two hours, one-way, from the nearest Border Patrol headquarters in Lordsburg, N.M., to reach the border.

"This is an area where we are facing the most challenges in terms of terrain," said Mosier.

But a vocal group of ranchers and other Hidalgo County residents want the proposed base to be built closer to the border instead of 13 miles from a planned site that's in a draw and fed by two other arroyos. Each can carry significant amounts of water during a storm. They said U.S. Border Patrol's preferred site is hard to see and won't serve as a deterrent for those trying to cross into the U.S. illegally or trafficking drugs.

An environmental review says the base, regardless of which site is selected, will hold a heliport,

horse corrals and modular buildings capable of housing up to 16 federal agents, who'll stay for short-term spans.

The project gained serious momentum after the 2010 killing of a southeastern Arizona rancher.

Officials have said they'd been waiting on two agency officials to sign off on a document, called a "finding of no significant impact," that's part of the environmental review.

The number of illegal immigrants apprehended along the Mexico-New Mexico border last year dropped to 6,900. Mosier said the arrests are a 90 percent drop from five years ago in the El Paso sector, which covers New Mexico and two Texas counties



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ing. If you are attached, your significant other could be reticent at times, as he or she might try to judge what your mood is! Be patient with others. CAPRICORN might understand you too well!

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Others depend on you being responsive and open to suggestions. You Today, dealing with a key person demands that attitude. Creativity can only flow with understanding. Tonight: TGIF! Lead the gang out of work.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Tension builds if you don't detach. Use an ability to look at the big picture, and make decisions accordingly. Everything might not be as you would like, but it is doable. Ask yourself if negativity might be coming from boredom or fatigue. If so, you know what to do. Tonight: Try feeding your mind some candy.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Try another situation or do something totally differently after a discussion. Find someone in the know who often gives insightful feedback. Trust in your way to head. Tonight: Wherever you are, music can be found.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$   $\star$  Dance to a new tune with the help of an avant-garde associate. When you start to see situations, people and events differently, new pathways are exposed as well. What do you have to lose? Discussions can only be insightful. Tonight: Talk over dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\*\* Focus more on the individual; you could see a problem emerge otherwise. Others want their voices heard, and each individual has his or her own tonality. Though you could feel restrained, go 125 percent on this level. The results will prove to be worthwhile. Tonight: Where the fun is.

judgment that has become an attitude. You need not greet an unexpected jolt with negativity. Few like being tossed into a new playing field. Be positive, and you can emerge a better person as a result. Tonight: No more resistance, please.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  No one understands the are, but you also can be stern with reason. power of communication as well as you do. Why sit on the back burner? Walk in another person's footsteps. You will understand how you need to speak to this person. Within a meeting, a discussion comes up where you need to take the lead. Tonight: Loving the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

 $\star$ spending? Certainly a gift is a nice way of demonstrating your caring. Remember there are touching ways of expressing your caring without spending. A child or new friend makes a choice that stuns you. Tonight: Paint the town red.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\*\* As a natural leader, you take the podium of life. Someone clearly becomes unusually responsive. Be aware ability to internalize. You will know which of the effort that is involved to clear out a domestic or personal issue. You, too, must greet an element of the expected. Tonight: Make change OK within the bigger picture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\*\* You always have a lot on your plate. You enter a phase in which you express unusual vitality. Others sense this energy. Look at recent past issues. How have you been blocking yourself? Tonight: Do absolutely what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\*\* Zero in on what you want. Others might not have the same mind-set to pursue your chosen course. Make it OK to follow through on your own. Surprised friends or associates might decide to join later. Your creativity surges. Tonight: Enjoying visiting with friends.





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The Pampa News — Thursday, January 19, 2012 — 9A

# Sports

# Harvesters look to rebound against Borger, Perryton

### ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

After leaving Tuesday's district opener with a loss, The Pampa Harvesters hope to rebound against the Borger Bulldogs and the Perryton Rangers. "There was a lot of

frustration and disappointment," senior Latigo Collins said



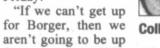
about Tuesday's game. "We all know we can still do what we want and be district champs."

Pampa is coming off a 55-47 overtime loss and visits Borger 7:30 p.m. Friday. It will be the team's first trip since its bus was shot leaving Borger after the February 11 game last year. Collins said that incident won't necessarily fire them up for that game.

"A lot of this year's kids weren't

even there for that," Collins said. "It adds to the rivalry and we should be fired up plenty."

Head coach Dustin Miller said his team should be fired up Friday.



aren't going to be up for any game," Miller said.

rival, winning all three games by an average of 18 points. Miller said Borger is improved from last season.

"They have one of the best players in the district and a new coach," Miller said. "They will for sure be better."

The Harvesters will have to battle Borger's forward Jamon Hearon, who is



to be shooting the ball better this year," Powell Miller said. "He can

get by you and finish at the rim. He has incredible leaping ability and is extremely active on the glass.'

Collins said he expects Pampa to win in similar fashion.

"It won't be easy," Collins said. "They are going to beat someone this year. We just hope it's not us."

Junior Tyler Powell said the team wasn't happy about losing the district opener, adding it will motivate them for this game.

"We should respond back," Powell said. "We are pretty serious after (Tuesday's). game. We will have more intensity."

The Harvesters meet the Perryton Rangers for the first time on January 24. The Rangers took two out of three from Pampa last season and have won three of the last four. Miller said they match up well with his team.

"They are smaller than last year," Miller said. "They shoot the ball really well."

Collins said it will be a tough game, adding Pampa felt disrespected by

"They felt as if they should have been where we were last year," Collins said. "They felt they were better than us, which we didn't like. We are going to be plenty motivated to play them as well."

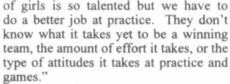
focus

"We need to take it one game at a time," Powell said.

# Lady Rebels rout girls soccer

### ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters struggled to get shots on goal and lost 6-0 to the Amarillo Tascosa Lady Rebels



This was the 16th straight game that Pampa was shut out. The last two seasons, Pampa is 0-7-1 at home. Garza said



Collins

Last season the Harvesters swept their

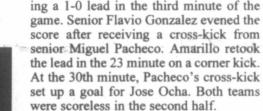
Perryton

Powell said the team just needs to

# PHS boys soccer ties Tascosa

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Pampa The Harvesters soccer team kicked off its 2012 season with a 2-2 tie against the Amarillo Tascosa



May said he thought the team played

# 30 game. Collins said the team is motivated for Borger and Perryton.

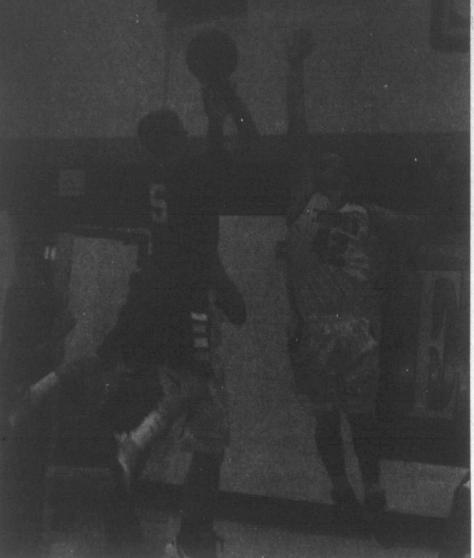


photo courtesy of Sherri Murray

Senior Latigo Collins shoots a jumper against Lubbock Cooper in a Dec.

Rebels Tuesday at Harvester Field.

Head coach Byron May said the team is happy with the game.

"(Tascosa) has sev-

eral really good play-ers," May said. "They have a really good forward and it was a challenge to keep him contained. ... I felt that we outhustled them to the ball. It's nice to not have to worry about getting into game shape."

May

The Rebels scored from the get-go, tak-

well in the middle of the first half. "We found a hole in their defense and

were able to exploit it," May said. "We got several shots on goal."

May said Pacheco did a great job of setting up the offense.

"He did a great job of getting to the corner and finding guys up the middle," May said. "That's something we rely on offensively."

The Harvesters (0-0-1) start play today in the Amarillo Tournament.

Tuesday at Harvester Field.



Garza

didn't play well until the last 15 minutes of the half. She added that the team has to change its mind set.

"It is tough because these girls are used to losing," Garza said. "This group

the good thing is her team's weakness can be fixed.

"If we can just learn to communicate better, I think that will help us tremendously," Garza said. "These girls can be great, they just have to let themselves believe that."

The Lady Harvesters (0-3-1) compete in the Azle Tournament Friday and Saturday.

# **TEXAS RANGERS' OFFSEASON Rangers sign Japan's Darvish**

coming to America to pitch.

Japan's best pitcher and the Texas Rangers agreed before Wednesday's deadline to a \$60 million, six-year contract. In addition to the salary, the Rangers will pay a posting fee of about \$51.7 million to pay to the Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters of Japan's Pacific League.

The deal came at the end of a 30-day negotiating window that began Dec. 19 when the Rangers' bid to negotiate with the pitcher was accepted. Had a deal not been reached by the 4 p.m. CST deadline, Darvish would have remained with the Fighters and Texas would have kept the posting fee.

When the deal was reached in Texas by his agents Don Nomura and Arn Tellem, the 25-year-old Darvish was home in Japan, where he returned for offseason training after his first and only visit to Texas two weeks ago. The Rangers plan to formally introduce Darvish on Friday.

Darvish had a 93-38 record with a 1.99 ERA over the past seven seasons in Japan. The 6-foot-5 right-hander was a two-time Pacific League MVP and a five-time All-Star. He led the league in strikeouts three times, in ERA twice and won two Gold Gloves.

Rangers President Nolan Ryan, a Hall of Fame pitcher and strikeout king who pitched a record 27 major league seasons, was impressed by Darvish's size and attitude about wanting to compete when they met for the first time earlier this month.

"To me, he represented all I had been

ARLINGTON (AP) — Yu Darvish is led to believe, so I felt really good about it," Ryan said last week.

The deal surpasses what Daisuke Matsuzaka got when he left Japan and signed with the Boston Red Sox just more than five years ago. Dice-K got a \$52 million, six-year deal and the Red Sox also had to pay a \$51.111 million posting fee that was the highest for a Japanese player before what the Rangers bid for Darvish.

When Ichiro Suzuki used the posting system in 2000 to get to the major leagues, the Seattle Mariners won the right negotiate with a bid of about \$13 million, then signed him to a \$14 million, three-year contract.

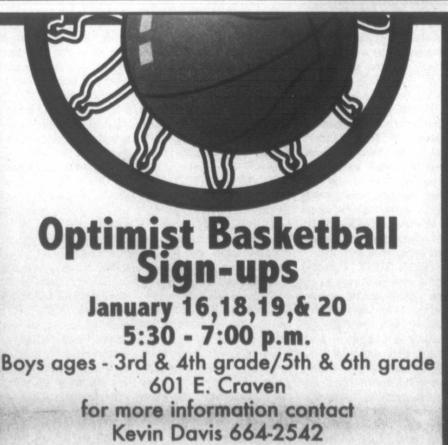
Through last season, 38 Japan-born pitchers had appeared in the major leagues. There were nine last season, including relievers Yoshinori Tateyama and Koji Uehara with the Rangers. Both are still on the 40-man roster in Texas.

Matsuzaka is 49-30 with a 4.25 ERA in 106 games (105 starts) in five seasons with the Red Sox since his high-profile move from the Seibu Lions to Boston in December 2006 when he was 26 years old.

He has had six stints on the disabled list, including last season when he had right elbow surgery and didn't pitch after May 16. He is going into the final season of his contract with the Red Sox worth about \$10 million.

Darvish, the son of an Iranian father and a Japanese mother, went 18-6 with a 1.44 ERA last season in Japan, when he made the equivalent of about \$6 million. He had 276 strikeouts to lead the Pacific League.

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# Sports

# Baylor to face Tech's hostile environment

It is immensely difficult to go undefeated, whether that's for an entire season or for just the conference slate.

The Baylor Lady Bears know as well as anyone how hard it is. Last season, Baylor dismantled the vast majority of its Big 12 opponents, and won every game but one -- at Texas Tech. The Lady Raiders confined Baylor to a season-low 25.9 percent shooting in tallying a 56-45 upset victory in front of a decidedly anti-Lady Bear crowd.

Now it's back to the scene of that defeat for this year's top-ranked, unbeaten Baylor squad. The Lady Bears say they'll be ready for whatever Tech -- or the fans -- can throw at them.

"We just look at it like we can't underestimate them," Odyssey Sims said. "And we've got to match their intensity. They have a very, very intense crowd, and I think that kind of bothered us a little bit. But I think if we just stay focused, we'll be fine '

The Tech crowd certainly greeted Baylor with a hostile reception in last year's game, holding up pinatas and signs directed at Brittney Griner. That game was Griner's first trip to Lubbock since throwing a punch at Texas Tech's Jordan Barncastle as a freshman in the 2009-10 season.

The Tech fans vociferously booed Griner every time she touched the ball. Whether the response will be similar for tonight's game remains to be seen, but Tech coach Kristy Curry said she expects the fans to be more supportive of the Lady Raiders than venomous toward Baylor.

"I don't hear any more chatter about that stuff anymore," Curry said. "I think they're just excited that we're a better basketball team than we've been, and they're excited to welcome another Big 12 team to Lubbock."

Without a doubt, Tech (14-2, 2-2) is better than anytime in recent memory. A year after snapping their fiveyear NCAA tournament drought, the Lady Raiders opened the season by winning their first 14 games.

Since then, Tech has dropped a pair of nail-biters to Oklahoma and Kansas State, stumbling from 10th to 17th in the Associated Press Top 25 poll. But Baylor coach Kim Mulkey said the Lady Raiders are equally balanced and dangerous.

They play well together," Mulkey said. "There's no spectacular player, they're all pretty equal in talent, they all shoot the 3, including their post players. The nucleus of their team has returned. They only lost really the one post player that played a lot of minutes last year, and they're

comfortable with each other now." Of course, the Lady Bears are rather bean bag-chair comfortable with one another, too. Baylor (17-0, 4-0) pounded Texas, 77-59, on Sunday, scoring 58 points in the paint. Griner, the focal point of everything Baylor does on both ends of the court, produced a monster game, scoring 32 points, plucking 13 rebounds and swatting three shots. But perhaps just as critical for Baylor was the contributions of Destiny Williams (21 points, 14 rebounds), who Mulkey said "is playing the best basketball she's played since she's been here."

"As far as the 21 points, I give all the credit to the guards," Williams said. "And just getting rebounds is what I said I wanted to do. I didn't do it the first part of the season, so my goal was to get twice as many rebounds (now)."

Baylor is the top road draw in the Big 12, as its opponents have averaged more than 9,000 fans a night when the No. 1 Lady Bears come to town. There should be no shortage of fans at Tech's United Spirit Arena tonight.

"We're appreciative if they're coming to see us," Mulkey said, smiling. "I wish they would cheer for us."

# Texas golf association form junior alliance

HOUSTON (AP) — The state's top four golf organizations have formed an alliance aimed at creating better opportunities and ease expenses for junior golfers and their families.

The Texas Junior Golf Alliance is a joint venture put together by the Texas Golf Association, the Northern and Southern Texas Sections of the PGA of America and the Houston Golf Association.

is to simplify the qualifying process for the top-tier Legends Junior Tour's high-profile events through a performancebased points system.

Each of the four organizations will offer a select number of Texas Junior Golf Alliance Points Tournaments in their respective 2012 schedule. A total of 45 junior events will offer points.

director of the Texas Golf Competitors may also The four organizations accumulate points in the Association. "Everyone collectively sponsor more seven open events and involved hopes this will than 500 tournaments a one invitational operated clear the path toward year for more than 6,000 in Texas by the nationadvancement while reasjunior boys and girls. al American Junior Golf suring them of the qual-The goal of the alliance Association. Juniors ity of the events they are

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

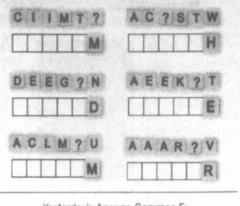
players between the ages competing in. of 12 and 18 - will now

The Texas PGA sections offer beginner's programs for youngsters. While players between 6 and 11 years old will not be competing in statewide events, they will be educated in the opportunities afforded by the alliance.

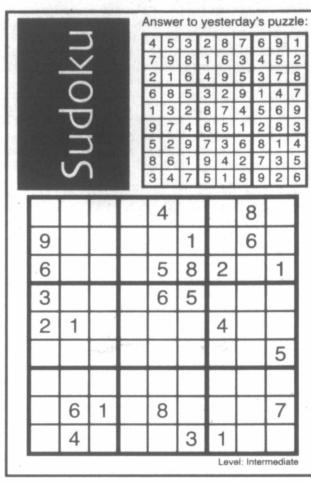


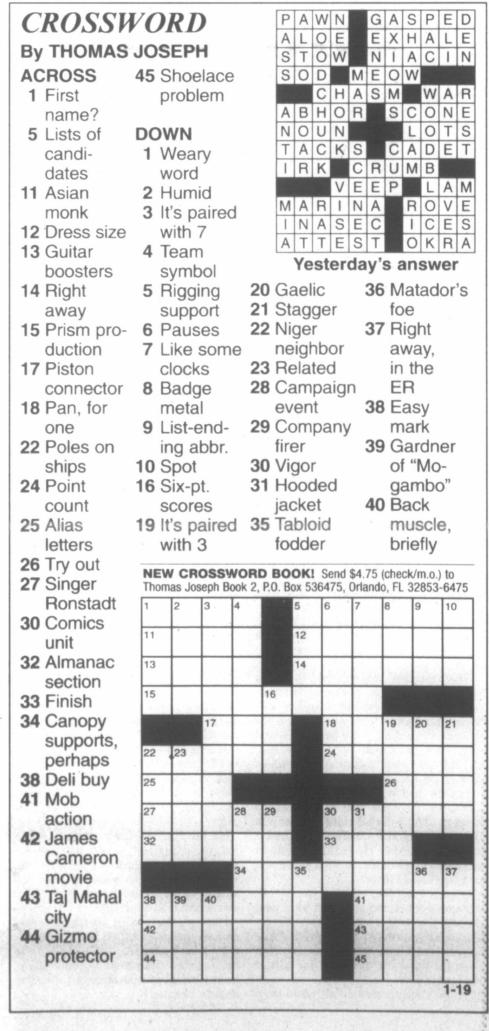
## BANANAGRAMS

Each set of letters below is arranged alphabetically, and the 3) is in the correct alphabetical position. LEVEL Figure out what letter the ? represents and rearrange the letters to spell a six-letter word. For example, in A?ENTV the ? could be an A, B, C, D or E. Here it represents a D, which can be combined with the other letters to spell ADVENT. The last letter is placed to get you started.



Yesterday's Answer: Common E; ALLEGE, AMPERE, MAYHEM, SOLACE







respond to "Iowa Reader" and rewarding. Less-intimate personal problems matter (Nov. 10), the older woman forms of partner dance inwho asked you where to clude swing, salsa and coun- dogs and cats at the SPCA turn when she needed to be try dancing. If you love music can provide meaningful inhugged and listened to? I'm and movement, and could use teraction because socialized guessing she was married a some exercise, I highly rec- animals are more likely to be long time and doesn't have ommend it. - CATHERINE adopted. There are poetry and any real friends - just people IN HAWAII from her married days.

While dogs can't hug or hold, tion when my husband passed sports like pingpong they do love unconditionally. away. I joined a Sunday A dog is always happy to be school and found what I need- column, "The best way to with you, and will listen even ed. Often, the only hugs I get have a friend is to be one." though it can't talk back. I are from people in our group. would have died of loneliolder single people on walks class photographer. Others and at the dog park. She has given me a way to make new LAND, CALIF.

DEAR ideas I would pass them TEXAS along. Because of you and comment:

I started with the Argentine tango, which might be a bit emotionally as well. too much for some folks, but love it. It's a safe way to enjoy an intimate connection with a member of the opposite sex, no strings attached.

It takes time to master HUGS FROM MAINE the skills, but if you stick with it you'll find a com-

DEAR ABBY: May I for a skill that's challenging one in an environment where

I suggest she get a dog. faced with the same situa- cy on Aging, and "contact"

ness had it not been for mine. and since I like taking pic-Through her, I have met other tures, I've been appointed the RACHEL L. bies to reach out to people. to kids at her local elemenfriends and find some com- We go on outings, and I tary school, visit residents at pany. - MARCY IN OAK- have made many "huggable" a nursing home or work at a friends. I urge "Iowa Reader" homeless shelter. There are MARCY: to visit places of worship and lots of others out there who Thanks for your suggestion. find one that has an active need hugs and attention. Vol-I promised "Iowa Reader" senior adult ministry. - JO unteers receive far more than that if other readers shared ANN IN ARLINGTON, they give. - DIANNE IN

DEAR ABBY: I have other compassionate read- been a licensed massage the YMCA where we have ers, I received a wide range therapist for 20 years. I sug- a wonderful community of of heartfelt, helpful advice. gest "Iowa Reader" seek out middle-aged and older people My newspaper readers one. During her hour on the who work out together, spend massage table she will be time visiting during our pot-DEAR ABBY: I discov- touched, nurtured and encour- lucks, and who have formed ered a wonderful way to re- aged to speak about anything circles of lasting friendships. ceive much-needed human on her mind. It's my job to contact - partner dancing. not only make her feel safe and healthy physically, but

DEAR ABBY: Volun- PASCO, WASH. teering to rock and cuddle munity that shares a passion low-birth-weight babies puts

less. Brushing and petting writing groups, peer-to-peer DEAR ABBY: I was counseling at her Area Agen-

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Alliance for a single mem-

"The junior golf land-

scape in Texas can be

intimidating and expen-

sive to negotiate for

beginning players and

veterans alike," said Rob

Addington, executive

bership fee.

Abby, I once read in your To not overburden any one I volunteer in the kitchen friend, some conversations are best done with God. -

DEAR ABBY: I encourhave also utilized their hob- age her to offer to tutor or read GAINESVILLE, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: I work for - CORINNE IN OREGON

DEAR ABBY: I went back to school, earned my master's and became a kin-For many clients, I am dergarten teacher. I'm blessed I have learned to absolutely their only source of touch. It with more hugs now than I gives me great joy to know know what to do with, and that in some small way I can I'm told several times a week make an important difference that I am loved. During sumin their overall well-being. - mer vacation, my cat takes up the slack. - LINDA IN

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**Beverly Taylor - Classifieds** 

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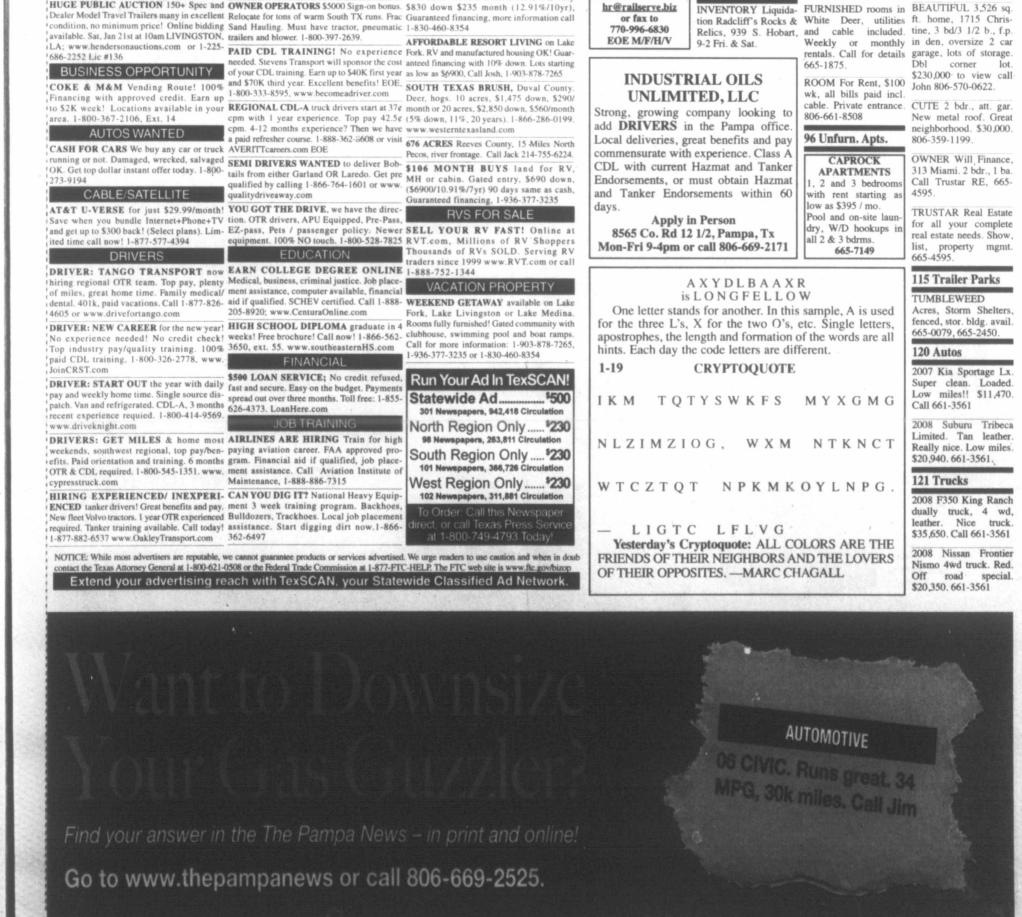
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Call 665-4901 lv. disabled in their homes ture and enjoyable water analysis and gen- msg. within the time and in from the date the vehi- 9563 Testamentary for the MINUTES from down-WILMA the manner prescribed cle was placed in stor-Estate of COX Fence Company. JEANNIE GRIGSBY, by law. town-efficiencies. Short age, the vehicles will be in PAMPA area. Must work environment. eral chemistry, will Repair old fence or be 18+. Will train the Come enjoy our team! train but must be ana-build new. Free esti- right candidate.Please Call 806-661-3561. lytical. Send resume to: FREE- BOTH MALES Deceased, were issued DATED the 12th day of deemed abandoned and term leases avail. 806on January 16, 2012, in January, 2012. will be sold for charges Pitt 4-5 mo. old 665-4274. By: Harold L. Comer incurred by the storage mates. Call 669-7769. Docket No. 9894, pend-Lhasa Apso 4 mo. old call Gina at neil\_ray@mwptlab.com **R.** Chester Trucking 806-661-8722 1 and 2 bdr. avail. now ing in the County Court State Bar Card No. facility 1-800-800-0697 CERAMIC tile work. at the Gwendolen Apts. is now hiring of Gray County, Texas, to: JACK W. GRIGS-04641000 1993 Ford Aerostar 806-373-0986 EOE THREE female Chihuastucco, cement. Remod-HOT SHOT CDL Largest square footage P.O. Box 1058 **CNAs** VIN# eling, floor, shower, Ann's Nursing hua puppies, free to ST. in Pampa. 665-1875 DRIVERS who take BY and TAMARA A. Pampa, TX 79066-1058 1FMDA31X5PZA52401 good home, 661-8014. Immediate openings kitchen. Texture, paint- Home is hiring Director pride in their work (806) 665-8495 LIC V34WFY ANGEL all shifts. Requires NO transportation, not a ing, dry wall. Free esti. of Nursing and an MDS and are not drug ad-FREE Heeler mix pup-The residence of the In-FAX (806) 669-0553 1998 Mitsubishi Galant 665-3453 leave mes- Coordinator. Contact TEXAS state Certifiproblem. These large 1 dicts or drunks. We pies. Call 665-0674, lv. VIN# dependent Executor, Attorney for Administrator at 537cation. Competitive bdr. apts. w/ appliances, sage, Jesus Barraza. 4A3AJ56G2WE042133 offer competitive pay, JACK W. GRIGSBY is Independent Executors message with name & are in walking distance 3194. Good benefits. rates and full time em B-47 Jan. 19, 2012 LIC 33LGLJ monthly bonuses and in Gray County, Texas. number. LET M&S help you w/ to everything you need. ployees eligible for Position now available. 1997 Chevrolet 1500 VIN# The post office address we have steady work! your concrete needs benefits. EOE. For 665-4274 89 Wanted To Buy **Public Sale Notice** Call Rick is: P.O. Box 7, McLean, Free Est. Doc or Mike LVN'S - and CNA's. more information, call Date of Sale, Friday 2GCEK19R6V1205017 at 806-665-0379 Texas 79057. 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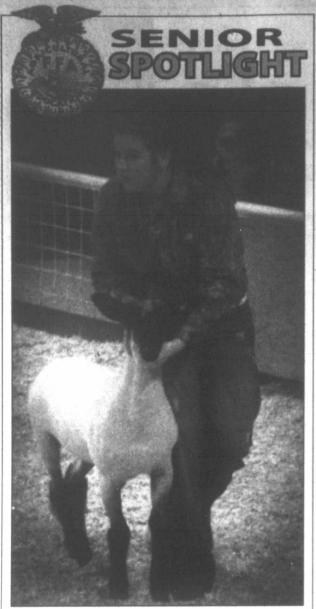


photo courtesy of Charla Shults

Senior FFA Member Kaylene Wyant enters the ring with her Medium Wool Lamb. Wyant and other local 4H and FFA exhibitors will participate in the Gray County Livestock Show Saturday at the Clyde Carruth Pavilion and sale Monday at MK Brown Auditorium. For show information or to support these kids as a sale buyer, contact Becky Bailey at 806-669-8033.

## **CERT**

### cont. from page 1A

view CERT as a way to increase community involvement.

"It lets volunteers have a more active part in the community in the areas of emergency management and possibly law enforcement," Morris said. "If we get the community involved, that's always beneficial."

"The management of a disaster always begins with the locals," said Courtney. "It's their responsibility to manage the disaster as best they can (until they get assistance from the state or FEMA)."

The CERT program will give civilians an opportunity to assist individuals in their community, as well as first responders during an emergency.

"The number one reason (for CERT) is to provide some support to the paid first responders and the volunteer firefighters," said Courtney. "They need some backup during an emergency or during high stress times. We need a bank of people that we can call on that have some training and experience to help supplement the paid responders. It's also to get greater awareness of the fact that the next disaster is only a few storm clouds away." "If we can get more people thinking about emergency preparedness, that would be a big benefit," he added. Courtney will speak on the CERT program during this month's community meeting hosted by the Pampa Police Department. The meeting will he held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 26 at the Chamber of Commerce.

## Weaver

farm and ranch operation.

"They just travel around working on whatever jobs they can pick up," said Weaver. "Lenny is what we would in today's society probably call 'mentally challenged.' He's probably got the mind of six year old, but he's very big and very strong. George, who in some ways is a very irritating character, has a very tender spot for Lenny. He doesn't have to take care of him. There's no real connection between them, just Lenny showed up one day, and so he started trying to take care of him."

"It's a very fatalistic play, but it's also a very touching play," he added. "In the literary sense of fatalism, it's very indicative of that. Events are just out of everybody's control, no matter how they try to control them." Weaver said that his thoughts on the

play have evolved over time. "The first time I saw this play, I had

a different perspective, but as I watch it over and over during rehearsals, I pick up something new almost every night, and my opinion on almost every character has changed from one time to another on whether they're a sympathetic character or a character you just don't like," he said.

Weaver's idea of his own role of the boss has also changed during rehearsals.

"It's been a little hard to get my head around my character, but it's kind of grown with me, and I feel like in last night's rehearsal I got it," he said. "I got the kind of guy the boss is. He's got a job to do. He can be irascible, because things aren't working out for him to get this job done and these guys show up late for work. But he doesn't like being that way necessarily. He'd like to be a nice guy, he'd like to be chummy with these guys, but there's work to be done."

On a recommendation from a friend, Weaver found the use of a prop, a cigar, very helpful in his performance.

"It gives a boss air of authority to it," he said. "A workman doesn't smoke cigars, because cigars take time. They'll take a cigarette break, or they can smoke a cigarette while they're working, depending on cont. from page 1

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what they're doing. Once I got the cigar, I used it a lot as a prop, and it helped me figure out some things to do with my hands when I couldn't figure out what to do with them before."

Weaver also has learned a lot from watching the directors of the play, Allen Shankles and Melanie Sanders.

"They'll say, Here's how you need to play this part. And I'll think, I knew there was something wrong with that scene, but I couldn't put my finger on it, but these guys are really experts in what they're doing," he said.

Weaver is looking forward to the first performance of the play this weekend.

"(Performing) is energizing to some," he said. "Some people get stage fright. I hope it won't affect me that way. I don't think it will, because I'm used to public speaking. It's just different."

"The two directors and other people have been very welcoming and encouraging and supportive, and it's been fun to get to know the (other actors)," he added.



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