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Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 18-19, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 262

\$1.50 75¢ weekdays **Viewpoints: Joe Weaver** On obituary photos and lasting romance | **p4** **Ready to contribute** PHS' Harris and Cabrales hope to make playoff impact | **p8**

Architect's contract for new PISD building approved

■ Designs expected in six weeks, full remodel in a year

MOLLIE BRYANT
mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District (PISD) Board of Trustees held a shortened meeting Thursday evening at the Pampa High School library, addressing three items from the original agenda.

The board approved a contract with architectural firm Dekker, Perich and Sabatini, of Amarillo, to redesign the Albertson's building, the future site of PISD's offices. The firm expects designs to be completed within six weeks, with the remodel completed in a year.

PISD decided to provide salary supplements to employees during the meeting. The supplement addresses a salary freeze that PISD implemented last year amid state funding cuts to education.

"At the beginning of the year, Texas schools were underfunded and faced extreme budget cuts," said Barry Haenisch, Superintendent of PISD. "Locally, the Pampa Independent School District reduced its budget

by \$1.7 million." Employees who have been with the district before Jan. 1, 2011 will receive a .5 percent supplement in their March paychecks. Haenisch said that an improved financial situation allowed for the supplement, as a higher student enrollment allowed for higher funding from the state.

The board also approved the Texas Association of School Boards to provide the district with both casualty and property insurance.

The school board will return to remaining items from Thursday's meeting during its next regular meeting in March.

United Way taking applications for budget allocations

ARNIE AURELLANO
editor@thepampanews.com

The Pampa United Way is currently taking applications for new beneficiary agencies, according to executive director Katrina Bigham.

Applications for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are available at 200 N. Ballard, suite 105. The application is for the United Way's April 24 budget allocations process and will be for funding starting in January of 2013.

"I've had from time to time people come in and ask, 'When do we apply? How do we apply?'" Bigham said. "This is the chance for the people who may have asked that at one time.

"Sometimes, different organizations change their funding and decide that they want to receive help from the United Way," Bigham added. "At first, they may have not needed help, but at some point in time, things may have gotten difficult and they may decide they want to apply. This is the opportunity."

The deadline for picking up an application is Feb. 28. Those who are accepted into the budget allocations process will need to pick up a CD of forms to be completed by March 26.

Eighteen local agencies are currently part of the United Way budget allocation process, with Create-A-Beat being the newest addition. Bigham said that the United Way places a priority on organization that don't

UNITED cont. on page 8A

COMING SOON

staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

Two major construction projects in Pampa are moving right along, as the new Happy State Bank branch (foreground, right) and McDonald's renovation (background, left) on Somerville and Hobart are both seeing visible progress.

Pancake supper at St. Matthew's Tuesday

■ Proceeds go towards day school scholarships

MOLLIE BRYANT
mbryant@thepampanews.com

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will be sponsoring its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the church's parish hall at 727 West Browning.

"For centuries, the Church has observed Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday-Carnival as a way of enjoying one last fling with worldly pleasures before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday," said the Rev. Linda Kelly, rector of St. Matthew's.

"Join us at St. Matthew's on Tuesday, Feb. 21 and help us with the task of consuming the bacon and pancakes (meat, eggs, butter) that at one time were forbidden during Lent. We must eat up all these foods so there will be nothing in the pantry to tempt us during the great fast. Bring your friends and family and indulge with us."

This will be the 56th supper since the church began the practice on Feb. 14, 1956.

Tickets for the supper, including all-you-can-eat pancakes and bacon, are \$5 and are available from the church office, church members and at the door. Children five and under eat free.

All proceeds— as they have since 1976 — will go toward the St. Matthew's Day School Scholarship Program. Scholarships are provided to assist pre-school and pre-kindergarten students in attending the day school.

Also, to benefit the school, the St. Matthew's Day School Support Group will hold a bake sale and Scholastic Book Fair during the meal. The book fair will continue throughout the week.

"It's become a tradition to run those events together to involve as much of the community as possible," said Jennifer Rigoulot, president of the Day School Support Group.

Gracie Smith (front, from left) Jarren Hill Jentry Locke and Reese Beckham join St. Matthew's Day School secretary Kelly Barton to invite Pampa to the church's pancake supper on Tuesday. ➤



photo courtesy of **Janet Whitsell**

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PAMPA FORECAST

| Today | Sunday | Monday |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | |
| High 41 Low 24 | High 54 Low 37 | High 61 Low 29 |

Today: A chance of rain and snow showers before noon, then a slight chance of snow showers between noon and 3 p.m. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Wind chill values between 24 and 33. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 24. Wind chill values between 14 and 19. North northeast wind around 10 mph becoming south.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 54. Windy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. Breezy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Washington's Birthday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. Windy, with a southwest wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Breezy, with a west northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

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STAAR test won't affect grades this year

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas high school students won't have to worry about new standardized testing known as STAAR affecting their grades this year, thanks to a one-year waiver signed Friday by the state's education chief.

Robert Scott, head of the Texas Education Agency, signed an order postponing until the 2012-2013 school year a requirement that State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness results count toward 15 percent of the final grades of some high school students in core subjects.

His move came after Sen. Florence Shapiro, head of the Texas Senate Education Committee, and three other committee members from both parties wrote Scott a letter clarifying that he had the authority to delay requirements that the test impact grades under legislation that created STAAR. It said the reprieve would give school officials more time to fully implement the exam and way its impact.

Rep. Rob Eissler, chairman of the

House Public Education Committee then gave Scott a separate letter signed by himself and 113 other House members containing similar guidance.

The requirement had been designed to ensure students take the test seriously. But it has angered some young people, parents and superintendents, who say doing poorly on the STAAR exam could hurt grades and make Texas students less attractive to university admissions boards.

The new testing system replaces the much-maligned Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test beginning this school year. Lawmakers insist they support the added accountability the new test will mean for students, teachers and school districts and that simply putting off the impact on grades by a year won't undermine the test.

STAAR includes tests for grades three to eight. Then in high school, 12 tests will be given at the end of courses in Algebra I and II; geometry; biology; chemistry;

physics; English I, II and III; world geography; world history; and U.S. history. Their results had been slated to count toward final grades.

Adding to critics' concerns was the fact that some school districts had already decided that while high school STAAR tests were meant to affect grades, they wouldn't change students' existing grade point averages or class ranks. Those instead were calculated without STAAR scores that wouldn't be ready until the end of the year.

Other districts had withheld GPAs, however, until the test results were ready. Scott's move will force those districts to change those rules for this year.

STAAR will also eventually be used to help authorities evaluate the quality of instruction in schools, but districts had already been given a year's delay from consequences of the test results as they implement the new testing system.

Obituaries

Rev. Mitchell Phillips, 96

Rev. Mitchell Phillips, 96, died February 16, 2012, in Bridgeport.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at Memory Gardens Cemetery, with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Rev. Phillips was born August 22, 1915, in Cookeville, Tenn., to Byrd and Annette Phillips. He moved to New Deal at the age of 12, and had been a resident of Pampa since 1941 before moving to Boyd in 2010. He



Phillips

married Vesta Conner on April 24, 1937, in Lubbock. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. Rev. Phillips pastored several churches and spent many years as an interim pastor for several area churches. He was affiliated with the Top O' Texas Associational Missionary. He enjoyed fishing but ministry was his true passion. He loved spending time with his family, and especially loved his seven grandchildren.

Survivors include three sons, Danny Mack Phillips and wife Cindy of Kaufman, Teddy Phil Phillips and wife Glenda of Buena Vista, Colo., and Terry Lee Phillips and wife Brenda of Boyd; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Vesta; his grandson, Brandon Phillips; three sisters and one brother.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621.

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

LAST MINUTE ADS

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56TH ANNUAL Pancakes & Bacon, St. Matthew's Parish Hall, 727 W. Browning, Tues. Feb. 21st, 5-8pm. Tickets \$5, pre-school free. Day School Support Group & Scholastic Book Fair & Bake Sale.

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COME SUPPORT small businesses from the Texas Panhandle, Pampa Women's Expo, Feb. 25 from 10 to 5, MK Brown auditorium. Free admission, hourly door prize drawings.

PART TIME help needed, Julie's Hallmark, 125 W. Kingsmill, Pampa.

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period of Friday, Feb. 17 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 20 traffic related incidents. Animal Control agents and Pampa PD reported nine animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to two medical calls.

Thursday, Feb. 16
A threat was reported at the 4000 block of North Bad Cattle Company.

An accident occurred at the 100 block of North Gray.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1200 block of North Mary Ellen.

Identity theft was reported.

A hit and run occurred at the 100 block of South Cuyler.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 100 block of East Harvester.

A hit and run occurred at the 1800 block of North

Hobart.

A theft was reported. An assault was reported. A suspicious person was reported at the 600 block of South Crawford.

Friday, Feb. 17
A prowler was reported at the 900 block of East Malone.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1000 block of Farley.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24-hour period ending Friday Feb. 17 at 7 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 16
Austin Kyle Morton, 25 was arrested by police for forgery of a financial instrument.

Friday, Feb. 17
Clayton Durand Johnson, 47, was arrested by police on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, evading arrest or detention, tampering or fabricating physical evidence and making a firearm accessible to a child.

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'Ether Man' linked to rapes

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Investigators say DNA has linked a Colorado inmate suspected of being the "Ether Man" serial rapist to a string of sexual assaults that roiled the University of Oklahoma campus from 1985 to 2005.

Prosecutors filed 19 felony charges this week against Robert Howard Bruce, who's serving a 64-year sentence for attempting to blow up a police officer's home. Bruce is accused of being the Ether Man, who was known for using chemicals to subdue dozens of rape victims in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

Court records say Bruce described the Oklahoma attacks when a detective questioned him in January. Public Defender Kim Karn, who represented Bruce in Colorado, did not immediately return a phone message Friday.

The records do not list an Oklahoma attorney for Bruce.

State evaluates charter schools

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House Public Education committee is discussing the success and failure of charter schools statewide.

Members on Friday are evaluating what works at the best charter schools and how those lessons can be applied to charter schools that aren't successful.

Charter schools were first approved in Texas in 1995 and are allowed to operate with fewer legal restrictions than regular public schools so as to allow for innovation.

Current law caps the number of open-enrollment charter schools in the state at 215, and 206 are currently operating.

Some Republicans have clamored for the cap to be increased.

But critics point to existing charter schools that are struggling with low student and teacher performance and argue they should be improved before new ones are allowed.

UT study looks at fracking

AUSTIN (AP) — A University of Texas study says there's no direct link between groundwater contamination and a controversial process to extract oil and gas known as fracking.

UT's Energy Institute says contamination can occur due to spills above ground or mishandling of wastewater. But the institute argues that those problems are not caused directly by fracking.

Fracking involves pumping pressurized water, sand and chemicals underground to open fissures and improve the flow of oil and gas to the surface. The process is used to improve productivity in gas reserves over the U.S., including the Barnett Shale in North Texas.

An Energy Institute spokesman says no industry funds paid for the project. Fracking opponents say the study needs to be reviewed.

Fears ease after train derails

ARLINGTON (AP) — A train derailment in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth area has led to the evacuations of five buildings, although initial fears of hazardous materials have eased.

Arlington Fire Department spokesman Darrell Whitfield said about 15 train cars left the track Friday near the municipal complex in the city halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth.

Whitfield said concern that a tanker might be carrying hazardous material turned to relief when the substance was found to be corn syrup.

Whitfield said people evacuated from surrounding mini-warehouses and shops were not immediately allowed to return as a precaution.

He said there were no reports of injuries.

Union Pacific crews were en route for an investigation into what caused the eastbound train to derail.

Okla. bill bans teen cell use

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A bill that would prevent teenage drivers from using cell phones while driving has cleared a Senate panel.

The Senate Public Safety Committee on Thursday voted 6-2 for the bill, which now heads to the full Senate.

The measure prohibits drivers younger than 18 from using any "hand-held electronic device while operating a motor vehicle," except in the case of a life-threatening emergency.

Tulsa Republican Sen. Brian Crain says he hopes the bill will encourage young motorists to pay more attention to the road and prevent accidents.

But Oklahoma City Republican Sen. Steve Russell opposed the measure, saying it could pave the way for the ban to be broadened to include all drivers forcing Oklahomans to "give up liberty."

Officers cleared in shooting

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A Bernalillo County grand jury has cleared three Albuquerque police officers who shot and killed a suspected carjacker last year.

The Albuquerque Journal reports that the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office said the grand jury cleared this week Officers Troy Nikko, William Thomas and Michael Oates after they were found to be justified in the June 2011 shooting of 41-year-old Raymond Leroy Garcia.

Police said Garcia, who had an extensive criminal history dating back to 1992, had pointed a gun at officers during a suspected carjacking.

Garcia was the fourth person killed in 2011, and the 17th since January 2010.

But the shooting came as the Albuquerque Police Department faced heat from community activists for officer involved shootings.

The department has since instituted a number of review reforms.

Robotic surgery growing in availability

DALLAS (AP) — As the doctor's hands moved over the controls at the oddly shaped console, four robotic arms across the room mimicked every movement with scientific precision — inside the patient.

Large screens around the room gave the staff a full view — courtesy of a camera attached to one of those arms — as the patient had only four small incisions open.

Robots have been used in surgery since the 1980s, but the technology is now more widely available in hospitals across North Texas, whether they are used for prostate surgery or heart procedures.

The main beneficiaries are patients. The high-tech advances allow doctors to perform complex surgeries that are less invasive and require shorter recovery times.

"Recuperation is so quick; it doesn't disrupt your life," said Terri Ricketts, 61, who had a robotic ablation to correct an irregular heartbeat. The resident of Blue Ridge, in Collin County, went home the day after surgery.

Dr. Kim Jett, a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, said it's a "win-win situation."

"It's better for the surgeon because we can see better, we can manipulate better and it generates a better operation," he said.

Robotic assistance for prostate and gynecological procedures has been common for years.

At the Heart Hospital Baylor Plano, robots are now used for some cardiac and thoracic procedures.

"I think that the robot is going

to revolutionize thoracic surgery," said Jett, who is the Heart Hospital's medical director for thoracic robotics. "It's going to be great for heart surgery, (but with) thoracic surgery I think that all chest operations will be able to be done with the robot."

During procedures, the doctor sees what is happening inside the patient in a three-dimensional camera image — blown up 10 times the actual size.

The Heart Hospital has used the \$1.9 million da Vinci Surgical System — with three arms wielding instruments and a fourth holding the camera — since November.

Scott Weathersby of Sherman, who has had several traditional operations, had his first robotic surgery late last year.

Jett performed both a quadruple bypass and a robotic procedure to remove a cancerous lung nodule on Weathersby.

The 71-year-old is already a convert.

"Knowing what I went through before, I'd be a fool not to let him do this," Weathersby said. "I'll tell you, it makes a lot of difference if you do it that way."

The da Vinci robot is not the only new technology at the hospital. The electrophysiology department upgraded to the Epoch platform late last year as well.

Epoch is the newest version of remote magnetic navigation; it allows doctors to treat cardiac arrhythmia — or irregular heartbeat — with a magnet-guided catheter wire.

Dr. Brian DeVille, an electro-

physiologist, said the computer system shapes the magnetic field, which is used to pull a thin, flexible catheter into the patient's heart.

Once inside, DeVille uses it to ablate — or burn — the tissue that is sending incorrect signals to the heart.

"It gives the physician more control over every aspect" of the procedure, DeVille said. Another set of magnets in the operating table triangulates the location of the catheter to within 1 millimeter, and creates a 3-D map of the heart on the doctor's screen.

The mapping system reduces the radiation exposure for the patient and the doctor during the procedure, as there is less need to X-ray to check the catheter's location.

Ricketts, who had the robotic ablation procedure done in December, was unaware she had an irregular heartbeat until last April, when she suddenly started fainting and running out of energy.

She decided to try an Epoch procedure after other treatments and medications failed.

"I love Dr. DeVille. He's fun and he's so excited about what he's doing," Ricketts said.

Doctors at the Heart Hospital say they hope the procedures become more common, and they are working on more ways to use the technology, such as replacing heart valves.

"Everybody has a friend that's had robotic surgery," Jett said. "And if you've had robotic surgery, it does impress on you that it's a lot better."

Purple martins show spring nearing Texas

GAUSE (AP) — As soon as Texas Master Naturalist Donna Lewis hears the special "dawn song" she knows the purple martins have arrived.

Lewis, 61, learned about purple martins from her mother and today she welcomes these birds with open arms for the sake of her mom.

"She loved them and their song," Lewis said. "They gurgle. They do this little song in the morning. It's a beautiful little song, and they sing it about two hours in the morning. The rest of the day, they have another song. But the 'dawn song' is so magnificent it makes you think spring is here, life is good and everything is great."

Among Texas' birders, few winged creatures draw more anticipation than the arrival of purple martins, a species of swallow that winters in South America and flies into Texas in February.

Purple martins are one of the best-loved birds, just like the bluebirds, Lewis said. The birds are popular because of their insect-eating capabilities, especially mosquitoes.

"They don't eat anything but bugs," Lewis said. "If you put houses in the right place they will come."

Purple martins, the largest of the swallows in North America, have

become dependent on man-made housing and faithfully return to the same locations each year. Human landlords, such as Lewis, anxiously await their return each spring.

Some of the earliest arrivals to the U.S. occur in South Texas and dates/locations are watched by martin fanciers who report their touchdowns at www.purplemartin.org, a website maintained by the non-profit Purple Martin Conservation Association.

Lewis, a reporter to the association, has been tracking the birds' appearances since Jan. 10 when they were seen in Pleasanton. They are already setting up house-keeping in Victoria, Austin and Houston.

"I do the martin watch, where I literally watch every five days for the six months that they are here," said Lewis, vice president of the El Camino Real Master Naturalist Chapter in Milam County. Master Naturalists are specially trained volunteers involved in wildlife activities as well as conservation of natural resources.

Purple martins can expect prime accommodations at the Lewis homestead in the rural area around Gause in eastern Milam County.

Three houses will have welcome mats out for the birds: conventional bird condos, and a plastic gourd habitat that sits safely atop a pole and is cranked to human height so their apartments can be serviced and babies counted. Her houses can accommodate 65 purple martins comfortably and safely.

New arrivals continue well into spring. The first wave consists of so-called "adult" martins, or those 2 or more years old, with adult males sporting full dark-purple color. Females are a bit drab, with a gray breast. 1-year-old martins, called "sub adults" arrive 10 to 12 weeks later than the older birds, into April. These younger birds are more easily attracted to new housing locations.

Purple martins feed on the wing, gobbling up insects from the air, and Lewis, along with other fanciers, fears their landing this spring could mean the prospect of starvation. Rain, extended cold and drought will mean few insects for them to eat. She plans to provide supplemental feed, such as frozen crickets, mealy bugs and in desperate situations, scrambled eggs died dark and flung into the air to mimic insects.

A bird census involves invading the apartment through a side door and taking the baby birds out for a measurement that will determine its age and address health issues.

"If they have been infected with lice, mites, flies, fleas or blowflies, I literally pick those babies out and wipe them down with rubbing alcohol, put them in a little box, and take the whole nest out and dispose of it completely and put all new in there, and it can give them the difference between life and death," Lewis said. "These birds take a lot more work on a human if you are going to do it."

Fledglings leave the nest 28 days after hatching.

Anyone wanting to establish a home for the migrant birds can receive help from Lewis. Attracting the birds into a new domain is not easy. The birds are suspicious at first, she said.

"They are funny little birds. The slightest little thing if I don't put those houses facing the same way they won't go in there," Lewis said. "They are their worst enemy. We are trying to help them, but they are going 'I don't know.'"

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2012. There are 317 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 18, 1861, Jefferson Davis was sworn in as provisional president of the Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Ala.

On this date:

In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died in Eisleben.

In 1564, artist Michelangelo died in Rome.

In 1735, the first opera presented in America, "Flora, or Hob in the Well," was performed in present-day Charleston, S.C.

In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S. for the first time.

In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a "dwarf planet") was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz.

In 1953, "Bwana Devil," the movie that heralded the 3D fad of the 1950s, had its New York opening.

In 1960, the 8th Winter Olympic Games were formally opened in Squaw Valley, Calif., by Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

In 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those convictions were later reversed).

In 1972, the California Supreme Court struck down the state's death penalty.

In 1977, the space shuttle Enterprise, sitting atop a Boeing 747, went on its maiden "flight" above the Mojave Desert.

In 1984, Italy and the Vatican signed an accord under which Roman Catholicism ceased to be the state religion of Italy.

In 2001, auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

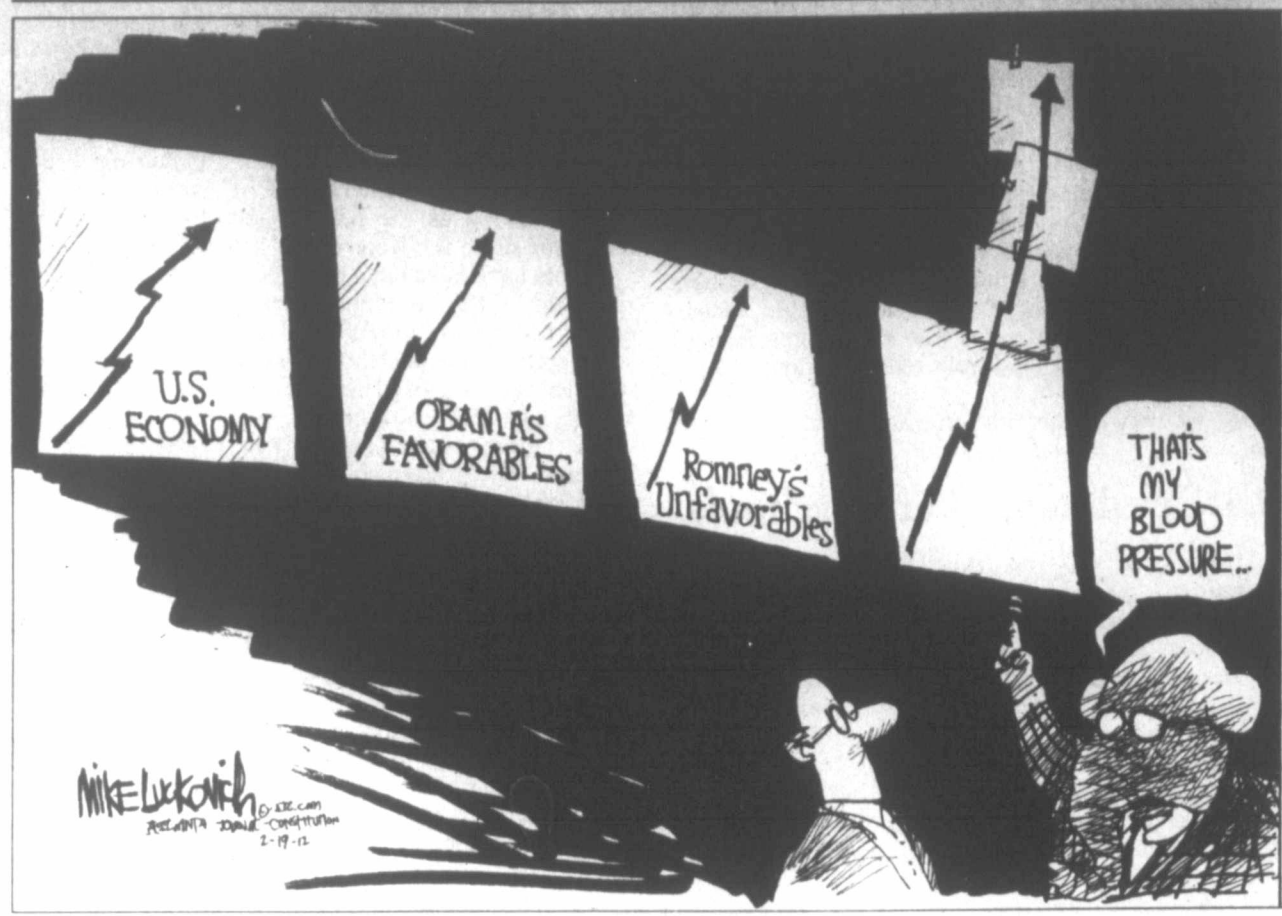
Ten years ago: Andrea Yates went on trial in Houston, charged with two counts of capital murder for the drownings of three of her five children, ages 6 months to 7 years. (Yates was found guilty, but her convictions were overturned; she was acquitted in a retrial by reason of insanity.) France's Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat narrowly won the Olympic ice dancing gold medal.

Five years ago: A military helicopter crashed in southeastern Afghanistan, killing eight U.S. service members; 14 survived with injuries. Twin car bombs blew up in a mostly Shiite area of Baghdad, killed at least 62 people. A pair of bombs on a train headed from India to Pakistan killed 68 people. Kevin Harvick nosed out Mark Martin in a frantic wreck-filled finish to win the Daytona 500. The West routed the East, 153-132, in the NBA All-Star game.

One year ago: The United States vetoed a U.N. resolution that would have condemned Israeli settlements as illegal and called for a halt in all settlement building; the 14 other Security Council members voted in favor of the measure.

Today's Birthdays: Former Cosmopolitan editor Helen Gurley Brown is 90. Actor George Kennedy is 87. Former Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is 85. Author Toni Morrison is 81. Movie director Milos Forman is 80. Singer Yoko Ono is 79. Singer-songwriter Bobby Hart is 73. Singer Irma Thomas is 71. Singer Herman Santiago (Frankie Lyman and the Teenagers) is 71. Singer Dennis DeYoung is 65. Actress Sinead Cusack is 64. Actress Cybill Shepherd is 62. Singer Juice Newton is 60. Singer Randy Crawford is 60. Rock musician Robbie Bachman is 59. Rock musician Larry Rust (Iron Butterfly) is 59. Actor John Travolta is 58. Game show host Vanna White is 55. Actress Jayne Atkinson is 53. Actress Greta Scacchi is 52. Actor Matt Dillon is 48. Rapper Dr. Dre is 47. Actress Molly Ringwald is 44. Actress Sarah Brown is 37. Actor Kristoffer Polaha is 35. Singer-musician Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 35. Actor Tyrone Burton is 33. Rock-singer musician Regina Spektor is 32. Actor Shane Lyons is 24. Actress Maiara Walsh is 24.

Thought for Today: "Opinion is that exercise of the human will which helps us to make a decision without information." — John Erskine, American author and educator (1879-1951)



Why are people smiling in obituary photos?

Grateful Dead?

When I grab a paper I always make sure to check the obituaries. The first reason obviously, is to be sure I'm not there. The second reason is to see if anyone I know is.

Then I scan them for names to use in this column. But while I'm there, I can't help but notice the pictures.

Some folks have such a frown that you wonder why they had their pictures made. But then again, I'm likely not going to be too happy that I'm dead, so I may have a picture made of me where I look really angry, for the sole purpose of using it in my obituary. (Conversely, some people have such big smile that they look pleased as punch to be there.)

That brings up another point. (And I realize I'm treading on really thin ice here, but I mean no offense to anyone.) I can understand posting an old picture of a person who served in the military, or maybe as a firefighter, policeman, or otherwise uniformed public servant. I don't really understand, however, posting a high school picture for someone who is... well, LONG past graduation.

Anyone who ever knew them when they looked that way has either forgotten it, or has slipped off the mortal coil himself (or herself, to be politically correct).

And while I'm tromping on toes, I might as well bring up extraordinarily long obits that recite trivia likely of interest only to those who were very close—and they already know it.

I am not talking here about the deceased's significant contributions to make the world a better place, but does anyone really care what kind of music Pop listened to in the barn?

Conversely, once in a while I really learn something when I read one.

Warp & Woof



JOE WEAVER

I found out that the cook at my grade school cafeteria had served in the military as secretary to a general in Berlin after WWII. And in the same set of obits was one for a professor I had who was significant to documenting the history of the Panhandle, especially Clarendon. I didn't much like her as a professor (though she was very good), but it made me wonder what our relationship would have been if I'd known of her interest in history.

It's A Small World After All

Thursday, I was beat from hard physical labor and my wife had to work a couple of hours overtime, so neither of us wanted to prepare dinner (or supper, where I come from).

What we needed was some hearty Italian food from Verona Italian Bistro (commonly — but erroneously — called "Verona's").

As we dined I realized it was "International Night". Owner Luon Vuktana is Italian (from Verona actually!), and his wife Lindita is Albanian. I noticed that the people at a table near us were speaking accented English and I finally recognized one of them—Dr. Bruno Romeo from Colombia (Pampa's newest OB-GYN). With him at the

table were a young woman from Austria and a man from Minnesota, which is almost in Canada. We could have had a summit right there!

A Twisted Tongue

My sweet wife puts up with a lot, as you can imagine, but every now and then she gets in a zinger of her own. Leading up to Valentine's Day, we heard someone comment, "Make romance last".

She said "I know how to do that." Figuring she was going to make some sentimental remark about our 35 year marriage, I asked her "How's that?"

"Easy," she said, "put everything else first! Then romance will be last!"

Russ Alexander told me that First Baptist Church has a new program to encourage fellowship. It involves eight people meeting once a week and is called "Supper 8." Kind of a cute name, I guess, but when I heard it, I thought he was saying "supperate", defined as "to form or discharge pus".

Speaking of church, the offices of First Methodist were moved to temporary quarters this week, as remodeling goes into high gear. Don Alexander (no relation to Russ, as far as I know) told me he had accidentally dropped a desk drawer as he was taking it to the new digs in the old White House Lumber building.

"Don", I said, "that's making my humn: 'Faithful Methodist drops drawers in front of church!'"

Joe Weaver is lives in Pampa and is a columnist at large (or large columnist) for The Pampa News. He is also a great storyteller. He may be reached at warp_woof@yahoo.com.

The problem with too many political debates

What role should debates have in political campaigning? That's the question being raised by this Republican presidential primary season.

Some prominent Republicans are worried that the nonstop series of GOP debates has done their party more harm than good by showcasing all the differences among the candidates. But others disagree precisely because the debates have given the candidates a chance to air their opinions. "I think they've been the most important primary debates in our history. Certainly the most important I've ever covered," CNN's Wolf Blitzer said on the night of the Florida primary.

The debates' impact on the campaign is interesting, but they raise a larger issue that shouldn't get lost in presidential horse-race coverage. It has to do with how the average voter gets to know a candidate, whether for the presidency or for a seat in Congress — and what we ought to know about a candidate before we make up our minds. Can we devise a political campaign in this country that allows us to get beyond the debates' one-liners, superficial answers and stage-managed images, to an in-depth, wide-open discussion with opportunity for extensive follow-up?

There's no question that debates have some value. Structured properly, they make a candidate put forth his or her ideas, give us a glimpse of how they behave under pressure, and allow us to get a sense of what the candidates — and sometimes the party as a whole — believe the campaign is about. If there's a series of debates, they also allow us to become familiar with the candidates' personalities and style.

But there can be too much of a good thing. Preparing for many debates cuts hugely into the time a candidate spends with actual voters (rather than the media who control the debates), listening to their concerns, taking the temperature of the electorate, deepening the campaign's message and building its organization and outreach. It's important for candidates to get to know the electorate in the work place, at diners, in places of worship, at service-club meetings and shopping malls and even political rallies. Debates move the candidate toward the television screen and in some important ways away from the voter.

More fundamentally, it's worth asking to what extent debates give voters the information they need

to make discriminating choices. You want a politician to be able to think on her feet and to be articulate, of course; agility with both words and ideas is a valuable political skill. But in public officials we want more than a good debater. Debates tend to harden candidates' positions, rewarding indignation and forcefully stated convictions. They show us

nothing of a candidate's ability to work toward common ground with people who disagree — which is, of course, the essence of governing. And debates steer candidates away from in-depth exploration of complex issues — witness, for instance, the almost total lack of foreign-policy discussion in the series of GOP presidential debates.

There are ways to handle some of these shortcomings, of course. Debates could benefit from avoiding the one-minute-statement, 30-second-rebuttal format, and instead allow for true discussion in a format that would allow voters to see how the candidates address major issues in reasonable juxtaposition with one another. After all, that's what elected

HAMILTON cont. on page 5A

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- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
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Sunday in History

Today is Sunday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2012. There are 316 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 19, 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the U.S. military to exclude people from designated areas. (The order was used to relocate and intern American residents of Japanese ancestry, a majority of whom were native-born U.S. citizens.)

On this date:

In 1473, astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.

In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution.

In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin, with J. Pinckney Henderson taking the oath of office as governor.

In 1878, Thomas Edison received a U.S. patent for "an improvement in phonograph or speaking machines."

In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

In 1942, Japanese warplanes raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed.

In 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.

In 1976, calling the issuing of Executive Order 9066 "a sad day in American history," President Gerald R. Ford issued a proclamation confirming that the order had been terminated with the formal cessation of hostilities of World War II.

In 1983, 13 people were found shot to death at a gambling club in Seattle's Chinatown in what became known as the Wah Mee Massacre. (Two Chinese immigrants were convicted of the killings and sentenced to life in prison.)

In 1992, Irish Republican Army member Joseph Doherty was deported from the United States to Northern Ireland following a ten-year battle for political asylum. (Doherty was imprisoned for killing a British army commando in 1980; he was freed in 1998 under the Good Friday Agreement.)

In 1997, Deng Xiaoping, the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

Ten years ago: Addressing Japan's national legislature, President George W. Bush said the country's recession-ravaged economy was "on the path to reform," and urged the Diet to help curb the spread of terrorism in the region; Bush then traveled to South Korea for a two-day visit. NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft began mapping the Red Planet. In Salt Lake City, a win by bobsledders Jill Bakken and Vonneta Flowers gave the United States 21 medals in the Winter Games; Flowers became the first black athlete to strike gold at the Winter Olympics.

Five years ago: Three-way talks in the Mideast between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli and Palestinian leaders, initially billed as a new U.S. push to restart peace efforts, ended with little progress other than a commitment to meet again. Hundreds of gay couples were granted the same legal rights, if not the title, as married couples as New Jersey became the third state to offer civil unions. Actress Janet Blair died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 85.

One year ago: Security forces in Libya and Yemen fired on pro-democracy demonstrators as the two hard-line regimes struck back against the wave of protests that had already toppled autocrats in Egypt and Tunisia. The world's dominant economies, meeting in Paris, struck a watered-down deal on how to smooth out trade and currency imbalances blamed for a global financial crisis.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 72. Singer Bobby Rogers (Smokey Robinson & the Miracles) is 72. Actress Carlin Glynn is 72. Sony Chairman, CEO and President Howard Stringer is 70. Singer Lou Christie is 69. Actor Michael Nader is 67. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 64. Actor Stephen Nichols is 61. Author Amy Tan is 60. Actor Jeff Daniels is 57. Rock singer-musician Dave Wakeling is 56. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 55. Actor Ray Winstone is 55. Actor Leslie David Baker is 54. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 53. Britain's Prince Andrew is 52. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Hana Mandlikova is 50. Singer Seal is 49. Actress Jessica Tuck is 49. Country musician Ralph McCauley (Wild Horses) is 48. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 47. Actress Justine Bateman is 46. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 45. Rock musician Daniel Adair is 37. Pop singer-actress Haylie Duff is 27.

Thought for Today: "Passion and prejudice govern the world; only under the name of reason."
- John Wesley, English theologian (1703-1791).

Students benefit from dog training program

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — She may be one of Trinity University's most recent recruits, but her schedule is already packed.

About 40 students have signed up just to hang out with her for a spell. She rewards them grandly by playing tug-of-war with her favorite toys, chewing anything within reach and looking adorable.

Jurgens is a frisky 4-month-old yellow Labrador retriever, but someday you might spot her at an airport fighting terrorism with her bomb-sniffing snout.

Trinity is the only university or school to foster a pup through the Transportation Security Administration Canine Breeding and Development Center — also known as the puppy program — at Lackland Air Force Base, said program manager Scott Thomas.

The goal of the program is not only to train dogs to detect dangerous materials like explosives in mass transit areas, but it's also to breed a high-energy dog meeting health standards for hips, elbows and eyes needed for the work, Thomas said.

Trinity began fostering Jurgens in December and will continue until October, when program staff

will determine if she makes the cut for work training. Since breeding its first litter in 2002, the program has supplied more than 550 dogs to TSA, the U.S. Department of Defense and other agencies.

All are named for a 9/11 victim. Jurgens is named for Paul Jurgens, a port authority police officer who was reportedly last seen on his way to help at the World Trade Center. The extra "J" indicates she was bred at Lackland, Thomas said.

"It keeps the victims of 9/11 in people's memory," said David Tuttle, Trinity's dean of students, who takes the puppy home with him at night and has reached out to Jurgens' family. "I never would have known about Paul Jurgens if it hadn't been for Jurgens."

While Trinity students are busy studying economics or music, Jurgens is learning to be at ease among crowds with her own student ID strapped to her doggie vest. That is, when she's not disturbing the dean's caffeine consumption.

"I have not had my coffee yet that she has not somehow managed to spill it," Tuttle said.

Though students aren't allowed to have pets on campus, the university has previously brought puppies

to school as finals stress relievers or as a cuddly incentive to snap yearbook photos.

Jurgens spends much of the day in the office of Katharine Martin, the coordinator for student-edited publications. But as faculty members hold office hours, Jurgens has "Puppy Hours" once a week, which draw a crowd of students seeking out a few minutes with the resident pooch.

In the evenings, students stop by the Tuttle's house to walk Jurgens, though she often prefers to lounge in the yard or try to devour things she shouldn't. She's been known to nibble at pieces of gum, banana peels and sweatshirts.

Sophomore Joey Lucci of Miami said he misses his family's dog so much that he's given up playing video games after finishing homework to walk Jurgens instead.

Freshman Maddie Winchester misses her pets back in Portland, Ore., too.

"I am a huge animal lover. So I think it's really great to be able to interact with animals at school," Winchester said. "It's also just a really good way to give back since we're training her to hopefully help protect all of us."

Hamilton

cont. from page 4A

officials have to be able to do — so why not let the electorate see them at it before they get elected?

There are many important qualities that debates do not test: the ability to build consensus, to work with people of differing opinions and backgrounds, to make sound judgments about what's best for the country, to sort through complex issues and arrive at proposals that move the nation forward. These are qualities that voters can gauge only by seeing candidates in action on the stump, by hearing them explain in depth how they would approach

our big challenges, and by watching them as they encounter people from all walks of life.

Televised debates are a part of the modern campaign. They seem to be popular with voters and are undoubtedly good theater. But we should not mistake them for the best way to get information to the discriminating voter.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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Prosecutors to drop charges on airline explosives case

MIDLAND (AP) — Federal prosecutors on Friday asked that a judge dismiss the criminal charge against a soldier who was arrested at a Texas airport in December after trying to bring military-grade explosives on a cross-country flight.

In their motion to dismiss the charge against Sgt. 1st Class Trey Scott Atwater, prosecutors said there was insufficient evidence to prove he knew he was carrying the explosives when he was arrested at Midland International Airport on Dec. 31.

According to the motion, the FBI found that Atwater, a Special Forces

demolitions expert, routinely carried quantities of C-4 explosives in his backpack while serving in Afghanistan. The FBI confirmed that the explosives he brought on the plane had been placed in his pack in Afghanistan and that he'd forgotten to remove them, the document said.

Although the criminal charge will be dropped, Atwater likely will face administrative and "other measures" from the Army, according to the motion.

The Green Beret's commanders will review the case and decide whether to take any disciplinary action, said Lt. Col. Tom Bryant, a spokesman for the

Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg.

"There's a number of options for the commander to take, ranging from a letter of reprimand to a court martial," Bryant said. "They'll look at all the facts surrounding the incident."

A call to Atwater's attorney wasn't immediately returned.

Atwater, 30, lives in Hope Mills, N.C., and grew up in Midland. He served three tours with Special Forces and returned to Fort Bragg, N.C., after his last tour in late April or early May, according to the government's motion.

Atwater was charged with trying to

bring explosives onto an airplane, which carries a maximum 10-year federal prison sentence, after security officers found the explosives in his carry-on luggage.

C4 looks like a block of clay and requires a blasting cap or detonator to explode. Combat troops have ready access to the explosive, which can also be used as fuel for heating water or rations.

The U.S. military forbids troops from taking C4 out of combat zones, but the screening process for troops heading home is not as stringent as for people flying on commercial airlines.

Shell Oil wins approval of Arctic spill response plan

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Shell Oil cleared one of the last remaining hurdles to Arctic offshore drilling Friday as the federal government said it has approved the company's spill response plan for the Chukchi Sea.

Environmentalists and Alaska Natives living along the Arctic Coast have bitterly opposed drilling. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said in a prepared statement that the federal government was taking a cautious approach.

"In the Arctic frontier, cautious exploration — under the strongest oversight, safety requirements, and emergency response plans ever established — can help us expand our understanding of the area and its resources, and support our goal of continuing to increase safe and responsible domestic oil and gas production," Salazar said.

The federal government estimates there are 26.6 billion barrels of recoverable oil and 130 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Arctic Ocean's outer continental shelf reserves. The total includes both the Chukchi Sea, off Alaska's northwest coast, and the Beaufort Sea off the state's north coast.

Shell Oil Co., the Houston-based arm of Royal Dutch Shell PLC, hopes to drill up to three wells in the Chukchi during the short open water season this summer and two wells in the Beaufort.

Salazar said Shell must still obtain approval from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which must inspect and approve equipment that has been designed for spill response. That equipment includes Shell's capping stack, a device that could be lowered onto a well after a blowout.

Rebecca Noblin, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity in Anchorage, said Shell's cleanup plan relies on technology such as the capping stack that has not even been built, much less tested.

"The reality is, we don't know how to deal with an oil spill in the Arctic," she said.

Chris Krenz of Oceana, an environmental group that focuses on oceans, applauded the decision to test Shell's response equipment but questioned why officials would sign off on the spill prevention plan before the tests.

"It's really ludicrous to approve Shell's spill plan before those in-water tests are done," Krenz said.

The decision presumes the next test will succeed, but the last public test of cleaning a spill in ice-filled waters was in 2000 and was a failure, Krenz said. Shell's spill response plan claims it can clean up nearly all oil spilled, even though the recovery from BP PLC's Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico, a location with far more infrastructure, was about 10 percent.

"It's crazy," Krenz said. "It's just not going to be possible. It seems like the Obama administration had joined Shell in oil response dreamland."

Shell Alaska Vice President Pete Slaiby said approval of the oil spill response plan is a major milestone. The decision, he said, validates the huge amount of time, technology and resources the company has dedicated to assembling an Arctic oil spill response fleet.

The company spent \$2.1 billion on leases in the Chukchi Sea at a 2008 lease sale that was challenged by environmental groups, which claimed federal regulators did not follow environmental law before putting leases up for bid. The sale remains under court review.

Salazar said the approval of Shell's plan was guided by the latest science, new safety standards and lessons learned from Deepwater Horizon.

Besides the capping stack, Shell had to show the capability to capture and collect oil from the stack and to have a second drilling ship stationed nearby that was capable of drilling a relief well that could kill a well blowout.

Shell's Chukchi wells are proposed for the Burger Prospect, about 70 miles offshore in about 140 feet of water. Slaiby has said the site presents far fewer technical challenges and cannot be compared to the deep-water drilling and high pressures involved in the Deepwater Horizon blowout.

James A. Watson, director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, said Shell's plan underwent an exhaustive review and his agency had confidence that the company can pre-stage equipment and personnel for effective spill response.

Alaska's elected officials praised the decision. Upward of 90 percent of state government revenue is tied to the oil industry, but the trans-Alaska pipeline has been running at less than one-third capacity as North Slope oil fields have matured and reserves have dwindled.

Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, said the announcement showed the federal government is preparing for short-term emergency response as well as long-term science for responsible development of Arctic resources.

"Alaskans should be assured the federal government is taking this seriously and has plans in place," he said.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, congratulated the Interior Department.

"Today's decision confirms what we've known for some time — that Shell has put together a robust and comprehensive spill prevention and response plan that offers the highest level of environmental protection," she said.

Yet, Shell faces other hurdles.

The federal government approved Shell's Chukchi Sea exploration plan with the condition that the company stop drilling into hydrocarbon zones 38 days before sea ice forms around the lease area. The condition was put in place so Shell would have time to fix a wellhead blowout while operating in open water. However, the requirement cuts a 105-day open water drilling season down by 38 days. Shell is seeking to reverse the decision.

Shell plans to use the drill ship Noble Discoverer in the Chukchi. The vessel is drilling a well in New Zealand before a trip to the West Coast for modifications.

Shell is awaiting a decision on an appeal by environmental groups of EPA air permits for a second drill ship, the Kulluk, which Shell will use for Beaufort Sea drilling. The Kulluk also could drill a relief well in the Chukchi Sea if a blowout disabled the Noble Discoverer.

The Kulluk is undergoing upgrades in Seattle, including replacement of its engines to make them compliant with air standards.

Shot student not under the influence, autopsy reveals

McALLEN (AP) — The 15-year-old Brownsville student fatally shot by police inside his middle school after brandishing a pellet gun was not under the influence of any illicit substances, according to a full autopsy county officials released Friday.

Shortly after the Jan. 4 shooting of Jaime Gonzalez at Cummings Middle School, police announced he had died of two gunshot wounds, one to the chest and another to the abdomen. The autopsy released by the Cameron County District Clerk's office in response to a public records request supported that initial finding.

The toxicology report found only caffeine and two other compounds, theobromine, commonly found in chocolate or tea and theophylline, used in the treatment of asthma and also a metabolite of caffeine. Gonzalez also suffered a cut to his head, but there was no skull fracture associated with the cut. The pathologist who performed the autopsy could not be immediately reached for comment.

The shooting happened during first period at the school. Teachers locked classroom doors and turned off lights, and some frightened students dove under their desks. They could hear police charge down the hallway and shout for Gonzalez to drop the weapon. Gonzalez's parents criticized police immediately after the shooting for using lethal force, but police said they had no way of knowing the gun he refused to drop shot pellets.

Also Friday, The Associated Press received a copy of a letter from a school district attorney to the state attorney general, explaining that surveillance cameras in the school partially captured the shooting.

The letter, which claimed that the video should be exempt from the public records law, said Gonzalez could be seen in the video right before he was shot and soon after when he was lying in a pool of blood. Portions of the letter were redacted, but appeared to list, at least in part, other school district

records provided to investigators.

The Associated Press is seeking release of the surveillance images. The Brownsville Independent School District argues that the video should be exempt because its release would interfere with the investigation or prosecution. The police have said the shooting was justified and no one has been charged.

A police report released earlier this week by the state attorney general revealed that a police sergeant gave the order to "take him out" after Gonzalez turned toward another student in the hallway of the school.

The report confirmed officers' earlier statements that Gonzalez pointed the gun at them but also raised the possibility that he fired. The other student told investigators he believed Gonzalez had fired at police, and crime scene technicians recovered evidence that suggested Gonzalez fired at officers during an initial encounter near the school entrance. The report does not specify what the evidence was.

Police said Gonzalez did not appear to be intoxicated or exhibit mental health problems, but he repeatedly ignored their orders to drop his gun.

Dale Kasofsky, an attorney representing Gonzalez's parents, said Thursday the police account raised more questions than it answered. He described the new suggestion that Gonzalez may have fired as a "red herring." If Gonzalez had fired, Kasofsky said police should have realized it was a pellet gun. He was generally critical of the county and school district's withholding of records related to Gonzalez and the incident.

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Investors bilked in Texas tycoon's scheme feel forgotten

HOUSTON (AP) — Sitting in the back of a courtroom where Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford is being tried for fraud, retired IBM engineer Jim Eccles was eager to see the man accused of bilking thousands of investors in a \$7 billion Ponzi scheme. Eccles, who lost his life savings, said he'd spent hours traveling on a bus for one reason.

"I wanted to see the guy that stole my money," the 76-year-old Austin resident said Friday, shortly before testimony resumed in the ongoing trial in Houston.

Three years have passed since Stanford's business empire was dismantled in the hope that his companies, bank accounts and lavish assets could pay back the more than 21,000 people that prosecutors said were victimized. Many lost their retirement savings or saw college tuition funds gutted.

But so far, they've received nothing.

The recovery process has been complicated by conflicts in securing Stanford's assets, which are scattered across several countries, and a legal fight over whether some investors are entitled to a special fund that protects customers of failed brokerage firms.

The delay has left investors feeling cheated and forgotten, with some worrying about being able to afford a doctor's visit or if they can get by on Social

Security checks.

Eccles was among about 40 investors in the courtroom Friday who came from as far away as Florida to highlight their frustration. The investors — most of them elderly and retired — said they lost their life savings after buying certificates of deposit, or CDs, from Stanford's bank on the Caribbean island nation of Antigua. Stanford's trial began last month.

Prosecutors allege the CDs were the centerpiece of Stanford's 20-year fraud scheme. Stanford promised investors their money was being safely invested in stocks, bonds and other securities, but investigators say the money was actually used to fund the flamboyant financier's businesses and extravagant lifestyle filled with yachts and private jets.

Many investors feel lost and don't understand the intricacies of the recovery process, said Angela Shaw, who founded the Stanford Victims Coalition after she and her husband lost \$2 million in the alleged scheme. She helped organize Friday's courtroom visit by investors.

"At some point along the way, a lot of them have lost hope," she said.

Before testimony resumed, the investors gathered around tables at the courthouse's cafeteria and swapped stories over coffee: how much money

they lost, how they were enticed to buy the CDs, how they were reassured their investments were protected by insurance.

Paul Gallagher, from suburban Houston, said he lost \$557,000 and now supports his 90-year-old mother-in-law, who lost \$890,000. Gallagher, 64, said he still works as an engineering consultant and will "probably work forever now."

For investors like Kate Freeman who live outside the U.S., their frustration is magnified. In a telephone interview from her home in Antigua, the British retiree said they feel "totally left out in the cold" when it comes to getting updates on the recovery process. She runs the Stanford International Victims Group.

"I live on charity. For somebody that's never had to ask anyone for a penny, it's very demeaning," said Freeman, who is in her late 50s and lost \$820,000.

Gallagher and other investors at the courthouse said they were upset by the "glacial speed" of the recovery process and noted that millions of dollars have been paid in fees and expenses related to the receiver's work.

As of the end of October, Ralph Janvey, the Dallas-based receiver, had collected nearly \$217 million. Officials expect only about \$500 million in assets will ultimately be recovered — meaning

investors would receive pennies on the dollar for their losses. More could be recouped through lawsuits, but that could take years.

But minus \$102 million in fees and expenses for attorneys, accountants and consultants, the total recovered for investors currently sits at only \$114.5 million.

Janvey has defended those costs. In court filings, he said the recovery process has been difficult because assets were scattered across dozens of countries and were part of more than 100 businesses owned by Stanford.

Also complicating the recovery process is an ongoing legal battle between Janvey and Antigua Joint Liquidators to lay claim to many of the same assets.

Edward Davis Jr., one of the attorneys for the liquidators appointed by the Antiguan Court, said his clients are working to sell off the bank's assets, which include land on Antigua worth between \$100 million and \$200 million, and to bring liability claims against those who assisted Stanford in committing fraud.

Janvey has previously said those assets should pass under his receivership.

The liquidators and the U.S. Justice Department have also been battling over control of more than \$330 million of Stanford's accounts frozen in

Canada, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Davis said the liquidators are not looking to take over Janvey's estate recovery process and are willing to work with him. But in an email Friday, David Arlington, one of Janvey's attorneys, said the liquidators in Antigua "have been unwilling to agree to any resolution that does not give them effective control of the U.S. receivership and the assets already collected or frozen for distribution to the investor victims."

Investors have also sought compensation through the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, or SIPC. The nonprofit, created by Congress and funded through mandatory fees on brokerage firms, works to return customers' cash, stocks and other securities when a brokerage firm closes due to bankruptcy or other financial difficulties.

Last year, the federal Securities and Exchange Commission ruled many of the Stanford investors should be compensated by SIPC, saying investors who bought CDs through the financier's U.S. brokerage arm were entitled to protection that would pay up to \$500,000.

SIPC disagreed, and the SEC sued the group in December.

Stephen Harbeck, president and CEO of SIPC, said even though the brokerage firm sold the CDs

to customers, the CDs were not held by the firm but by Stanford's bank in Antigua, which is not a member of the group.

"While the SEC thinks these people are victims, we agree with that. What they don't fit is the confines of the statutes that we administer," Harbeck said.

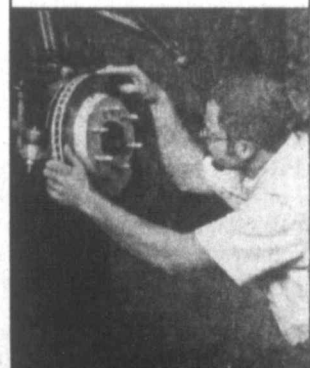
A hearing in the lawsuit is set for March 5 in Washington.

With all the legal and financial wrangling, it is easy to understand why the investors feel lost, said Shaw, founder of the victims' group.

"It's just like one punch after another," she said. "I don't know if all the investors will outlast this time consuming procedure."

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Texas kidnapper admits to having disturbing fantasies

WEATHERFORD, Texas (AP) — A Texas man said he had sexual fantasies about bondage but couldn't explain why he kidnapped his ex-neighbor, sexually assaulted her on a deer-skinning device and chained her to a bed, according to videotaped interviews with law enforcement officers played at his trial Friday.

"I don't really know all the whys," Jeffrey Allan Maxwell tells investigators in a March video recording made a few days after his arrest.

Maxwell, 59, faces up to life in prison if convicted of aggravated kidnapping and two counts of aggravated sexual assault.

In the interviews, he described abducting the woman and driving 100 miles to his Corsicana home, about 50 miles south of Dallas. The woman escaped 12 days later when authorities went there to question him about her disappearance.

The Associated Press generally does not identify possible victims of sexual assault.

Maxwell's attorneys objected to playing of the interviews, saying he requested an attorney during the questioning. The judge overruled them.

In the video recordings, he denied sexually assaulting his former neighbor repeatedly while holding her captive, only giving details about an assault on the deer-skinning device in the garage and saying "after that, I pretty much left her alone." But in an audio recording made just hours after Maxwell was arrested, he's heard telling an investigator they had sex at least one other time and later acknowledging the woman had not consented. Maxwell and the woman, now 63, were

neighbors in a rural Parker County town about 70 miles west of Dallas before he moved seven years ago. In the video, he tells investigators he stole panties from her house when they were neighbors but says "they weren't sexy enough" as he and the investigator start laughing. He says he and the woman were acquaintances and never dated.

Investigators repeatedly asked Maxwell, who had been the vice president of the Kiwanis Club in Corsicana, why he kidnapped the woman and why he did it at that time.

"That's a damn good question," Maxwell said at one point. When later asked if he needed help, he said, "I imagine I do. Yes."

After an investigator told Maxwell that pornographic DVDs with bondage and rape scenes were found at his home, Maxwell acknowledged he'd fantasized about bondage. During another interview, Maxwell said he tried bondage once with his second wife, Martha Martinez Maxwell.

It's unclear whether investigators asked him more questions about her; only parts of the interviews were shown to jurors. After his arrest last year, authorities said they were re-opening the case into Martha Martinez Maxwell's 1992 disappearance and Jeff Maxwell was under investigation. State District Judge Trey Loftin has barred anything about her disappearance from being discussed during this trial.

In several recorded interviews with investigators, Maxwell repeatedly denied setting his former neighbor's house on fire two days after her abduction. But in a video recording, he tells investigators he returned to her house that

day to get her mail so her neighbors wouldn't realize she was gone.

The woman testified earlier that Maxwell hit her with a rolling pin and handcuffed her during the March 1 abduction. She said he kept her in handcuffs and chained her legs to a bed, even locking her in a box when he once ran an errand. She told jurors she bled profusely after one of the sexual assaults, which she said stopped after about a week when he became ill. Then he left her unrestrained when they were in the same room but still watched her closely, she said.

Investigators have testified they found whips, chains, sex toys, duct tape, the animal-skinning device, blood-stained sheets and guns in Maxwell's house.



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United

cont. from page 1

Transportation forum raises funding woes

provide duplications of services that United Way beneficiary agencies currently offer.

Listed below are the 10 most common criteria used by United Ways to determine funding eligibility of local agencies. These guidelines are broadly stated to provide maximum opportunity for United Way chapters to review them in a manner that will best serve the interests of their respective communities. Each criterion is followed by a brief explanation which describes issues and implications surrounding implementation:

1. Is incorporated, not-for-profit and IRS tax-exempt.

Explanation: Agencies receiving United Way dollars must be not-for-profit organizations that have been declared tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service or have a 501(c)3 purpose. The United Way has the responsibility to verify that the recipient organization has been ruled tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service. Evidence of compliance with state charitable regulations should be provided, where applicable. A copy of the agency's by-laws should also be provided to the United Way.

2. Offers human service programs.

Explanation: The United Way of America Service Identification System defines various human services and programs that may qualify for funding. Many communities may limit "human service programs" to specifically health, welfare, and youth guidance programs. United Way funded agencies should meet the tests of accessibility (e.g., location of the facility) and availability (e.g., frequency and times of operation). The entity applying must be in service for two full years.

3. Provides community service based on documented need(s).

Explanation: The agency/program should address itself to an identifiable current need, demand, or problem in the community. Services which are supported by voluntary dollars should be clearly defined and their impact documented by the organization. They should be offered to a target population or geographic local not presently served by existing programs.

4. Non-discriminatory.

Explanation: Discrimination by race, creed, color, sex, age or religion should be prohibited in programs, service, staffing and volunteer areas. A written affirmative action plan for employment of staff would reinforce compliance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972.

5. Has an active, rotating, volunteer leadership that represents the diverse elements of the community.

Explanation: The agency's board of directors of governing body should consist of volunteers who participate in the policy-making processes, represent the diverse elements of the community, periodically rotate off the board and meet, at least, quarterly. Members of the volunteer structure should not receive financial remuneration from the program(s) or service(s) they oversee.

6. Has sound financial and program management.

Explanation: Demonstrated ability to manage the finances of the programs/services in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures. The organization should provide copy of its annual audit using an independent certified public accountant or accounting firm, where feasible. A determination should be made as to the convincing likelihood that the organization can or will meet its stated program objectives.

If the above guidelines are satisfied, the United Way may be reasonable assured that the applying organization is eligible for voluntary support. Eligibility determination does not necessarily result in United Way funding. The amount of available dollars, the urgency of existing needs, and other key variables are important to the United Way budget allocation process and the final funding decision. Many United Ways require additional information from agencies as conditions for funding. These conditions are unique to the United Way funding relationship and are often included in formalized agreements. Examples of common agreement conditions are listed below:

7. Agrees to support and cooperate with the United Way in the following areas: 1. Fundraising, 1. Planning, 3. Communications, 4. Allocations

Explanation: United Ways' relationships with agencies should be one of partnership rather than one of ownership. This relationship evolves around four primary areas: raising voluntary contributions, planning for the needs of the total community, communicating their services to the public, and allocating the funds through an equitable and effective budget allocation process.

8. Agrees to provide timely financial and program information.

Explanation: Agencies share the responsibility of being accountable to the community for the expenditure of voluntary dollars. Periodic reporting of financial and program data to the United Way on operating costs and income which documents agency expenditures and substantiates their validity.

9. Agrees to inform and seek approval from the United Way for all significant program/staff expansion or reduction.

Explanation: The United Way should not be expected to assume financial responsibility for any expansion or discontinuation of the agency's operations or facilities without prior approval and discussion of how this action will affect the agency's allocations, if at all.

10. Agrees to obtain prior approval from the United Way before engaging in any supplemental fundraising effort.

Explanation: Agencies must obtain prior approval from the United Way regarding their capital and supplemental fundraising needs. Efforts by agencies to develop sources of income should be carried out in such a manner as to assure that:

- the United Way giving base in the community will not be adversely affected;
- agency financing efforts are consistent with mutually agreed upon policies between the United Way and the agency; and
- the United Way is fully informed and supports, in advance, special financing efforts undertaken by the agency.

For more information on the process, call 806-669-1001.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The well of available funding for new transportation projects is nearly dry, and states across the country may need to use more resources, including toll roads, to make up the budget shortfall.

That theme underscored the seventh Texas Transportation Forum this week in San Antonio.

Officials with the Texas Department of Transportation, which sponsored the event, have said funding for new roads could run out by 2014, leaving only enough money to maintain the state's existing highways.

That's putting lawmakers in a funding pickle, and they are searching for a variety of options to pay for construction. Former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell — who once supported leasing the Pennsylvania turnpike, a move the state legislature quashed — embraced public-private partnerships in his keynote address Friday. He called for a lifting of the federal ban on tolling and for states to have the right to pursue alternative resources until the federal government can figure out its transportation funding tangle.

"There's no way we're ever going to meet our transportation goals if we shut the private sector out," he said.

The conference concluded at the end of a week in which controversial transportation bills stalled in Congress, raising questions about whether lawmakers

will pass a new bill at all.

Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff said Thursday that San Antonio is adopting multimodal options, including the planned downtown streetcar line, as a solution to the limited highway funding.

But he also warned that tolling portions of Loop 1604 was likely imminent, following the expected completion of a federal environmental impact study in 2013.

Expanding the northern half of Loop 1604 could cost \$1.2 billion, said Terry Brechtel, executive director of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority, which is Bexar County's tolling agency.

State Rep. Drew Darby, R-San Angelo, suggested in his speech Thursday raising the vehicle registration fee by \$50.

The state uses the registration fees and a 20 cent gas tax — which hasn't been increased since 1991 — to pay for road construction. But as motorists drive more fuel-efficient cars, the gas tax revenues have decreased; and vehicle registration hasn't been increased since 1985, he said.

"I think the Legislature is going to have to look at all options," Darby said.

Darby's suggestion to bump up registration fees is not a new. But previous legislative efforts, like those to increase the gas tax and to end gas tax diversions, have gone nowhere.

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Perryton lives up to their word in Tuesday's game

After postgame incidents marred the February 3 game between Pampa and Perryton, the Perryton administration decided to make changes for Pampa's next visit, which occurred last Tuesday. I wasn't at the game because I was in Plainview covering the girls basketball team's playoff game, but from what I heard from others, Perryton lived up to their word.

What really stood out to people was how much security there was. Head coach Dustin Miller jokingly told me that he felt important and described the gym as a "prison yard."

"There was just so many security armed people everywhere," Miller said. "It kind of felt awkward."

Worley Kennedy, Pampa High School basketball booster president, said the strong security definitely sent a message



ANDREW GLOVER

any unsportsmanlike actions from the stands. To prevent any unsportsmanlike actions after the game, Pampa resident Zach Murray said they held the fans in the stands until both teams left the court. Both teams were held in their locker room until the gym was cleared. I have

to fans. "The overabundance of law enforcement showed they weren't going to let the game get out of hand," Kennedy said. "I appreciated that."

From what I heard there were no significant incidents. I guess that means the larger force of security definitely deterred

to credit the administration's thinking in putting Pampa in the locker room on the same side as its fans. That greatly lessened any chance for foul behavior.

For the first time, Perryton put in place a policy for its fans to follow. Pampa resident Zach Murray said it was enforced. In fact, some members of our student section got admonished for one of their chants against the Perryton teacher allegedly involved in the Feb. 3 postgame incident. Personally, I thought our students' chant was funny, but the enforcement was right; both fans need to only chant for their team. Good job to the game security for taking action.

Murray said Pampa was assured of a safe trip back to Pampa as one highway patrolmen escorted the bus out of town and one followed it back to Pampa. At the very least, if something did happen, it

would get subdued quickly. Thankfully, our boys made it back without incident. Hopefully, this continues to be an expectation and not a question.

I want to thank principal Allan Herbert and his administration for making Tuesday's game safe for the Harvesters and their supporters and for making the necessary adjustments. Credit also goes to Stuart Smith, Pampa ISD athletic director for talking with Perryton to make those things happen. I hope that it won't come to this again. Hopefully, Perryton will still keep their policies and not have to need an abundance of law enforcement to make it happen.

Andrew Glover is The Pampa News Sports reporter. He can be reached online at aglover@thepampanews.com

SPORTS CALENDAR

Monday, February 20
• PHS JV Boys and Girls Soccer at Canyon, games start at 5 p.m., Kimbrough Stadium

Tuesday, February 21
• PHS Varsity Boys Basketball bi-district vs. Lamesa, 7:30 p.m., Wayland Baptist's Hutcherson Center, Plainview

• PHS Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer at Canyon, games start at 5 p.m., Kimbrough Stadium

Wednesday, February 22
• Hidden Hills Senior Scramble, 8 a.m.

Thursday, February 23
• PHS Varsity Softball Burk Burnett Tournament
• PHS Girls Golf Amarillo Relays
• PHS Baseball Cavalier Classic vs. Dalhart, 3:30 p.m., Harvester Field

• Recreational Volleyball, games start at 7 p.m., Dennis Cavalier Activity Center

Friday, February 24
• PHS Varsity Softball Burk Burnett Tournament
• PHS Varsity Baseball Cavalier Classic vs. Sanford-Fritch and Amarillo San Jacinto, games start at 1 p.m., Harvester Field

Saturday, February 25
• PHS Varsity Softball Burk Burnett Tournament
• Cavalier Classic 3rd place game and championship, games start at 11 a.m., Harvester Field.

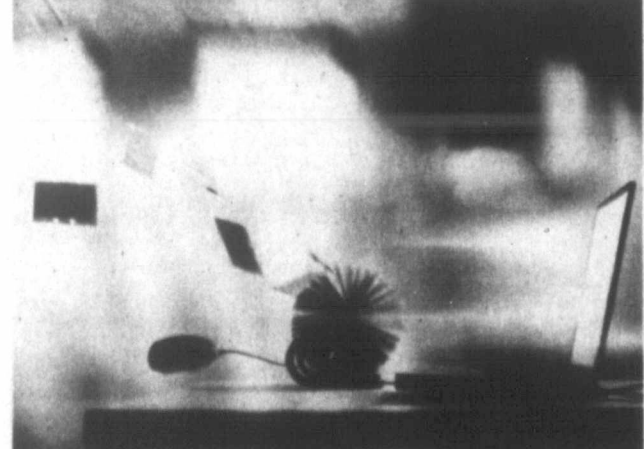
NOTE: If the Pampa varsity Boys Basketball team wins Tuesday, it will play in the area round February 23-25.

If the McLean Lady Tigers win Friday they will play in the regional quarterfinals on February 20-21. If they win that round, they will play in the Regional Tournament February 24-25.

The McLean Tigers will play in the bi-district round on February 20-21. If they win they will play in the area round February 23-25.

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Sports

PHS Srs. Cabrales and Harris looking forward to playoffs

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Last year, then-juniors Jesus Cabrales and Laketon Harris had just completed their season on the junior varsity basketball team when they found out that their seasons were going to continue, as they got to travel with the varsity in the playoffs.

"I was pretty excited for it," Cabrales said. "I knew they had a pretty good chance to make a big run. It was great to know that I got to be on the bench for that."

"I was pretty happy that I was getting to go with the varsity team," Harris said. "Maybe go into the game if they needed me to."

After watching last season's run to the regional finals, Cabrales and Harris hope they can help Pampa make a similar run in their senior seasons.

"I have never been a part of anything like that," Harris said. "I hope we can do the same this year."

Cabrales said observing those playoff games helped him see what the varsity level was like.

"In playing on JV and sitting on the bench for varsity, the intensity was way higher and the speed of the game was way faster than JV."

Harris said he saw what it took to be successful.

"You have to go into the playoffs sharp," Harris said. "Play as a team and give it all you got."

Cabrales said he learned that you have to step up your game.

"It's do or die," Cabrales said. "You have to play like it's your last game."

Head coach Dustin Miller said observing last season's run was helpful for both of his seniors.

"I think it was good for them to see how to handle tough situations," Miller said. "All three of those games we won were extremely close and came down to the wire."

In the playoffs, Pampa let a 14-point lead slip against Midland Greenwood before beating them by three in the area round. The Harvesters trailed by nine at halftime against El Paso Fabens in the regional quarterfinals before beating them by six. Against Wichita Falls Hirschi in the regional semifinals, Pampa had to hold off a late rally.

Miller said he expects Cabrales and Harris to play a part in this season's run. "They have responded every time we've needed them to," Miller said. "I don't expect anything different."

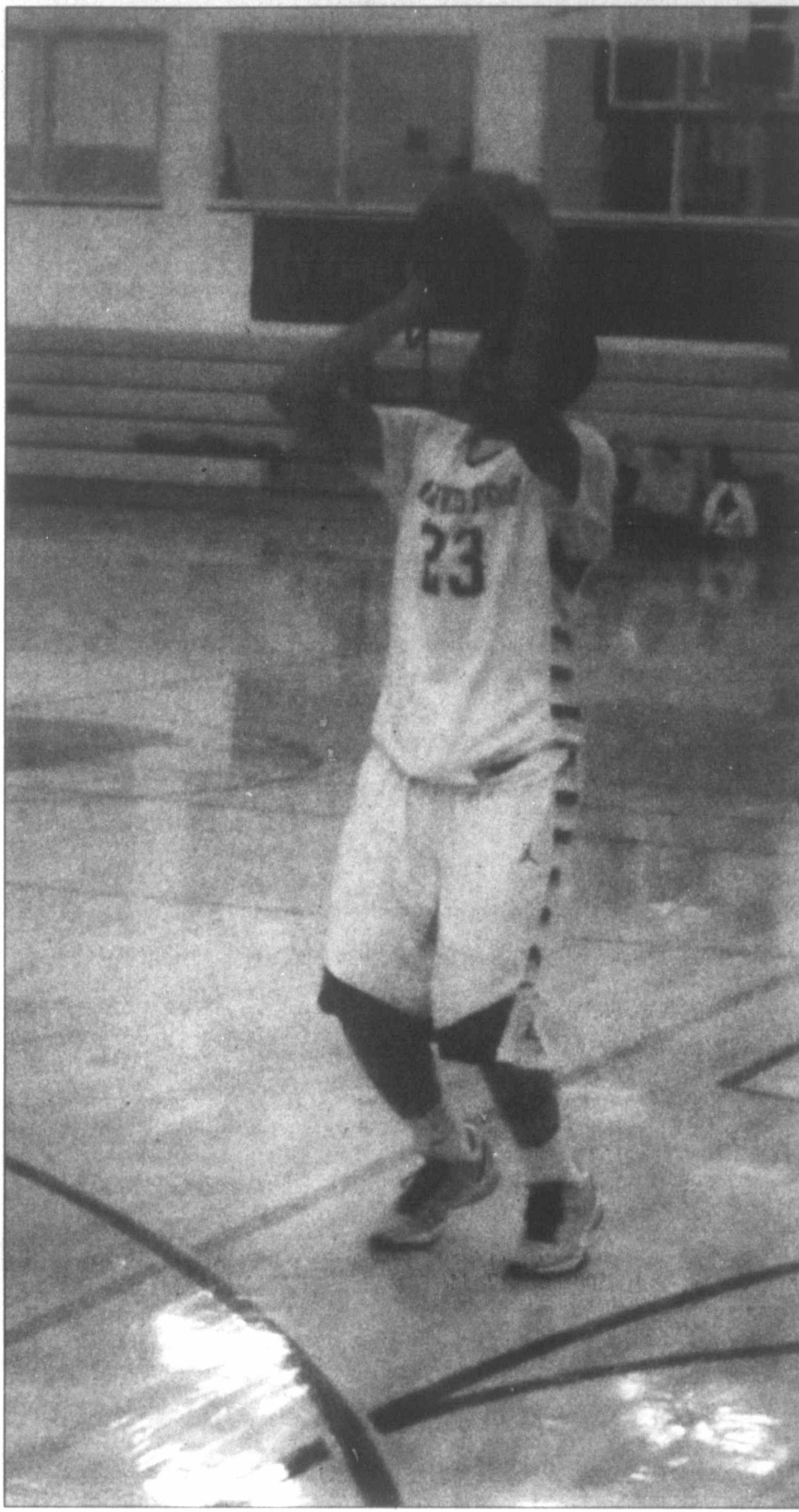
Harris said he hopes to make an impact in this season's playoffs.

"I'm looking forward to helping the team," Harris said. "Scoring and give them a spark off the bench like I have."

Cabrales said he is looking forward to contributing.

"Whether it's a minute, two minutes, eight minutes, whenever I'm in, I'm looking forward to contributing and doing what's best for the team," Cabrales said.

The Harvesters start the playoffs 7:30 p.m. Tuesday against Lamesa in the bi-district round at Wayland Baptist's Hutcherson Center in Plainview.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Laketon Harris shoots a three in a Dec. 1 game. Harris watched last season's playoff run and hopes to have an impact in this season's playoff push.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Jesus Cabrales battles for a rebound in a Dec. 29 game. Cabrales is looking forward to contributing to Pampa's playoff run.

WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

Varsity Girls Basketball

| TUESDAY | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| TEAM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Final |
| Pampa | 14 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 39 |
| Shallowater | 20 | 12 | 19 | 19 | 70 |

| PAMPA | FG | 3pt | FTA | FTM | TP |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| K. Kuhn | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| H. Burnett | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| K. Troxell | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| C. Sieck | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| T. Eubank | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| L. Brown | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| D. Clendening | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| A. Ceyanes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| H. Baker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| E. Terry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T. Morgan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| R. Andrews | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| C. Brewer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 12 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 39 |

| SHALLOWATER | FG | 3pt | FTA | FTM | TP |
|-------------|----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| C. McCravey | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| R. Jones | 2 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| J. Willer | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| H. Almsted | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| A. Elliott | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| S. Harkey | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| K. Smith | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| L. Valenzuela | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| B. Pounds | 0 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 15 |
| K. Smith | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| M. Westbrook | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| A. Maldonado | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 14 |
| Totals | 19 | 5 | 24 | 17 | 70 |

Varsity Boys Basketball

| FRIDAY | | | | | |
|--------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| TEAM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Final |
| Borger | 8 | 16 | 12 | 6 | 42 |
| Pampa | 12 | 11 | 11 | 25 | 59 |

| BORGER | FG | 3pt | FTA | FTM | TP |
|---------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| J. Hearon | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 19 |
| C. Maxwell | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| D. Carillo | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T. Haynes | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| K. Newton | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| G. Boren | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| A. Smith | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| D. Salina | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| J. Rendon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| S. Rawlinson | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Totals | 15 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 42 |

SCOREBOARD cont. on page 3B

Presidents' Day Savings!

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Sports

WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard continued from 2B

| PAMPA | FG | 3pt | FTA | FT | MTP |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| L. Collins | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 25 |
| T. Kennedy | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| C. Engle | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| R. Miller | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| T. Hutto | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| L. Harris | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| J. Cabrales | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| T. Powell | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| J. Cox | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| D. Pollard | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Totals | 11 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 59 |

TUESDAY

| TEAM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Final |
|----------|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Pampa | 22 | 9 | 18 | 21 | 70 |
| Perryton | 7 | 16 | 19 | 23 | 65 |

| PAMPA | FG | 3pt | FTA | FT | MTP |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| L. Collins | 3 | 3 | 17 | 11 | 26 |
| T. Kennedy | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| C. Engle | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| R. Miller | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| T. Hutto | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| L. Harris | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| J. Cabrales | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| T. Powell | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| C. Ponce | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| J. Cox | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| D. Pollard | 6 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 13 |
| Totals | 15 | 8 | 23 | 16 | 70 |

| PERRYTON | FG | 3pt | FTA | FT | MTP |
|---------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| K. Willeford | 5 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 15 |
| B. Turner | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 14 |
| R. Weissel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| I. Villagran | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| P. Savage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| R. Anderson | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 21 |
| C. Underwood | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| C. Townsend | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Z. Farney | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| T. Medina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| M. Hesler | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Totals | 14 | 6 | 27 | 19 | 65 |

FINAL STANDINGS

| DISTRICT 1-3A | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|------|----|---------|
| School | DW | DL | D% | W | L % |
| x Dalhart | 7 | 2 | .778 | 20 | 6 .769 |
| y Pampa | 6 | 3 | .667 | 19 | 8 .704 |
| y Perryton | 4 | 5 | .444 | 21 | 10.677 |
| Borger | 1 | 8 | .111 | 11 | 19.367 |
| DISTRICT 4-1A DIVISION II (FINAL) | | | | | |
| School | DW | DL | D% | W | L % |
| x Shamrock | 7 | 1 | .875 | 11 | 7 .611 |
| y Groom | 5 | 3 | .625 | 9 | 11 .450 |
| y McLean | 4 | 4 | .500 | 9 | 17 .346 |
| Lefors | 3 | 5 | .375 | 8 | 11 .421 |
| Hedley | 1 | 7 | .125 | 1 | 22 .043 |

x=clinched district y=clinched playoff spot

Varsity Swimming

SATURDAY
Regional Meet at Andrews
Team Scores

GIRLS
1, El Paso 428. 2, Jefferson/Silva 269. 3, Monahans 266.5. 4, Pecos 213. 5, Andrews 201. 6, El Paso Chapin 168.5. 7, El Paso Burges 141. 8, Pampa 114. 9, Del Valle 90. 10, Riverside 47. 11, Seminole 45. 12, Midland Greenwood 37. 13, Big Spring 36. 14, Eastlake 28. 15, Amarillo Caprock 27. 15, Fort Stockton 27. 17, El Paso Parkland 10. 18, Amarillo Palo Duro 5.

BOYS
1, Pecos 366. 2, El Paso 305. 3, El Paso Chapin, 260. 4, Monahans 203. 5, El Paso Burges 144. 6, Andrews 129. 7, De Valle 123. 8, Riverside 121. 9, Pampa 112. 10, El Paso Parkland 107. 11, Jefferson/Silva 99. 12, Seminole 50. 13, Fort Stockton 40.5. 14, Eastlake 39. 15, El Paso Austin 32. 16, Andress 21. 17, Ysleta 18. 18, Irvin 17.5. 19, Big Spring 16.

Events
Girls 200-yard medley relay: 6, Pampa (K. Ramey, M. Graef, S. Willson, V. Valenzuela) 2:12.77.
Boys 200-yard medley relay: 8, Pampa (N. Towry, J. Brown, D. Hudson, R. Portillo) 1:57.07.
Girls 200-yard freestyle: 15, M. Parks 2:37.94. 16, T. Lambright 2:43.50.
Boys 200-yard freestyle: 12, K. Pfitzner 2:09.53.
Girls 200-yard individual medley: 10, M. Graef, 2:41.35.
Girls 50-yard freestyle: 15, S. Willson, 31.49. 16, S. VanHouten, 32.79.
Boys 50-yard freestyle: 4, S. Estes, 23.21.
Boys 100-yard butterfly: 11, R. Portillo, 1:06.07. 12, D. Hudson, 1:07.44.
Girls 100-yard freestyle: 16, S. VanHouten, 1:10.11.
Boys 100-yard freestyle: 16, J. Brown, 59.78.
Girls 500-yard freestyle: 7, K. Ramey, 6:22.10. 14, V. Valenzuela, 7:05.11.
Boys 500-yard freestyle: 9, N. Towry, 5:53.93. 13, C. Garvin, 6:15.92.
Girls 200-yard freestyle relay: 8, Pampa (K. Ramey, M. Graef, S. VanHouten, S. Willson) 2:08.91.
Boys 200-yard freestyle relay: 8, Pampa (C. Garvin, D. Hudson, K. Pfitzner, S. Estes) 1:45.23.
Girls 100-yard backstroke: 8, K. Ramey, 1:12.35. 16, T. Lambright, 1:24.27.
Boys 100-yard backstroke: 6, S. Estes, 1:03.65. 16, M. Foreman, 1:17.34.
Girls 100-yard breaststroke-6, M. Graef, 1:20.05.
Boys 100-yard breaststroke-9, J. Brown,

1:11.45.
Girls 400-yard freestyle relay-11, Pampa (V. Valenzuela, T. Lambright, M. Parks, S. Adams) 5:09.92.

Varsity Tennis

FRIDAY
Boys Singles
A. Raghurum (AMA) def. S. Shelton (BOR) 6-0, 7-6 (4).
W. McElwain (RAN) def. B. Gage (PAM) 6-2, 6-2.
B. Laney (AMA) def. D. Clendenan (BOR) 6-4, 6-0.
D. Moore (PAM) def. N. Rodriguez (PAM) 6-1, 6-1.
A. Raghurum (AMA) def. W. McElwain (RAN) 6-0, 6-2.
D. Moore (PAM) def. B. Laney (AMA) 6-2, 6-2.
S. Shelton (BOR) def. B. Gage (PAM) 9-7.
N. Rodriguez (PAM) def. D. Clendenan (BOR) 8-6.
S. Shelton (BOR) def. N. Rodriguez (PAM) 9-8 (8).
B. Laney (AMA) def. W. McElwain (RAN) 8-5.
D. Moore (PAM) def. A. Raghurum (AMA) 6-3, 6-4.

Girls Singles
M. Hampton (PAM) def. J. Frausto (RAN) 6-0, 6-1.
T. Lancaster (AMA) def. A. Sanders (BOR) 6-3, 6-0.
J. Briant (RAN) def. R. Benz (BOR) 6-0, 6-0.
L. Shanks (AMA) def. H. Elliott (PAM) 6-3, 6-0.
M. Hampton (PAM) def. T. Lancaster (AMA) 6-2, 6-1.
J. Briant (RAN) def. L. Shanks (AMA) 6-2, 6-1.
A. Sanders (BOR) def. J. Frausto (RAN) 9-8 (4).
R. Benz (BOR) def. H. Elliott (PAM) 8-3.
T. Lancaster (AMA) def. L. Shanks (AMA) 8-6.
J. Briant (RAN) def. M. Hampton (PAM) 6-4, 6-4.

Boys Doubles
Nelson and Russell (PAM) def. Parks and Chisum (PAM) 6-0, 6-1.
Gowdy and Duncan (AMA) def. Marr and DeRouen (BOR) 6-2, 7-5 (6).
Karbo and Hucks (PAM) def. Ballinas and Santillan (RAN) 6-1, 6-0.
Nelson and Russell (PAM) def. Gowdy and Duncan (AMA) 6-0, 6-1.
Karbo and Hucks (PAM) def. Modini and Brinkley (AMA) 6-1, 6-4 (7).
Parks and Chisum (PAM) def. Marr and DeRouen (BOR) 8-2.
Ballinas and Santillan (RAN) def. Parks and Chisum (PAM) 8-6.
Modini and Brinkley (AMA) def. Gowdy and Duncan (AMA) 6-3, 7-6 (1).
Karbo and Hucks (PAM) def. Nelson and Russell (PAM) 6-4, 7-5 (8).

Girls Doubles
Bernier and Fountain (AMA) def. Fox and Laing (RAN) 7-5, 6-1 (2).
Jones and Truesdell (RAN) def. Fonseca and Harmon (BOR) 6-1, 6-4.
Marrufo and Zavala (PAM) def. Bynum and Sanders (AMA) 7-6, 6-2.
Murley and Fonseca (BOR) def. Kuykendall and Dickerson (RAN) 6-1, 6-1.
Jones and Truesdell (RAN) def. Bernier and Fountain (AMA) 6-4, 6-3.
Murley and Fonseca (BOR) def. Marrufo and Zavala (PAM) 6-2, 6-2.
Fonseca and Harmon (BOR) def. Fox and Laing (RAN) 8-2.
Kuykendall and Dickerson (RAN) def. Bynum and Sanders (AMA).
Fonseca and Harmon (BOR) def. Kuykendall and Dickerson (RAN) 10-5.
Bernier and Fountain (AMA) def. Marrufo and Zavala 6-1, 6-1.
Murley and Fonseca (BOR) def. Jones and Truesdell (RAN) 6-1, 6-3 (8).

Mixed Doubles

Whitworth and Madden (BOR) def. McClendon and Terry (PAM) 6-1, 6-3.
Wilson and Deanda (RAN) def. Chelsey and Smith (AMA) 6-1, 6-0.
Karbo and Fathere (PAM) def. Trujillo and Arevalo (RAN) 6-0, 6-3.
Anderson and Snipes (BOR) def. Richardson and Hamous (AMA) 6-4, 6-2.
Whitworth and Madden (BOR) def. Wilson and Deanda (RAN) 7-5, 6-1 (3).
Karbo and Fathere (PAM) def. Anderson and Snipes (BOR) 6-3, 6-1.
McClendon and Terry (PAM) def. Chelsey and Smith (AMA) 8-0.
Richardson and Hamous (AMA) def. Trujillo and Arevalo (RAN) 8-4.
McClendon and Terry (PAM) def. Richardson and Hamous (AMA) 8-5.
Wilson and Deanda (RAN) def. Anderson and Snipes (BOR).
Whitworth and Madden (BOR) def. Karbo and Fathere (PAM) 6-3, 6-4.

Varsity Softball

| TEAM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|---|---|---|---|
| Caprock | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pampa | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | X |
| TEAM | R | H | E | | | | |
| Caprock | 2 | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| Pampa | 10 | 8 | 1 | | | | |

CAPROCK

L. Ballin 1 R, 1 SB 1 BB, 1 K
M. Martinez 1 R, 1 BB, 2 K
O. Luna 1 H, 1 2B, 1 BB, 1 K
E. Aranda 1 H
V. Mediano 1 HBP
K. Rus 1 H
S. Cortez 1 H, 1 K
E. Diaz 3 K
L. Trinidad 2 K
PAMPA
C. Hopkins 2 H, 3 R, 2 BB, 1 SB.
T. Britton 1 SAC
B. Beck 1 H, 1 BB, 2 R, 1 CS, 1 K
A. Stephens 3 BB, 1 SB, 1 K
M. Alexander 2 H, 1 R
H. Coffee 1 H, 2 BB
H. Mayfield 1 SB
N. Hardman 1 H, 1 R, 2 K
A. O'Brien 1 H, 1 R, 1 SB

Varsity Girls Golf

FRIDAY
1, Randall 363. 2, Borger 372. 3, Frenship A 374. 4, Hereford 381. 5, Plainview 383. 6, Frenship B 394. 7, Tascosa 418. 8, Dumas 426. 9, Canyon 432. 10, Pampa 439. 11, Levelland 449. 12, Palo Duro 450. 13, Caprock 461. 14, River Road 462.
Pampa golfers
A. Keith 98. S. Mertz 111. K. Velasquez 107. M. Lanning 123. M. Hancox 129.

Pampa Gymnastics

JANUARY 28
6 and under age group
S. Stribling 2nd place Level 1 Double Mini; 4th place Level 2 Tumbling; 6th place Level 2 Trampoline
8-year-old age group
K. Smith 4th place Level 2 Double Mini; 3rd place Level 3 Tumbling; 4th place Level 2 Trampoline
J. Perez 3rd place Level 5 Double Mini; 2nd place Level 3-1 Tumbling; 1st place Level 4 Trampoline
9-year-old age group
H. Fossett 1st place Level 2 Double Mini Trampoline; 1st place Level 3 Tumbling; 1st place Level Trampoline
P. Demetriades 2nd place Level 2 Double Mini; 2nd place Level 3 Tumbling; 1st place Level 2 Trampoline
C. Petty 2nd place Level 5 Double Mini; 1st place Level 4 Tumbling; 9th place Level 5 Trampoline

10-year-old age group
S. Stribling 2nd place Level 2 Double Mini; 2nd place Level 3 Tumbling; 3rd place Level 2 Trampoline.

SATURDAY

6 and under age group
S. Stribling 2nd place Level 1 Double Mini-Trampoline; 4th place Level 2 Tumbling; 6th place Level 2 Trampoline.
7- & 8-year-olds age group
J. Perez 1st place Level 3-1 Tumbling; 2nd place Level 5 Double Mini-Trampoline; 6th place Level 4 Trampoline
K. Smith 3rd place Level 3 Tumbling; 6th place Level 2 Double Mini-Trampoline; 6th place Level 2 Trampoline
P. Demetriades 5th place Level 3 Tumbling; 5th place Level 2 Double Mini-Trampoline; 6th place Level 2 Trampoline
9- & 10-year olds
H. Fossett 1st place Level 2 Double Mini-Trampoline; 2nd place Level 3 Trampoline and 4th place Level 3 Tumbling.
C. Petty 1st place Level 4 Tumbling; 2nd place Level 5 Trampoline; 6th place Level 5 Double Mini-Trampoline
S. Stribling 2nd place Level 2 Double Mini Trampoline, 5th place Level 2 Trampoline and 6th place Level 3 Tumbling.

Hidden Hills

WEDNESDAY
First (62): L. Etchison; O.K. Lee; L. Morris; J. McGuire
Second (62): J. Dorman; J. Herve; J. Cantrell; J. Richardson
Third (63): R.D. Stephens; N. Lancaster; J. Lee; H. Musgrave
Closest to Pin #8: R.D. Stephens

Recreation Leagues

| WINTER STANDINGS | VOLLEYBALL | |
|------------------|------------|---------|
| | Conf. | Overall |
| COMPETITIVE | 6-1 | 7-3 |
| 4 Bangers | 5-2 | 8-2 |
| Westside Package | 3-4 | 5-5 |
| MUD | 0-7 | 0-10 |
| Domino's | 6-1 | 9-1 |
| RECREATIONAL | 5-2 | 7-3 |
| Sears | 3-4 | 4-6 |
| Century 21 | 0-7 | 0-10 |
| Enbrige | | |
| Quality PWC | | |

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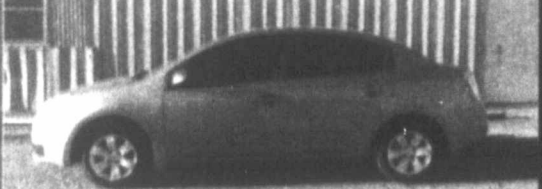
P3114 \$10,995.00

2006 Pontiac Montana SV6



P2541a \$11,995.00

2007 Nissan Sentra 2.0



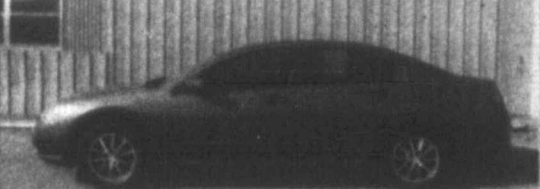
P3201 \$12,495.00

2004 Nissan Xterra SE



R2938 \$11,995.00

2004 Mitsubishi Galant ES



P3144 \$9,850.00

2002 Maxda Protege5



P3282 \$7,995.00

2006 Jeep Commander



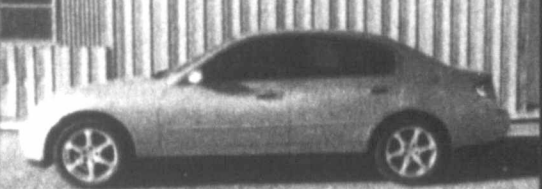
P3189b \$19,995.00

2002 Jeep Liberty Sport



R2774 \$8,995.00

2004 Infinity G35



P3142 \$13,995.00

2007 Hyundai Santa Fe GLS



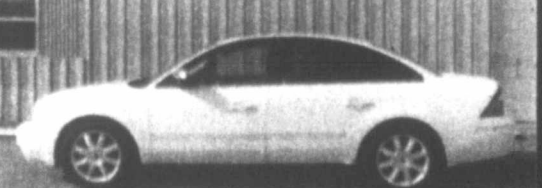
P3019 \$16,995.00

2005 Honda Element EX



P3221 \$213,995.00

2005 Ford Five Hundred



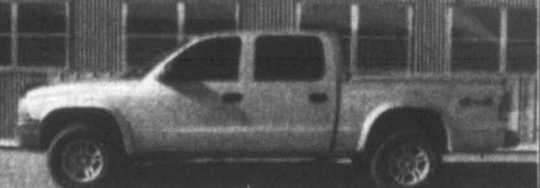
P3141 \$10,995.00

2008 Dodge Charger SE



P3058 \$19,995.00

2003 Dodge Dakota SLT



P2853a \$12,995.00

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CLUB NEWS



Wendy Clark (from left), Doris McMillion and Mary Jane Taintor were guests at a recent Altrusa orientation and guest event at the home of Kerrick Horton, 2434 Evergreen.

Altrusans approve new officer nominations

Altrusa International, Inc. of Pampa met Tuesday, Feb. 14, at First United Methodist Church with President Rochelle Lacy presiding. Sue Pribble and Pat Johnson served as greeters. Sherri Griggs attended as a guest.

The Accent was given by Judy Warner who began with a Valentine greeting followed by the benefits of attending District Conference to be held April 20-22 in Waco. The new member recommendation of Wendy Clark was approved. Betty King was granted a leave of absence.

New officer nominations were approved as follows: Pat Johnson, president; Kitty Hall, vice-president; Brenda Tucker, recording secretary; Melodie Dosche, corresponding secretary; Allison Watson, treasurer;

Evan Smith, Carolyn Kessel, Kathryn Green and Kay West, directors.

Mary McDaniel reported on the Gal-Event dinner and orientation meeting held recently at the home of Kerrick Horton. Twenty Altrusans attended and three guests: Wendy Clark, Doris McMillion and Mary Jane Taintor.

A new spring fundraiser "Taste of Pampa" was approved. Linda Weaver will chair the event with details to follow at the next meeting.

Donna Turner reported on the recent Travis Reading project. The next reading will be March 5.

Birthday greetings were given to Sheila Winton and Allison Watson.

The next meeting will be held Feb. 28, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.

Volunteer drivers sought to help cancer patients

AMARILLO — The American Cancer Society is currently looking for volunteer drivers for its Road to Recovery program. A volunteer training is scheduled for Saturday, March 3 at 10 a.m. at the American Cancer Society office, 3915 Bell, in Amarillo.

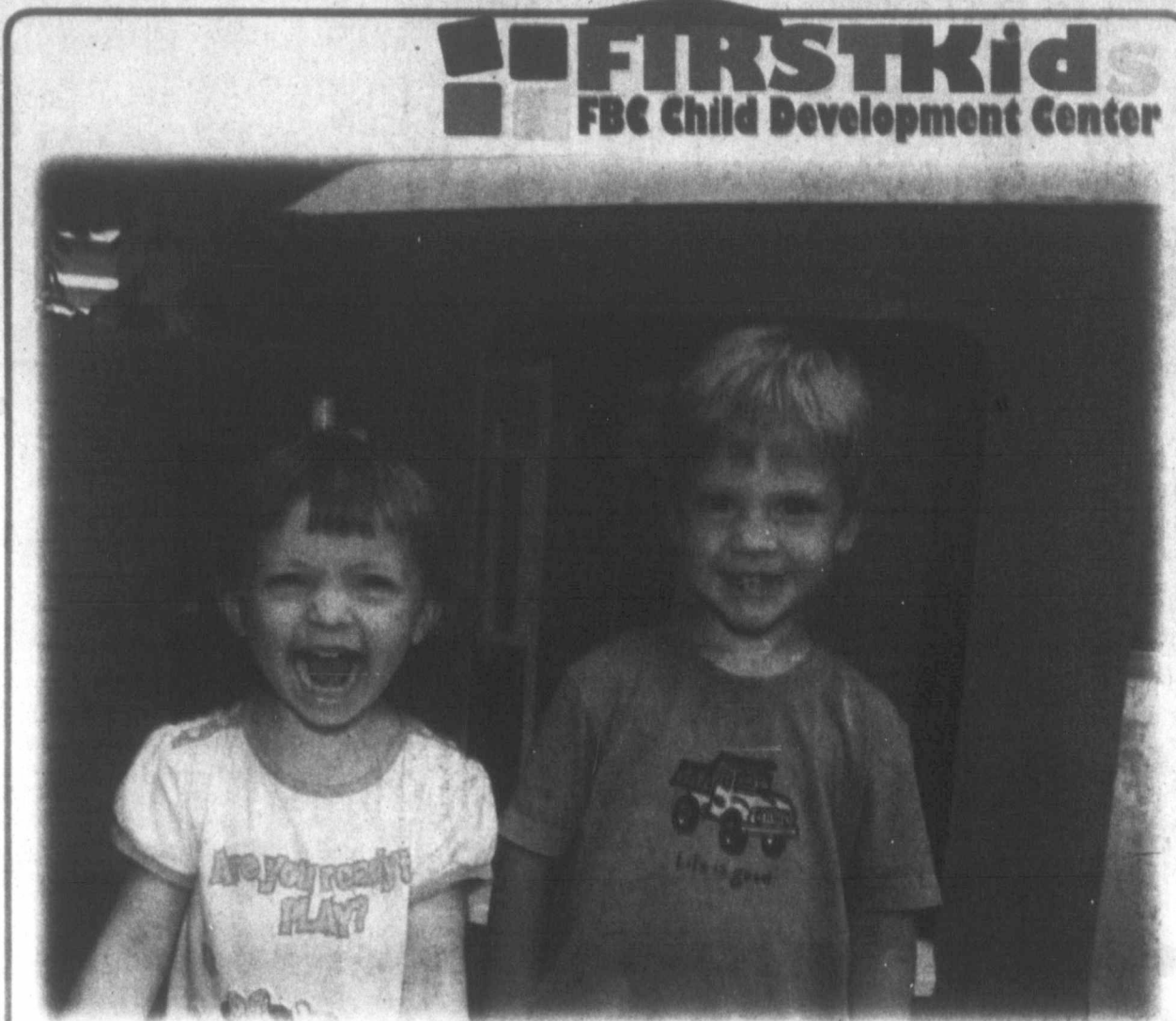
Road to Recovery is a program of volunteers who drive patients to treatment centers and home again. More volunteers are needed throughout the region to ensure that all patients have transportation when they need it.

"One cancer patient requiring radiation therapy could need anywhere from 20 to 30 trips to treatment in six weeks," said Terri Prescott, spokesperson for the American Cancer Society. "A patient receiving chemotherapy might report for treatment week-

ly for up to a year. In many cases, a patient is driven to hospitals or clinics by relatives or friends, but even these patients must occasionally seek alternative transportation. That's where Road to Recovery comes in."

"The program not only helps patients, but is also rewarding for the volunteer. Several of our drivers have volunteered for a number of years," added Prescott.

For additional information about the Road to Recovery program or to volunteer, call the American Cancer Society office at (806) 353-4307.



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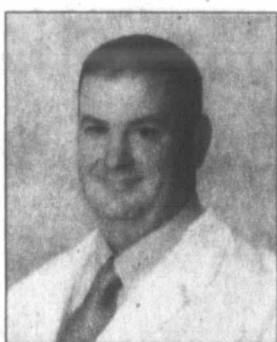
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Community

CLUB NEWS



P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter CS members attending Jan. 25 Pampa Rotary Club meeting are: (back row, from left) Bennita Skidmore, Martha Campbell, Jana Vinson, Leslie Schafer, Margaret Williams and (front row, from) Frances May, Judy Sutton, Ruth Riehart, Kay Harvey. Attending, but not in photo: Sandy Osborne.



P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter CS members attending P.E.O. Amarillo Council meeting are: (from left) Council President Margaret Williams, Lori Boyd, Chapter CS President Kay Harvey, Judy Sutton, Linda Holt, Pat Youngblood, Frances May, Carolyn Miller.

P.E.O. Sisterhood presents at Rotary Club

Ten members of P.E.O. Sisterhood, Chapter CS spoke at the Pampa Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

President Kay Harvey began with a general overview of the organization followed by other members' presentations on the six international and one state education projects for women. These projects are

Cotley College, Star Scholarship, Educational Loan Fund, Program for Continuing Education, International Peace Scholarship, Scholar Awards, and Texas Star Oaks Fund. Judy Sutton talked about the founders of P.E.O., and Amarillo Council President Margaret Williams explained the role of the council.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, eight mem-

bers of Chapter CS, P.E.O., attended the Amarillo Council P.E.O. meeting at the Amarillo Country Club.

President Margaret Williams presided at the business portion of the meeting, followed by a luncheon and a Founder's Day presentation.

DANCERS AT VA MEDICAL CENTER



Four dancers from the Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics center meet with the fifth graders from Travis Elementary in Amarillo yesterday at the Thomas E. Creek Veteran Medical Center and performed solo dances for Valentines Day for the vets. Pictured are (from left) Kendyll Roberson, Audrey Cotton, Kaitlyn Roberson and Joseph Munsell.

submitted photo

Weekly Menus

Pampa Independent School District

MONDAY, Feb. 20
Holiday
TUESDAY, Feb. 21
Chicken Spaghetti or rib b que on a bun, western beans, carrot sticks, applesauce, garlic toast
Breakfast- Donut, sausage patty
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22
Fish strips or steak fingers, corn, broccoli/cheese, mixed fruit, cornbread,
Breakfast- waffle sticks, syrup
THURSDAY, Feb. 23
Macaroni & cheese or pizza, blackeyed peas, tossed salad, fresh fruit
Breakfast- Biscuit, sausage patty
FRIDAY, Feb. 24
Grilled cheese sandwich or hamburger, french fries, burger salad, peaches, fancy gelatin
Breakfast- Cereal, toast

Pampa Meals on Wheels

MONDAY, Feb. 20
Spaghetti/meat sauce, green beans, bread stick, salad, cookies
TUESDAY, Feb. 21
Polish sausage, cheese grits, mixed greens, cake
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22
Tater tot casserole, cabbage, black-eyed peas, mixed fruit
THURSDAY, Feb. 23
Ham, okra/tomatoes, pinto beans, pudding
FRIDAY, Feb. 24
Hot dogs/buns, chili, onion rings, peach cobbler

Pampa Senior Citizens Center

MONDAY, Feb. 20
Chicken fried steak or chicken enchiladas, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, beets, pintos, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-o, orange streusel cake, peach cobbler, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread
TUESDAY, Feb. 21
Cabbage roll casserole or chicken & ham tetrazini, steak fries, California blend, peas, northern beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-o, Boston creme pie, cherry cheesecake, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22
Roast beef brisket/brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, fried okra, mac & tomatoes, beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-o, angel food cake/fruit topping, chocolate pie, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread
THURSDAY, Feb. 23
Chicken strips or liver n' onions, au gratin potatoes, turnip greens, creme corn, blackeyed peas, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-o, strawberry shortcake, coconut creme pie, fruit cup, hot roll, cornbread
FRIDAY, Feb. 24
Cod fish filet/hushpuppies or beef stroganoff, potato wedges, steamed broccoli/sauce, beans, slaw, tossed salad, Jell-o, cherry chocolate cake, tapioca cup, fruit cup, garlic breadstick, hot roll, cornbread

Southside Senior Citizens Center

TUESDAY, Feb. 21,
Chicken fried steak, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, rolls, salad, dessert, tea



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Business

Forsyth finishes TMCCP

Lindy Forsyth, secretary for the city of Lefors, graduated from the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program on Jan. 19.

Graduates complete approximately 200 hours of individual study over a four-course curriculum and attend eight two-day seminars for an additional 100 hours of classroom study. The curriculum includes selected texts and a number of special readings on the topics of public administration, election law, budgeting and finance, municipal law, and personnel management.

The Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program, located at the University of North Texas, Denton, is a university-level professional education program for city clerks and city secretaries in Texas. The program is the third oldest of 33 such programs in the country.

The Certification Program is recognized and endorsed by Section 22.074 of the *Local Government Code*, Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated. In 1984, the College Board selected the Texas Municipal Clerks Certification Program as one of sixty-four exemplary professional development programs in the United States.

Texas Registered Municipal Clerks are recognized for their achievements and contributions to effective, efficient local government by their mayors, city administrators, city councils, and the citizens of their communities.

Mardi Gras big business for Gulf Coast

FAIRHOPE, Ala. (AP) — Mardi Gras. It brings to mind beads, parties and fancy floats in New Orleans as people cram in all the fun they can before Lent begins.

In reality, Mardi Gras has long been celebrated in coastal towns from Texas to Florida. And it means big business.

"It is more of a regional thing, Mardi Gras is, from Texas down to (the) Gasparilla (pirate festival) down in the Tampa area," said Stephen Toomey, whose family started a chain of Mobile, Ala.-based Mardi Gras party supply stores.

"It means a way of life for people who live in these communities, but the bottom line is that it creates a lot of jobs."

Tourism leaders estimate more than 1 million visitors pour into the Mobile area each Mardi Gras season to watch the festivities. The city claims to be the place where the Fat Tuesday celebration originated in the U.S. back in the early 1700s.

New Orleans and Mobile have long disputed where the tradition that dates to their French founders really began.

Visitors to Mobile spend money at hotels, restaurants and stores during the celebration that can stretch on for weeks and includes dozens of parades, balls and other events.

A 2004 study commissioned by the city of Mobile estimated Mardi Gras had a \$225 million economic impact for the area and tourism leaders say that has grown as the festivities become more popular.

"I would say tens of thousands of dollars are spent on the different beads and throws and things that are thrown off the floats. It really benefits every kind of retailer and the tourism industry," said David Randel, president of the Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"From a convention and visitors bureau standpoint, you hope people come for Mardi Gras, fall in love with the area and come back to visit again when the weather is better."

In smaller towns like Fairhope, with population 17,000 in south Alabama near the Florida line, Mardi Gras is a big help.

Heavenly Creations Bakery sold 1,500 traditional Mardi Gras king cakes in 2011. Owner Robyn Yoder hopes to beat that this year. The colorful cakes go for \$9.99 for a small and \$19.99 for a large.

"Mardi Gras is good for everyone. I think it brings more people downtown and it brings more people in. It's a boost in sales and it does a lot for all of us, more tips for the girls who work, it's good," she said.

Rosie Miller has sold Mardi Gras ball gowns to the

women of the Gulf Coast for 30 years. She has thousands of gowns, most for under \$300.

"Poufy gowns this year are really in," Miller said as she pulled a gown from one of the dozens of racks in a back room of her Mobile store on a recent morning.

Miller said Mardi Gras gowns are usually over-the-top and are more fun than traditional formal ware.

The store has vanloads of women from small towns all over the region who come to shop. Some buy five or six gowns for the various balls they attend during the season.

"Mardi Gras has grown and grown and brings millions of dollars into our economy," she said, although she didn't have specific figures.

In Pascagoula, Miss., crawfish are the local Mardi Gras delicacy and seafood retailers do big business, said city spokeswoman Robin Wood.

"There is a lot of crawfish and beer served during Mardi Gras season, a lot of seafood eaten," she said. "Mardi Gras definitely a boost to our economy because you have people coming in for the events and you have people renting tuxedos for the balls and buying throws for the floats and things here locally."

Other Mississippi towns including Gulf Port, Ocean Springs and Biloxi have their own events.

Florida Gulf Coast cities add their own, more laid-back twist to the season with beach-inspired events often aimed at boosting tourism in the offseason.

Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, Destin and Panama City Beach have Mardi Gras festivities.

People who might go to New Orleans for Mardi Gras sometimes drive east and include a beach trip to Pensacola, Fla., said Valeria Lento, spokeswoman for Visit Pensacola.

Lento said Mardi Gras drives up the town's tourism numbers during its traditional pre-spring break down time.

And the city offers lots of Mardi Gras activities to bring in tourists.

Small towns all over the Gulf Coast have parades, balls and other festivities during Carnival Season. Pensacola Beach's 2012 Mardi Gras Schedule includes 16 events from Jan. 7 to Feb. 21.

Among them are a Moon Pie party, a red beans and rice lunch, a "Kids and Kritters" parade and a shoe box float contest.

"Oh yeah, Mardi Gras is a ball, absolutely, it's fun," said Jill Jones, who dressed her Afghan hound up in a headband, jester collar and cape and wore a matching costume during the beach's pet parade this month.

Benchmark oil rises to highest 2012 price

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil on Friday climbed to the highest level this year on expectations that supplies will tighten in the spring.

Traders think that oil supplies from the Middle East could slow, if Iran continues to clash with Western nations over its nuclear energy program. The European Union, which buys 18 percent of Iranian oil exports, plans to embargo Iranian oil this summer. Iran says it might stop sales to Europe before then.

Meanwhile, banks are helping to slow Iranian oil sales by restricting the flow of cash that could be directed to Iran's nuclear program, which the West fears may be building a bomb. Iran gets about half of its revenue from oil.

International oil prices have jumped 10 percent as the dispute heated up this year. That has boosted the price of other kinds of crudes, including those produced in the U.S.

Benchmark U.S. crude rose 93 cents on Friday to end the week at \$103.24 per barrel in New York. That eclipsed the previous high for the year of \$103.22 set on Jan. 4. Brent crude, an international benchmark that already has surged this year, fell by 53 cents to finish at \$119.58 per barrel in London as investors locked in profits.

"When Brent gets north of \$120, it starts to inspire some fear" among investors that the prices have risen too high, said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service.

Brent is used by some

U.S. refiners to produce gasoline, which is at a record high for this time of year. Retail gasoline prices rose less than a penny to a national average of \$3.53 per gallon on Friday, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. A gallon of regular is 15 cents higher than it was a month ago and about 38 cents more than a year ago.

Investors are also keeping an eye on Europe and the recovering U.S. economy. European leaders said Friday that they were optimistic about a second bailout for Greece, easing fears of a banking crisis that could sap energy demand.

In the U.S. a series of economic reports this week pointed to a stronger economy and increasing demand for oil. Hot on the heels of a drop in unemployment claims reported Thursday, the government said Friday that consumer prices rose only modestly in January and a private group's reading of future economic activity climbed in January for the fourth straight month.

In other energy trading, natural gas futures jumped by 12 cents, or 4.6 percent, to finish at \$2.68 per 1,000 cubic feet, spurred by a government report on Thursday that said U.S. supplies declined more than expected last week.

Heating oil fell by 2 cents to end at \$3.1889 per gallon. Gasoline futures fell 3 cents to finish at \$3.02 per gallon.

White House keeping eye on oil prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Amid predictions that the economy's recovery will continue at a moderate pace, White House officials are keeping an increasingly wary eye on oil prices, worried that an election-year spike in the cost of gasoline could dampen consumer confidence and quash President Barack Obama's recent economic and political gains.

Obama advisers point to oil's \$23 per-barrel increase in the first half of 2011 over 2010 prices as the factor that eroded purchasing power and slowed growth last year. At the time, unemployment remained stuck at 9.1 percent for three months, and by August Obama's approval rating stood at a low of 38 percent.

In an annual report issued Friday, Obama's economic advisers drew attention to improved economic data and a range of private sector forecasts that place unemployment at between 8.0 and 8.6 percent for the end of 2012. And they note that economic growth so far has been nearly as fast as the recoveries after the 1991 and 2001 recessions.

But gasoline prices — right now at a national average of \$3.53 per gallon and rising — are higher than they were at this time last year. Amid continued turmoil in the Middle East and building tensions with Iran, investors

are betting that supplies will remain tight in the months ahead and Obama administration officials worry that any disruption in the flow of oil from Iran will result in a rise in global prices.

Obama has been using the threat of higher oil prices as justification for extending a 2 percentage point payroll tax cut through the end of 2012, thus avoiding a \$40 reduction in the average worker's paycheck.

"When gas prices are on the rise again — because as the economy strengthens, global demand for oil increases, and if we start seeing significant increases in gas prices, losing that \$40 could not come at a worse time," Obama said this week.

And Alan Krueger, the head of Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, praised congressional passage of the tax cut extension, saying it would "provide some insurance against potential shocks that might be coming our way from gasoline because of developments abroad or for other reasons."

Obama aides say that even with the payroll tax cut extension, the threat of higher gas prices striking while the economy is recovering moderately has created anxiety in the White House.

Last year, as prices rose, Obama authorized the sale of 30 million barrels of oil from the country's emergency reserves. It was the largest

release ever from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

This week, White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama was looking to address dependence on foreign oil by increasing domestic production of oil and gas and increasing spending on clean energy. But those are efforts would have little impact on short term price spikes.

As for tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve once again, Carney said, "we never take options off the table."

Friday's report comes amid a recent spate of good economic news for the administration. Unemployment for January was 8.3 percent, auto sales are up, unemployment aid applications are down, and factories are producing at a healthy pace.

But the report raises says the European debt and financial crises present another red flag for the U.S. recovery.

"Shrinking purchases of American goods and services by Europeans could have a significant impact on U.S. employment in several states," the report states.

Moreover, the report says, any declines in confidence in Europe could hurt the ability or willingness of European firms to invest in U.S. companies.

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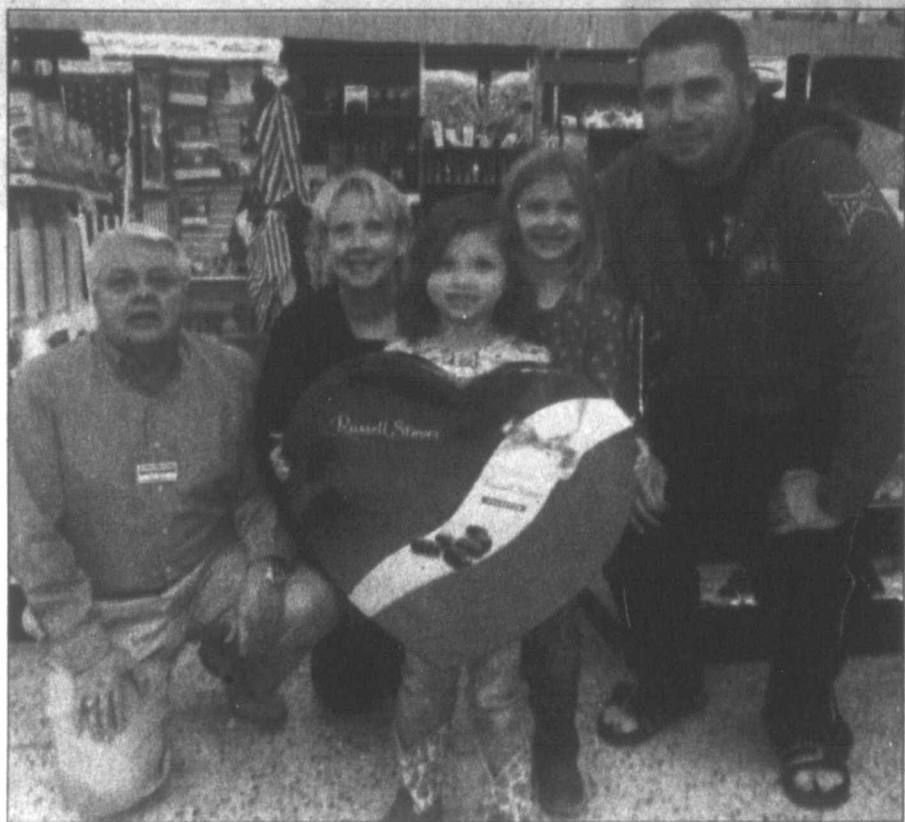
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LITTLE LADY WITH A BIG HEART



staff photo by **Randy Pribble**

Azlyn "Chela" Long holds a box of Russell Stover chocolates that is almost as big as she is. Chela, who is 5 years old, was the winner in a Valentine's Day drawing at Heard and Jones Healthmart. From left are Bill Hite, HJ owner; Carol Lesley, manager; Chela; Aizley Long, Chela's sister; and Justin Long, Chela's dad. The young lady has three other siblings at home who will share the bounty.

Lake to offer youth work program

FRITCH — Lake Meredith National Recreation Area will conduct a summer youth work program under the authority of the Youth Conservation Corps through the National Park Service.

Lake Meredith will hire four youth enrollees between the ages of 15-18. The eight-week program will run from June 4 to July 27, and enrollees must be available to work for the entire time. Enrollees will be paid \$7.25 per hour and will work a 40-hour week. National Park Service

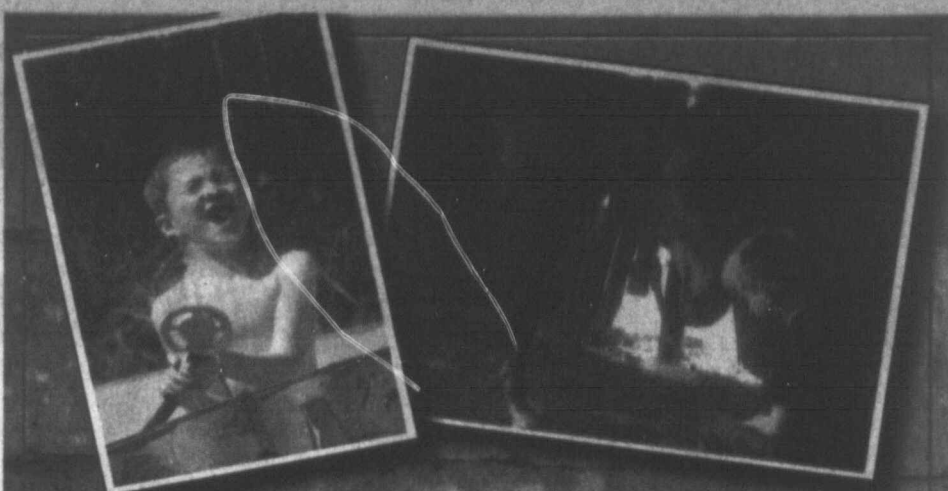
maintenance personnel will supervise the work crew and manage the program.

Work to be accomplished includes roadside maintenance and removal of brush and debris, cleaning and rehabilitation of front and backcountry campsites, trail maintenance, and rehabilitation and painting of picnic shelters and other park facilities.

Enrollees will be required to provide their own leather work boots with an eight-inch high top, jeans, and work shirt. Hard hats and

other safety equipment will be provided.

Youth may apply until Thursday, Feb. 23. Applications may be picked up at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area headquarters at 419 East Broadway in Fritch, next to the Pantex Credit Union building. Park headquarters is open from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday-Friday. A resume may be attached to the application. For more information, contact Administrative Officer Rose Pollard at 806-857-0301.



Your favorite snapshot could be worth \$100!

This year the theme of *The Pampa News'* annual photo contest is "Life on the High Plains." Submitted photos will be judged by our staff based on creativity and general appeal.

First Place - \$100
Second Place - \$50
Third Place - \$25

There is no limit on the number of entries. All contest entries must be received in our office or be postmarked by 3 p.m. Friday, March 2, 2012.

Entry Form

Please attach the following form to your photos. Photos submitted without this information will not be considered. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish your photos returned. Mail completed form and photos to Photography Contest, The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, TX 79065.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone # (____) ____ - _____

The names of people in the photo (if any) from left to right, front row to back row _____

Description of photo _____

Submission by email: Send the form information with the photo(s) attached to rprbble@thepampanews.com. Photos should be sent in high resolution, .jpg format.

Contest rules—Each photo submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting it and must have been taken since Jan. 1, 2011. The photos cannot have appeared previously in any other publication or contest. The Pampa News will publish all the winners, and many of the other submissions in our annual Pride issue in March.

Mondays
are heart days
in Pampa

Cardiology Center of Amarillo announces the opening of their new Pampa Office at 3023 Perryton Parkway, Suite 202.

Dr. David G. Brabham, a Fellowship Trained Interventional and Nuclear Cardiologist, is accepting new Cardiology Patients at the offices of Cardiology Center of Amarillo, LLP at Pampa.

Dr. Brabham offers expertise and proficiency in the latest techniques in Interventional Cardiology and has earned the highest levels of training in matters of the heart. He is a team player who enjoys working collaboratively with others who also have the patient's best interest at heart.

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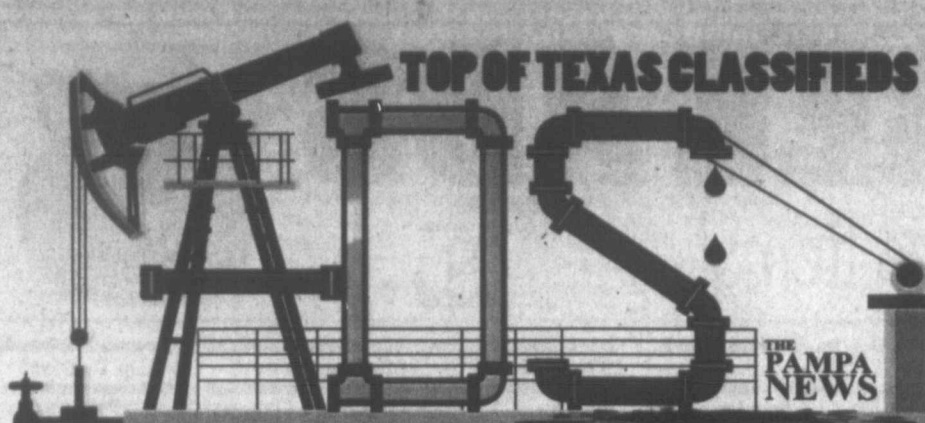
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AUSTIN SCHOOL DISTRICT North and Northeast

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| 2200 Dogwood Ln.....\$192,500.....4/2/2 - 2629 SF/GCAD |
| 2732 Beech Ln.....\$182,500.....2/2/2 - 2298 SF/GCAD |
| 1130 Williston St.....\$147,900.....4/2/2 - 2711 SF/GCAD |
| 2541 Christine St.....\$129,500.....3/1.75/2 - 2050 SF/GCAD |
| 1612 Evergreen St.....\$94,900.....4/1.5/0 - 2320 SF/GCAD |
| 1131 E Harvester Av.....\$82,500.....2/1.75/1 - 1479 SF/GCAD |

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT Southwest

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| 1114 S Faulkner St.....\$52,000.....3/1/0 - 1440 SF/GCAD |
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TRAVIS SCHOOL DISTRICT West and Northwest

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| 8463 Western St. + 6.33 acres.....\$225,000.....2/1/2 - 1225 SF/GCAD |
| 919 Sierra Dr.....\$149,000.....4/2/2 - 1761 SF/GCAD |
| 1424-1426 Dwight.....\$149,000.....2704 SF/GCAD Duplex |
| 1532 Christy St.....\$130,000.....3/1.75/2 - 1450 SF/GCAD |
| 2113 Lynn St.....\$125,900.....4/2/2 - 2077 SF/GCAD |
| 1829 Zimmers St.....\$85,000.....3/1.75/2 - 1511 SF/GCAD |
| 2125 Lynn St.....\$74,900.....3/1.75/2 - 1521 SF/GCAD |
| 1612 Sumner St.....\$64,900.....3/2/2 - 1073 SF/GCAD |

WILSON SCHOOL DISTRICT Southeast Pampa

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| 612 Powell St.....\$55,000.....3/1/0 - 1166 SF/GCAD |
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OTHER AREAS Outside Pampa City Limits

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| 415 Hattie St., Miami.....\$135,000.....3/2/2 1462 SF/RCAD |
| 612 Ware Av., Groom.....\$130,000.....3/1.75/4 - 1637 SF/CCAD |
| 503 Ware Av., Groom.....\$128,000.....4/2.75/1 - 2828 SF/CCAD |
| 804-806 W Jackson Ave, WD.....\$120,000.....4/2/2 - 2536 SF/CCAD duplex |
| 400 S. Popham, WD.....\$67,900.....3/1/0 - 1494 SF/CCAD |
| 600 W 3rd Av, WD.....\$67,500.....3/1/1 - 1100 F/CCAD |
| 129 Abilene, Borger.....\$42,900.....3/1.5/1 1176 SF/HCAD |
| 609 Gulf, Lefors.....\$34,995.....2/1/1 - 898 SF/GCAD |

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY & LAND

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| Perryton Parkway.....\$2,503,828.....9.58 acres east of hospital |
| 120 S. Gillespie St.....\$4,100/mo.....For Lease - 7,372 SF/GCAD |
| 11756 Hwy 152.....\$2,500,000.....12 acres, 2 bldgs 25,000 SF each |
| 30th & Charles St.....\$1,400,000.....45.9 acres of land N of Walmart |
| FM 14 Rd, Lefors.....\$530,000.....530 acres w/water well |
| 30th & Charles.....\$435,600.....5 acres in city limits |
| 220 N Ballard.....\$395,000.....Lt. Comm. 4 bath 6,782 SF/GCAD |
| 500 W Harvester Av.....\$350,000.....Lots south of United |
| 748 S Price Rd.....\$350,000.....3 Ac. + 14,400 warehouse offices |
| 302-308 W Foster.....\$309,900.....4 Retail Outlets 10,874 SF/GCAD |
| 117 - 121 Ballard.....\$230,000.....24,500 SF/GCAD |
| 1801 Alcock St.....\$185,000.....Office Building, 3,100 SF/GCAD Café |
| 845 S Hobart/900 Wilks St.....\$175,000.....4 Lots + 10' on north |
| 420 W Foster Av.....\$165,000.....Houston Lumb & Gas Station |
| Harvester St.....\$150,000.....60 x 110 Bldg Lots |
| FM 2300 & 1-40, Groom.....\$145,000.....Quonset & 6+/- acres |
| 1435 Alcock St.....\$135,000.....2 Bldg, 3,200 SF/GCAD; 1,020 SF/GCAD |
| 1421 Hobart St.....\$105,000.....Smoke House 1816 SF/GCAD |
| 523 W Foster Av.....\$85,000.....7,598 SF/GCAD |
| 301 & 305 W Foster Av.....\$75,000.....3,500 SF/GCAD each |
| 23rd & Crescent Dr.....\$65,000.....Lot 4 Blk 1 North Crest Sec 1 |
| 405 W Foster Av.....\$65,000.....2,000 SF/GCAD C H/A |
| 220 E Francis.....\$57,500.....1/1 745 SF/GCAD Comm. |
| 401 W Foster Av.....\$47,000.....2,500 SF/GCAD w/basement & overhead doors |
| Chaumont Addition.....\$35,000.....Lots 1 & 2 Block 2 |
| Dogwood Ln.....\$22,000.....Lots 15-17 & 40' of 18 |
| Wall St.....\$15,000.....1/2 Block |
| Fraser Annex #3 28th.....\$10,000.....Lot 8, W45' Blk 71 |
| Holly Lot 10.....\$10,000.....Residential Lot 85' x 120' |
| Dogwood Ln.....\$9,000.....Lot 2 & 40.35' of Lot 1 |
| Jupiter St.....\$9,000.....Lot 3 Blk 4 Country Club Heights |
| Jupiter St.....\$6,500.....Lot 7 Blk 3 Country Club Heights |

Office Hours: M-F 8-5, Saturday 9-2,
Sunday call our agents.
Visit our web page at: www.pamparealtor.com

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

| |
|---|
| 1216 WILLISTON.....3/1/1.....\$62,500 |
| 2101 WELLS.....3/2/2.....\$70,000 |
| 1212 MARY ELLEN.....2/3/1.....PENDING |
| 1190 CINDERELLA.....4/1/0.....\$65,000 |
| 1919 RUSSELL.....3/1.75/1.....\$68,500 |
| 2134 SUMNER.....3/1/1.....\$63,000 |
| 1115 CHARLES.....3/1.75/0.....\$73,000 |
| 434 RED DEER.....3/1.75/1.....\$73,000 |
| 410 RED DEER.....2/1.75/0.....\$70,500 |
| 2510 MARY ELLEN.....3/1.75/2.....\$95,000 |
| 2121 DWIGHT.....4/1.75/1.....\$80,000 |
| 121 FAULKNER.....4/3/2.....\$95,000 |
| 312 W 17TH.....3/3/2.....\$99,000 |
| 706 S 6TH LEFORS.....3/2.5/1.....\$98,000 |
| 1813 ZIMMERS.....3/1.75/2.....PENDING |
| 911 TERRY.....3/1.75/2.....\$104,900 |
| 1918 CHESTNUT.....3/2/2.....\$118,000 |
| 2000 CHRISTINE.....3/1.75/2.....\$178,500 |
| 1628 EVERGREEN.....3/1.75/2.....\$145,000 |
| 2328 DURAN.....3/2.5/2.....PENDING |
| 132 GREENBELT.....3/2/1.....\$145,000 |
| 324 DOGWOOD.....5/2.5/2.....PENDING |
| 701 RUSSELL.....4/2.75/2.....\$235,000 |
| 12006 WHITE ACRES.....5/3/3.....\$235,000 |
| 6320 ODINE RD.....3/2.5/2.....\$250,000 |
| 1015 DEER PLACE.....3/2.5/4.....\$475,000 |



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

| |
|----------------------------------|
| 2200 COFFEE.....\$18,000 |
| LOOP 171 - 5 ACRES.....\$27,000 |
| 1225 WELLS.....\$35,000 |
| 1100 S. BARNES.....\$60,000 |
| 300 CUMLER.....\$99,000 |
| 313 EAST BROWN.....\$250,000 |
| SADLEWOOD/HOBART.....\$1,007,000 |

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- Patti Hudson, Bkr 662-4896
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 Drilling Fluids USA, Inc.
 Growing Drilling Fluids Company has openings for Full-Time Drivers in Canadian, TX.
 Applicant must possess Class A CDL with Hazmat endorsement. Candidate should be able to operate a forklift, and heavy lifting will be required. Good safety practices are a MUST!
 Company offers competitive pay and full benefits incl. medical, dental, vacation, holiday pay and 401K
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 806-440-1698
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1 Public Notice
 GRAY County will receive sealed bids for one shop made lowboy trailer, 32 feet long, with good 10.00-15 tires. Bids should be submitted to the Gray County Judge's Office, 205 N. Russell, Pampa, Texas 79065, no later than 10:00 a.m. March 1, 2012. Bids should be submitted in a marked, sealed envelope. The trailer can be seen at Precinct 2 Barn in Pampa through February 15 and then at Precinct 4 Barn in McLean. Gray County reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
 B-60 Feb. 12, 19, 2012

1 Public Notice
 New Frontier the provider of adult pay-per-view for Cable One is discontinuing their transmission of two pay-per-view channels. On March 26, 2012 channels 256 and 257 will go dark. Cable One will continue to carry New Frontier adult pay-per-view services on channels 250, 251 and 252.
 B-62 Feb. 19, 2011

13 Bus. Opp.
 HAVE large Pool Hall for lease. Great downtown location. Call for details, 665-1875.

14d Carpentry
 CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. New Homes & Additions. Shawn Deaver Const., 806-662-2977.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.

14h Gen. Serv.
 COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work, stucco, cement. Remodeling, floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

LET M&S help you w/ your concrete needs. Free Est. Doc or Mike 669-6990, 664-2009

JH Concrete, all types of concrete incl stamp, stain, fence, pools. Free est. 806-382-5408

21 Help Wanted
 PART-TIME Secretary / Bookkeeper. Knowledge of Wolfepak software beneficial. Call 806-665-0627, lv msg.

MAINTENANCE Man needed for Gwendolen Apts. Must have own tools & transportation. Apply at 800 N. Nelson.

PART time help needed. Julie's Hallmark, 125 W. Kingsmill, Pampa.

NEED experienced roustabout, back hoe operator, cdl driver for belly dumps & oilfield winch truck driver. Call 806-273-2738.

ESTATE AUCTION
 SAT. FEB. 25, 9:43 AM
 Loc. PAMPA, TX. 120 E. 28th Ave. From Perryton Pky. & 28th Ave. (1/2 Blk. N. of Walmart Entrance, on East Side)
HOWARD GRAHAM ESTATE & OTHERS
 Appliances, Furniture, Office Supplies, Household, Kitchen, Collectible Glass, Collectibles, Antique Toys, Lawnmower, Yard Tools, Fishing
 Full Listing on Web Page www.loydsauktion.com
Lyndon Loyd Auctioneers
 Wheeler, Tx. (Lic. 7119)

COMAC WELL SERVICE & ROUSTABOUT
 NOW HIRING RIG OPERATORS WITH CDL LICENSE RIG CREW MEMBERS & ROUSTABOUT w/ CDL
 All Must Have Experience!
 Paid Vacations
 Group Insurance
 Must Pass Drug Test
 Must Have Good Driving Record
 Must Have Good Past Emp. History
 806-274-2259
 1100 Industrial Blvd., Borger, TX
 for Application 7:30am-4:30pm.

3 Personal
 ADOPT: Adrian & Diana, college@sweethearts, outdoorsy scientists, offer unconditional LOVE, security to miracle baby. Expenses paid 1-800-861-4080

5 Special Notices
 ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

14e Carpet Serv.
 NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE
 Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.

14h Gen. Serv.
 HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

14s Plumbing
 JACK'S Plumbing
 715 W. Foster
 665-7115

14w Air Cond/Heat
 BROWNING'S Heating & Air and Refrigeration Specialists since 1964!! 665-1212.

CNAs IMMEDIATE OPENINGS ALL SHIFTS
 Requires TEXAS state Certification. Competitive rates and full time employees eligible for benefits. EOE. For more information, call (806)665-5746 or apply in person:
CORONADO HEALTHCARE CENTER
 1504 W. Kentucky Pampa
 TEXAS Rose Steak house is hiring Cooks & Servers. Apply in person. No phone calls!
 FLOOR Techs needed for early morning/evening. Call 1-855-336-3400.

Acres of Land

McLean, Texas
 MLS # 11-9190
 Nice 4 Bedroom 2.25 bath in McLean, Tx. Situated on 8.275 acres, outdoor roping arena, 2 central heat and air units, attached garage, master has a balcony where you can enjoy the view!

Linda Laycock
 Broker
 BROKER, ABR, GREEN, SRES, e-Pro
 (806) 662-1312

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 806-622-5097 fax
 371 W Loop 335 South-Amarillo TX 79111

THE Pampa Chamber of Commerce, a diverse and vibrant business membership organization, seeks well organized, highly sociable, self-motivated candidates for the role of full-time Executive Director.

Primary job responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- *Oversight and execution of day to day operations
- *Membership recruitment and retention
- *Corporate partnership development
- *Member event calendar development
- *Recruitment and oversight of volunteers
- *Development and execution of annual fundraising

Ideal candidates will possess the following experience/characteristics

- *A minimum of a Bachelor's degree or comparable work experience
- *Excellent interpersonal, leadership, and communication skills are required
- *Prior experience supervising employees/team management and budgeting
- *Drive to be successful in a culturally and economically diverse community, as well as the capacity to build community alliances to advance the Chamber's goals
- *Ability to work independently and successfully, manage multiple responsibilities, and manage time efficiently.

If interested, please contact David Hall at (806)665-8801

19 Situations
 EXP. nanny to sit in your home weekends, evenings, short notice. Sandi 806-216-1360

21 Help Wanted
 NOTICE
 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

EXPERIENCED DIESEL MECHANIC
 Must pass drug test. Salary depends on experience. Apply in person! No Phone Calls Please.
 Triangle Well Service
 129 S. Price Rd.
 Pampa, TX.

KOYOTE Trucking needs Full-Time OTR Truck Driver. 1 yr. driving exp. req. Apply in person 734 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

FULL time position includes health insurance. Successful applicant will maintain grounds, light plumbing duties, welding, etc. Applicant must have experience working with horses and cattle and have a good driving record. Bring resume or come by Gray County Veterinary Clinic to fill out an application.

TRUCK Driver needed. 85% local. Home every night. CDL & drug test req. 806 382-2766.

NEEDED PT exp. Accounts Payable Clerk. Quick Books preferred. Apply at St. Ann's Nursing Home, in Panhandle, 537-3194.

THERAPIST TECH I ASCI-PAMPA \$8.72 / hr
 Staff will be responsible for one-on-one care for client. Duties will include, but are not limited to personal hygiene, toileting, clothing management, meal preparation and objective training skills. **Qualifications:** Must be 18 years of age; High School diploma or GED; valid Texas Driver's license, and must be insurable to operate agency vehicles. **Preferred qualifications:** Some experience in therapeutic activities. Two openings. Shifts available: 8am-8pm. Sat / Sun; 3:45-8:45pm Mon & Tues and 3:45-9:45pm Wed., any relief (0151)
Texas Panhandle CENTERS Behavioral & Developmental Health
 Making Lives Better
 Please come by Texas Panhandle Centers, formerly TPMHMR for an application at 901 Wallace, Amarillo, TX 79106, 806/358-1681 or download application at www.texaspanhandlecenters.org
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 4 Bedroom, 1.75 bath, sprinkler system in front, brick home with steel trim, UP-DATED AND READY TO MOVE IN!

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CDL Drivers and Field Technicians

Light Tower Rentals is looking to fill positions for CDL Drivers and Field Technicians in our Canadian, Texas office. Prefer experience in an oil field related industry, but will train the right candidate. A Class A CDL license is required for Driver positions, and Field Technicians must be qualified to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle. A medical card is required. Must be able to pass a background check, drug testing, pre-employment physical and be insurable to drive a company vehicle. Pay DOE. Excellent benefits plan after 90 days. Apply online at www.lighttowerrentals.com.

\$5,000 SIGN-ON BONUS!
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21 Help Wanted

MBB-Feeding Hand: McLean Feed Yard is looking for goal-oriented individuals. Salary is dependent upon previous experience & referrals. All interested people should apply at the feedyard, 4 mi. south of McLean on Co. Rd. 273. McLean Feedyard offers a competitive salary & insurance for all employees.

21 Help Wanted

Licensed Physical Therapy Assistant needed for a growing multi-disciplinary Physical Therapy practice in Pampa, Tx. Fax Resume to: (806)665-0537

NOTICE: All ads that contain phone numbers or give reference to a number with an area code of 809 or a prefix of 011 are international toll numbers and you will be charged international long distance rates. For more information regarding the investigation of work at home opportunities and job lists, *The Pampa News* urges its readers to contact the Better Business Bureau of South Texas, 609 S. International Blvd., Westaco, Tx. 78596, (210) 968-3678.

PART TIME INSERTER
About 25 hrs. per week. **Must work every Sat.**, have driver's license & be 18 yrs. old or older.
Apply in Person 8am-3pm Mon-Fri The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa No phone calls please

21 Help Wanted

McLEAN ISD is seeking an individual to fill the position of Business Manager for the district. The preferred requirements for this position are experience and knowledge in school business, finance, and TeXIS software. Applications are available by contacting McLean ISD Business Office 806-779-2301 or PO Box 90, McLean, TX 79057. Send applications and resumes to the address above. Contact Harald Hill 806-779-2301 for more info.

McLean ISD does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, military status, genetic information or any other basis prohibited by law. Additionally, the district does not discriminate against an employee or applicant who acts to oppose such discrimination or participate in the investigation of a complaint related to a discriminatory employment practice. Employment decisions will be made on the basis of each applicant's job qualifications, experience and abilities.

21 Help Wanted

NURSING Department Under New Director. CNAs come check out our benefits! We have immediate openings for Full-Time positions. Apply today at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle, 537-3194. Dietary Aide Also Needed!

WAIT Staff needed. Apply in person. **NO PHONE CALLS.** Pampa Country Club.

NEEDED Full-Time Cook! Apply at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle, 537-3194.

49 Pools/Hot Tubs DEMO / 3 PERSON SPA W/ WARRANTY. MAKE OFFER. Morgan Spa, 806-358-9659

WINTER CLASSIFIED LINE AD SPECIALS (does not incl. Last Minute Ads on pg. 2)
4 lines-4 days \$18.50
8 lines-4 days \$21.50
Prices good Dec., Jan., Feb. Questions?? Call 669-2525

69 Misc.

WASHER, dryer, table, chairs, refrig, stove, rockers, china cabinets, freezer, etc. 662-7557

QUEEN or Full Mattress Sets \$246, Twin \$146. New sets. Sale Price. Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes, 665-2767.

YOUR Personal Invitation for Coffee & Fellowship! Everyman's Class Pampa Senior Citizen's Bldg. 500 W. Francis 9:30 Sunday Morning

NO NEWSPAPER or MAIL DELIVERY Mon., Feb. 20 (President's Day) Pampa News office will also be closed. Open Tues, Feb 21, 8am.

TROY-BILT Tiller, 7 HP (horse), 20". Less than 10 hrs. Still new. \$875. 806-537-3464

89 Pets & Suppl.

CHWEEENIES for sale. 6 wks old, 661-8722.

NEED Money Now? We will give you top \$\$ for your house. Call us today, 665-1875

We Buy & Sell Houses Call us today!! 665-1875

95 Furn. Apts.

BENT CREEK APARTMENTS *Lovely 2 & 3 Bdr. Apts *All Single Story Units *Electric Range *Frost-Free Refrigerator *Blinds & Carpet *Washer / Dryer Con- nec. *Central Heat / Air *Walk-in Closets *Exterior Storage *Front Porches
HUD ACCEPTED 1400 W. Somerville Pampa, TX 806-665-3292

CAPROCK APARTMENTS 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms with rent starting as low as \$415 / mo. Pool and on-site laundry, W/D hookups in all 2 & 3 bdrms. 665-7149

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

95 Furn. Apts.

FURNISHED rooms in White Deer, utilities and cable included. Weekly or monthly rentals. Call for details 665-1875.

ROOM For Rent, \$100 wk. all bills paid incl. cable. Private entrance. 806-661-8508

96 Unfurn. Apts.

APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386

96 Unfurn. Apts.

MINUTES from downtown-efficiencies. Short term leases avail. 806-665-4274.

1 and 2 bdr. avail. now at the Gwendolen Apts. Largest square footage in Pampa. 665-1875

NO transportation, not a problem. These large 1 bdr. apts. w/ appliances, are in walking distance to everything you need. 665-4274.

PAM APTS

1200 N. Wells 669-2594

SCHNEIDER Apartments. Call for special rates. Short term lease. Business people welcome. 665-0415

98 Unfurn. Houses

HAMPTON VILLAGES AVAIL NOW!! Rush In... **Won't last long!! 3 Bdrs & 4 Bdrs (Income Qualifications Apply)** Application Fee Waived and Security Deposit in 2 payments if you apply and are approved. **1507 Alcock 806-440-0054**

98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK UP rental list in the Black Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

99 Stor. Bldgs.

TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

LAST CHANCE! ONLY 7 left! SCRATCH & DENT MORGAN BUILDINGS. 8x10', 10x12, 12x16. **MAKE OFFER!** 806-358-4559

102 Bus. Rental

DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

FOR Rent 1541 N. Hobart, Prime retail, 3,000 sq. ft. Call 595-0234.

103 Homes For Sale

OWNER Will Finance, 1036 S. Christy, 2 br, 1 bath, 665-4595. Trustar RE.

3 bdr, 2 bath, brick, 2800 sq. ft. living, attached 2 car garage, large living room, den with fireplace, large sun room, small basement, privacy fenced b/yard, brick patio, large fruit & nut bearing trees @ 4th St. at Byrd in Skellytown for \$105,000. Call 806-874-3239 or 806-678-4900.

8320 COUNTY LINE Rd. MOBEETIE Tx. 79061 Great 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath property on 31.78 acres, 30x60 garage/shop, mother-in-law's quarters, corrals, storm shelter/ storage. Very nice! \$250,000.

16508 HWY 152 EAST WHEELER TX. 79096 Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.75 bath, 2 car garage home on 3 acres, open floor plan, finished basement, central hgt/air (heat pump), new windows, extra buildings, horse stalls, \$269,000.

Dennis Edmondson Agent 806-662-7503 RE/MAX Hometown Patti Hudson, Broker Office 806-665-7355

FSBO- No Owner Financing, 1609 N. Christy, 3/2/2. Move In Ready, f.p., recently updated \$117,500. 440-6290.

REDUCED PRICE! Partial Underground on 5 lots. Brick 4 bdr, 2 ba., tile, fireplace, central h/a, dbl car gar. Lots of extras. \$120,000. 712 Hazel. 663-0074 or 595-0104.

OWNER Will Finance, 313 Miami. 2 bdr., 1 ba., new carpet. Call Trustar RE, 665-4595.

TRUSTAR Real Estate for all your complete real estate needs. Show, list, property mgmt. 665-4595.

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 886-2230.

120 Autos

FOR Sale 2004 Nissan Pathfinder. Copper Bronze color, 4 door, new windshield, good tires, automatic, 56K, 6 disk cd changer, Bose Sound, tow package. Good condition, we're asking \$8,000. Call 806-346-8124.

122 Motorcycles

FOR SALE 2008 KTM 65 \$1500 FRESH MOTOR EXCELLENT CONDITION 440-2585.

First Landmark Realty (806) 665-0717

CUSTOM BUILT 3 bedroom brick, 2 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, living room, dining room, large open den-kitchen, granite counter tops. Beautiful isolated master bedroom opens onto covered patio. Gorgeous trim throughout. Large laundry room, lots of closets, oversized garage, & much, much more. Call Irvine for apt. OE

Bobbie Nisbet BKR . 662-8118
Irvine Riphahn GRI . 665-4534
Chris Moore GRI . 665-8172
Lilith Brainard . 665-4579

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2x4 Plus Classified Display AD
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\$89 per month for weekly AD

Up to 7 Lines
2x8 Plus Classified Display AD
Paid in advance
\$119 per month for weekly AD

Call Beverly Today! **669-2525**

3 Month Minimum Buy 11 months the 12 month FREE

SELL your CAR

We are so sure you can sell your car...

CULBERSON STOWERSIt's The **RIGHT CALL**

| | | |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| T1170A | 2008 Toyota Sequoia Platinum 4wd | \$37,124 |
| | Green /with leather loaded | low miles |
| | What a peach! | |
| 3940A | 2009 Chevy Silverado Z-71 Ext. Cab 4x4 | \$24,334 |
| | White w/black cloth, like new | low miles |
| | COME SEE!! | |
| T1141A | 2008 Subaru Tribeca Limited | \$20,936 |
| | Brown /with tan leather. Super Clean. | low miles |
| | This is a beauty. | |
| 3941A | 2008 Nissan Frontier Nismo 4wd | \$20,345 |
| | Red/ with cloth, off road special | low miles |
| | This is one special truck. | |
| T1145A | 2008 Toyota Rav4 Sport V-6 4wd | \$17,677 |
| | Black w/gray interior | low miles |
| | Super clean | |
| 3942B | 2004 Dodge 1500 Quad Cab 4x4 | \$13,967 |
| | Black w/leather. Laramie Edition | low miles |
| | Loaded. Nice | |
| 3943A | 2007 Kia Sportage Lx | \$11,465 |
| | Black Cherry /with cloth. Super Clean. | low miles |
| | Hard loaded, Economical | |
| T1023D | 2009 Chevy HHR LT | \$10,401 |
| | Gray w/gray cloth, loaded! | low miles |
| | Economical and Sporty | |

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AXYDLBAAXR is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

XQOOVKRHH XQH Q EQJ ZQO.
ORWGR HQN VI HXWTGJK'I
ER NWTZ BWQG VK GVDR.
WX, NRH VI HXWTGJ.

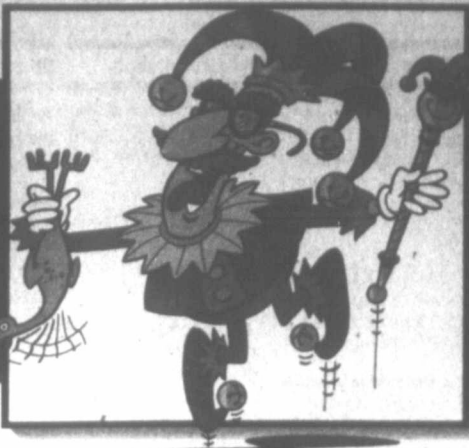
— ZVLXQZZ JZRNDTHH
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WIT HAS TRUTH IN IT; WEISCRACKING IS SIMPLY CALISTHENICS WITH WORDS. — DOROTHY PARKER

Keagy-Edwards, Inc. **7016**

Quentin Williams REALTORS

| | | | |
|---|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Becky Baten | 669-2214 | Roberta Babb | 665-6158 |
| Heidi Chronister | 665-6388 | Joan Mabry | 669-3201 |
| Darrel Sehorn | 669-6284 | Sandra Bronner | 665-4218 |
| Rod Donaldson | 663-2800 | Maxine Watson | 662-9052 |
| JUDI EDWARDS GRI, CRS | | MARILYN KEAGY GRI, CRS | |
| BROKER-OWNER .. | 665-3687 | BROKER-OWNER ... | 665-1449 |
| 669-2522 • 2208 Coffee & Perryton Pkwy. | | | |

| Address | Price | Bri/Baths | gsd/sq.ft. |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|------------|
| 1033 Christine..... | 300,000 | .4/2 | 3618 |
| 1812 E Harvester on an acre | 280,000 | .4/2 | 2246 |
| 2724 Duncan & 900 sf. apt. | 220,000 | .4/3.5 | 3137 |
| 1816 Dogwood..... | 215,000 | 3/2.5 | 2623 |
| 1438 N. Dwight..... | 215,000 | 4/3 | 3228 |
| 2241 Charles..... | 160,000 | 3/2 | 2685 |
| 1701 Evergreen..... | 149,900 | 3/1.75 | 2104 |
| 2145 Aspen..... | 149,900 | 3/1.75 | 2100 |
| 1345 Williston - SOLD | 149,900 | 3/3 | 2128 |
| 2011 Mary Ellen..... | 149,500 | 3/2.5 | 2730 |
| 1437&1439 N. Wells | 149,000 | (2) 2/1 | 1510/1475 |
| 1531 N. Wells - SOLD | 140,000 | 3/2 | 1840 |
| 2501 Mary Ellen..... | 130,000 | 3/3 | 2028 |
| 120 E. 28th..... | 124,900 | 3/1.75 | 1578 |
| 1722 Aspen..... | 120,000 | 3/2 | 2070 |
| 2501 Christine..... | 119,900 | 3/2 | 2070 |
| 1048/1050 N. Dwight | 118,900 | 2/1.5 | 2407 |
| 1212 W. 21st..... | 110,000 | 3/1.75 | 1608 |
| 2140 Chestnut..... | 98,000 | 3/1.5 | 1766 |
| 1309 Starkweather..... | 95,500 | 3/1.75 | 1868 |
| 1904 N. Banks - SOLD | 89,900 | 2/1.75 | 1698 |
| 1912 N. Sumner..... | 89,900 | 3/2.5 | 1732 |
| 410 Red Deer..... | 85,000 | 2/1.75 | 1488 |
| 705 E. 15th..... | 69,900 | 3/2 | 1177 |
| 2235 Williston..... | 67,500 | 3/1 | 1056 |
| 1828 N. Wells..... | 61,900 | 3/1 | 1108 |
| 2113 N. Nelson..... | 53,000 | 3/1 | 1010 |
| 2301 Rosewood..... | 53,000 | 3/1 | 1357 |
| 336 Jean - SOLD | 42,500 | 3/1 | 1170 |
| 1101 Garland..... | 37,500 | 3/1 | 1216 |
| 1006 E. Fisher..... | 28,000 | 2/1 | 930 |
| 708 E. Francis..... | 23,000 | 2/1 | 720 |



Kicks Kids Games and Puzzles

DRAW IT!

DRAW A BLACK NOSE ON THIS WHITE POLAR BEAR...

GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR WHITE...

HOW ABOUT BITE?

SOLVE THE VOWEL CODE TO FIND A POLAR BEAR'S FAVORITE CEREAL...

BC CR SP S !!

YUM!

A - E - I - O - U

YOU CAN LOOK, BUT PLEASE DON'T STARE AT MY PAL, THE BIG BROWN BEAR!! HE'S BIG AND FRIENDLY AS YOU SEE, ESPECIALLY WITH LITTLE ME!!

BAT

E

A

R

CAN YOU THINK OF FOUR OTHER ANIMALS THAT BEGIN WITH EACH OF THE LETTERS IN 'BEAR'?

WRITE US... WE'LL WRITE YOU BACK!

IF YOU HAVE ANY FUN GAMES OR JOSES SEND THEM TO: PUP 95 LAUREL STREET HARRISONBURG, VA 22801 OR EMAIL: PUP100N@AOL.COM

IF A BEAR MOVED IN NEXT DOOR TO YOU, WHAT WOULD YOU CALL HIM?

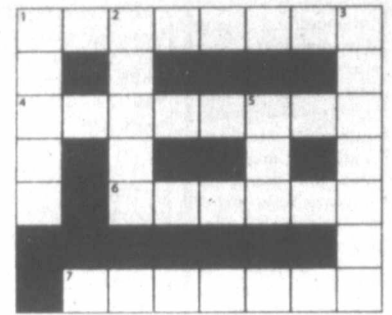
YOUR NEIGHBEAR!!



PEOPLE FACT

WHAT ARE THE MOST POPULAR MONTHS FOR GETTING MARRIED?

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- Nuptials
- Food of the gods
- Shreak in joy
- Bunch of flowers

DOWN

- Has on one's body
- Things owed
- Made bright by stars
- Perceive with the eyes

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

21

1813: MICHAEL ROMANDY, OR MIKHAIL, IS ELECTED TSAR OF RUSSIA, BEGINNING THE ROMANDY DYNASTY.

1916: THE BATTLE OF VERDUN BEGINS DURING WORLD WAR I. IT BECOMES ONE OF THE WAR'S MAJOR BATTLES.

1995: STEVE FOSSETT BECOMES THE FIRST PERSON TO MAKE A SOLO BALLOON FLIGHT ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

New Word

broth

enter into a formal agreement to marry

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Bride

SPANISH: Novia

ITALIAN: Sposa

FRENCH: Mariée

GERMAN: Braut

Did you Know?

NOWADAYS MOST COUPLES OPT FOR BROUSED OR RUBBLES INSTEAD OF RICE AT THEIR WEDDINGS BECAUSE IT'S SAFER FOR BIRDS. PEAS ARE THROWN AT CZECH NEWLYWEDS.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?



ASK SHAGG

BY PETER GURIN

Dear Shagg,
Why do killer whales have teeth but regular whales do not?

Katie Mayhew
Barrington, RI

THERE ARE SIMPLY TWO GROUPS OF WHALES — TOOTHED WHALES AND BALEEN WHALES.

TOOTHED

BALEEN

CLOSE-UP (BUT NOT TOO CLOSE)

SHAGG'S HELPFUL HINT

ANIMAL IQ WHICH ANIMAL DOESN'T BELONG?

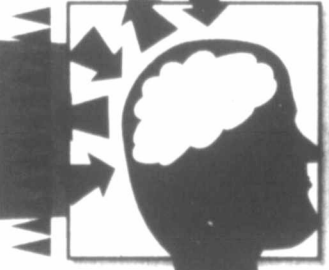
WALRUS PENGUIN POLAR BEAR BEAVER

ANSWER: PENGUIN. A PENGUIN CANNOT OPEN A SOFA TOP CAN WITH HIS TEETH.

KILLER WHALES ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WITH TEETH. DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES ALSO HAVE TEETH.

AND THAT'S A GOOD THING, SINCE THEY'RE ALWAYS GETTING THEIR PICTURES TAKEN.

SAY "CHEESE"



adult addlers

Word Search — Cherrylicious

S F W P F S Z X W O X P I S
S G U M R P Y E U K J D A D U
Z U H R T O P P I N G V O
K I J R X S C L G X M L S I
T C E U O Y Z J Y W N W O C
W H J O Q M X L U W O Y R I
C N T N A D I X O I T N A L
T S E M Y O J N E T G K U E
A P Q M Y E U N H E N G S D
R I L L C I T R E E I F O D
T E V W G A G L G W H J U V
N H E A L T H Y X S S I R O
D E S S E R T A R Y A N X C
M F M B X M O O C B W G A U

Antioxidants Dessert Healthy Sour Topping
Cherry Enjoyment Pie Sweet Tree
Delicious Fruit Saw Tart Washington

Getting There

CREATORS NEWS SERVICE

ACROSS

- Formerly, once
- Wight, for one
- General Bradley
- Off the beam
- Spring tides
- Be dependent
- By steamship
- Greek colonnade
- California fort
- Miss, for short: Sp
- Chinese city
- Acresses West and Murray
- Cotton cloth
- Arise
- By submarine
- Above
- Tehran's country
- Claire, of the theater
- Ratinal cells
- American hogs
- Fit of pique
- Wrath
- Boy from Castle
- Tennis star Sampras
- By space shuttle
- Approached
- Instruct
- New Testament book

DOWN

- Sailors' patron saint
- Deafening sound
- Type of missile
- By yacht
- By peak
- Legislative memberships
- Singer Cantrell
- Cycle or center prefix
- Roman princely family
- By passenger train
- Medicinal herb
- O'Neal
- Hindu ascetic
- Son of Isaac
- Key
- Type of wear
- Accepted standard
- Official papal body
- On a vesse's left
- By automobile
- Nostril
- Come together
- Uncomfortably full
- Confrontation
- By airplane
- Baden, and others
- Mountain ridges
- Scientific org.
- Championship
- Sicilian landmark
- Author of boys' books
- Culinary directive
- British composer
- A deadly sin
- Writer and film critic
- Marine animal
- Goes astray
- Grain
- American humorist

Crossword Puzzle Answers

REDS
LEAVED
TROT
SAFEST
TRAITS
ATLANTIS
LIBRE
ROADS
UPON
CAMEL
ORDS
MAURETANIA
LOCO
ERST ISLE

GETTING THERE

Word Search Answers

WALRUS
PENGUIN
POLAR BEAR
BEAVER

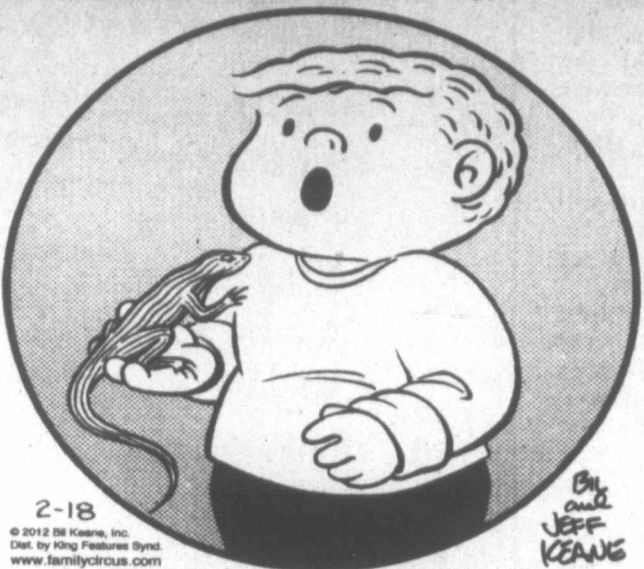
DECEIT

CUT THIS LARGE TRIANGULAR FIGURE INTO THREE V-SHAPED PIECES WHICH CAN BE REASSEMBLED TO FORM THE FIGURE AT BOTTOM LEFT WHICH IS SHOWN IN A SMALLER SCALE.

Deceit Solution

COMICS PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



2-18

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By Bil Keane

"When my lizard grows up, what kinda dinosaur will he be?"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Monday, Feb. 20, 2012:

This year you will tend to walk to your own beat. Often you will feel left out, as others go down their own paths. Your self-confidence grows as a result of success. Others find you to be most appealing and gentle, yet also a bit odd. If you are single, you need to be more open to someone who will appreciate you. Be careful that this person is not emotionally unavailable. If you are attached, plan a special vacation together. **AQUARIUS** reads you cold.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Your energy carries a project across the finish line. You might wonder what to do next. Follow your natural inclinations, and you will land just fine. Make sure that you let the special people in your life know how you feel about them. This could include the waitress who serves you every day or a friend you always have coffee with. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Take the lead when others are in a quandary. Your efforts are appreciated, and they can make a difference in the outcome. Decide if you want to continue in this role or if you would rather let someone else take over. Be careful when dealing with a female who might be fragile. Tonight: Could be a late dinner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Keep reaching out for a friend or loved one at a distance. You might have to push very hard to establish a trusting relationship. Don't worry so much, and detach from the immediate issue. A meeting points to a new direction. Tonight: Approach a situation differently.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Open up to a very different attitude and approach. This style is unique and points you toward a new path. Realize how fortunate you are to be able to process other approaches. A boss, older relative or parent really approves of what you are doing. Tonight: Go with another person's suggestion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Let others make the first move, both professionally and emotionally. Understand what motivates another person before you take a leap of faith. Someone could be clear about his or her feelings and explain that he or she simply cares. Consider taking a trip in the near future. Tonight:

As you like it. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Your focus can, and will, make all the difference in a personal issue. You could be overwhelmed by another person's efforts. He or she generally is supportive, but you did not anticipate this type of caring. Follow-through counts. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Deal directly with a child or loved one. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening. Step back and consider what would be the best way to proceed. Your imagination could go a little haywire when dealing with this person. Tonight: Enjoy a special person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Listen to what another person is trying to share with you. He or she might be trying to nudge you out of your complacent attitude. It certainly would not be a problem to play with this person's idea. You might even see some value in it. Curb overindulgence. Tonight: Heading home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Communication with someone you absolutely love to hang out with tells you a lot about what you need to know. Trust your judgment, but also use your listening skills. Demonstrate your ability to think outside the box, as you sometimes get locked into your ideas. Tonight: Make time for a special friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You know how to build security on both emotional and financial levels. You see a difference between the two, and you know how to proceed. A family member or roommate does everything he or she can to support you in an adventure. Loosen up and have a long-overdue discussion. Tonight: Buy a treat on the way home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You feel up to snuff and enjoy just being you. Listen to what another person is sharing. This person is expressing his or her caring in a bold manner. A sibling or neighbor thanks you for your recent effort. Tonight: Wherever you are going to be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Allow yourself some time alone to process an issue. You could try another approach or speak to a respected confidant. If you relax, you will know exactly which way to go. Finances could factor into your decision. Tonight: Do for you.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



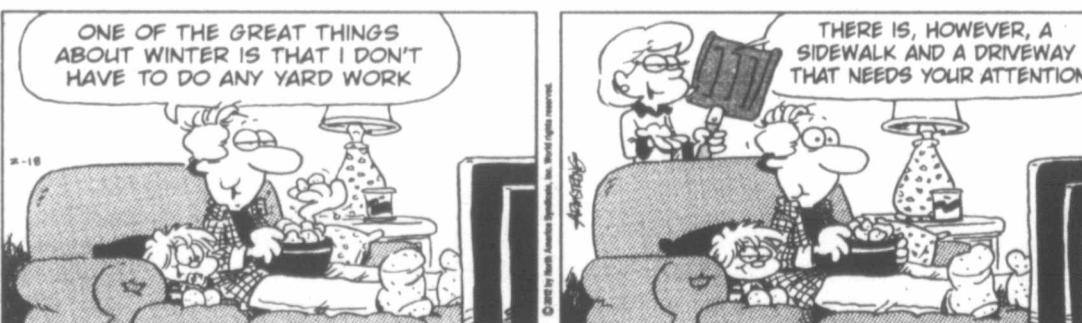
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



sunday horoscope

Note: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Pisces and a Moon in Aquarius if born after 2:28 a.m. (PST). Before that time, the Moon will be in Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012:

You have a tendency to keep many of your opinions to yourself. You also might want a lot of time alone. You see situations in a far more dynamic manner than many people. During these periods, you become extroverted. Do be careful with your finances. Money could run through your fingers. If you are single, you will need someone quite diverse and independent to be able to swing with your moods. If you are attached, you realize that a loved one might be having trouble adjusting to your new self. AQUARIUS understands much more than you realize.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Surround yourself with friends, and enjoy each of them. Be direct in how you deal with a particularly difficult person. If you can, treat those around you to a movie and/or a meal. You will see a sense of ease develop. Tonight: Going to the wee hours.

This Week: Use Monday and Thursday to the max.

Reflect in between.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might desire to play it low-key, but somehow you get tossed into the spotlight. You might need to head into work or spend some time with an elderly person in your life. Responsibilities call. Tonight: Surrounded by caring people.

This Week: Accept a leading role. Others cheer you on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. If this person isn't too far, you might opt to meet each other halfway. Your willingness to be vulnerable at this moment draws a loved one close. Tonight: Opt for a different invitation.

This Week: Look past the obvious. You will get answers.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Deal with someone directly who you care about. You might be surprised by how responsive he or she might be. Join friends later in the day, or get together with a pal to watch a game. Don't try to rein in your mind. You cannot help but drift. Tonight: Dinner for two.

This Week: Work closely with a key person Monday. Detach, and try to view a problem through new eyes from Tuesday on.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Others come forward. Whether by phone, text or in person, you seem to receive invitation after invitation. Whatever you choose, you naturally radiate and remain content. Go along with another person's plans rather than make suggestions as to how to improve him or her. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

This Week: Others want what they want. You have no choice. Give it to them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might want to slow down in the afternoon, after an active morning of touching base with those at a distance. A partner or loved one surprises you. You will like the end results. Tonight: Think "Monday."

This Week: Get a lot done quickly. Others weave in and out of your life from Tuesday on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might think you are too tired, but events prove otherwise. Whether you are enjoying a child or off with a new friend, you re-energize and are all smiles. Walking into this person's life delights you and, in some way, amazes you. Tonight: So what if it is Sunday?

This Week: Observe a creative force around you. Think about how this person handles his or her life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You might want some time off from your routine, work and friends. Take today and make it yours. You will not be able to say "no" to a loved one. This person delights you in the way he or she tries to get your attention. Still, you might opt to stay close to home. Tonight: Be a couch potato.

This Week: By Tuesday, you are in the groove. No one can stop you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Saying what you mean does not necessarily cause hurt feelings. Be responsible, claim your side of an issue and judge others less. Make time for a special sport or getting together with a family member. You

might be happy taking a walk together. Tonight: Hanging out.

This Week: Focus on security issues, and consider spending more time at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Sometimes you get quite possessive over a loved one. If you are single, you might try to lose some of that trait and discover that a very exciting rapport develops between the two of you. Follow your intuition in a conversation. You will land well. Tonight: Dinner for two.

This Week: Honor an inevitable change within your immediate circle; it certainly makes life more exciting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You wake up wondering why you have made such a big deal about getting together with a friend. Make a phone call and offer a surprise invitation. Share your good news and newfound confidence. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

This Week: You accomplish a lot Monday and Thursday. Use care with your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might surprise yourself by what you say or by a gesture you make. You seem to be picking up on a new inner sense. Take some time off from your friends and make this day for you. Think about it: What would you like to do? Tonight: Not far.

This Week: Move on a heartfelt issue Tuesday or Wednesday.

BORN TODAY
Singer Smokey Robinson (1940), actor Lee Marvin (1924), singer Seal (1963)

BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the words below can be turned into another word on the list by changing one letter and then rearranging it to form a new word. For example, REGIMENT can be turned into STEERING by changing the M to an S.

- LEVEL
- ABOLISH
 - BONDAGE
 - EDUCATE
 - CHABLIS
 - CLIMATE
 - SAUTEED
 - DECAGON
 - ETHICAL

Yesterday's Answer: CARETAKER, AMNESIAC, GARDENIA, WARPLANE

218

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced mother of two incredible children. It took a bit of work but after some time, my ex and I have come around to being civil, if not friendly with each other. He has been dating a woman for more than a year and now tells me they will be getting married in three months.

Abby, I haven't met her yet. I harbor no ill will toward her and understand through my children that she's very nice and good to them. My ex keeps telling me they are not ready for introductions. I have no idea what that means, but I haven't pushed the issue because I want to keep things on friendly terms. My question is, at what point is it appropriate to introduce your ex to your children's soon-to-be stepparent? — **READY IN HOUSTON**

DEAR READY: Because you and your ex share custody of your children, the logical time for you to meet his fiancée would have been at the time of their engagement — if not before. I can't help wondering why your ex is stalling about making the introduction because, in the months and years to come, it will be important that you and your

children's stepmother can function effectively together.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a coupon clipper. I save our household an average of \$30 to \$40 a week using them. Sometimes I have a great coupon we can't use, so I'll leave it at the store on top of the item it's for.

When I do, my husband accuses me of littering and merely creating trash for store employees to pick up. I think a stranger finding a valuable coupon for the item he or she wants is a kind way to "pay it forward." I'm selective about leaving them and only do it when the coupon offers significant savings.

What are your thoughts? AM I being a litterbug? — **CHICAGO CLIPPER**

DEAR CLIPPER: Of course you're not being a litterbug. You're being generous, and I'm sure many — if not all — of the coupons you leave have been put to good use.

Since you asked for my thoughts, I'll share one: You have a critical husband who is faulting you rather than complimenting you on your generosity. Shame on him.

DEAR ABBY: My grand-

son and his bride were going through their gift envelopes and found some with nothing in them. They don't know if there was money inside and it fell out. If they thank a guest for a gift and there was none, it could seem sarcastic. If they don't thank the person and there was money inside and it got lost — THEN what? What do they say?

Also, there was a family (mother, son and daughter-in-law) who attended the wedding. The mother put in a check that was larger than she really could afford, while the son and daughter-in-law left a card with nothing inside. We don't know what

to do, because my grandson doesn't know if the check was intended to be from the three of them. Abby, what's the proper way to handle this? — **EMPTY ENVELOPES IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR EMPTY ENVELOPES: Your grandson and his bride should write notes to those guests whose envelopes were empty saying, "We want to thank you for being part of our wedding day and helping to make it so memorable and meaningful. Your presence and the fact that you were with us made it extra special. With love ..."

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Digging tool
- 6 Loses
- 11 Paint base
- 12 Screen dot
- 13 Left on a boat
- 14 Sufficient
- 15 Leather worker
- 17 Flamenco cry
- 18 Pupil's place
- 19 Holds sessions in
- 22 Blue
- 23 Sprites
- 24 TV's Annie
- 25 "Gracious!"
- 27 "Norma —"
- 30 Accounting period
- 31 Misstep
- 32 Pendulum path
- 33 B vitamin
- 35 Monk
- 38 Portly
- 39 Puccini work
- 40 Carnival attractions
- 41 Adorable
- 42 Artery opener

DOWN

- 1 Agendas
- 2 Tropical fruit
- 3 Expiated
- 4 Laura of "Enlightened"
- 5 Off-the-cuff
- 6 Restful resort
- 7 Yon fellow
- 8 Reveal
- 9 Reese and others
- 10 Winter weather
- 16 "Young Adult" director Jason

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | O | J | A | K | J | A | C | K | S |
| E | R | A | S | E | A | T | R | I | A |
| N | O | I | S | E | B | L | O | W | N |
| L | A | N | D | A | C | I | D | | |
| A | S | H | I | N | O | | | | |
| F | O | O | P | A | S | T | D | U | E |
| A | M | U | S | E | L | A | I | R | S |
| R | E | S | T | A | T | E | L | A | P |
| E | A | S | E | R | E | L | I | | |
| B | A | R | T | D | E | A | R | | |
| A | L | O | U | D | A | D | O | B | E |
| C | A | C | T | I | R | I | C | E | S |
| H | I | K | E | D | P | I | K | E | S |

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Outdoor scenes, in movies
- 21 Frank McCourt book
- 24 Ante up
- 25 Scopes trial lawyer
- 26 Cut out
- 27 Ebb
- 28 Out of bed
- 29 Composer Bloch
- 30 First family of 1910
- 34 Something
- 36 Court feat
- 37 Nogoodnik

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | | | | | | 12 | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | | | 16 | | | 17 | |
| 18 | | | | 19 | | 20 | 21 | | |
| 22 | | | | 23 | | | | | |
| | | | 24 | | | | | | |
| | | 25 | 26 | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | | | 31 | |
| 32 | | | | | 33 | | 34 | | |
| 35 | | | 36 | 37 | | | 38 | | |
| 39 | | | | | | | 40 | | |
| 41 | | | | | | | 42 | | |

2-18

Entertainment!

THE PAMPA NEWS

No passion in Lone Star state? Four Texas towns in Redbox's 'least romantic' list

If Redbox movie rentals are any indication, the Lone Star state is registering somewhere around "luke warm" on the passion scale.

Laredo landed the No. 1 spot on Redbox's list of "Least Romantic Cities" that was released this month along with results from a national Valentine's Day survey taken by the company. Midland, Victoria and Odessa also cracked the top ten.

The list, which found La Crosse, Wis. to be the most romantic city, was determined by the percentage of romantic movies out of total rentals for each market. Odessa also made the list as the sixth least romantic city. Midland was ranked No. 7 on 2011's "Least Romantic" list, and Odessa was not on the list last year.

10 Least Romantic Cities

1. Laredo, Texas
2. Midland, Texas
3. Greenwood, Miss.
4. Victoria, Texas
5. Eureka, Calif.
6. Odessa, Texas
7. Las Vegas, Nev.
8. Florence, S.C.
9. Meridian, Miss.
10. Tucson, Ariz.

10 Most Romantic Cities

1. La Crosse, Wis.
2. Green Bay, Wis.
3. Ames, Iowa
4. Cedar Rapids, Iowa
5. Sioux Falls, S.D.
6. Wausau, Wis.
7. Grand Rapids-Kalamazoo, Mich.
8. Fargo, N.D.
9. Madison, Wis.
10. Mankato, Minn.

Horror on Valentine's Day?
While 38.8 percent of those surveyed by Redbox said they opt for a romantic comedy on date nights,

horror and drama flicks have been the company's most rented genres on Feb. 14.

Top Redbox rents for past six Valentine's Days:

- 2011: "Paranormal Activity 2"
- 2010: "Zombieland"
- 2009: "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa"
- 2008: "No Reservations"
- 2007: "Departed"
- 2006: "Saw II"

Top box office grossers on the big screen for past Valentine's Day weekends:

- 2011: "Just Go With It" (\$30,514,732)
- 2010: "Valentine's Day" (\$56,260,707)
- 2009: "Friday the 13th (2009)" (\$40,570,365)
- 2008: "Jumper" (\$27,354,808)
- 2007: "Ghost Rider" (\$45,388,836)
- 2006: "The Pink Panther (2006)" (\$20,220,412)

Love and Redbox

Other info found in the Redbox Valentine's Day national survey:

Six out of 10 Americans will be watching a movie on Valentine's Day.

"The Notebook" starring Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams was voted America's favorite cinema love story.

While romantic comedies were chosen as voters' go-to genre for date nights at 38.8 percent, laugh-out-loud comedies were chosen by 24.8 percent, followed by new releases at 31.8 percent.

Deep in the heart of Texas

• 179,776: The number of marriages in Texas in 2009, the second most in the nation behind California. That averages out to about 492 wed-

dings per day. There were 76,909 divorces in the Lone Star State in 2009, falling behind Florida, which had 79,915 the same year.

• Texas is home to some of the most romantic-sounding cities. Do they live up to their namesakes? You be the judge.

- Rose City
Where: East of Beaumont in Orange County

Population (2010): 502
Interesting fact: The Rose Hill oilfield, along with numerous sand and gravel pits, provides an economic base for this city.

- Lovelady
Where: Houston County

Population (2010): 649
Interesting fact: Lovelady is home to the The Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Eastham Unit, a prison that employs about 718 people and houses a maximum of 2,153 inmates.

- Loving County
Where: West of Winkler County along the New Mexico border

Population (2010): 82
Interesting fact: Named for cattle rancher Oliver Loving, this is the least populated county in the U.S. It was featured in a piece in Time.com Photos essay called "The Richest Little County."

- Valentine
Where: Jeff Davis County

Population (2010): 134
Interesting fact: Founded in 1882 by a Southern Pacific Railroad construction crew on Feb. 14, Valentine is home to the art sculpture "Prada Marfa," which appears to be an abandoned Prada store stranded in the West Texas desert.



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Many pastures unlikely to return to full capacity soon



ROBERT BURNS
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

COLLEGE STATION — Mother Nature sent many Texas farmers an early Valentine's Day card in the form of rain the last week.

According to reports from Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel, there were notable exceptions, but many parts of the state received moisture, further improving pastures and rangeland, and raising soil moisture levels for spring planting.

According to AgriLife Extension county agents, the exceptions were western counties of the Rolling Plains district and large parts of the Panhandle, where soil moisture levels remained mostly short to very short. Far West Texas received some rain, but not nearly enough to improve drought- and fire-damaged pastures. Most areas were still providing supplemental feed to livestock.

The question is, should producers, particularly livestock producers, be optimistic?

"I think they have reason to be optimistic, but it's dangerous to be overly optimistic," said Ron Gill, AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, College Station. "Yes, we have improvement in soil moisture, but the problem we haven't gotten over is the deterioration in pasture and range conditions we experienced last summer and fall."

Even with a wet spring, it's likely to be a long time before pastures and rangeland show full recovery, Gill said. Recovery of introduced warm-season pastures will depend upon many things beside just rainfall. The extent of the drought or wildfire damage, the cost of fertilizer and stocking rates, both past and present, are all factors, according to Gill.

Another factor has to do with how the pastures and rangeland were managed. Many pastures were stocked to capacity, and producers had to cut back on fertilizer use prior to the drought because of cost. Because prices for cattle were so high, many people tried to not downsize their herds, which led to further deterioration of forage conditions, he said.

"If people can afford to apply adequate fertilizer, the pastures will recover fairly early this spring," Gill said. "If we continue to get rain, and they don't fertilize, and are still overstocked, then they'll continue to deteriorate forage conditions."

Gill said there's been a lot of conjecture about what the proper land-management strategy is at this time, but most producers are being cautious, knowing that their pastures are knocked back and worried about the cost of replacements.

"I haven't seen many people jumping out there and trying to restock yet," he said. "Unless they de-stocked early in the process and conserved some forage, and managed their pastures right — then they may have the ability to start adding cattle back pretty quickly."

Even then, if they jump back into production, and the rainfall patterns don't hold,

they could find themselves stuck with some high-priced replacement cattle needing costly hay.

"The situation warrants being careful at this time," he said.

More information on the current Texas drought and wildfire alerts can be found on the AgriLife Extension Agricultural Drought Task Force website at <http://agrilife.tamu.edu/drought/>.

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries for Feb. 6-14:

PANHANDLE: Temperatures were near to slightly above normal for most of the week, then dropped to below normal by week's end. A few areas reported receiving some moisture late in the week. Soil-moisture levels varied from adequate to very short, with most reporting short to very short. Winter wheat was in good to very poor condition, with most reporting poor condition. Rangeland and pastures were in mostly poor to very poor condition. Livestock producers were still providing supplemental feed to cattle.

ROLLING PLAINS: The western part of the region remained dry after several missed chances of rain. Winter wheat needed some measurable precipitation as it was due to come out dormancy this month. Without rain, there will be reduced grain yields and grazing potential. Pastures and rangeland were in poor condition with very little grazing left. Producers worried that 2012 might be a repeat of the 2011 drought. Fortunately, eastern counties reported that recent rains left rangeland and pasture in good condition. Wheat continued to make good progress. Stock water tanks were full.

SOUTH PLAINS: Most counties received a little moisture, either as rain or snow or both. Southern counties received rain last week and most counties received a rain/snow mix on Feb. 12. However, topsoil remained very dry and much more moisture is needed to make an impact. Pasture and rangeland were in fair to poor condition. Winter wheat was still suffering from drought. The recent rain and snow was expected to help producers begin field preparations for the spring.



photo courtesy of Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Even if rainfall patterns hold, fertilizer and other input costs will be big factors controlling the recovery of drought-damaged pastures and stocking rates, say Texas AgriLife Extension Service experts.

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