

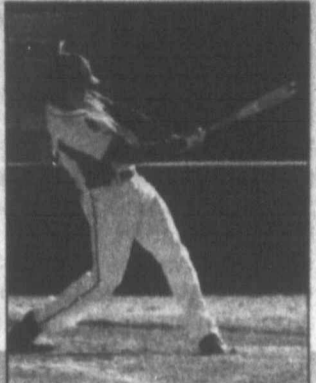
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**TODAY IN SPORTS**  


Thursday, March 8, 2012 [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com) Volume 107 • No. 277

**75¢** Convention fight the last stand? | **p2A** Breaking in the bats  
 \$1.50 weekend Is the RNC Santorum and Gingrich's last hope? | **p2A** Harvesters adjust to new bat certification rules | **p1B**

## PRIMARY SOURCES



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

**Jana Vinson** (center), president of the Top O' Texas Republican Women, is flanked by emcee Judge Richard Peet and timekeeper Susan Winborne as she opens Tuesday evening's forum.

## Voters hear candidates at TOTRW forum

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Top O' Texas Republican Women's Republican candidates forum held Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce offered Pampans a chance to get to know their future representatives a little better.

While U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry could not make it (Thornberry instead sent a representative to the forum), Pam Barlow, a veterinarian and veteran

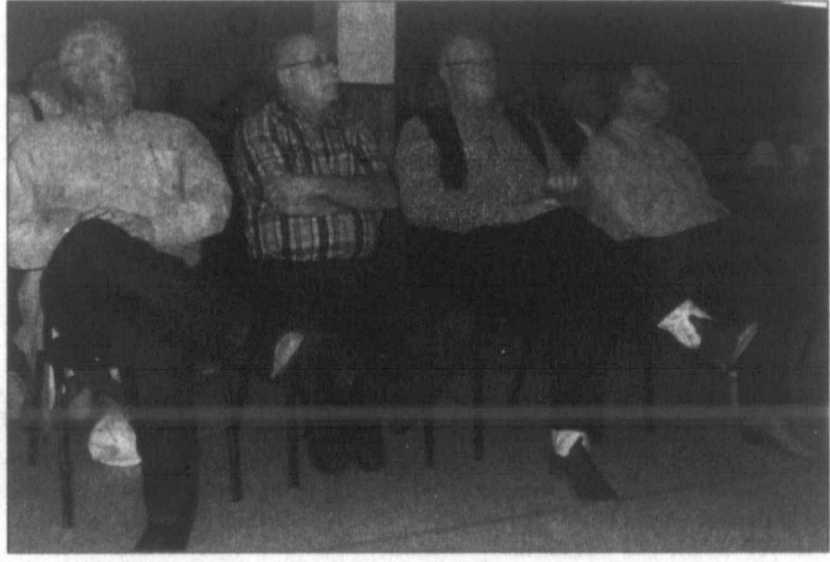
from Bowie, Texas, spoke of her own campaign for the 13th District of Texas.

"The good guys in Congress seem to be finishing last, and we need somebody who's willing to stand up and fight, and change things from the direction they're going," said Barlow. "I raised my right hand and swore an oath to the constitution that I would defend this constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I ask to be held to that oath, and as long as there's breath in my body and a heartbeat

in my chest, I will do my best to make sure this country is not fundamentally changed from what we know that it should be by the constitution. We need a limited federal government. We need to drag the federal government back, kicking and screaming, to the Constitution, where it is supposed to be."

Candidates for the 88th District of the Texas House of Representatives were all in attendance. Pampa's own Mac Smith, a candidate for the House, emphasized his values of education and small government.

"Our parents do a great job, and our parents need to be involved in the education process with our teachers," he said. "Our local school boards and our local superintendents do a great job educating our kids. Why do we have people in Austin telling us how to do that? ... We're on the ground here."  
**FORUM** cont. on page 8A



staff photo by **Arnie Aurellano**

**Sheriff Douglatas** (from left) Robert Douglas, David Lee and Don Copeland and incumbent county commissioner Joe Wheelley watch the proceedings at Tuesday's forum.

## Man nabbed after Xcel worker shot

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

A Pampa man was arrested Wednesday after he allegedly shot an Xcel Energy employee who disconnected the power to his home.

According to a release from Pampa Police Department Public Information Officer Stormy McCullar, officers responded to a report of a shooting in the 200 block of West Craven shortly before noon to find the victim, who informed them that he had pulled the power to a house and was headed back to his vehicle. The suspect, 68-year-old Alfonso Albear, had come out of the house to confront him armed with a rifle.

The worker said that Albear ordered him to turn the power back on, which he did. Upon leaving the yard and walking back to the street, however, the worker said that he heard a gunshot and realized that he had been shot in the back.

He was able to walk away from the house and call for help while Albear returned to his home.

Attempts by police to get Albear to leave his house were unsuccessful. They entered the house and arrested Albear, charging with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The rifle which was allegedly used in the assault was recovered as well.

Albear was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center for a medical complaint unrelated to the incident.

The injuries to the victim, who was not named by the police department, are not believed to be life-threatening.

## Woman still in critical condition after Monday fire

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

A Pampa woman remains in critical condition following a fire on Monday evening.

On Monday at 8:55 p.m., the Pampa Fire Department responded to a fire in an apartment on the 700 block of North Russell.

Eleven firefighters and six units were on the scene, and the fire was under control at 9:09 p.m.

Occupant Melissa White, 41, of Pampa, suffered burns and was transported by helicopter to the Timothy J. Harnar Burn Center in Lubbock. According to the Pampa Fire Department, she remains in critical condition due to injuries incurred during the fire.

A lit cigarette started the fire, said the fire department.

## Wheeler County grand jury issues 5 indictments this month

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

A Wheeler County grand jury issued five indictments to five people in the 31st District Court of Texas this month.

Kenneth Mark Seitz, 54, was indicted on a charge of driving while intoxicated (third offense or more) in connection with an incident on Nov. 25, 2011. Seitz had also been convicted of operating while intoxicated in December of 1984 in Moore County and again in

September of 2010 in Tulsa County, Okla. His bond was set at \$15,000.

Albert Perez Jr., 29, was indicted on a charge of indecency with a child involving sexual contact in connection with an incident on May 18, 2011. His bond was set at \$20,000.

Donnie Allen Tiller, 60, was indicted on a charge of burglary of a building in connection with an incident on Dec. 13, 2011. His bond was set at \$12,500.

Omar Alberto Pena, 32, was indicted on a charge of possession of marijuana in an amount of 2,000

pounds or less but more than 50 pounds in connection to an incident on July 27, 2010. His bond was set at \$25,000.

Dustin Blake Tollison, 29, was indicted on a charge of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) in an amount of less than one gram in connection to an incident on April 29, 2010. His bond was set at \$12,500.

The 31st Judicial District includes Wheeler, Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb and Roberts counties.

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### PAMPA FORECAST

| Today  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|
| <br>40% | <br>20% |  |
| High 36<br>Low 28  | High 43<br>Low 28  | High 56<br>Low 35   |

**Today:** A chance of rain or freezing rain before 11 a.m., then a slight chance of snow between 11 a.m. and noon, then a chance of rain and snow after noon. Cloudy, with a high near 36. Wind chill values between 16 and 25. Breezy, with a north northeast wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

**Tonight:** A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. Wind chill values between 17 and 22. North wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday:** A slight chance of snow before 11 a.m., then a slight chance of rain and snow between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., then a slight chance of rain after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Friday Night:** A slight chance of rain before 8 p.m., then a slight chance of rain and snow between 8 p.m. and midnight, then a slight chance of snow after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

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## Thurmond executed for double murder

**HUNTSVILLE (AP)** — A Texas man condemned for fatally shooting his estranged wife and the neighbor who became her boyfriend denied killing them Wednesday, moments before he was put to death by lethal injection.

Strapped to the gurney inside the death chamber, Keith Thurmond declared, "I didn't kill my wife. ... I swear to God I didn't kill her."

His execution for the 2001 slayings near Houston came about an hour after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected arguments to halt the capital punishment, the third this year in Texas. The 52-year-old Thurmond was pronounced dead at 6:22 p.m. — 11 minutes after lethal drugs began flowing into his arms.

Thurmond's attorneys argued that lawyers representing him in earlier appeals were "grossly deficient" and that his execution should have been postponed until justices decide on a similar case in Arizona.

With his death nearing Wednesday, Thurmond blamed the shooting deaths on another man before telling prison officials, "Go ahead and finish it off."

As the drugs began flowing, he said, "You can taste it." He wheezed and snored before losing consciousness.

The killings occurred after sheriff's deputies showed up at Thurmond's mobile home on Sept. 25,

2001, with a court order removing his 8-year-old son and putting the boy in the care of his mother.

Thurmond became irate and stormed down the road to the mobile home where his 32-year-old wife, Sharon, was living with her new boyfriend, Guy Fernandez, 35, near Magnolia in Montgomery County, about 35 miles north of Houston.

Fernandes' father, brother and sister were among those who witnessed Thurmond's execution. They were joined by Sharon Thurmond's brother and two nieces. All stood stoically a few feet from Thurmond and declined comment after his death.

Thurmond's brother, Tom, was at Thurmond's home the day of the killings, heard gunshots and looked out the door. He saw Thurmond outside standing over his wife with a gun in his hand.

At the 2002 capital murder trial, Keith and Sharon Thurmond's son testified that he saw his father shoot his mother repeatedly in the yard behind Fernandez' mobile home.

Thurmond surrendered to police after a two-hour standoff.

Evidence showed Sharon Thurmond had been shot seven times with a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun that was later found in Thurmond's home. The same gun was used to shoot Fernandez twice in the head. The gun's firing pin was missing and pieces of it were near

the body of Fernandez, who also had been beaten in the head with the weapon.

During the punishment phase of his trial, a former girlfriend testified that Thurmond stalked and raped her after she ended their relationship. She told jurors that he cut her stuffed animal's head off and that she feared he would do the same to her.

A second woman testified that she faced similar abuse and harassment until she obtained a court order against him. Sharon Thurmond also had two court orders against him.

Prosecutors said these incidents proved Thurmond was a threat to society, an element Texas jurors must consider when deciding on the death penalty. John MacDonald, Thurmond's lead trial attorney, said that background on Thurmond's character very much hurt his defense.

In an appeal petition, Thurmond's attorneys said the sentence was too harsh. They said his former appellate lawyers failed to track down any of his relatives who could have testified that he had been abused as a child and that this could have accounted for his behavior.

State lawyers opposed the petition, arguing that unlike the Arizona case, Thurmond's earlier attorneys didn't abandon him and that any information now from the prisoner's relatives likely would not have altered the outcome of the trial.

## Convention fight only hope for 'anti-Mitt'?

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — No, it's not over yet. But at this rate Mitt Romney's rivals won't catch him unless they pull off an unlikely fight at the Republican National Convention in August.

Romney is on a delegate-winning pace to secure the nomination in June, and at their current rate none of his GOP foes will reach even half the number needed.

The former Massachusetts governor's six victories on Super Tuesday netted him over 200 delegates to the party's convention — more than twice as many as any other candidate. And to date, Romney has won 55 percent of the delegates at stake in primaries and caucuses.

At that pace, Romney won't reach the 1,144 delegates needed to clinch the Republican nomination until summer. That provides a lot of opportunities for slip-ups and intrigue — and plenty of incentive for Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich to stay in the race and try to make up ground.

Romney's projecting confidence.

"We've got the time and the resources and a plan to get all the delegates, and we think that will get done before the convention," he said Wednesday on CNBC. Still, he also said he was "prepared to fight all the way" to the convention if needed.

The delegate math is worse for Santorum and Gingrich, despite Santorum's three victories on Tuesday.

At their current rate, they won't come close to catching Romney — unless something catastrophic happens to him. Their only hope is to stop Romney from reaching the victory threshold, then wrestle the nomination from him at the convention — a scenario that many GOP insiders see as far-fetched.

In the overall race for delegates, Romney leads with 419, including endorsements from Republican National Committee members who automatically attend the convention and can support any candidate they choose. Santorum has 178 delegates and Gingrich has 107. Texas Rep. Ron Paul trails with 47, according to the tally by The Associated Press.

Santorum has won 24 percent of the delegates in play so far, while Gingrich has won just 14 percent.

Santorum campaign spokesman Hogan Gidley acknowledges that Super Tuesday's results could feed a growing math problem for Santorum, but he also says the former Pennsylvania senator is determined to fight on.

"If we all go to the convention with a certain amount of delegates and we have to figure something out at the convention, then so be it," Gidley said. "But that's de-

mocracy and that's the way the party structure is set up. We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Romney has a 239-delegate lead on Santorum, which doesn't seem insurmountable. But it's hard to close a gap that size because of the way most states award Republican delegates.

Nearly every state uses some sort of proportional system to award delegates, so even losing candidates can win a significant number. That makes it difficult for Romney to amass enough delegates to claim the nomination, but it also makes it hard for Santorum and Gingrich to catch him.

In Oklahoma, for example, Santorum won the primary but got only one more delegate than Romney and Gingrich.

There are quirks in the rules, and Romney's campaign used them well in Tuesday's contests. In Massachusetts, Romney won all 38 delegates because no other candidate surpassed 15 percent of the vote, the minimum requirement to qualify for delegates.

In Virginia, Santorum and Gingrich failed to get on the ballot, and Romney won 43 of the state's 46 delegates. In Idaho, Romney's supporters mastered the state's complicated caucus system and ended up with all 32 delegates.

If the candidates keep winning delegates at their current pace, Romney's lead over Santorum would grow to more than 300 delegates by the end of March, and more than 400 by the end of April. Gingrich would be even further behind, unless he can start winning states outside the South.

Nevertheless, neither Gingrich nor Santorum sound like they plan to leave the race.

"There are a lot of bunny rabbits to run through," Gingrich said, referring to the different candidates who have risen and fallen in the polls. "I'm the tortoise."

Santorum has tried to portray the race as a two-man contest, between Romney and him, hoping that he can solidify the anti-Romney vote behind him.

"We've won races all over this country against the odds. When they thought, oh, OK, he's finally finished, we keep coming back," Santorum told supporters. "We are in this thing."

Next up: Saturday caucuses in Kansas, the Virgin Islands, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Wyoming also wraps up its county caucuses Saturday. Romney has support in Wyoming and the U.S. territories, though Kansas could be competitive.

Next Tuesday, the campaign heads south, for primaries **CONVENTION** cont. on page 7A

## For the record

### Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, March 7.

Animal Control agents and the Pampa PD reported 13 animal related incidents. Pampa EMS and the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department responded to eight medical calls.

Pampa PD reported seven traffic related violations. **Tuesday, March 6**  
An accident occurred one East Highway 60.  
Fraud was reported.

An accident occurred at 60 and 70.

Criminal mischief occurred at the 600 block of North Sumner.

A threat occurred at the 700 block of East Murphy.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 200 block of West Craven.

An assault was reported. Identity theft was reported.

Disorderly conduct was reported. A theft was reported at the 1100 block of West Sandeewood.

An accident was reported.

A theft occurred at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 500 block of North Lowry and the 100 block of South Faulkner.

A theft occurred at the 200 block of West Brown.

A suspicious person was reported at the 400 block of North Jupiter.

Criminal mischief occurred at the 100 block of Panhandle.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1900 block of North Coffee.

Harassment was reported.

Harassment occurred at the 1000 block of West Wilks.

### Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, March 7.

**Tuesday, March 8**  
Carl Ray Shepard, 66, was arrested by deputies for a theft of property and on a theft by check warrant.

Arthur Frank Murphy, 52, was arrested by deputies on a warrant regarding driving while intoxicated.

## The PAMPA NEWS

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# MORNINGRUSH

## TCEQ appoints new chief

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has picked a former adviser to Gov. Rick Perry as the agency's new executive director.

The agency's three commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday to appoint Zak Covar executive director. He will enter the position on May 1. Current director Mark Vickery is retiring.

Covar has been active in state government for years. He began his career as a lawmaker's clerk on the Texas House Environmental Regulation Committee.

Between 2005 and 2007, Covar served as Perry's adviser on environmental and natural resource issues. He advised Perry on budget and policy issues regarding the TCEQ, the Texas Railroad Commission and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Covar has also served as executive assistant to TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw, and as the agency's assistant deputy executive director.

## \$4 million receive after wildfires

BASTROP (AP) — Parts of Central Texas devastated by wildfires last year have benefited from more than \$4 million in private donations and the help of volunteers who are rebuilding homes.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that in Bastrop County, agencies and groups are trying to rebuild more than 200 homes for people who did not have insurance or not enough insurance.

The American Red Cross collected \$699,000 in the wake of the wildfires. The Austin Community Foundation received \$1.3 million.

Meanwhile, Mennonite volunteers have stayed in Bastrop for several months. They and others continue to build homes free of charge.

The Texas Forest Service says last year's wildfire season was the worst in state history, destroying nearly 4 million acres. About 3,000 homes were lost. Ten people died.

## Military plans hurricane drill

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AP) — The military plans a large-scale exercise in Texas to prepare for the 2012 hurricane season.

U.S. Northern Command says the exercise will take place May 2-9 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas.

Northern Command is responsible for the military defense of U.S. soil and assisting civil authorities in emergencies. It's based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

The exercise will test the capabilities of Task Force 51, a 75-person unit designed to command military forces supporting civil authorities during a disaster.

## Fired Dallas officer reinstated

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas police officer found not guilty of aggravated assault in a confrontation involving country singer Steve Holy can rejoin the police force.

The Dallas Morning News reports that Paul Loughridge will have to re-enter the Dallas Police Academy since it has been four years since he was fired from the force.

Loughridge had been accused of pointing a gun at a man during a night of drinking in December 2007 at Holy's home. Holy told police that Loughridge and another officer pointed their guns at him and his friend and ordered them on the ground.

Former officer Randy Anderson was sentenced to 45 days in jail.

Loughridge says he kept fighting to get his job back "for any officer that's been falsely accused."

## City spends \$200K to move tree

LEAGUE CITY (AP) — Rather than knock down a tree in the way of a road-widening project, a Houston-area city will spend almost \$200,000 to move it.

League City's council voted Tuesday to move the Gharardi oak tree about a quarter of a mile for \$197,500. That will allow the city to widen Louisiana Avenue on the city's east side.

The Galveston County Daily News reports that the oak tree is believed to have been planted by the city's founder more than 100 years ago. Officials say widening a different part of the avenue to avoid the tree would have cost at least \$267,000 more.

Supporters say the tree is part of League City's charm.

## Gun battle kills policewoman

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico (AP) — People in the Mexican border city of Piedras Negras are keeping their children home from school following a fierce hour-long battle between gunmen and police. One female officer was killed and six people were wounded.

Tuesday night's shootout has left an atmosphere of fear across the city of Piedras Negras, across the border from Eagle Pass, Texas.

Authorities have not identified the gunmen involved in the attack.

Prosecutors in Coahuila state said Wednesday that one of the wounded police officers is in serious condition.

Prosecutors say the attackers fled following the shootout, leaving behind a large quantity of weapons, including assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and grenade launchers.

## Governors question Air Force

FORT WORTH (AP) — Governors of states along the Gulf Coast want President Barack Obama to stop the U.S. Air Force from potentially moving eight planes used in disasters to Montana.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reports that the Air Force is considering budget cuts that could affect eight C-130 Hercules planes now based in North Texas for the Texas Air National Guard. Those planes could be moved in two years to Great Falls, Mont.

C-130 planes have been used after hurricanes to carry supplies and rescue workers.

If they are moved, it could take days - instead of hours - to mobilize them in a disaster.

The governors of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas signed the letter.

Congressmen from the states are also questioning Air Force officials about the proposed move.

# Drought delays antelope relocation

DALLAS (AP) — Researchers studying the decline of the pronghorn population in West Texas will wait until at least next year to relocate more of the animals to the area because of the ongoing drought.

"We will not make any headway until that drought is reversed," researcher Louis Harveson said Tuesday.

Harveson is director of the Borderlands Research Institute for Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, which is working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to study the drop.

Researchers had hoped that studying pronghorn transplanted last spring from the Panhandle - where there's a thriving population - would both bolster the population and

provide some clues about what was wrong among West Texas pronghorn.

But a year of harsh conditions including freezes, drought, extreme heat and wildfires took a toll on the transplanted animals. Harveson said once rains return, researchers are hopeful they can bring around 500 of the animals to the area.

Pronghorn have a body type somewhat like a deer, with distinctive white stripes on their faces and necks and white markings that come halfway up their sides.

In the mid-1980s, West Texas had about 17,000 of the animals, but since then the population has mostly been on the decline to a 30-year low of 3,745 animals recorded last year. Researchers say that while the animals have been affected

by drought at times, that alone can't explain the decline.

For instance, following drought in the 1990s, pronghorn populations showed an initial recovery before continuing a decline even after good rainfalls.

Among possible culprits is a type of parasitic worm that has been found in high numbers in West Texas pronghorn. But it is possible the worms are simply taking advantage of pronghorn weakened by something else.

Eighty of the about 200 pronghorn that were transplanted to West Texas in February 2011 were fitted with radio collars. Of those, 63 died: 11 died in transport or from effects of the transport; 15 were killed by predators; two were killed by vehicles; two died from

the parasitic worm and 33 died of unknown causes.

Harveson said it's often hard to determine the cause of death if they don't get to the body soon enough because of the damage done by animals eating the carcass.

Among the researchers' most recent findings is that pronghorn are not able to get around fences to find better food or escape predators, which may have contributed to several deaths. Pronghorn are reluctant to jump fences, so a pronghorn-friendly fence would be far enough off the ground for them to squeeze under.

"We're not out of the woods. We still have a long road ahead of us," Harveson said. "We're hoping everyone won't give up on the pronghorn."

## Clovis, N.M., elects mayor who called Obama 'evil'

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP) — A former New Mexico mayor who called President Barack Obama "the carnal manifestation of evil" and said Obama's election was part of a CIA conspiracy has been elected to his former job, according to unofficial results.

The Clovis News Journal reports that former Clovis mayor David Lansford won his old job back Tuesday by defeating Mayor Gayla Brumfield with almost 63 percent of the votes.

Lansford, 53, recently gained national attention after the newspaper reported his ties to a fringe religious and political group, ATLAH Media Network in New York. After threatening to withdraw from the race, Lansford later changed his mind and stayed in the race but said he felt disclosing his activities was unfair and would prompt others to label him "a whack job."

Lansford participated in ATLAH's mock treason trial of Obama and wrote articles for its online publication, calling Obama an illegitimate president under the Constitution and "the carnal manifestation of evil," claiming Obama's election was part of a CIA conspiracy.

Lansford later told KOB-TV that he didn't believe Obama had the legal right to be president because he's "not a natural born citizen."

ATLAH Media Network has come under fire from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which posted details of the group's trial on the center's "Hatewatch" blog. ATLAH's leader, James David Manning, on various YouTube videos, also has blasted Obama for wanting to turn America into an "Islamic Caliphate" and has compared him to a pimp.

"I think everybody in this country has their opinions," Lansford said on Tuesday night after winning his race. "And I think the great thing is America is where you can freely express your opinions."

Lansford also said he doesn't believe his views on the president will affect federal funding needed to complete the estimated \$500 million Ute Water Project — a plan to pipe water from the Ute Reservoir in Quay County to Clovis, Portales and other communities.

Cannon Air Force Base also is located next to Clovis.

Brumfield said she was surprised that someone with Lansford's extreme views of the president managed such a large margin of votes. She added, however, that she wouldn't have done anything differently.

"I guess," said Brumfield, "the city made their choice."

The city clerk said Lansford will be sworn in Monday.

The eastern New Mexico city of 38,000 is located along the Texas border.

### Cinema 4

| Movies Showing Friday, March 2 through Thursday, March 8.   | Showing Friday! Friday, March 9 through Thursday, March 15.  |
|---|--|
| <b>The Vow (PG-13)</b><br>Fri 7:00 9:45<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00<br>Mon/Thur 7:00           | <b>The Vow (PG-13)</b><br>Fri 7:00 9:45<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00<br>Mon/Thur 2:00 4:30 7:00                |
| <b>Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)</b><br>Fri 7:00 9:00<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00<br>Mon/Thur 7:00 | <b>Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)</b><br>Fri 7:00 9:00<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00<br>Mon/Thur 2:00 4:30 7:00      |
| <b>Project X (R)</b><br>Fri 7:30 9:45<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30<br>Mon/Thur 7:30             | <b>Project X (R)</b><br>Fri 7:30 10:00<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30<br>Mon/Thur 2:00 4:30 7:30                |
| <b>Act of Valor (R)</b><br>Fri 7:30 9:45<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30<br>Mon/Thur 7:30          | <b>Disney's John Carter (PG-13)</b><br>Fri 7:30 10:00<br>Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00<br>Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30<br>Mon/Thur 2:00 4:30 7:30 |

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Thursday, March 8, the 68th day of 2012. There are 298 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 8, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclad CSS Virginia rammed and sank the USS Cumberland and heavily damaged the USS Congress, both frigates, off Newport News, Va.

### On this date:

In 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

In 1782, the Gnadenhütten massacre took place as more than 90 Indians were slain by militiamen in Ohio in retaliation for raids carried out by other Indians.

In 1854, U.S. Commodore Matthew C. Perry made his second landing in Japan; within a month, he concluded a treaty with the Japanese.

In 1874, the 13th president of the United States, Millard Fillmore, died in Buffalo, N.Y., at age 74.

In 1917, Russia's "February Revolution" (so called because of the Old Style calendar used by Russians at the time) began with rioting and strikes in Petrograd. The U.S. Senate voted to limit filibusters by adopting the cloture rule.

In 1930, the 27th president of the United States, William Howard Taft, died in Washington at age 72.

In 1942, Imperial Japanese forces occupied Yangon in Burma (Myanmar) during World War II.

In 1944, two days after an initial strike, U.S. heavy bombers resumed raiding Berlin during World War II.

In 1960, Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon won the New Hampshire presidential primary.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines were brought in to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1971, Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali by decision in what was billed as "The Fight of the Century" at Madison Square Garden in New York. Silent film comedian Harold Lloyd died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 77.

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Ky., collided in mid-flight.

**Ten years ago:** Kmart Corp., struggling to climb out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, announced the closing of 284 stores and elimination of 22,000 jobs. The U.S. Senate gave final congressional approval to a bill cutting taxes and extending unemployment benefits.

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush arrived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as he began a 6-day tour of Latin America. House Democrats unveiled legislation that would require the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq by the fall of 2008; the White House said President Bush would veto it. In his first news conference since taking over command of U.S. forces in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus said insurgents were seeking to intensify attacks and that it was "very likely" additional U.S. forces would be sent to areas outside Baghdad where militant groups were regrouping.

**One year ago:** Voters in Bell, Calif., went to the polls in huge numbers and threw out the entire City Council after most of its members had been charged with fraud. (Residents were infuriated to find out that former City Manager Robert Rizzo had been receiving an annual salary of \$1.5 million, and that four of the five City Council members had paid themselves \$100,000 to meet about once a month.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Sue Ane Langdon is 76. Baseball player-turned-author Jim Bouton is 73. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 68. Actor-director Micky Dolenz is 67. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 66. Pop singer Peggy March is 64. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Jim Rice is 59. Singer Gary Numan is 54. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 53. Actor Aidan Quinn is 53. Country musician Jimmy Dormire is 52. Actress Camryn Manheim is 51. Actor Leon is 49. Rock singer Shawn Mullins (The Thorns) is 44. Actress Andrea Parker is 42. Actor Boris Kodjoe is 39. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 36. Actor James Van Der Beek is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kameelah Williams (702) is 34. Rock singer Tom Chaplin (Keane) is 33. Rock musician Andy Ross (OK Go) is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kristinia DeBarge is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "The intelligent man who is proud of his intelligence is like the condemned man who is proud of his large cell." - Simone Weil, French philosopher (1909-1943)



## Candidate Ron Paul: Less lonely these days

Unlike Bill Clinton, President Obama admits he inhaled! "Frequently," he said. "That was the point."

People laugh when politicians talk about their drug use. The audience laughed during a 2003 CNN Democratic presidential primary debate when John Kerry, John Edwards and Howard Dean admitted smoking weed.

Yet those same politicians oversee a cruel system that now stages SWAT raids on people's homes more than 100 times a day. People die in these raids -- some weren't even the intended targets of the police.

Neill Franklin once led such raids. The 33-year Maryland police veteran, now executive director of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, locked up hundreds of people for drugs and felt good about it.

"We really thought that these drugs made people evil," he told me.

But 10 years ago Franklin decided that drugs -- even hard drugs -- do much less harm to Americans than does the drug war.

"Drugs can be -- and are in many cases -- problematic. But the policies that we have in place to prohibit their use are 10 times more problematic."

The raids helped change his mind. "We end up with kids being shot ... search warrants being served on the wrong home, innocent people on the other side of the door thinking that they are protecting their home."

And the level of drug use remains about the same.

Still, most Americans support the drug war. Paul Chabot, White House drug adviser to Presidents George W. Bush and Clinton, told me: "We should be kicking down more doors. ... They're kicking the door of somebody

who's a violent person."

Violent? People who get high are rarely violent. The violence occurs because when something's illegal, it is sold only on the black market. And that causes crime. Drug dealers can't just call the cops if someone tries to steal their supply. So they form gangs and arm themselves to the teeth.

"We have the violence of these gangs competing for market share, and people get hurt," said Franklin.

Especially kids. Drug gangs constantly look for new recruits.

"Some of these gangs have better recruitment programs than Fortune 500 companies. They know what to say to kids."

People think that if drugs were legal, there would be more recruiting of kids. Franklin says the opposite is true.

"Prohibition causes that. We don't have kids on the corner (saying), 'Pssst, I got a fifth of Jack Daniel's.'"

Kids rarely peddle liquor, and there's little violence around liquor sales because alcohol is legal. There was lots of violence before 1933, but that was because Prohibition forbade liquor sales. Prohibition gave us Al Capone.

"Organized crime existed well before Prohibition," Chabot replied.

That's true. But much less of it. The murder rate rose when alcohol was banned. It dropped when Prohibition was repealed.

"If we were to do away with our drug laws ... we know drug usage numbers will skyrocket," Chabot said. But we don't know that.

It's logical to assume that, were



JOHN STOSSEL

it not for drug prohibition, drug abuse would be rampant. But 10 years ago, Portugal decriminalized every drug -- crack, heroin, you name it. The number of abusers actually declined.

Joao Goulao, Portugal's top drug official, said that before decriminalization "we had a huge problem with drug use ... around 100,000 people hooked on heroin."

Then they started treating drug use more like a parking ticket. People caught with drugs get a slap on the wrist, sometimes a fine.

Independent studies have found the number of people in Portugal who say they regularly do drugs stayed about the same. And the best news, said Goulao: "Addiction itself decreased a lot."

At first, police were skeptical of the law, but Joao Figueira, chief inspector of Lisbon's drug unit, told me that decriminalization changed lots of minds.

"The level of conflicts on the street are reduced. Drug-related robberies are reduced. And now the police are not the enemies of the consumers!"

And teen drug use is down.

All good news. But in American and in most of the world, the drug war continues, thousands are murdered and in ghettos the police are enemies of the people.

Governments should wake up and learn something from the Portuguese.

John Stossel is a nationally syndicated columnist.

## Fending off others to chase an incumbent

JIM KUNHENN  
Associated Press Analysis

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Mitt Romney reflects on his showing on Super Tuesday, he might sneak a peek at clips of President Barack Obama's news conference performance hours earlier. It was an object lesson about the power of incumbency and about the challenge facing Romney while his own party foes still nip at his heels.

As hard as Romney tries, he has been unable to define the race against Obama on his own terms. Busy fending off Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich on his right, his critiques of Obama become part of the Republican chorus, diluted and subsumed.

By contrast, there was the president, wielding a powerful megaphone, able to steal the limelight even on a day when 10 states were deciding GOP nominating contests.

From behind the lectern in the White House Brady Briefing Room, Obama dismissed the Republican contenders for the "casualness" with which they discuss war, giving their calls for a more muscular policy against Iran the back of his hand.

"Those folks don't have a lot of responsibilities," he said scornfully. "They're not commander in chief."

With that, at least for the moment, Obama defined the race on his terms.

What's more, the Republican contest has served to rally Democrats behind Obama while the public's view of the Republican field remains more negative than positive, according to a new poll by the Pew Research Center and The Washington Post.

Indeed, there's a reason incumbents tend to win re-election.

"They have the bully pulpit, they usually have the benefit of no primary challengers at the same time that the opposition party is chewing itself up," veteran Republican pollster Whit Ayres said.

At the same time, as Ayres notes, a presidential contest with an incumbent seeking re-election tends to be a referendum on the preceding four years. For Obama, the country's modest economic recovery still makes him vulnerable even amid signs of improved consumer confidence. At 8.3 percent, unemployment in January was the highest it has been in an election year since the Great Depression. On top of that, gasoline prices are at record highs for this time of year.

The only two incumbents to lose in the past three decades - Jimmy Carter in 1980 and George H.W. Bush in 1992 - were also in vulnerable positions. But it still took exceptional, charismatic politicians - Ronald Reagan, the "Great Communicator," and Bill Clinton ("I feel your pain") - to beat them.

If Romney is on an eventual path to win the nomination, as his current delegate math suggests, his challenge is to rise to the level of a Reagan or a Clinton.

As his base jells behind him, Obama now has the luxury of appealing to independent voters. With a simple phone call last week to Sandra Fluke, the Georgetown University law student derided by talk radio host Rush Limbaugh, he turned a Republican argument about contraception and religious liberty on its head. In so doing, he made a renewed plea for civil discourse, and by extension, to those voters who recoil from the rough partisanship of politics.

Obama is now also calibrating his relationship with congressional Republicans. After months of casting them as obstructionists, he now has won an extension of a payroll tax cut and his aides have spoken favorably of a Republican legislative package to assist small businesses. In the end, Obama advisers believe, the political benefit of any legislative accomplishment accrues to the president.

Romney, of course, doesn't have that perch of power. His business and government accomplishments are ... the past, as a venture capitalist, Olympics savior or Massachusetts governor. The only places for Romney to demonstrate achievement now are in the Republican nominating contests, and those so far are a mixed bag.

On Tuesday, Romney won in Ohio, Vermont, Virginia, Idaho, Alaska and his home state of Massachusetts. Santorum won in Tennessee, Oklahoma and North Dakota, while Gingrich took his own state of Georgia.

Romney has shown weakness in the South. Before losing Tennessee and Georgia, he lost South Carolina to Gingrich in January. He then went on to win in Florida. But the South is the most important region in the Republican base of support.

"It's important that the Republican presidential nominee be popular in the geographical base of the party," said Ayres, who has vast experience in Southern and national political contests.

Still, Romney's tentative foothold in the South may be all he needs. If Romney gets the nomination, there is little doubt he would win most Southern states.

Yet as the contest proceeds with Santorum and Gingrich still in the hunt, Romney doesn't have Obama's opportunity to turn his attention to independent voters. The longer the nominating contest goes, the longer Obama can have that audience much to himself.

And Romney, who has said he "won't light his hair on fire" to stir up the Republican base, could finally enter the general election with two opposing tasks before him: stirring up conservatives who preferred his primary foes and making his case to the independents and centrists who ultimately could decide the election.

## We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- 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.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.

# Gingrich not quitting race, betting on must-win South

PELL CITY, Ala. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Newt Gingrich must win next week's Alabama and Mississippi primaries to justify staying in the race, an aide said Wednesday as the campaign abandoned scheduled events in Kansas ahead of that state's Saturday caucuses to stay focused on the South.

"These states we're focusing on, Alabama and Mississippi, are the next two best opportunities on the calendar," Gingrich spokesman R.C. Hammond told reporters in Montgomery, at the outset of a daylong Gingrich campaign trek across Alabama.

Gingrich defiantly rejected calls from supporters of rival Rick Santorum to quit the race so Santorum can go head to head with front-runner Mitt Romney. Gingrich won only his home state of Georgia on Super Tuesday, out of 10 states that voted.

Stuart Roy, an adviser to the Red, White and Blue Fund, a super political action committee supporting Santorum, said Gingrich staying in the race will only be "a hindrance to a conservative alternative to Romney. And Romney simply won't be the conservative alternative to Obama."

Gingrich swatted away the unsolicited advice and said he would push his campaign forward.

"We are staying in this race because I believe it is going to be impossible for a moderate to win the general election," he said, making a now-familiar dig at front-runner Mitt Romney.

Gingrich also argued that Santorum, whom Gingrich is battling to be the preferred conservative, was a creature of the establishment.

"There is a big difference between being a good team member and changing the game," he said. "I am not going to go to Washington to be a good team member. I'm going to Washington to change Washington itself."

The reference was to former Sen. Santorum's explanation that he had voted with party leaders, and against his principles at times, to "take one for the team." Santorum has emerged as a favorite of evangelicals for his well-publicized anti-abortion stance, but Gingrich is trying to undercut that image as a principled conservative.

Gingrich said he was staying in the race because Santorum had yet to cement his status as the field's dominant conservative.

"If I thought he was a slam dunk to beat Romney and to beat Obama I would really consider getting out. I don't," Gingrich said in a radio interview Wednesday.

Santorum also is competing aggressively in Alabama and Mississippi, which vote Tuesday. Santorum was in Mississippi on Wednesday and planned to campaign in Alabama on Thursday.

Gingrich scheduled appearances in Mississippi on Thursday, as did Romney.

Gingrich spokesman R.C. Hammond said Wednesday that Gingrich must win both Southern states to justify his place in the race. Gingrich's only victories have come in South Carolina's primary on Jan. 21, and in Georgia.

Aides have said he must win the broad swath of Southern states from South Carolina to Texas, which holds its primary May 29. But Gingrich, who represented suburban Atlanta in Congress for 20 years, lost to Santorum in Tennessee on Tuesday.

Santorum spokesman Hogan Gidley has said Santorum would "do really well in the South. Rick's values match up well with the South. His message matches up well in the South."

Gingrich on Tuesday scrubbed six scheduled campaign appearances in Kansas on Friday and Saturday to continue campaigning in Alabama and Mississippi. He planned to remain in the two states through Tuesday's voting.

Gingrich, whose campaign has risen sharply and faded just as quickly, said Tuesday that both states would spark his latest comeback.

"I believe Alabama has a major role to play in setting the stage for the presidential nomination," he said Wednesday in Montgomery. "And I believe only by nominating a solid conservative who is articulate enough to debate Barack Obama this fall and win the debate can we win the election."

It was unclear to what extent Gingrich would benefit from political action committees that have spent heavily supporting him until now.

Chief among them, a group bankrolled largely by Las Vegas Casino Mogul Sheldon Adelson spent \$2.7 million on television and radio advertising ahead of the Super Tuesday contests, including in Ohio, Tennessee and Oklahoma, where Gingrich finished third.

The PAC's coordinator, longtime Gingrich aide Rick Tyler, said the group was airing ads in Alabama, Mississippi and Kansas, and would continue them through next week. Tyler declined to say whether donations had increased in light of Tuesday's voting.

Bob Walker, a Washington lobbyist and top Gingrich adviser, said Gingrich can compete outside of the South and intends to contest primaries in Illinois on March 20, and Pennsylvania and New York on April 24.

"There remains an open question as to who is the stronger competitor — not only to Mitt Romney, but who is the person who can beat Obama?" Walker said. "There's a real question of Mitt and Rick's ability to go up against the president."

# Santorum proves mettle with Super Tuesday state victories

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Rick Santorum proved his strength among conservative voters with Super Tuesday victories in Oklahoma, Tennessee and North Dakota, though whoever emerges as the GOP nominee is almost assured the Sooner State's seven electoral votes in November.

President Barack Obama's chances of winning the deeply conservative state in November were already poor, but losing 15 counties to an anti-abortion crusader from West Virginia and a perennial candidate from Midwest City show how deep anti-Obama sentiment is among all voters in Oklahoma, not just Republicans.

With all precincts reporting unofficial results late Tuesday, Santorum secured 34 percent of the vote, while Mitt Romney had 28 percent and Newt Gingrich was a close third with 27.5 percent. Santorum's victory ensured he receives 14 delegates, while Gingrich and Romney each are awarded 13.

The message from Santorum, who visited the state twice in recent weeks, clearly resonated with Christian conservatives, a key component of the state's Republican voters.

"I like his stand on being pro-life," said 74-year-

old Henry Strategier, the owner of a heat and air company who cast his vote for Santorum at the Freeman Baptist Church in Norman. "He's a Catholic. He has morals."

Santorum can also boast of winning the "reddest of the red" states, where Obama failed to win a single of its 77 counties in 2008.

Exit polling conducted for The Associated Press and other media showed Santorum's strongest performance came among those who said it was deeply important for a candidate to share their religious beliefs, those who considered abortion a top issue and those seeking a candidate with strong moral character.

"It's the nature of the issues he spoke to," said Keith Gaddie, a political science professor at the University of Oklahoma. "He's speaking to the evangelical voters and tea party voters about the need to roll back some of the initiatives that have come out of the Obama administration."

"When he surged, it was because he was likable. He seemed very earnest."

Gaddie said Santorum's victory in Oklahoma also paves the way for a strong performance May 29 in Texas, where voters share many of the same conservative credentials.

"If it plays here, it'll play in Texas," Gaddie said. "We're kind of like spring training for Texas."

The nearly half of voters in the state who called themselves "very conservative" gave Santorum a double-digit advantage over Gingrich, while those who were "somewhat conservative split about evenly between Romney and Santorum, while more moderate and liberal voters favored Romney outright.

Romney won among those seeking a candidate who could defeat Obama, and Gingrich won more than half of those who said a candidate with the right experience was their top priority.

Results from the Oklahoma exit poll conducted by Edison Research for the AP include 1,097 voters. The survey's margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Christie Hay, 39, a mother of two from Broken Arrow, said she voted for Santorum because she believes he has good family values and will open the Alaskan pipeline for drilling to create jobs and lower gas prices. She said the economy was the biggest factor in her vote.

"In a debate, Santorum would do better than Romney (against Obama)," Hay said.

# Court allows 'Dog O' War'

## Dog Talk

MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS  
Creator's Syndicate



es and also said some of the content could threaten prison security, including descriptions of dog fighting and Bretches' own fighting skills, the identification of another inmate as an informer, and numerous anti-gay passages."

In addition to lifting the ban, the settlement includes a \$40,000 payment by the state

There are several factors that can contribute to aggression in a dog. Environment, socialization and genes are the big three. The more factors that affect a dog the more aggressive he's likely to be.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, California state prison officials announced a settlement with a maximum-security inmate who has written a book that celebrates these factors. The ABA Journal describes the tome by Dale Bretches as "a how-to book on breeding aggressive dogs."

In 1979, Bretches was convicted of second-degree murder. He is housed at Pelican Bay State Prison in Del Norte County, Calif., where he and cellmate Paul "Cornfed" Schneider ran an illegal dog-breeding business with the assistance of freedom-loving civilians on the outside. Both men are members of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang.

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that the settlement allows Bretches "to publish a book about how he bred and trained aggressive dogs, including the Presa Canarios that killed a San Francisco woman in her apartment corridor."

For those who don't remember, San Francisco attorneys Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel owned two Bretches-bred Presa Canarios, one of which fatally mauled 33-year-old Diane Whipple in 2001. Knoller was convicted of second-degree murder for failing to muzzle a dog she knew to be dangerous. Noel was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for allowing Knoller, his wife, to handle the dogs knowing they could overpower her. Both dogs were destroyed.

Self-published in 2005, distribution of Bretches' "Dog O' War" was initially barred by Pelican Bay. According to the Chronicle, "Prison officials cited their rule against inmate-run business-

for Bretches' attorney's fees. Because of the inmate-run business prohibition, the settlement will take effect only after the parties agree on a charity to receive any profits — and find one willing to do so.

As someone who has experienced dog aggression in all forms and originating from all factors, this story turns my stomach. I've seen otherwise fine dogs turned fear-aggressive due to a lack of proper socialization. We've all witnessed the sad and frightening aftermath of adverse environmental factors such as abuse, neglect and dog fighting. Remember Michael Vick?

Currently, I'm working with a 3-month-old puppy who snarls, growls and bites. He went straight from the breeder to an extremely loving home, where the heads of household rightly recognized that something was very wrong.

You don't have to beat a dog or bait a dog or fight a dog to make him aggressive — although those things will certainly do the trick. Just as genetics play a role in physicality, they also play a role in personality and temperament. As my current client proves, aggression can come from nothing more than bad breeding.

In a society in which convicted felons forfeit the right to vote, is it too much to ask that they also lose the right to inject more violence into the world? With so many outlets for breeding aggression readily available, does the world really need a cookbook to create it?

Woof!

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

# Romney's camp says he'll be the last candidate standing

BOSTON (AP) — It might not be pretty, but Mitt Romney's campaign insists he'll be the last man standing in the Republican presidential field.

"Those guys, it's going to take some sort of act of God to get where they need to be," a top Romney adviser said during a Wednesday briefing with reporters at campaign headquarters. Those at the session insisted on anonymity while discussing campaign strategy.

Top rival Rick Santorum turned that assessment back at his opponent. "What won't they resort to, to try to bully their way through this race?" Santorum said in Lenexa, Kan. "If the governor now thinks he's now ordained by God to win, then let's just have it out."

Romney himself said in a television interview that he's "prepared to fight all the way" to the Republican National Convention in late summer to go up against President Barack Obama in the fall.

"We've got the time and the resources and a plan to get all the delegates, and we think that will get done before the convention," he told CNBC.

Romney lost four of the 10 states that voted on Super Tuesday and won marquee Ohio by less than 1 percentage point. But he's far ahead in the race for convention delegates, a point repeated by top campaign aides.

The Romney campaign's bottom line: It's going to be a long, hard-fought spring. And while he might continue to make mistakes and struggle to unite voters and the GOP establishment behind him, Romney is, in the words of one adviser, "ahead of the other guys."

In a memo to report-

ers, the Romney campaign said Tuesday's voting "dramatically reduced the likelihood that any of Gov. Romney's opponents can obtain the Republican nomination."

Romney's six wins increased his lead in the delegate race much more than popular vote totals indicate, the memo said. He now has 415 delegates to Santorum's 176 delegates, according to an Associated Press tally.

Romney's campaign says Super Tuesday was the final opportunity for his rivals to surpass him in delegates.

But senior aides on Wednesday wouldn't identify any upcoming state where Romney is likely to win. Next up are contests in Kansas, Alabama and Mississippi — conservative states where he could

struggle. There's a potential bright spot in Illinois, where a special political action committee that supports him is already airing TV ads.

Romney faces the extended calendar with a smaller financial advantage than the one he enjoyed through the campaign's early months. He announced Wednesday that he raised \$11.5 million in February, but rival Santorum has said he brought in more than \$9 million. Romney was able to close significant gaps with Santorum in places like Ohio and Michigan by spending significant amounts of money on TV ads.

Romney took a break from campaigning Wednesday and spent the day at home in Massachusetts.

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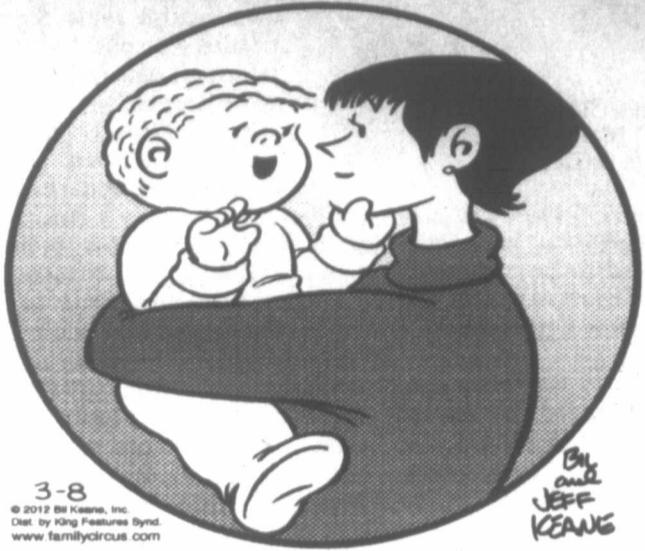
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# comics PAGE

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"When I grow up I hope this is gonna be one of our good ol' days."

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Friday, March 9, 2012:

This year you see life from a more caring perspective. You develop more empathy for people and gain understanding. Sometimes you could be jolted by your insights. Use care with your finances. Do not take risks where you cannot take the loss. If you are single, your circle of friends might change, and you could meet someone quite intense. When relating to this person, you will review many of your life assumptions. If you are attached, there could be financial struggles. Reduce the quarreling. Consider getting separate bank accounts. Share a change in your perspectives about life, money or love. **LIBRA** is indulgent.

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

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ You could attempt to be diplomatic, only to find that your fuse is way too short to do so. Pressure builds when dealing with others who have very different ideas. Adjust your plans. Tonight: Work on being diplomatic, for everyone's sake.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ You are even and careful. You could be far more nervous than you realize, as you attempt to juggle different interests. Honor and internalize information that puts a new slant on a situation. Tonight: Your treat.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ Good intentions might not carry you as far as you might like, but clear, analytic thinking will. A partnership soars into the limelight. You wonder what is possible as a team. Why not find out? Tonight: Wave in the weekend.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★ Deal directly with a child or loved one who keeps tossing the status quo out the window. Detach more, and get past your emotional response. You need to let this person see the results of his or her actions. Tonight: Not to be found.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You could be overwhelmed by all the calls and unexpected requests that seem to come your way. Just know that you need to focus or update your plans. You simply cannot be everywhere at once. Tonight: Join friends and/or loved ones for a TGIF celebration.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ Be aware of the cost of an expenditure. You could be overwhelmed by your options, but if you keep looking at all the choices, you might lose the moment. Sometimes you cannot go through every detail and check out each idea, no matter how wise it may seem. Tonight: Use care with any type of risk.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ You can handle whatever comes down the pike far better than many other people. Your sense of humor and general sense of well-being come into play. Think positively about a choice you have to make, even if you only can get wild feedback. Tonight: Trust your desirability.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ You could be a little out of kilter if you try to do something that really is out of your league. Right now, the best and only choice is to step back and think more about your options. Others do not seem to be able to communicate what is on their minds. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Focus on groups and meetings. You could be pulled in by a situation; however, after some thought, you will regret the connection. If you can, buy yourself some time rather than have to back out later. Financial matters are subject to dramatic changes. Tonight: Say "yes."

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Your mood is changeable and so are you. Why wonder which way to go? Simply flow with the moment. Understanding becomes possible if you let go of a need to control and structure every single second. Tonight: Invite others to join you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ You are more than ready for the weekend but frequently are distracted from what you need to do in the here and now. Consider taking the afternoon off, if you can — you will be a lot happier. A new friend could prove to be unpredictable. Tonight: Paint the town red.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision, even if you thought it was a good one. Someone around you could be explosive and quite different from how he or she usually is. This person might need space from you at the moment. Don't fight it, for now. Tonight: Head home.

Tundra



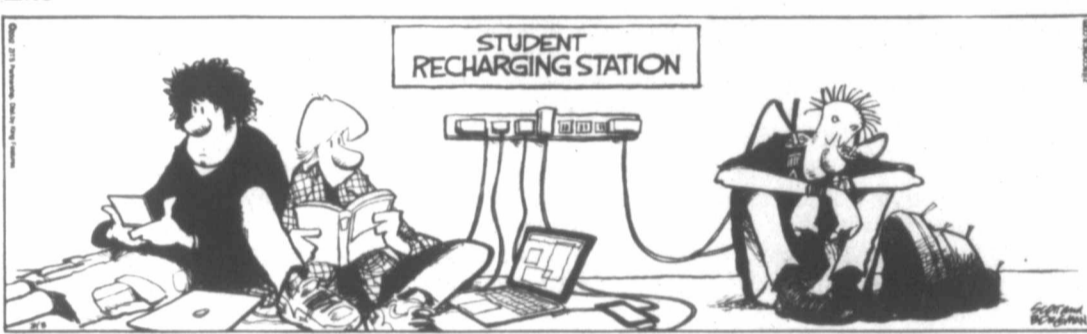
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# Egyptian women participate in Bush fellowship program

DALLAS (AP) — A yearlong fellowship program that aims to help women in the Middle East hone their leadership skills and build a network of support has been launched by former President George W. Bush's policy institute.

"Really, the goal is to empower women to transform their countries," said Charity Wallace, director of the women's initiative at the George W. Bush Institute.

The inaugural group comes from Egypt, which Wallace said was a natural place to start because of the changes the country has been undergoing following last year's uprising, which ousted President Hosni Mubarak.

"With the significant transition and change that's happening in Egypt, we know that we need to have strong women in the conversation now," said Wallace, who added that they plan to host at least one fellowship program a year with a focus on countries affected by the Arab Spring.

They plan future fellowship programs — the signature of the women's initiative — with women from Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Former first lady Laura Bush, who chairs the women's initiative, said that the idea for the fellowship grew out of former President Bush's belief that women will lead the freedom movement.

"The whole goal of it is that they will all be equipped to be leaders," Laura Bush said, noting many of the women already are.

"Democracy is not easy to build and we were slow ourselves," she said. Bush also added that in the U.S., slavery was once allowed, women didn't always have the right to vote and that it took the civil rights movement to combat racial discrimination.

On Thursday, Laura Bush will give a

keynote address before a town hall discussion with women from the program to mark International Women's Day.

The 14 Egyptian women participating in the program come from a variety of backgrounds — business, politics, health, media, law and education — and include both Muslims and Christians.

The program began last month in Dallas, where activities included leadership seminars at Southern Methodist University. They also traveled to New York City, Washington, D.C., and Silicon Valley before separating to spend time in cities across the U.S. with their respective mentors.

The women will now return to Egypt, where training sessions will continue for the rest of the year.

Heba Wahsh, a dentist who is currently working on a master's degree in public health, said she hopes to create an organization to help children in Egypt increase

their health awareness and improve their leadership skills.

She has high hopes for her country's future following the revolution, saying that while the situation there is challenging, there is also a great potential for change.

"I think (the status of women) is improving and it will improve a lot. Especially after the revolution, everybody, men and women, we got the chance to believe that change will happen," she said.

"We need more equality. And I think women are ready to fight for this equality," Wahsh said. She hopes to see more women in politics and a shift in a mentality that women don't deserve to be equal.

The Bush institute is part of the George W. Bush President Center that is currently under construction on the SMU campus. The center is set to be completed early next year and will include the presidential library and museum.

## Man barred from city hall has most votes for mayor

SUNLAND PARK, N.M. (AP) — A mayoral candidate who was barred from city hall after being accused of trying to force his opponent from the race with a secretly recorded video of him getting a topless lap dance collected the most votes in the election, but the prospect of him being sworn in remained in limbo Wednesday.

Officials from the secretary of state's office and the Dona Ana County district attorney's office, who tried unsuccessfully to halt the election, were reviewing the outcome of the voting.

Meanwhile, Gerardo Hernandez, the alleged target of the extortion, vowed to find a lawyer and launch a legal challenge.

Unofficial results showed Sunland Park mayor pro tem Daniel Salinas, 28, collecting 637 votes while Hernandez had 553 and Jose L. Hernandez had 66.

Even if that count is made official by Friday, former state elections director Daniel Ivey

Soto said it doesn't mean Salinas will be sworn in.

"It depends on what is revealed by the canvass and if a challenge or a recount is demanded by someone," he said, predicting a flurry of expedited legal filings.

Salinas has been charged with extortion and other charges.

Some residents said they were just fed up with the town's notoriously corrupt politics.

"That pack of ingrates, they should have their necks wringed and be thrown into the fire," 80-year-old Emilia Stevenson said.

Hernandez said results from the voting on Tuesday, which was supervised by police and elections officials, showed he won by a 2-to-1 margin. But early voting and absentee ballots — many of which came in before the secretary of state launched her probe — had him losing by a 3-to-1 margin, he said.

"In the back of my mind, I was expecting this to happen," Hernandez said. "I knew there always

existed the possibility of a problem with the early votes and absentee."

Officials with the district attorney's office did not return calls Wednesday, but Assistant District Attorney Scot Key said Tuesday that prosecutors continued to investigate voting irregularities and had filed a motion seeking possession of questionable absentee ballots.

Prosecutors last week took the unusual step of seeking to have the election delayed, citing a state report alleging widespread voter fraud, including at least six residents from nearby El Paso already casting ballots in the race and questions about absentee ballots.

Two workers have been arrested on voting fraud charges.

Salinas and two other city workers face charges in the alleged extortion of Hernandez. Under the conditions of his release from jail last week on \$50,000 cash bond, Salinas was prohibited from entering city hall or contacting the workers.

## Clovis, N.M., elects mayor who called Obama 'evil'

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP) — A former New Mexico mayor who called President Barack Obama "the carnal manifestation of evil" and said Obama's election was part of a CIA conspiracy has been elected to his former job, according to unofficial results.

The Clovis News Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/yRR7Uy>) that former Clovis mayor David Lansford won his old job back Tuesday by defeating Mayor Gayla Brumfield with almost 63 percent of the votes.

Lansford, 53, recently gained national attention after the newspaper reported his ties to a fringe religious and political group, ATLAH Media Network in New York. After threatening to

withdraw from the race, Lansford later changed his mind and stayed in the race but said he felt disclosing his activities was unfair and would prompt others to label him "a whack job."

Lansford participated in ATLAH's mock treason trial of Obama and wrote articles for its online publication, calling Obama an illegitimate president under the Constitution and "the carnal manifestation of evil," claiming Obama's election was part of a CIA conspiracy.

Lansford later told KOB-TV that he didn't believe Obama had the legal right to be president because he's "not a natural born citizen."

ATLAH Media Network has come under fire from the Southern

Poverty Law Center, which posted details of the group's trial on the center's "Hatewatch" blog. ATLAH's leader, James David Manning, on various YouTube videos, also has blasted Obama for wanting to turn America into an "Islamic Caliphate" and has compared him to a pimp.

"I think everybody in this country has their opinions," Lansford said on Tuesday night after winning his race. "And I think the great thing is America is where you can freely express your opinions."

Lansford also said he doesn't believe his views on the president will affect federal funding needed to complete the estimated \$500 million Ute Water Project — a plan to pipe

## Convention

cont. from page 2A

in Alabama and Mississippi, where Romney has struggled. There are also caucuses in Hawaii and American Samoa.

"This is a very strange cycle, but none of it adds up to Rick Santorum being the nominee," said Rich Galen, a GOP strat-

egist and former Gingrich aide who is neutral in the 2012 race. "Especially with Gingrich in the race siphoning off 25 percent of the conservative votes. There is no math that gets Santorum to 1,144."

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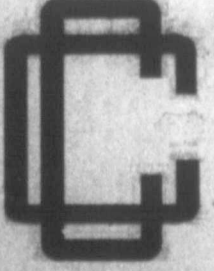
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**Forum**

cont. from page 1A

**Ken King, a school board president and businessman from Canadian, also discussed education and rural representation in the House.**

"The reason I got into this race was primarily because of public education," he said. "Small schools in this state account for about 8 percent of the student population. You're going to hear a lot about school finance in these next two sessions, because of all the lawsuits going on. What I think everybody needs to realize is, it's not a rich school, poor school issue. It's the rural schools in the state of Texas. The vast majority of wealth in this state from ag and oil and gas is produced this side of I-35, but it's consumed on the other side of I-35, where the people are."

Gary Walker, a former member of the Texas Legislature, discussed his experience with water, as a former manager of the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District and an organizer of the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District.

"Water is actually the number one issue facing us in Texas, not only in the Panhandle of Texas, but in the whole state of Texas," he said. "The makeup of the Texas legislature this past session... we have zero people that claim as a vocation or a profession of anything with water. That's going to be big."

Jim Landtroop, Representative for District 85, talked about his record as a representative who was voted the fourth most conservative in the House.

"If you look at my record, you'll see that I'm the only candidate in this race that has a record of smaller government, less government spending and not raising taxes," he said. "As a matter of fact, several of my opponents have the complete opposite record, bigger government, more spending and raising taxes to pay for it. I think that's the wrong way to go. I think that's why our nation and states like California and Illinois are in the state they're in, and I don't want Texas to become another California."

Marty Rowley, a candidate for the state Board of Education, discussed his view of incorporating Christianity into curriculum.

"There's been a lot of division, a lot of discussion on what should be contained in our curriculum," he said. "The state board of education decides what goes into the textbooks that your children study every day that they're in school. I'm a conservative Christian, and I believe that what goes into those textbooks should have a Judeo-Christian appeal to it. We should recognize and understand that our founding fathers had in mind a Christian nation upon which our Declaration of Independence and Constitution was based."

In the race for county commissioner of Precinct 3, incumbent John Mark Baggerman will be running against Neil Fulton. Baggerman has been a county commissioner since 2009, served on the board of the White Deer Land Museum and as a CASA of the High Plains chapter member, in addition to being involved with the Pampa Circle of Friends, Herrington Cancer Society and Gray County 4H.

"I live about 15 miles south of Pampa in a home my grandfather built in '26 and '27," said Baggerman. "My son, Ty, will be the fifth generation agriculture producer in Gray County. Strong family values and family heritage is very important to me."

Fulton has been a city commissioner, but will step down after his term ends. Now his sights are set on the county seat.

"I've been on the city commission for the past six years, which I go off this year," he said. "It's been great, I've learned a lot and I've enjoyed it."

"I'm not for raising anything, taxes particularly," he added during the question and answer session.

Three lawmen will be running for sheriff against incumbent Don Copeland, including Randy Stubblefield, a former Gray County sheriff.

"I served as sheriff of Gray County, and I saw how victims suffered on crime, and I tried to be very respectful to their feelings, tried to help the victims, tried to be as strict as we could be on the drug dealers," said Stubblefield. "We made a lot of drug arrests when I was there."

During the question and answer session, he talked about changes needed in the office.

"The jail is always going to be a problem," said Stubblefield. "It was a problem when I was sheriff. There's just no way to handle the amount of prisoners that the Sheriff's Office has to handle if we don't have cooperation through the court systems to get them through the courts and out of jail."

Robert Douglas, who has worked nine years in the Gray County Sheriff's Office and one year in the Donley County office, spoke about equipment upgrades and interagency cooperation.

"I think that it is time for a change," said Douglas. "We need to upgrade a little bit. One of the major (changes) I'd like to see is updating all of our equipment. The computer stuff needs to be updated. We need more training in some of our officers. We would like to have a little bit better

cooperation with the other agencies around. We need to get more involved with those, because the Panhandle, we're just 26 counties. Everything we do effects everyone else."

David Lee, who started his law enforcement career with the Amarillo Police Department in 1977 and spent 22 years with the Pampa department, said that he would like to update the jail and the office's computers during the question and answer session.

"I am a man of my word," said Lee. "I've worked narcotics. I've worked everything you can think of in a law enforcement career including Texas homicides. I, at one time, held three badges, and that was Pampa PD, a Special Task Force badge and a U.S. Marshal badge that gave me the right to go anywhere I wanted to in the United States to arrest people."

Incumbent Don Copeland started out in Wheeler County in 1963, spent 28 years with the DPS, and from there spent the past 16 years as sheriff of Gray County. He mentioned that he had been considering retirement before deciding to go through with the election.

"I had announced that I might retire, and I visited with a good friend, and I told him by the time I run this term out, I'll have 47 years in law enforcement," said Copeland.

"He said, Man, I hate a quitter. So here I am."

He credited the Gray County Sheriff's Office staff during his brief speech.

"I believe you have been afforded a quality Sheriff's Office, and that has been due to the employees that I have been able to employ," said Copeland. "We have a good staff, and you couldn't ask for more than that."

The position of Constable of Precinct 1 and 3 is the only remaining contested race, with Randy Hendrick and Gary McFall. Hendrick teaches at Clarendon College and has been a correctional trainer for 15 years.

"If I'm elected Constable for you guys, I will commit 100 percent of my time and my effort for this county," he said. "My family's been in this county for over 80 years. We were part of the Duncan family that started this area. We're not leaving. I will be here for you 100 percent."

Gary McFall boasts 21 years of law enforcement experience and currently works as a Security Police Officer at Pantex.

"I feel like the Constable's office is an integral part of the Gray County government and the law enforcement in this area, and with my experience and security background, I feel I'm highly qualified for this position," he said.



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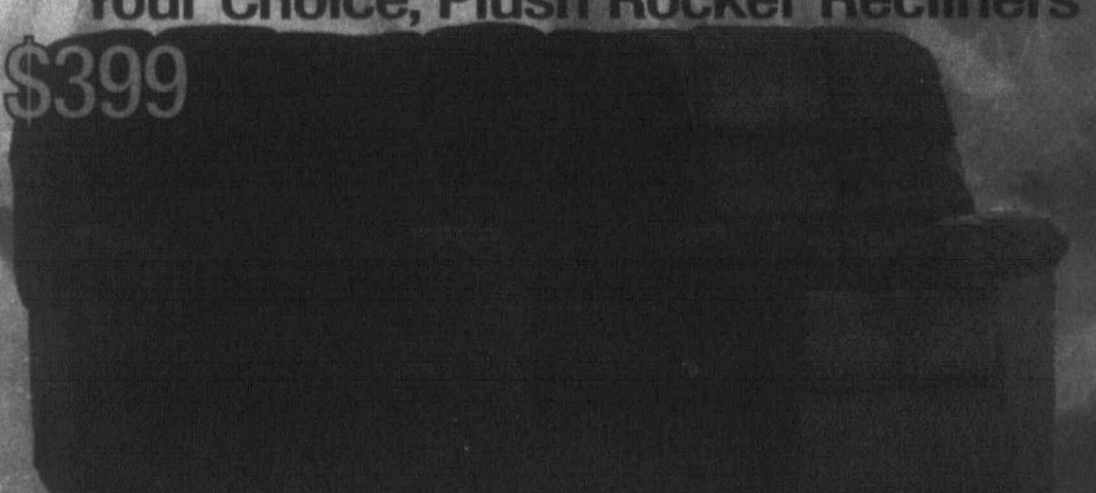


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# Harvesters adjust to BBCOR bat certification rules

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

After the first nine games of the season, fans may notice fewer home runs by the Pampa Harvesters this season. The smaller pop in bats is partially due to new certification rules handed down from the University Interscholastic League (UIL) changing from Ball Exit Speed Ratio (BESR) to Batted Ball Coefficient Ratio (BBCOR).

"(UIL) is trying to make aluminum bats closer to wood to make it safer for pitchers and infielders," head baseball coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said. "It's made a big difference as far as pop. The bats sound different, the ball comes off the bat different. It's just one mile per hour different than a wooden bat."

The BBCOR standard measures the bat on how much it "gives" when it makes contact with a ball. The more the bat reacts, the less the ball distorts, keeping more energy from the pitch within the ball. That kept energy then adds to the power of the bat speed and helps the ball travel farther.

BBCOR standards aim to lessen the "give" of the bat, decreasing the added advantage the bat gives to the batter.

Entering today's game, Pampa has hit

three home runs and allowed one. Senior catcher Jared Lusk said the new rules have changed the game.

"We are getting more ground balls more than normal," Lusk said. "We are getting pop ups."

Lusk said the change has made him more observant defensively.

"It's made me work harder," Lusk said. "Pay attention to what my players are doing and watching (coaching) signs more closely."

Junior James Thompson said he thinks it will benefit the team.

"It will make it more of a defensive game," Thompson said. "We work on defense all the time."

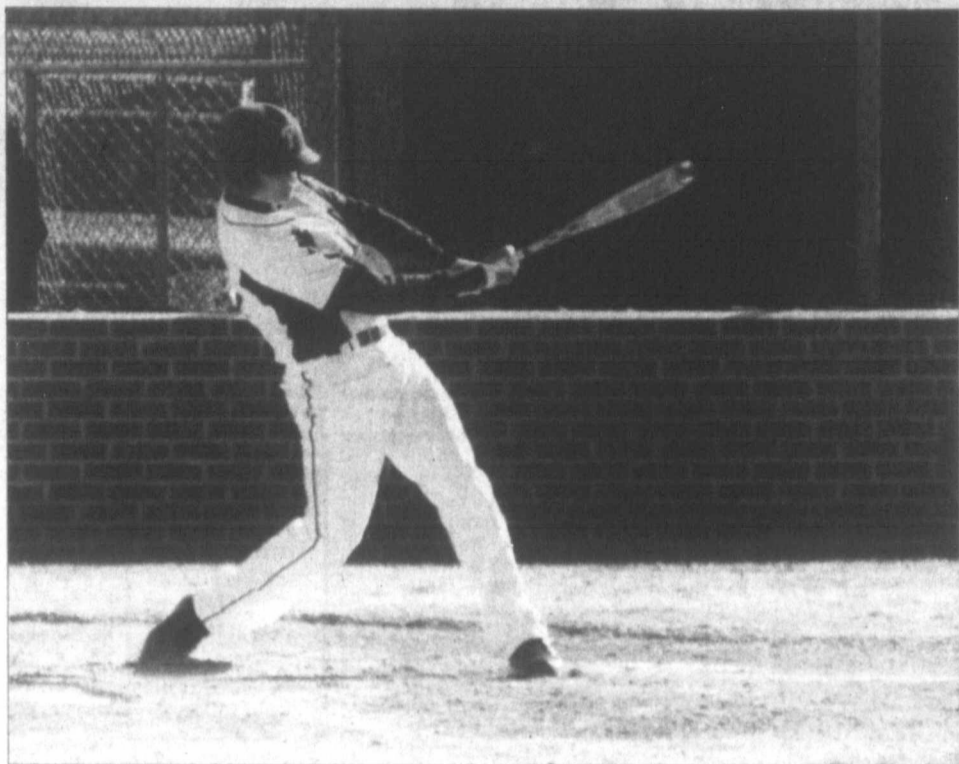
Lusk said the team is focused more on getting the ball in play.

"We are hitting the ball hard and trying to get into gaps," Lusk said.

Snelgrooves said hitters will have to connect with a pitch to get a home run.

"There's not any checked-swing aluminum bat home runs," Snelgrooves said. "You have to swing it and get solid contact on it. You find out who your pure hitters are."

Thompson said he has changed his swing. "I don't swing big much anymore," Thompson said.



Senior Devin Coleman swings at pitch during the Cavalier Classic last February. The UIL switched the bat certification rules to BBCOR this season.

staff photo by Andrew Glover

## CORRECTION

The Pampa News' Optimist Basketball special section in the Feb. 29 edition misidentified Pam Barr as coach of the Lakers. Mark Fleetwood and Chase Ferguson are the coaches. The Pampa News apologizes for the error. Below is the team picture.



Lakers team members include Fernando Anguiano, Matt Hill, Nate Ferguson, Michael Villareal, Todd Fleetwood, Rylan Hathcoat, Azden Arreola, Reid Smith and Shandon Smith. Coaches — Mark Fleetwood and Chase Ferguson.

# A&M DB Judie hopes injuries don't scare away NFL Scouts

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Defensive back Coryell Judie finished with just 22 tackles last season after missing almost half of Texas A&M's games with a hamstring injury.

Judie, who was expected to be one of A&M's top defensive players in 2011, worked out for NFL scouts on Wednesday at the school's pro day, hoping his speed and athleticism would help them look past his injury-plagued college career.

He says the adversity he faced at Texas A&M made him stronger and he's encouraged that several teams have shown interest.

Judie was one of 13 Aggies who worked out. Projected first-round pick quarterback Ryan Tannehill is recovering from foot surgery and won't work out for scouts until later this month.

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**WTL & WTL:** Sand & Gravel now hiring landscapers, CDL Truck Drivers and experienced equipment operators. Must submit to drug test & have good driving record. Apply in person, 120 S. Hobart.

**21 Help Wanted**

**Mill-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.

**TEXAS:** Rose Steak house is hiring Cooks & Servers. Apply in person. No phone calls!  
**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!

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We are seeking an energetic, full-time team member with a passion for helping others to assist our Physical Therapist and Doctors with therapeutic exercises and physical rehab protocols. If you are punctual, have a great attitude and are willing to learn...fax your resume to (806)665-0537.

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

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

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

**SAFETY:** Trainer. Safety background w/ training exp and computer skills helpful. Bi-lingual plus. Some travel. Send resume to P.O. Box 1172, Pampa, Tx.

**RIG:** Operator & Crew needed. Need not apply without 10 yrs. exp. Applications at 1101 S. Price Rd., Pampa.

**EXPRESS:** Lane Lube Center now hiring! Exp pref. but not necessary. Must have valid dr. license. Apply in person 2801 Perryton Pkwy.

**21 Help Wanted**

**EXPERIENCED CNC:** Roll Operator to operate state of the art roll in new facility. Apply in person only. Crall Products Co. 11787 Hwy 152 West, Pampa, TX

**Job Openings at Hunting-Titan Pampa, TX**

**Customer Service Rep:** Inventory exp. required; good communication skills.  
**Human Resources Adm. Asst.:** 5-10 yrs Exp. Preferred, proficient in Excel, databases.  
**Detector Assembler:** Entry level position / must possess good mechanical skills.  
**High School diploma or GED, Pre-employment physical exam / drug screen, background check, assessment tests required.**  
 Competitive wage and benefit pkg EOE. Contact:

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 806-665-3781  
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 Pampa, TX 79065  
 hr@titanspecialties.com

**NOW hiring CSR for the Pampa Office.** Come join our dynamic team! National Consumer Finance Co. with over 1000 locations. Background and credit check are required. No finance exp. required.  
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**HELP WANTED!** No experience needed. Apply in person at DK Glass, 315 W. Foster, Pampa 665-7170.

**Service Hands Needed for Oilfield Housing Co in Wheeler, TX.**  
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 \*Company Vehicle and Phone  
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 713-725-6451

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 www.walmart.com  
 2801 N. Charles  
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**CORTERRA Operating, LLC** is now taking applications for experienced Rig Operators, Lead Hands and Pumpers. Employee insurance is provided. Must have Valid Texas Drivers License and a CDL is a Plus. References req. Apply in person 2601 W. Kentucky, Pampa 806-688-9291.

**PLUMBER'S:** Helper Needed. Must have current driver's license. Call 806-595-0363.

**MCDONALD'S** is hiring for All Positions! Apply in person, Thurs. Mar. 8th, Pampa Chamber of Commerce, 8am-5pm. 806-231-9101

**EXP:** Roustabouts needed at OWPSI in Mobeetie. Must pass drug test, have valid driver's license. Call 806-845-1088, 806-662-9185, or come by 101 Santa Fe in Mobeetie.

**Smithfield Premium Genetics**  
 11 miles east of Pampa on Hwy 60 between the hours of 10am and 3pm. Monday thru Friday  
 Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer m/f/d/v EOE 13201

**49 Pools/Hot Tubs**  
 DEMO-3 Person Spa With Warranty Make Offer Call Morgan Spa 806-358-9659

**60 Household**  
 SPACE RUG. 5x7 \$10. Call 669-1985

**SWINE GENETICS COMPANY**  
 Smithfield Premium Genetics, (SPG), the leader in world class swine genetics is seeking to fill positions at our facility East of Pampa. SPG's primary focus is on producing quality breeding stock for the swine industry. We are a state-of-the-art swine genetics company seeking qualified people for the following position.

**Production Personnel (Herds-person)**  
 The ideal candidates will have a steady work history, be reliable and have the desire to work in a progressive, quality oriented, modern agricultural production operation.

We offer a starting wage of \$9 / hour with an excellent benefit package to include paid vacation and holidays, paid sick leave, pension plan, 401(k), medical / dental, vision, life and LTD insurance and more.

Qualified candidates can apply in person at:

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**60 Household**

**NICE:** small dining table for w/4 leather chairs. For pics go to Facebook search Cadess JT, text, call 664-4306.

**CHINA:** Cabinet, med. oak, 4 small doors on bottom, all glass on top incl the shelves-side are oak. \$100. 669-1985

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**DINING:** Tables \$25 each. 1 new, 1 r. round. Call 669-1985

**SPACE RUG:** Round \$20. Call 669-1985

**ANTIQUE:** free standing 2 door closet, \$25. Call 669-1985

**LIGHT:** green couch with white specks, bought at Tx Furniture, \$50. 669-1985

**69 Misc.**  
**ADVERTISING:** Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.  
**FREE SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS:** 4-8pm, March 10th. Questions? Text 806-207-0672.

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

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**FREE:** house trained, male Jack Russell Terrier, can't pay pet deposit. Good with kids. 806-207-0167.

**FREE:** Blue Heeler Cross Puppies. Call 806-207-0206.

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# Sports

## STUDENTS OF THE GAME



The Lady Harvesters' basketball seniors stand after receiving their Academic All-State and All-District certificates. The seniors held a 90 average or higher to earn their selections. From left: Lindsey Brown, Kailyn Troxell, Delaney Clendening, Elizabeth Terry, Caitlin Sieck and Kirsten Kuhn.

photo courtesy of Steve Kuhn

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## Chant controversy creates media firestorm

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Alamo Heights High School boys basketball coach Andrew Brewer was about to leave for school Wednesday when he got a call at home from a talk-radio station asking for an interview.

That was when he knew the Mules' student section was about to become a national story.

A day earlier, San Antonio Independent School District had filed an incident report with the University Interscholastic League regarding a "USA, USA" chant by Alamo Heights students after a boys basketball game against Edison High School on Saturday.

The chant lasted for about five seconds before Brewer silenced the students as soon as he heard them.

Heights students who were involved

in the chanting will not be allowed to attend the Mules' Class 4A state semifinal game against Dallas Kimball tonight in Austin.

The story about the complaint filed by SAISD has since become national news, sparking a debate over whether the chant could be considered offensive.

SAISD and Alamo Heights ISD released statements Wednesday that included pleas to move on from the controversy.

"Some question why a chant of 'USA' is wrong. It is not wrong in the appropriate context," SAISD's statement said. "... If this chant was commonplace — chanted regularly at games with other high schools — it would not be an issue. In this case, it was targeted at a school that is predominantly Hispanic."

A letter from AHISD superintendent Kevin Brown also addressed the incident.

"We live in the best country in the world, and cheering for our country should be celebrated," Brown said in the statement. "However, cheering for our country should be done for patriotic reasons, not to offend other Americans."

The story has taken off on talk radio and social media. Many Alamo Heights supporters said online that the "USA, USA" chant was after Edison fans chanted "Alamo Whites" during the game.

"Regardless of what else was said, our kids made a mistake with a chant after the game," Brown said Tuesday. "We've dealt with it, and we're going to move on."

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