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TODAY IN SPORTS



Tuesday, March 20, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 287

75¢ High school graduation rates rising | Hutto signs with FPC
 \$1.50 weekend Texas below national average, but up since '02 | p5 Pampa senior to play college volleyball in Borger | p10

Wind knocks building's facade off, into street

■ Fire, police, city crews clear debris from street after damage from overnight storm

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

A wooden building on the 600 block of West Brown was knocked over in Sunday night's lightning storm, leaving wreckage in the roadway and blocking a lane of traffic until city authorities could clear away the mess.

The structure, a single-story wood and tin commercial building, had apparently collapsed forwards into the road due to a strong straight line wind. According

to the report from the Pampa Fire Department, firefighters were called out at about 1:49 a.m. Monday to assist the police and City of Pampa employees in **DAMAGE** cont. on page 5

High winds from an overnight storm knocked the face off of this building on the 600 block of West Brown. The facade was removed from the street and re-secured to the structure by police, fire and City of Pampa crews. >



staff photo by Andrew Glover

LIGHT REPAIRS



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Jay Weeden of the City of Pampa works on repairing a traffic light near Austin Elementary that was damaged during Sunday night's storm.

Two house fires over weekend

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Fire Department responded to a pair of house fires within the Pampa city limits over the past weekend.

On Saturday, the fire department dispatched a crew of seven personnel and four units to a home on the 1200 block of East Francis at 3:45 p.m.

The fire remained confined to a bedroom, and was under control in about 10 minutes.

The Pampa Fire Department estimates damage to the structure and its contents to stand at about \$10,000.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

At 3:19 p.m. on Sunday, firefighters were dispatched to a second fire on the 300 block of South Jean.

Nine fire department personnel and five units responded to the fire, which occurred in a garage with a wooden frame. Blazes were contained to the exterior of the house next door.

The fire department reported that by around 4 p.m., the fire was under control.

According to Fire Marshal Michael Ryan, the fire was caused by a heat lamp.

Property damage estimates are unknown at this time.

The fire department reported no injuries in either incident.

Nineteen indictments against 14 people in Gray County

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

A Gray County grand jury returned 19 indictments against 14 people this month. Six of the indictments were for drug-related offenses.

Danny Ray Boyd, 64, was indicted on a third or greater charge of driving while intoxicated, in connection with a January 2010 offense. This charge was enhanced by an August 1997 conviction of driving while intoxicated. Bond for Boyd was set at \$20,000.

Johnny Diaz, 34, was indicted on a charge of indecency with a child in connection with a July 2011 incident.

This charge was enhanced by a previous Hale County conviction for injury to a child in August of 2004. Diaz received another indictment for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, in connection with a July 2011 incident. Bond for Diaz was set at \$32,500.

Karla Jane Dobbs, 55, was indicted on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault against a public servant, in connection with a September 2011 incident. Bond for Dobbs was set at \$45,000.

Jason Deion Ellis, 29, was indicted on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, in an amount of less than one gram, in connection with a February 2010 incident. Ellis received additional indictments for

charges of possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, in an amount less than one gram, and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair, in connection with an April 2009 incident. Bond for Ellis was set at \$40,000.

Jerrie Lynn Fought, 37, was indicted in connection with a charge of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, in an amount less than one gram, in connection with an April 2010 incident. Bond for Fought was set at \$12,500.

Parker Rea Kerlee, 32, was indicted in connection with a third or greater charge of driving while intoxicated, in connection with an August 2011 incident. Bond **INDICTMENTS** cont. on page 3

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Wednesday	Thursday
		
High 89 Low 68	High 94 Low 70	High 95 Low 70

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 58. Wind chill values between 28 and 38 early. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 56. Breezy, with a north northeast wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39. East northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 56. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

The PAMPA NEWS

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MEMBER 2011
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Obituaries

W. C. "Pard" Puryear, 89

W. C. "Pard" Puryear, 89, died March 18, 2012, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at Fairview Cemetery, with Rev. Blossom Matthews, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Puryear was born February 26, 1923, in Wetumka, Okla., and was a 1942 graduate of Wetumka High School. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European Theatre and the Philippines. After the war, he attended college at Okmulgee, Okla. Pard married Irma Scruggs on July 29, 1945, in Tulsa, Okla., and they came to Pampa in 1948 from Wetumka, Okla. He was a safety inspector for Celanese Chemical Company for 30 years, retiring in 1982. He was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Irma Puryear of the home; daughter, Debbie Brown and husband Bob of Wichita Falls; two sons, John Puryear and wife Sandy of Graham, and Bobby Puryear of Eagle River, Alaska.; six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, John & Florence Puryear; a sister, Mary Puryear; a grandson, Rob Puryear; and a daughter-in-law, Jennifer Puryear.

Memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981.

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



Puryear

Essie Robinson, 98

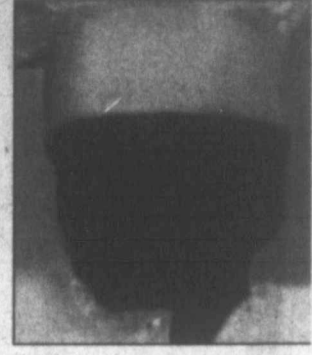
Essie Robinson, 98, died March 18, 2012, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 22, 2012, at Southside Church of Christ, with Frankie Lemons, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Robinson was born March 26, 1913, in Anderson County, to Charlie and Lue Edwards Osby. She was 8 days shy of 99 years old. She lived a good life and always took care of others. She inspired everyone around her with her church beliefs, views and opinions. She was a member of Southside Church of Christ. She married Lee Roy Robinson in Palestine, and he preceded her in death in 1967. From this union, a daughter was born. She had a twin brother, Willy Osby, and 14 other siblings who all preceded her on the road to heaven.

Survivors include her daughter, Annie Foy of Pampa; granddaughter, Laura Carter and husband Rubin of Pampa; grandson, Roy Lee Clerkley of Pittsburgh, Penn.; three great-grandsons, Justin Carter of Omaha, Neb., Tod Carter of Houston and Edwin Carter and wife Heather of Pittsburgh, Penn.; one great-grand nephew, Domonique Clerkley of Pittsburgh, Penn.; great-grand niece, Brijette Clerkley of Pittsburgh, Penn.; her adopted daughter, Jeanetta Young of Fort Mitchell, Ala.; and Jeanetta's children, Elonda Jackson and husband SSGT Colin Jackson of Fort Mitchell, Ala.; and Rod Darnell of Pampa; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

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



Robinson

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72 hour period ending Monday, March 19 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 66 traffic related incidents.

Pampa EMS, the Pampa Fire Department, Pampa PD, the Lefors Volunteer EMS and the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department reported 22 medical incidents.

Animal Control agents and the Pampa PD reported 16 animal related incidents.

Friday, March 16

An assault occurred at the 100 block of West 30th.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 100 block of Panhandle.

Criminal trespassing occurred at the 800 block of East Campbell.

A suspicious person was reported at Duncan and Louisiana.

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

An accident occurred at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Criminal mischief occurred at the 100 block of North Hobart.

Criminal trespassing occurred at the 100 block of Panhandle.

An assault occurred at the 300 block of Sunset.

Phone harassment occurred at the 1200 block of

North Wells.

A hit and run occurred at the 2100 block of North Russell.

Domestic disturbances occurred at the 1700 block of North Hobart and the 2100 block of North Duncan.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle occurred at the 900 block of East Malone.

Public intoxication occurred at the 300 block of North Rider.

A theft occurred at the 200 block of North Nelson.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 200 block of South Sumner.

Disorderly conduct occurred at Henry and Locust.

A burglary occurred at the 1000 block of North Sumner.

Saturday, March 17
Criminal trespassing occurred at the 600 block of North Lefors.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 400 block of North Wells.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Octavus and Harlem.

A prowler occurred at the 100 block of East Craven.

A suspicious vehicle occurred at the 1500 block of North Hobart.

A burglary occurred at the 400 block of North Ballard.

A suspicious person was reported at the 300 block of North Ballard.

A stolen vehicle was reported at the 800 block of North Somerville.

A suspicious person was reported at the 300 block of West Kingsmill.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1100 block of Terry.

Endangerment of a child or elderly person occurred at the 1400 block of West Somerville.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 2200 block of North Christine.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1300 block of North Coffee.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct was reported.

A burglary was reported.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 1700 block of North Duncan.

A structure fire occurred at the 1200 block of East Francis.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1700 block of North Hamilton.

A suspicious person was reported at the 400 block of East Kingsmill.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1000 block of South Banks.

Domestic disturbances occurred at the 400 block of North Magnolia and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

A burglary occurred at the 1100 block of South Neel.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1300 block of North Coffee.

A threat occurred at the 1500 block of Laguna.

A suspicious person was reported at the 200 block of

South Miami.

Sunday, March 18

Suspicious persons were reported at the intersection of Cuyler and Atchison and at the 100 block of South Cuyler.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Harassment occurred at the 1000 block of East Jordan.

Suspicious persons were reported at the 700 block of West Brown, the 400 block of East Craven and the 1300 block of North Coffee.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 100 block of West 30th and the 1100 block of Neel.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 2200 block of North Sumner.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1500 block of North Zimmers.

A theft occurred at the 100 block of South Starkweather.

A suspicious person was reported at Atchison and Starkweather.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1900 block of North Christy.

Harassment occurred at the 600 block of North Magnolia.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 800 block of East Scott.

Phone harassment occurred at the 1000 block of East Jordan.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 700 block of East Murphy.

A grass fire occurred at the 1200 block of South Dwight.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1300 block of Rham.

A structure fire occurred at the 300 block of South Jean.

LAST MINUTE ADS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

SOUTHSIDE SENIOR Citizen's Center will be closed the week of Mar. 19 thru Mar. 24, due to the passing of Margrette Cash Nickelberry. Center will reopen on Monday, Mar. 26th.

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1st private space cargo run set

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) - The International Space Station should be getting its first commercial cargo shipment in early May.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp., better known as SpaceX, plans to launch its Dragon capsule from Cape Canaveral on April 30. The Dragon will take a few days to get to the space station.

The launch was delayed from February for additional testing. It will be the first time a private company launches space station supplies. It will also be the first U.S. delivery since NASA's space shuttles stopped flying last year. Unmanned cargo ships from Russia, Europe and Japan are filling the void.

The billionaire founder of SpaceX, Elon Musk, wants to provide rides to the space station for American astronauts in the next few years. NASA astronauts currently are hitching rides on Russian vessels.

Waco ambulance flips in rain

WACO (AP) - Authorities say a cardiac patient and three Central Texas medical personnel have been hurt after their ambulance flipped on a rain-slick highway.

The Texas Department of Public Safety says the accident happened late Sunday afternoon in Waco.

DPS says the ambulance overturned during wet conditions on the road. The National Weather Service says the area had rain on Sunday.

KWIX-TV reports the ambulance was transporting a patient who had suffered a heart attack. A paramedic and two other emergency medical officials were also on board.

All four were transported to a Waco hospital. Their names and further details on their conditions were not immediately available. A message left Monday with Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center was not immediately returned.

Man with gun sent for evaluation

WICHITA FALLS (AP) - Police say gunfire at a North Texas apartment complex has led to a man detained for a mental health evaluation.

Wichita Falls police say nobody was hurt early Monday at the Stone Creek Ranch Apartments. Some residents who evacuated were allowed to return nearly three hours after the incident began.

Sgt. Joe Snyder says a caller told police he was the gunman and that he fired twice through his apartment door. Police say the man then went to a neighbor's unit, where a woman talked him into dropping his gun.

Police say the man falsely claimed his adult son was held at gunpoint at his apartment.

The unit was empty. The son was reached by phone and told police he does not know why his father made up the story.

Criminal/illegal nabbed twice

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - A Mexican citizen who served prison time in Texas for crimes including murder has been sentenced in North Dakota for illegally re-entering the country a second time.

U.S. Attorney Timothy Purdon says 43-year-old Leopoldo Rodriguez-Isles was deported for his Texas crimes in 2008, re-entered the country illegally in 2010 and was deported again about a year ago. Last August, he was found in Williams County in northwest North Dakota.

He pleaded guilty in October to a charge of re-entry of a deported alien and was sentenced last week to four years and nine months in federal prison.

Police seek help locating truck

KILLEEN (AP) - A man has been found dead in a burning Central Texas house and police say a truck is missing from the home.

Killeen police on Monday searched for the truck and two men who allegedly stole the vehicle during a possible burglary. Police are looking for a 1996 green Chevrolet extended cab pickup with Texas license plate 78N-HL1.

Further details on the man found dead early Sunday were not immediately released. An autopsy has been ordered. Emergency personnel had responded to a report of a home on fire. A door was open and a man was dead near the front area.

Police earlier received a call about suspicious people in the area. Witnesses reported two men possibly burglarizing the residence. The fire was extinguished within about 30 minutes.

Infant hurt in alcohol incident

TYLER (AP) - An East Texas man has been accused of providing alcohol to his girlfriend's son and the baby ended up hospitalized in critical condition.

Tyler police said Monday that Ronchekal Yon allegedly was intoxicated, put vodka in a cup and gave it to the year-old boy while the mother was present at their home.

One of her relatives arrived Saturday and called 911. Police say Demarion Crow had a blood alcohol level higher than 0.20, or more than twice the legal limit for an adult to drive.

Yon has been charged with injury to a child, with bond set at \$100,000. Online records did not list an attorney for him. Police say the boy will be placed with Child Protective Services when discharged from a hospital. Further details weren't released Monday.

Court turns down La. on Census

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court has turned down Louisiana's bid to recover the congressional seat taken from the state as a result of the 2010 Census.

The court is not commenting on its order Monday preventing the state from pursuing a lawsuit that claims the Census unfairly included undocumented immigrants in each state's population count.

Louisiana said California, Florida, Texas and other states with large populations of undocumented immigrants gained seats in the House of Representatives at the expense of Louisiana and a handful of other states. Louisiana went from 7 to 6 seats in the House based on the Census.

The lawsuit asked the court to order the federal government to re-calculate House seats based only on legal residents. The case is Louisiana v. Bryson, 140, Orig.

Indictments

for Kerlee was set at \$15,000.

Donnie Glenn Lanier, 47, was indicted on a third or greater charge of driving while intoxicated, in connection with a September 2011 incident. Bond for Lanier was set at \$15,000.

Chad Seger Larsen, 29, was indicted on a third or greater charge of driving while intoxicated, in connection with a September 2011 incident. This charge was enhanced by a second degree burglary conviction from December 2002 and a third or greater driving while intoxicated conviction from September 2008. Bond for Larsen was set at \$35,000.

James Dean Lee, 32, was indicted on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, in connection with a December 2011 incident. Bond for Lee was set at \$12,500.

Lloyd Ernest Poland, 46, was indicted on a third or greater charge of driving while intoxicated, in connection with a November 2011 incident. This charge was enhanced by an August 2009 conviction of possession of a controlled substance. Bond for Poland was set at \$15,000.

Dustin Travis Sanders, 24, was indicted on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, in connection with a

January 2011 incident. Bond for Sanders was set at \$12,500.

Justin Wayne Sealman, 22, was indicted on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, a firearm, in connection with an August 2011 assault. He was also indicted on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, in connection with an August 2011 incident. Bond for Sealman was set at \$50,000.

Wade Ray Wood, 39, was indicted on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, in an amount of one gram or more but less than four grams, in connection with an October 2011 incident. He received a second indictment for tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair, in connection with an October 2011 incident. Bond for Wood was set at \$30,000.

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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00
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Fri 7:30 10:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
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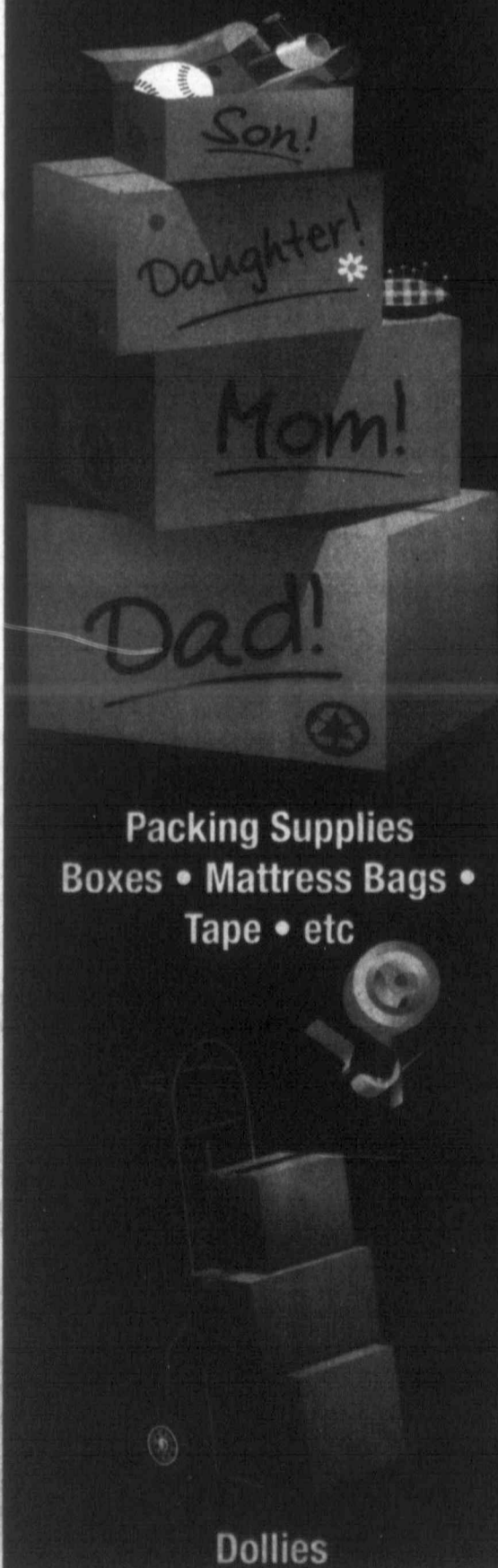
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, March 20, the 80th day of 2012. There are 286 days left in the year. Today is the first day of spring.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 20, 1912, a coal mine explosion in McCurtain, Okla., claimed the lives of 73 workers.

On this date:

In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V.

In 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte returned to Paris after escaping his exile on Elba, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule.

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published in book form after being serialized.

In 1933, the state of Florida executed Giuseppe Zangara for the shooting death of Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak at a Miami event attended by President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, the presumed target.

In 1952, the U.S. Senate ratified, 66-10, the Treaty of Peace with Japan. At the Academy Awards, "An American in Paris" was named best picture of 1951; Humphrey Bogart best actor for "The African Queen"; Vivien Leigh best actress for "A Streetcar Named Desire"; and George Stevens best director for "A Place in the Sun."

In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.

In 1977, voters in Paris chose former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to be the French capital's first mayor in more than a century.

In 1985, Libby Riddles of Teller, Ala., became the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race.

In 1987, the Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of AZT, a drug shown to prolong the lives of some AIDS patients.

In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the poisonous gas sarin were leaked on five separate subway trains by Aum Shinrikyo cult members.

In 1999, Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of Britain became the first aviators to fly a hot-air balloon around the world nonstop.

Ten years ago: Three days ahead of a visit by President George W. Bush, a car bomb exploded outside the U.S. Embassy in Lima, killing 10 people. Seven Israelis died when an Islamic militant blew himself up in a packed bus. Congress approved the most far-reaching changes to the nation's campaign finance system since the Watergate era. Accounting firm Arthur Andersen pleaded not guilty to charges it had shredded documents and deleted computer files related to Enron. (Andersen was later found guilty of obstruction of justice, but the verdict was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court.)

Five years ago: Saddam Hussein's former deputy, Taha Yassin Ramadan, was hanged in Baghdad, the fourth man to be executed in the killings of 148 Shiites. Rescuers found Michael Auberry, a 12-year-old Boy Scout, who was dehydrated and disoriented after four days in the wooded mountains of North Carolina.

One year ago: As Japanese officials reported progress in their battle to gain control over a leaking, tsunami-stricken nuclear complex, the discovery of more radiation-tainted vegetables and tap water added to public fears about contaminated food and drink. AT&T Inc. said it would buy T-Mobile USA from Deutsche Telekom AG in a cash-and-stock deal valued at \$39 billion (however, AT&T later dropped its bid following fierce government antitrust objections).

Today's Birthdays: British songstress Dame Vera Lynn is 95. Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 90. Actor Hal Linden is 81. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney is 73. Country singer Don Edwards is 73. TV producer Paul Junger Witt is 69. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 66. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Orr is 64. Blues singer-musician Marcia Ball is 63. Actor William Hurt is 62. Rock musician Carl Palmer (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 62. Rock musician Jimmie Vaughan is 61. Country musician Jimmy Seales (Shenandoah) is 58. Actress Amy Aquino is 55. Movie director Spike Lee is 55. Actress Theresa Russell is 55. Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway is 55. Actress Holly Hunter is 54. Rock musician Slim Jim Phantom (The Stray Cats) is 51. Actress-model-designer Kathy Ireland is 49. Actor David Thewlis is 49. Rock musician Adrian Oxaal (James) is 47. Actress Liza Snyder is 44. Actor Michael Rapaport is 42. Actor Alexander Chaplin is 41. Rock singer Chester Bennington (Linkin Park) is 36. Actor Michael Genadry is 34. Actress Bianca Lawson is 33. Rock musician Nick Wheeler (The All-American Rejects) is 30. Actress-singer Christy Carlson Romano is 28.

Thought for Today: "Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes." - Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer and poet (1803-1882).



Mr. Smith and the goings on at Goldman Sachs

Midlevel executives at big Wall Street firms leave every day of the week, particularly if -- as was the case with Greg Smith -- they've worked somewhere for 11 years and haven't "made" managing director. Usually, the departures are "friendly," even if they really aren't. You use your credentials -- and the references -- from that top firm to get a job with a slightly less top firm or with a client or affiliate. What you don't do is trash your old firm, which makes you a pariah.

So Smith's decision to go public with his criticism of Goldman Sachs, one of the most famous and successful firms on Wall Street, not only in a farewell email to his colleagues but also, literally minutes later, in a stinging opinion piece in The New York Times was, in professional terms, nuts. It won't get him his next job, unless it's with a public interest group. The knives will be out, with his former colleagues sure to paint a picture of a disgruntled former employee frustrated by his failure to make it to the top, or to make more than \$500,000 -- which sounds like a lot to the 99 percent, but not to folks at places like Goldman.

But what is most remarkable about Smith's departure is not that he would commit professional suicide, but that in doing so he would get so much attention.

Count 'em: six stories the next day in The New York Times, including two on the front page and three more on the front page of the business section.

Smith struck a chord, and everyone knows it.

If you believe his supporters, Smith is a principled guy who had hoped that an internal review at

Goldman, which followed settlement of an SEC investigation, would bring about real change. According to him and others quoted by the press (anonymously, of course, professional suicide not being a growth industry in a tough economy), the report was given short shrift, as were Smith's efforts to raise his concerns with his superiors.

So he decided not to go gently into the night.

According to Smith, greed pervades the culture at Goldman. That is not exactly news. Gordon Gekko's famous proclamation in the movie "Wall Street" that "greed is good" is not all that different from philosopher and economist Adam Smith's politer endorsement of the public value of "private self-interest. But being greedy on behalf of your clients and, incidentally, yourself is different from being greedy at the expense of your clients, which is what Smith charged. He had a list of colorful names used for clients, but the underlying conduct of which he accuses Goldman goes way beyond name-calling.

One of the most basic principles of law is that investment advisers owe a fiduciary duty to their clients and the funds they manage. The definition of a fiduciary duty is very simple: The client comes first, his interests before yours. Smith claims that at Goldman it was just the opposite.

The reaction has been as stunning as the charges, and not just in terms of the numbers of stories. While Goldman is obviously defending itself, others are quoted as saying that this is old news, that Goldman

has always traded against its clients. Ho-hum.

Well, it may have been ho-hum some years ago, when everyone didn't have a friend or a neighbor who was unemployed and when our tax dollars hadn't been used just a few years ago to bail out Wall Street.

But in 2012, it is not ho-hum.



SUSAN ESTRICH

This is a story that will not go away by tomorrow, if for no other reason than that the biggest story of the year -- the presidential election -- is likely to shape up as a fight in which Wall Street and the 1 percent are pitted against everyone else. Sure, President Obama will probably raise as much or more money from Wall Street as Mitt Romney, but he is not "of" it in the same way the former head of Bain Capital is. He didn't work there. He doesn't look (and I don't mean race, although Wall Street is overwhelmingly not African-American, or female for that matter) or talk like somebody who did. And his party is most certainly not the party that represents Wall Street.

Smith may not go to Washington, but his charges will certainly reverberate there, and from there, across the nation. Today, the business section. Tomorrow, the political pages. Here comes campaign 2012. This much we know: The campaign is going to focus on the economy. It will be imbued with an "us against them" tinge, and it will be every bit as tough as Goldman was for Smith. But the name-calling will be much worse.

Susan Estrich is a nationally syndicated columnist.

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.

ASK B-FROG...

A column focusing on Texas and Southwestern trivia



Dear B-Frog: I've always heard about the six flags that have flown over Texas. Whose flags were they? -- Central Texan
Here they are: Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate states, and the United States.

B-Frog: I just got back from a visit to the Texas Capitol Building in Austin. It's beautiful. How long has it been there? -- Long Star Traveler
You are right. It is a beautiful building. The Capitol Building officially opened on May 16, 1888, making it nearly 124 years old. The dome is especially impressive; it stands seven feet taller than the nation's Capitol Building in Washington.

Dear B-Frog: Where did the term "square deal" come from? -- Curious
A square deal refers to a card game that has not been rigged. Square cards are harder for the dealer to cheat with, so games where square cards were used were considered fairer. "Square Deal" was also Teddy Roosevelt's 1904 re-election campaign slogan. When someone is "square," that means they are straightforward and trustworthy. If you want to find out more interesting definitions for western terms, read Dictionary of the American West published by the TCU Press.

Bookish Frog -- who answers mostly to B-Frog -- is the mascot of TCU Press. His handsome form appears on the spine of every book the Press releases. Send your questions to tcupress@tcu.edu. Find the books discussed in this column at your local bookstore or call 1-800-826-8911 to order.

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Dallas firm could bury nuclear waste as early as April

LUBBOCK (AP) — Trucks carrying low-level radioactive waste from 38 states will likely be rolling along Texas highways as early as April, bound for permanent burial at a dump near the New Mexico border.

The arrival of the low-level radioactive waste will end a years-long effort by a Dallas-based company, whose majority owner is big-time political contributor Harold Simmons, to win permission from Texas officials to accept the waste at 1,340-acre tract of scrub brush terrain about 360 miles west of Dallas. Opponents say Waste Control Specialists has benefited from Simmons' connections to top Republicans, including Gov. Rick Perry.

The state's commission overseeing disposal of low-level waste in Texas is expected to approve the final rule changes needed on Friday. State lawmakers cleared the way with a new law passed in the last legislative session. State regulators still need to sign off on the burial site's construction.

Environmental groups have for years voiced concerns about the geology of the site and about the potential for contamination of underground water sources they say are too close. A "nightmare scenario" exists, though, in transporting the waste to the site, said Karen Hadden, director of the Texas SEED Coalition.

"All of it is dangerous but we are very concerned about highway accidents," she said. "There could be accidents in downtown Dallas or downtown Fort Worth and Houston. There is risk of radioactive contamination and exposure."

Company spokesman Chuck McDonald, who noted extensive testing at the site has shown it's safe, said accidents involving transportation of radioactive material are infrequent.

"It's actually a very good track record," he said. Data from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration show that from 2003 through 2011 there were 72 incidents involving trucks with radioactive material traveling on highways. One person died and the accidents caused \$2.4 million in damages.

That compares with almost 64,000 incidents involving flammable/combustible liquids — the leader in hazardous materials accidents in the nine-year span. Seventy-six people have died in those incidents, which caused \$319.5 million in damages.

There is no requirement to notify law enforcement officials along routes trucks will travel with the low-level waste, said Chris Van Deusen, spokesman for the Texas Department of State Health Services, which oversees the transportation of the waste.

One state legislator said he wonders whether those living along the routes are ready, were an incident to occur.

"Transportation of this waste is not route-restricted, and we don't know whether local emergency response teams are prepared for such a scenario," said Texas Rep. Lon Burnam, a Democrat from Fort Worth.

Waste Control, which also stores, processes and manages hazardous wastes at the site, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars to open the dump. In 2009, the state issued two licenses to the company to bury low-level radioactive waste, making it the nation's only dump for all classes — A, B and C — of nuclear debris and the first low-level site to open in 30 years.

One license pertains to a compact between Texas and Vermont that allows for disposal of radioactive materials such as uranium, plutonium and thorium from commercial power plants, academic institutions and medical schools. Last year, though, lawmakers approved allowing low-level radioactive waste from 36 other states to be buried in West Texas.

Petitions to bury waste from the compact states and the three dozen other states must be approved by the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Disposal Compact Commission, whose meeting is Friday, on a case-by-case basis.

Damage


cont. from page 1

removing building debris from the street.

Capt. Bob Griffin of the fire department said that the store face was moved out of the roadway and pushed back onto the building itself, with the fire department's report stating that the facade was then secured onto the structure by chaining it to a large steel beam. Xcel Energy was called in to have the building's power turned off, and the building was turned back over to the owner and occupants, who were all on the scene.

Strong winds had also damaged a lamppost and power poles across the street from the building, Griffin said.

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Precious Memories make Precious Gifts

Creating a mortgage for relatives

TERRY SAVAGE
Creator's Syndicate

Q: I want to lend my daughter and son-in-law money by making a \$200,000 mortgage loan to them. How do I do this to make it legal, so I can pay taxes on the income and they can get a tax deduction on the interest and I can earn more than I would on a bank CD?

A: Making a mortgage loan to a family member can be a win-win deal — or it can breed resentment and arguments. That's why it's so important to do it right.

First, you have to view this as a business deal. I'm assuming your adult children have good credit and sincere intentions to repay the loan. Otherwise, you might someday have to be chasing them for monthly payments or even consider foreclosing on the house in which your grandchildren live! You don't want to go down that path if there's doubt in your mind.

Earning interest on the mortgage is probably a better deal for you, assuming you have plenty of savings, than simply offering to co-sign a bank loan. But keep in mind that this loan is truly illiquid. Don't do it if you foresee a need for the cash before the loan matures.

If you're still ready to make this kind of deal, it's extremely important that the arrangement be properly documented to ensure that the tax benefits can be taken and so



the lender's bank account. The cost is \$15 per month, and includes a year-end 1099 interest report for the lender and a 1098 form for the borrower, documenting interest paid on the mortgage loan. Or the parties can agree to pay each other directly, using the loan amortization schedule that is part of the package to determine at year-end how much interest was paid or received.

there will be no doubt that this is a business deal, not a gift. There's an easy way to do that.

NationalFamilyMortgage.com specializes in handling the entire documentation and registration process for inter-family mortgage loans. Founder and CEO Tim Burke says NFM has structured more than \$27 million in mortgage loans, resulting in more than \$14 million in interest remaining "in the family." The average interest rate on the loans is 3.35 percent, and the average term is 22 years. But each loan can be set up with its own unique terms, within IRS guidelines for appropriate rates.

The online process is simple. Once you've filled in the information, including address, terms of the loan and contact information, NFM gets the legal description of the property and draws up the note and mortgage document. Then the lender (typically the parent) disburses the money — either through an attorney or directly to the borrower.

NFM does not handle the disbursement, but the company does provide a monthly service, creating an automatic debit for the monthly payment that then goes directly into

Why go through this process, when you could just sit down at the kitchen table and draw up a loan document? Burke emphasizes that the IRS rules say the borrower can deduct the mortgage interest only if the loan is properly registered on the title and secured as a mortgage. That's what makes the \$599 fee for creating the mortgage document worth it. Plus, having a servicing record of on-time payments will make it easier to refinance. Most important, this documentation assures there will never be any misunderstanding between family members — or the IRS — about who owes what and when it must be paid.

That's the Savage Truth.

Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at www.terrysavage.com. She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?"

Texas high school graduation rates rising

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' graduation rate for high school students increased 1.9 percent since 2002 to just below the national average, according to a new report by a coalition of education groups.

The report found that high school graduation rates rose from 73.5 percent to 75.4 percent between 2002 and 2009 — and pulled almost even with the 2009 average nationwide of 75.5 percent.

The national graduation rate, though, increased faster than the state's, climbing 2.9 percent over the same 7-year period. The biggest gains nationwide came in Tennessee, where rates jumped 17.8 percent, and New York, which increased 13 percent, between 2002 and 2009.

The report did not provide a state-by-state ranking, but comparing results showed that Texas and Colorado are tied for 28th, just behind Oregon and just ahead of Michigan, Rhode Island and Hawaii. Wisconsin led the nation with a graduation rate of 90.7, while Nevada was last with 56.3 percent.

The report will be presented Monday in Washington at the Building a Grad Nation summit sponsored by America's Promise Alliance, a children's advocacy organization found-

ed by former Secretary of State Colin Powell. It was authored by John Bridgeland and Mary Bruce of Civic Enterprises, a public policy firm focused on social change, and Robert Balfanz and Joanna Fox of the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University.

The authors used the Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate, which tracks first-year students through all their years in high school, since they said it was the best and most-recent data available nationwide.

More good news for Texas came in the state's percentage of 4th graders testing at or above proficient in reading, which increased a single percentage point to 28 percent between 2003 and last year. The percentage of 8th graders testing at or above proficient in math also jumped from 25 percent to 40 percent over the same period.

Texas is in the first year of implementing a new standardized testing system, and some districts have drawn criticism for spending more time preparing kids for statewide exams than they do on actual classroom instruction. But Robert Scott, appointed by Gov. Rick Perry as head of the Texas Education

Agency, has maintained that students statewide are improving in reading, math and science — and that their high school graduation rates have increased — despite more-strenuous standardized testing.

Perry spokeswoman Catherine Frazier said, "we have been on the uptick in graduation rates and we're encouraged by that."

As recently as 2010, the Texas Legislative Budget Board reported the state's overall graduation rate ranked a dismal 43rd nationwide. Last month, though, the Texas Education Agency announced that a National Governor's Association report put Texas' graduation rate for the class of 2010 at 84.3 percent, or 10th highest among the 34 participating states who track student performance over their entire high school career. Yet another report by the National Center for Education Statistics found that the state's 2008-2009 graduation rate was 75.4 percent, or 28th in the nation — findings similar to those in Monday's report.

"There's lots of different ways to look at it and everybody's got a different intention," said Frances Deviney, Texas Kids Count director at the left-leaning Center for Public Policy

Priorities. But she said other measures, including drop-out rates, have fallen in recent years, providing additional evidence more high schoolers statewide are graduating.

"It is getting better," Deviney said, though she worries that cuts in state funding for programs designed to keep students from leaving school early could eventually undo those gains.

Last summer, the state Legislature cut the Texas school funding formula \$4 billion over the next two years, while reducing funding for education grant programs an additional \$1.4 billion.

A booming population means public school enrollment statewide increases an average of 80,000 per year, and the cuts mean Texas now spends an annual average of \$8,908 per student, down \$538 compared to the last budget, and well below the national average of \$11,463, according to a recent report by the National Education Association.

"Lawmakers had to make tough decisions to prioritize," Frazier said, "but we're confident schools will still be able to use the existing resources they have and offer the quality education Texas students need."

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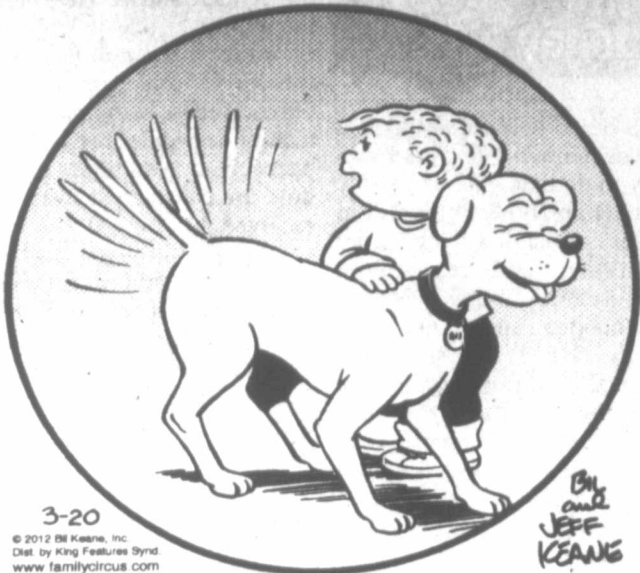
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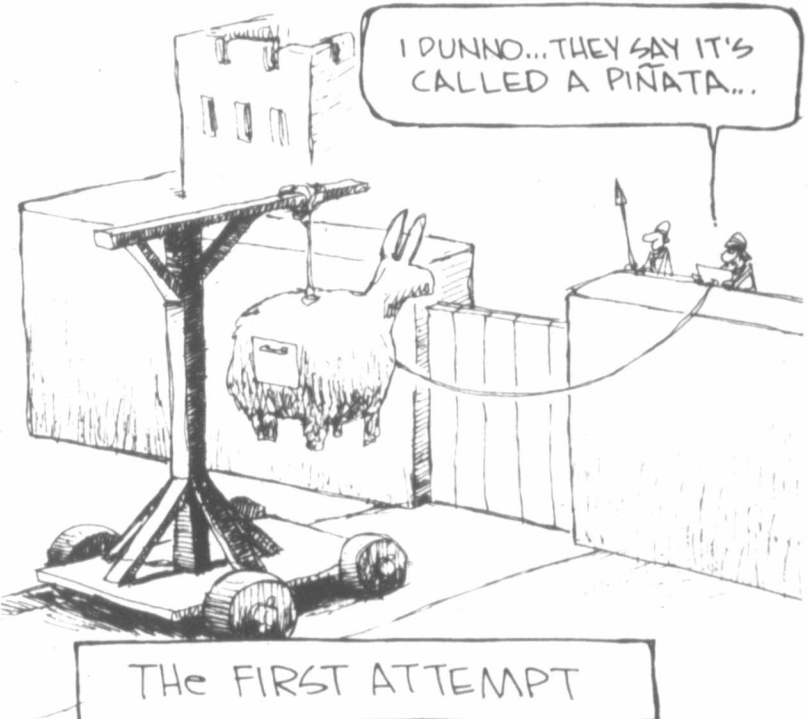
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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, March 21, 2012:

This year your wit, mental agility and resourcefulness come together in an unprecedented manner. Whatever you touch seems to work, yet there is a current of the unexpected that runs through your life. People recognize your abilities and enjoy tossing ideas at you. If you are single, romance could be very exciting but unstable. Change is a constant in life that often creates excitement. If you are attached, the two of you seem to grow closer together. This is a year that will be instrumental to your relationship. You might be strengthening the foundations. ARIES is always ready for a challenge.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Keep your own counsel, as you have much to think about. You could cause more change by doing nothing at this point. The situation in question could transform radically. Get into an intense conversation and exchange ideas. Tonight: Make it early.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Others will respond well to your calls and inquiries. Loved ones and friends actively seek you out because they know how much you have to offer. Keep some opinions to yourself. Should you decide to share, choose a trusted partner. Tonight: Where you want to be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You have excellent ideas and a lot to offer. Others appreciate your sharing nature, but be prepared to take the lead. Use care with new acquaintances. You will have a tendency to attract people who are emotionally unavailable. Tonight: To the wee hours.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone who has more expertise. Feedback can only help you make better decisions. You also might want to do more research and speak to more people. The more opinions you hear, the better decisions you'll be able to make. Tonight: Feed your mind and hop on the Internet.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Somehow, you have a way with a key person in your life that adds to the positive vibes. Count on this person's support, and acknowledge his or her level of caring. Communication sizzles. You will want more information once you hear some news. Hop on the Web, and/or speak

to someone who knows about this topic. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ If you let others take the lead, you will free up a lot of time and enjoy yourself so much more. You have an opportunity or open window. You can only gain from the experience; it could be a real eye-opener. Tonight: Out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your ability to defer to others and see situations differently from the majority could become a problem. In an open discussion with a partner, loved one or close friend, share some of your reticence and thoughts. He or she will understand you better. Tonight: Sort through offers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Keeping your feet on the ground could take a lot of work. Your present inclination will be to float from this thought to that topic. If you can, go off and follow your imagination. You will have a hard time being present in the banal day-to-day events. Tonight: Make plans with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You could be tender than you would like. Someone you care about might be draining you without intending to. Be caring, but establish boundaries. Check on a matter involving your home. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your creativity and caring only add to your interactions. A loved one, child or potential flirtation responds well to a conversation. Focus some of this dynamic energy on a project — it could be golf; it could be work. Tonight: Go with the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Remain sensitive to your budget. Before you make a purchase for your home, do some intense price comparison. You might see an alternative or decide to wait. Trust your decision-making ability. Tonight: Spend time with a family member.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ No more excuses. Move on a key matter. You might be delighted by what you hear and by someone's enthusiasm. Express your appreciation in a manner that can be heard. Understanding evolves between the two of you. Tonight: Celebrate the moment.

Tundra



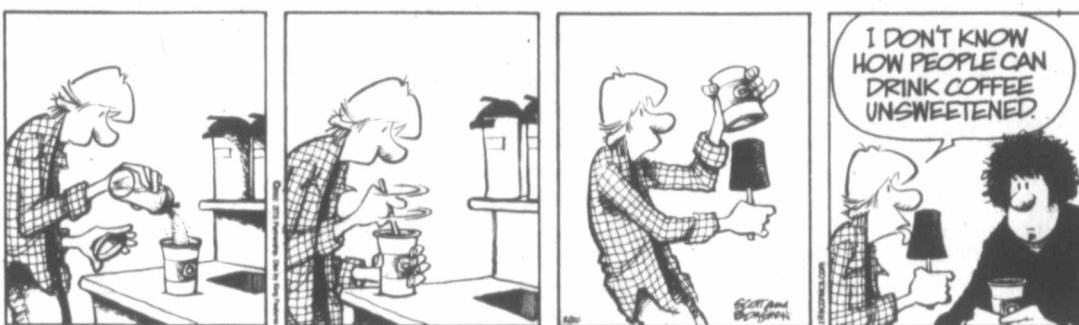
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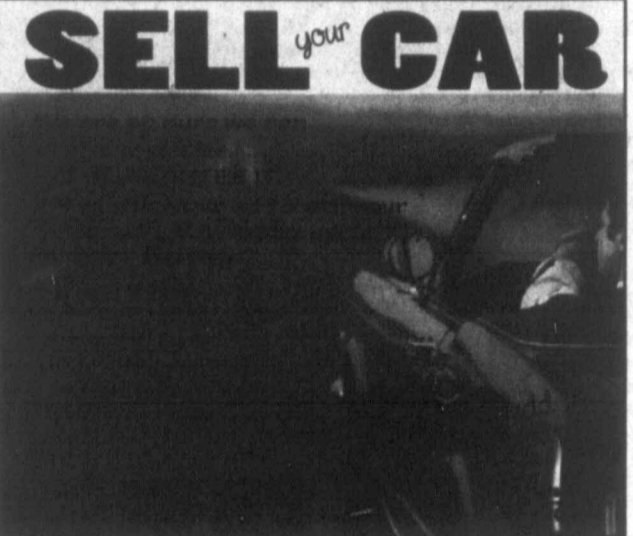
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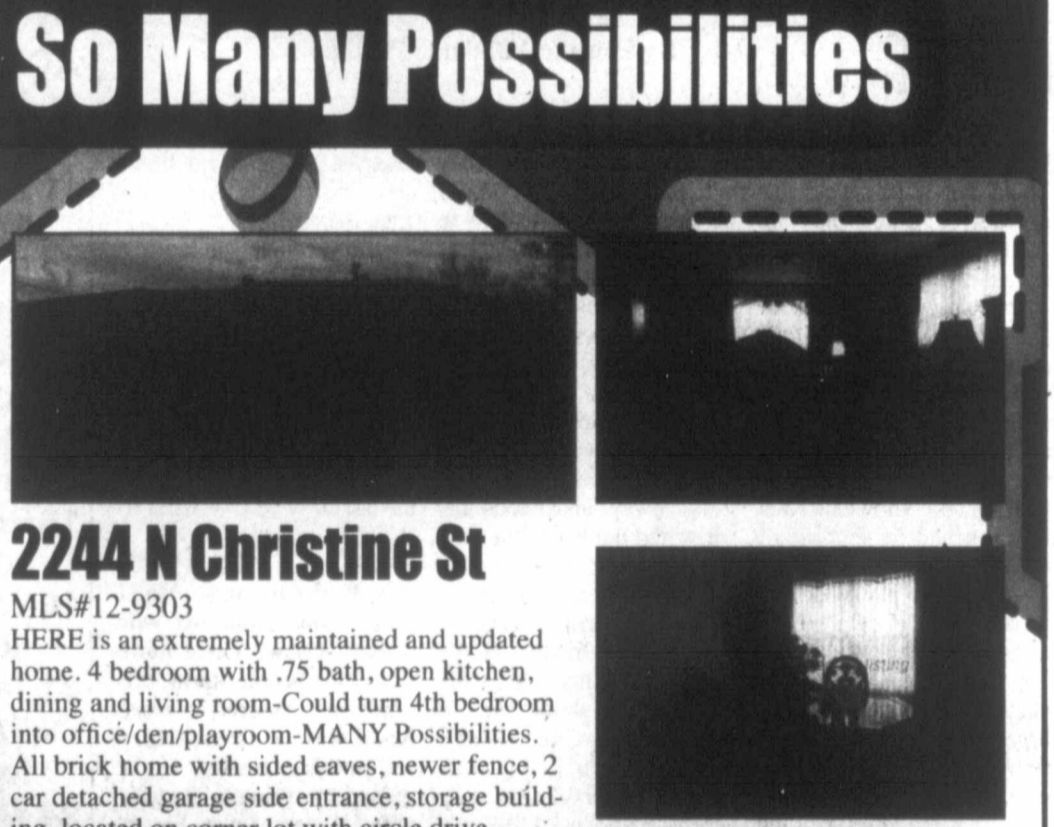
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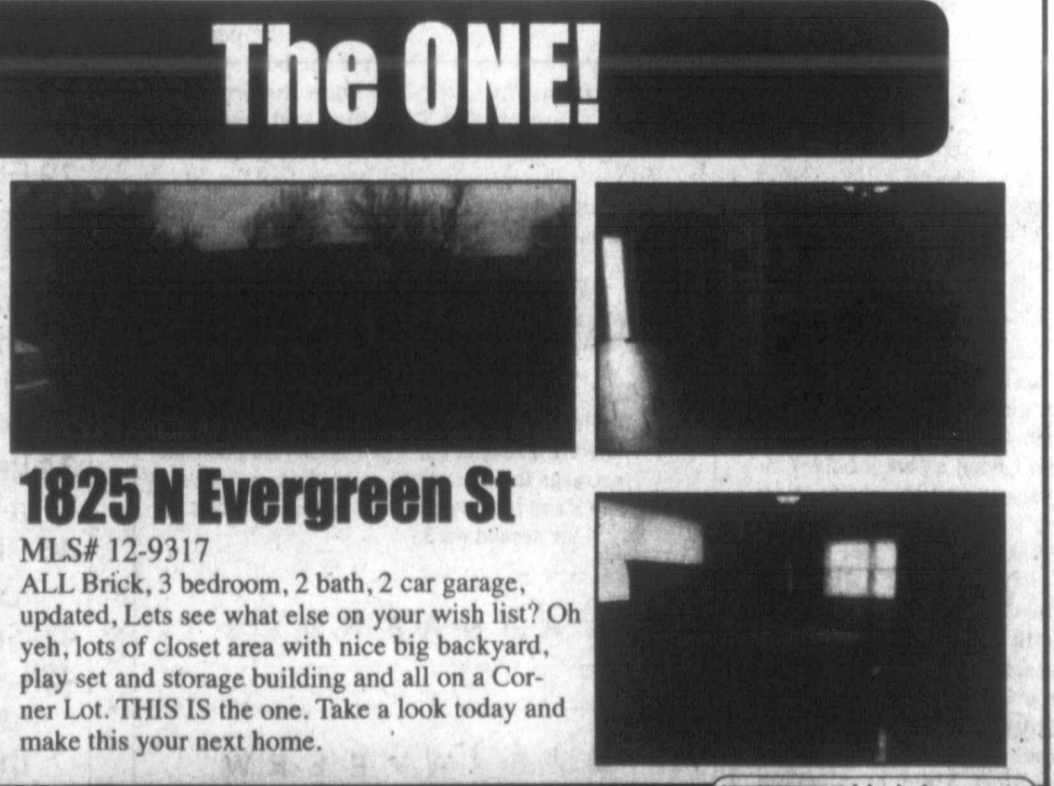
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Sports

Harvesters wrap up non-district, open with Perryton

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters hope to gain momentum at the beginning of district play, when they host River Road at 5 p.m. Tuesday and visit Perryton 12 p.m. Saturday.

"I'm excited to see what they have," head coach Kaleb Snelgrooes said of River Road. "We scrimmaged them earlier in the season. It will be a game that will be a district game next year. I'm excited to see what they have. It will be a tough game at our place."

The Harvesters are looking to snap a seven-game losing streak where they've allowed at least eight runs in their last four games. Senior Cole Engle said he thinks Pampa can beat both River Road and Perryton.

"Perryton is obviously more important," Engle said. "It will be exciting to see what happens in the district opener." Last season, the Harvesters won

two out of three against the Rangers. Pampa's loss came at Perryton where it will play twice this season. Senior Cole Engle and junior Tyler Powell played against Perryton in basketball this year. The rivalry got so intense that Perryton had to have extra security at the final game on Feb. 14.

Perryton also has several basketball players on its baseball team including Blake Turner and Ivan Villagran.

Powell said he doesn't think the basketball rivalry will have much of an impact.

"I think it will be better than how it was on the court, because it is a different game with different kids," Powell said. "I think they are going to give us their best, so we just have to do the same."

Engle said he's not sure what impact it will have.

"I know most of (Pampa's) baseball team was in the student section of the Perryton basketball games," Engle said. "So maybe they want to beat Perryton as bad as I do."

Snelgrooes said he's looking forward to starting district.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what the district has," Snelgrooes said.



Snelgrooes



Engle



Powell



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Trace Carter bunts against San Jacinto Saturday. The Harvesters close non-district with River Road and open district with Perryton Saturday.

Manning signs with Broncos after two weeks as a free agent

DENVER (AP) — Peyton Manning wants to play for the Denver Broncos in Act II of his outstanding career.

A person with knowledge of the discussions said the NFL's only four-time MVP, and the year's most sought-after free agent, called Broncos executive John Elway on Monday morning and told him he had decided to come to Denver.

Another person briefed on negotiations said Manning also called Tennessee Titans owner Bud Adams and told him that he had picked the Broncos. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about teams' efforts to lure Manning.

Adams released a statement Monday confirming the Titans were out of the running and later told The Tennessean: "He called me himself and told me he wasn't coming, that he made his mind up to go with Denver."

Besides the Titans, the San Francisco 49ers also had been a finalist in the chase for Manning.

ESPN first reported the record-setting quarterback instructed his agent to negotiate the details of a deal with the Broncos, less than two weeks after he became a free agent when the Indianapolis Colts released him.

"I think it's a great place for him," Broncos defensive end Robert Ayers said outside the Broncos' complex. "I don't think he made a bad decision. I think he made a great decision. Hopefully we can prove him

right and hopefully we can win a lot of games here."

Manning sat out all of 2011 because of multiple neck surgeries, but his success in the past has made him this offseason's top potential signing.

He was wooed to Denver by Hall of Fame quarterback Elway, who led the Broncos to two Super Bowl championships and now serves as their vice president of football operations. Elway never sounded all that convinced Tim Tebow was the right answer at the sport's most important position and now could trade him, even though the popular QB energized the Broncos in leading them to the playoffs last season despite some erratic play.

"I wouldn't say I feel bad for him," Ayers said. "It's a business. And I'm pretty sure Tim understands that. ... We wish him luck, no matter what he does. I hope he's here. He's a great leader, a great locker room guy."

Manning was cut loose March 7 by the Colts so they could avoid paying him a \$28 million contract bonus. The move marked the end of an era, a 14-year alliance between the team that drafted Manning No. 1 overall and the QB who brought Indianapolis from football irrelevance to the 2007 Super Bowl title and a second appearance in the NFL championship game three years later.

But with Manning's rehab continuing, the Colts decided it was time to rebuild from top to bottom, and they are expected to take Stanford quarterback

Andrew Luck with the top pick in April's draft.

Two days after standing alongside Colts owner Jim Irsay at an emotional farewell news conference, Manning began his free agency tour in the place it appeared to be ending: Denver. Manning landed on Tebow's turf with all the trappings of star treatment — flown to town on a chartered plane, then spending the day with Elway, coach John Fox and general manager Brian Xanders.

From there, Manning crisscrossed the country in search of a new team, as various clubs courted a guy with more than 50,000 yards passing, nearly 400 touchdowns and 11 Pro Bowl selections. After Denver, next up was a meeting with the Arizona Cardinals, and he also spent time speaking with — or throwing for — the Titans, 49ers and Miami Dolphins, with TV cameras and even helicopters often on the trail.

Somehow, the 49ers managed to keep their audience with Manning a secret for days, until word emerged that they were in the running for him, too.

In the end, though, Manning decided he wanted to trade in his Colts horseshoe helmet for one adorned by a Bronco. The move would allow him to stay in

the AFC, a conference he knows well and one considered weaker than the NFC at the moment, and would re-estab-

lish the tantalizing prospect of playing against his brother, New York Giants quarterback Eli, in a Super Bowl. They already have three titles in the family.

Manning-to-Denver also creates a fascinating dynamic with Tebow, only months after the former Heisman Trophy winner was the focus of the NFL regular season and perhaps the most talked-about athlete in sports, a polarizing figure both because of his style of play — as far as possible from a classic, dropback passer — and his outspoken religious beliefs.

After taking over a struggling team, Tebow led the Broncos to comeback victory after comeback victory, struggling for three quarters before starring in the fourth quarter and overtime. With an offense transformed into a spread option attack built on Tebow's running, and a strong defense that kept games close, the Broncos won the AFC West title.

Tebowmania reached its apex in the playoffs, when he threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas on the very first play of overtime to beat the Pittsburgh Steelers. The next week, though, Tebow was smothered by the New England Patriots, who easily eliminated the Broncos 45-10.

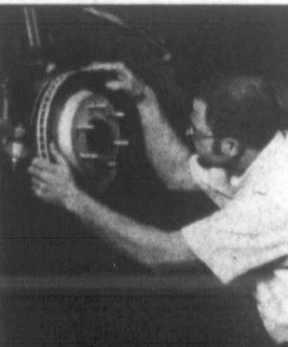
A little more than two months later, Tebow could be on the trading block.

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper chimed in, saying he hoped Tebow wasn't going anywhere.

"He's a young man, right? And a year or two of working under John Elway and Peyton Manning, you know, I'm not sure any other quarterbacks around the country get that opportunity," Hickenlooper said.

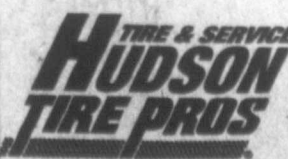
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Sports

PHS senior Hutto to play volleyball for Frank Phillips

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

When Pampa head volleyball coach Libby Garza started coaching Ramie Hutto in 2009, she knew she had the talent to play in college. The only question was where.

"We talked about it all season," Garza said. "During club, she was like, 'I don't know what to do.'"

Tuesday in the Pampa High School commons, that question was answered as Hutto signed to play for Frank Phillips College.

"I thought it was the best decision," Hutto said. "I like the program a lot."

Garza said she is happy for Hutto.

"Frank Phillips is going to be a good fit for her," Garza said.

"It gives her two years to develop every aspect of her game and academics. She will have a good chance to play at four-year college, a big four-year college."

Hutto played two seasons on varsity and helped the Lady Harvesters win two district titles and a regional quarterfinal berth in 2010. In both seasons, Hutto was named to the first team All-District

in both seasons. Last year, Hutto played in the Golden Spread All-Star Tournament in Canyon.

Frank Phillips head coach Ashley Dyer said she's excited about Hutto's versatility on the court.

"She plays every position," Dyer said. "She can play outside, right side and back row. She's just a good all-around player. She's a good utility player that I can use where I need her the most."

Hutto said she will play in her freshman season and thinks it will be an easy transition.

"I will play right side, which is the position I played at Pampa," Hutto said. "They run the same defense at Frank Phillips."

Garza said that was a big factor in Hutto's decision.

"I definitely think she will take Frank Phillips to the next level," Garza said. "I know her coach, she played at WT for a year and I played against her. She's a great coach, and I think she is doing great things there."

Dyer said Hutto's energy will be an asset to her team.

"I've seen her play on the court before and she has good energy," Dyer said. "I think she'll bring the positive side of that. She's a go-getter. When we need her to go in and put down a kill, she is really good at that."



Hutto



Dyer



Garza



photo courtesy of Kip Hutto

Senior Ramie Hutto looks through papers as she signs with Frank Phillips College to play volleyball with FPC head coach Ashley Dyer and Pampa head coach Libby Garza looking on in the Pampa High School commons.

Clarendon College golf ninth at Ron Marshall Spring Fling

CLARENDON — The Clarendon College Golf team finished ninth at the Ron Marshall Spring Fling Thursday through Saturday.

Clarendon shot 901 and was four strokes behind eighth place Walters State. Five of the teams ahead of Clarendon are in D1 and are ranked in the top 10.

Head coach John Green was proud of how his team competed.

"I consider this a final four finish among the DII golf teams across the nation," Green said.

Steve Evans (14th) and Louis Laviscount finished in the top 20.

The team is currently ranked 15th in the nation.

athletes

of the week

Alanna Stephens
Pampa High School

Jared Lusk
Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior softball player **Alanna Stephens** is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Stephens scored a run Tuesday in Pampa's victory over San Jacinto. Against Sanford-Fritch Tuesday, Stephens doubled, tripled and recorded 3 RBI. In the second game against Vernon Friday, Stephens hit her first home run of the season.

Pampa High School senior baseball player **Jared Lusk** is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Lusk hit a double and recorded 3 RBI against Levelland Friday. Saturday against Amarillo San Jacinto, Lusk homered and doubled recording two RBI.

Spring Softball & Kickball signups

The city recreation softball & kickball league sign-ups started Monday and runs through 5 p.m. Friday. Cost per team is \$375. The divisions are men, women, mixed, church men and church mixed. For more information call Autumn Schaub, recreation coordinator, at 669-5790.

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TODAY IN SPORTS



Wednesday, March 21, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 288

75¢ Viewpoints: Slim Randles **Pampa girls eye repeat**
 \$1.50 weekend Steve the cowboy opines on hospital cuisine | p4 Softball team hopes to start district strong | p1B

Waters clarifies charter issue on May 12 ballot

■ *City attorney speaks to Chamber banquet about Commission's choice to extend terms*

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

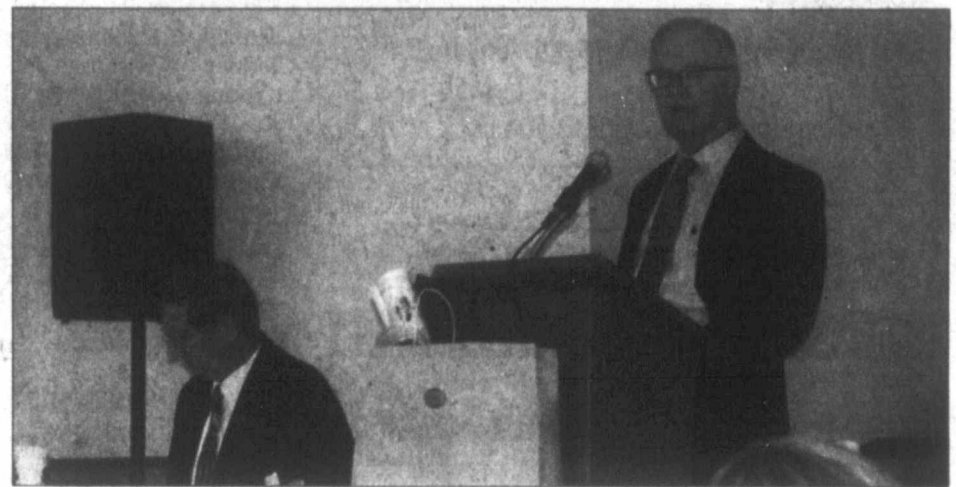
After spending weeks assessing the impact of Senate Bill 100 last year, Judge Lee Waters knew that it was going to be a tall order explaining things in layman's terms at Tuesday's Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

"I'm glad you all are still awake," joked Waters, Pampa's city attorney, to the luncheon crowd after his presentation. Waters spoke about the ramifica-

tions of SB 100 to the city's election schedule and the ensuing decision by the Pampa City Commission to hold a charter election to extend its terms from two years to four years long.

SB 100, Waters explained, is the Texas legislation that implemented the federal Military and Overseas Voter Enhancement (MOVE) Act, which served to make it easier for military personnel and other Americans living overseas to be able to vote.

CHARTER cont. on page 8A



staff photo by **Mollie Bryant**

City attorney Lee Waters (right), accompanied by city manager Richard Morris, speaks at the Chamber banquet about the charter amendment up for vote.

Deputies nab two for drugs during week

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Since Sunday, the Gray County Sheriff's Office arrested two individuals on drug possession offenses.

On Sunday, around 1:45 a.m., deputies stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on the 400 block of North Sumner. Deputies obtained consent to search, and discovered the driver, Katrina



Soto

Tackett Soto, 40, was in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine.

Soto was charged with possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less than one gram, and transported to the Gray County Jail.

She was later released on a \$3,500 bond.

At 10 p.m. on Monday, deputies stopped a vehicle on the 100 block of North Dwight for a traffic violation.

Horton

They discovered that the driver, **DRUGS** cont. on page 8A

CHURCH CONSTRUCTION



staff photo by **Mollie Bryant**

Lupe Cortez of Wiley Hicks Jr. Inc. of Amarillo trowels cement onto a foundation at First United Methodist Church on Tuesday afternoon. The church's renovations are due to be completed around September.

NRCS offers options for landowners with expiring CRP contracts

THE PAMPA NEWS

With the majority of Texas' expired or expiring Conservation Reserve Project (CRP) contracts in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is urging Gray County producers to contact the NRCS field office to discuss their options for such lands, as well as to look into eligibility for USDA benefits.

"It's important for landowners to understand USDA conservation compliance before putting a plow in the ground," said Salvador Salinas, NRCS state conservationist. "Producers should know the options available

to them."

Area farmers and ranchers are encouraged to visit with NRCS conservationists in the Gray County USDA Service Center to discuss management decisions and options for their land. USDA programs offered by the NRCS can provide technical and financial assistance for grazing or haying existing grass cover, making enhancements to target wildlife or other management options.

"Developing conservation plans with private landowners is our daily routine," said John Wimberley, Gray County NRCS district conservationist. "We are committed to providing this service to all producers interested in our assistance. We are specially trained to discuss

landowner opportunities with expired or expiring CRP land."

Most of the CRP land is located in the historic range of the lesser prairie chicken, which is currently being considered for listing as an endangered or threatened species. The NRCS and its conservation partners are helping farmers and ranchers enhance, restore and protect habitat for the bird with financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program's (EQIP) lesser prairie chicken Initiative (LPCI).

Through the LPCI, NRCS offers landowners financial assistance for conservation practices that promote **NRCS** cont. on page 8A

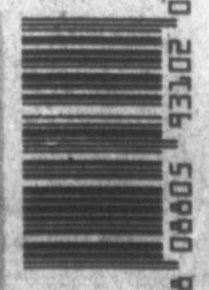
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
60%	30%	
High 50 Low 37	High 56 Low 40	High 70 Low 44

Today: Showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 50. Wind chill values between 28 and 38 early. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 56. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Calm wind becoming south south-east around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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SOUTHSIDE SENIOR Citizen's Center will be closed the week of Mar. 19 thru Mar. 24, due to the passing of Margrette Cash Nickelberry. Center will reopen on Monday, Mar. 26th.

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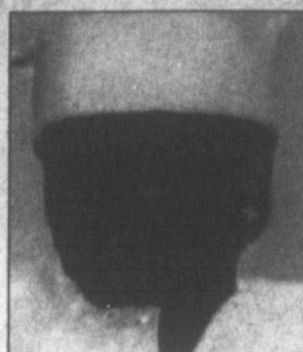
Obituaries

Essie Robinson, 98

Essie Robinson, 98, died March 18, 2012, in Pampa. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 22, 2012, at Southside Church of Christ, with Frankie Lemons, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Robinson was born March 26, 1913, in Anderson County, to Charlie and Lue Edwards Osby. She was 8 days shy of 99 years old. She lived a good life and always took care of others. She inspired everyone around her with her church beliefs, views and opinions. She was a member of Southside Church of Christ. She married Lee Roy Robinson in Palestine, and he preceded her in death in 1967. From this union, a daughter was born. She had a twin brother, Willy Osby, and 14 other siblings who all preceded her on the road to heaven.

Survivors include her daughter, Annie Foy of Pampa; granddaughter, Laura Carter and husband Rubin of Pampa; grandson, Roy Lee Clerkley of Pittsburgh, Pa.; three great-grandsons, Justin Carter of Omaha, Neb., Tod Carter of Houston and Edwin Carter and wife Heather of Pittsburgh, Pa.; one great-grand nephew, Domonique Clerkley of Pittsburgh, Pa.; great-grand niece, Brijette Clerkley of Pittsburgh, Pa.; her adopted daughter, Jeanetta Young of Fort Mitchell, Ala.; and Jeanetta's children, Elonda Jackson and husband SSGT Colin Jackson of Fort Mitchell, Ala.; and Rod Damell of Pampa; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.



Robinson

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

L. Carol Downs, 66

L. Carol Downs, 66, died March 19, 2012, in Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 22, 2012, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Charles Lowry, pastor of CrossPointe Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Downs was born July 2, 1945, in Santa Fe, N.M. She lived in Hutchinson County most of her life, moving to Pampa in 2007. She married Winford Downs on February 22, 1968. He preceded her in death on January 19, 1997. She attended CrossPointe Church. She was a devoted mother and a loving "Mamaw."

Survivors include three sons, Robert Rigo and wife Celena of Cheney, Wash., Daniel Rigo of Amarillo, and Shane Downs and wife Stephanie of Pampa; a daughter, Deanna Watson and husband Brett of Pampa; two sisters, Geneva Johnston and husband O.B. of Conchas Dam, N.M., and Peggy Hall of Pampa; a brother, Nelson Davis and wife Joyce of Hannibal, Mo.; 20 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to CrossPointe Church Building Fund, 711 E. Harvester, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



Downs

For the record

Cont. From Tuesday

Police Department

An accident was reported. A suspicious person was reported at the 400 block of North Crest.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1200 block of North Duncan.

A theft occurred at the 300 block of North Hazel.

An accident occurred at the 300 block of South Henry.

A suspicious person was reported at Texas and West.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1100 block of East Foster.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 400 block of South Pitts.

A suspicious person was reported at the 200 block of West Brown, the 900 block of South Faulkner, the 400 block of North Nelson and the 1100 block of North Christine.

Monday, March 19
 An accident occurred at the 1600 block of North Somerville.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 72 hour period ending Monday, March 19 at 7 a.m.

Friday, March 16
 Trevor Jay Graham, 34, was arrested by police for public intoxication.

Jesus Adrian Ramirez, 19, was arrested by deputies for driving under the influence, minor.

Andrew Michael Dunn, 22, was arrested by DPS agents for possession of marijuana, in an amount less than two ounces.

Saturday, March 17
 Regina Annette Howard, 38, was arrested by deputies on a capias pro fine warrant regarding disorderly conduct.

Kimberly Catelynn Martinez, 20, was arrested by DPS officers for possession of marijuana, in an amount less than two ounces.

Patricia Vargas Ramirez, 33, was arrested by police for possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less than one gram.

Shawn Dean Francis, 36, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

Donald Eugene Terry, 48, was arrested by police for public intoxication.

Phillip Littrell, 41, was arrested by deputies for public intoxication.

David Callway Hickey, 31, was arrested by deputies for public intoxication.

Sunday, March 18
 Colden Trey Fortenberry, 22, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

Dan Allen Hickerson, 54, was arrested by deputies on capias pro fine warrants for expired motor vehicle inspection and expired registration.

Katrina Wynelle Tackett, 40, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less than one gram.

Mark Lin Bromlow, 48, was arrested by police for public intoxication.

Greg Wootten, 28, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

Jelani McNeal, 33, was arrested by police for displaying expired registration, expired vehicle inspection, failure to appear in court and public intoxication.

...

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Tuesday, March 20 at 7 a.m.

Monday, March 19
 Rustin Lee Horton, 22, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance, in an amount greater than four grams but less than 200 grams.

Tuesday, March 20
 Renee Sophia Braddock, 33, was arrested by police on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less than one gram.

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

Monday, March 19
 An accident occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

Power lines were down at 23rd and Zimmers.

A violation of a protective order occurred at the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Fraud occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

A threat occurred at the 200 block of North Summer.

An accident occurred at the 700 block of North Hobart.

An assault occurred at the 600 block of North Nelson.

An accident occurred at the 2100 block of North Perryton.

A vehicle fire occurred at Gwendolyn and Faulkner. Criminal mischief occurred at the 1000 block of South Farley.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Harassment occurred at the 2500 block of Mary Ellen.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 200 block of South Tignor.


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MORNINGRUSH

Educators ordered to apologize

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A judge in San Antonio has ordered two educators to apologize to an agnostic family in a lingering school prayer dispute.

Chief U.S. District Judge Fred Biery on Monday ordered Medina Valley Independent School District Superintendent James Stansberry and band director Keith Riley to apologize. The judge declined to hold them in contempt.

The San Antonio Express-News reports the men allegedly made public comments critical of the family of ex-student Corwyn Schultz after a February settlement. The family had sued but failed to stop prayers at last June's graduation ceremony.

The district agreed school employees would not pray with students or elicit prayer in class, plus not disparage the Schultz family.

The district declined comment about Monday's order, which requires the Schultz family to accept the apologies.

Justice against LGBT bullying

ARLINGTON (AP) — U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder says the Justice Department is "committed to using every tool in its arsenal" to combat bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation.

Holder cited the department's efforts during a speech Tuesday at a conference at the University of Texas at Arlington aimed at promoting safe schools and communities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Holder recounted several successful criminal prosecutions under federal and state statutes in saying the Obama administration is stepping up efforts to make sure no one is harassed because of "who they love."

About 400 law enforcement officials, educators, students and community leaders registered for the conference sponsored by the White House and the U.S. departments of justice and education.

Ex-Miss El Paso pleads guilty

EL PASO (AP) — A former beauty queen in West Texas has been put on probation for shoplifting a \$69 shirt from a retail store.

Lorena Tavera of El Paso on Monday pleaded guilty to theft. A judge then sentenced the 2008 Miss El Paso USA winner to nine months of probation.

Tavera also must abide by a 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew, do 80 hours of community service and undergo regular alcohol and drug testing.

El Paso police last August arrested Tavera after store workers noticed the theft and followed her outside the business. Tavera was accused of slipping the shirt into a shopping bag and walking away.

Man gets federal appeal

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man on death row for 25 years has won an appeal that could get him a new punishment trial or see his sentence reduced to life.

Roger Wayne McGowen was condemned in 1987 for fatally shooting a 67-year-old woman during a Houston bar robbery in March 1986.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision upholds a lower court's ruling that instructions given to jurors didn't provide a way for them to consider his disadvantaged background.

The ruling posted late Monday is in line with other Texas capital cases of that era before the courts refined jury instructions.

The appeals court also rejected arguments that the 48-year-old McGowen is innocent, his trial lawyers were deficient and his long time on death row is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual.

Frog gets habitat protection

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The federal government is designating more than 10,000 acres of critical habitat for a rare spotted frog found in Arizona and New Mexico.

The acreage in west-central and southwestern New Mexico, and central and southeastern Arizona have water sources that the Chiricahua leopard frog needs to rebound.

The aquatic-breeding amphibians once found at hundreds of moist sites across the Southwest now exist in less than 20 percent of their historic range.

The frog was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2002, but no critical habitat was proposed.

An environmental group sued and reached a settlement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2009 to consider whether critical habitat would help the frog.

The agency announced a final ruling Monday in compliance with a court order.

Judge rules against Okla. party

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Libertarian Party has suffered a legal setback in its attempt to get their presidential candidate on the November ballot in Oklahoma.

A federal judge on Monday denied a request by the Oklahoma Libertarian Party for a preliminary injunction that would have prevented state election board officials from enforcing new election laws.

The Libertarians wanted the judge to give them more time to gather signatures — or to reduce the number of signatures they're required to collect — to put their presidential candidate on the Nov. 6 general election ballot.

A new election law that moved up the filing period and primary election dates cut short the amount of time political parties have to gather signatures to put their candidates on the ballot. The Libertarians maintain the law is unconstitutional.

Car explodes near Mexico office

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (AP) — Authorities say a car exploded near the offices of a newspaper in a northern border state where two drug cartels are fighting for control.

The blast broke windows and caused other damage to buildings, including the offices of the Expreso newspaper. Several nearby cars were also damaged.

Since 2010, the Zetas and Gulf cartels have been fighting over control of the drug routes running into much of South Texas, turning Tamaulipas into one of Mexico's most violent states.

Ornate card stands evoke rituals from Victorian Era

Q: This antique stand was given to my mother in 1959 by her 92-year-old friend. The ornate stand is silver and holds a frosted glass dish. The overall height is approximately 9 inches and both pieces are in very good condition. I have no idea what it was used for. I hope you can help to identify it, as well as its vintage and value.

A: You have a silver plated Victorian card stand used for holding visitors' calling cards. Ladies would leave their personal cards at homes to welcome newcomers or to leave a message. The ornate stands were often scrolled and were usually triple or quadruple plated. Cupids and birds usually adorned the frames.

Your stand was made in the late 1800s and would probably be worth \$225 to \$325.

Q: This mark is on a set of china that belonged to my mother. She received the set as a wedding present in 1937. Some of the pieces also have the words in a triangle "Warranted 22 KT. Gold -- NC. Co." The dishes are decorated with blue and yellow flowers against a white background and have gold bands. It is a service for 8 and in perfect condition. My mother died over 20 years ago and left no information on the history of the set. I found it in a cabinet after she died and just vaguely remembered her using it when I was a small child.

Thank you so much for any information you might be able to give me.

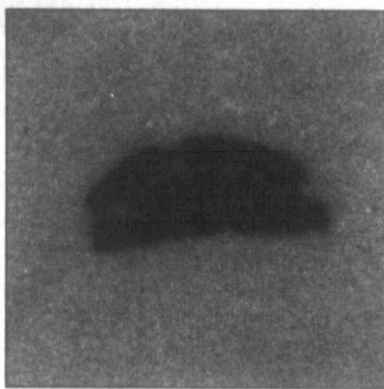
A: Pope Gosser China was located in Coshocton, Ohio, from 1902 to 1958. Through the years, they used a variety of marks. Many of their patterns can be identified; nevertheless, there are many that remain a mystery. In 1958, due to the high cost of manufacturing and the affordability of imports, the

Antique OR JUNQUE?



Victorian card stand made in late 1800s.

company closed. Similar services for 8 sets are selling in the range of \$175 to \$275.



Pope Gosser China was located in Coshocton, Ohio, from 1902 to 1958.

Q: What can you tell me about a glass milk bottle I recently found in a building that is being remodeled in Connecticut? It is pint size, clear glass with the following words on the side "It's McGough's Country Fresh Milk."

A: Glass milk bottles are collectible. I found no information on McGough's Dairy. Most pint size bottles from just about any dairy have a value of \$5 to \$15. Collectors that find bottles from the World War II era with war slogans on the glass are even more collectible. They are in the \$125 to \$150 range.

Address your questions to Anne McCollam, P. O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Items of a general interest will be answered in this column. Due to the volume of inquiries, she cannot answer individual letters.

Stanford investor suits can go forward

HOUSTON (AP) — Investors who lost billions in a massive Ponzi scheme orchestrated by convicted former Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford won a legal victory Monday as a federal appeals court decided to let their class action lawsuits go forward against individuals and companies they allege aided the financier's fraud.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a federal judge's ruling from last year that threw out three class action lawsuits that are trying to use state laws to recover investor losses resulting from Stanford's scheme.

U.S. District Judge David Godbey in Dallas had thrown out the lawsuits, saying they were precluded under the Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act, or SLUSA, a federal act that says class action suits related to securities fraud cannot be filed under state law. Godbey had determined the fraud alleged by the lawsuits — filed by investors in Texas and Louisiana — was connect-

ed to the purchase or sale of securities such as stock.

But a three-judge panel of the appeals court disagreed with Godbey, saying "we find that the (alleged) fraudulent schemes ... are not more than tangentially related to the purchase or sale of covered securities and are therefore not sufficiently connected (to) purchases or sales to trigger SLUSA preclusion."

Stanford was convicted earlier this month on 13 fraud-related charges for misusing money from investors who bought certificates of deposit, or CDs, from his Caribbean bank to pay for his businesses and his lavish lifestyle.

The appeals court found that while Stanford had promoted his bank's investment portfolio as being backed by securities like stocks, this claim only had a minor connection to the heart of the financier's fraud.

Angela Shaw, who

founded the Stanford Victims Coalition, which represents investors, said if Godbey's ruling had been upheld, it probably would have meant that all class action lawsuits filed by Stanford investors would have been dismissed. The judge is in charge of all suits filed in connection with the civil action in Dallas by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission against the convicted financier.

Shaw, who is part of a committee appointed by Godbey to represent the interests of the more than 20,000 investors who lost money, said the class action lawsuits under state law will allow investors to pursue certain civil damages they could not do under federal law.

Investors can now pursue lawsuits against third parties they believe aided Stanford's fraud, including banks, lawyers and auditors, she said.

"The primary source of recovery for the victims

is litigation," said Shaw, who along with her husband lost \$2 million in Stanford's scheme. There would have been no litigation if Godbey's decision had been upheld.

So far, only about \$115 million has been recovered for investors by a court-appointed receiver.

Stanford, 61, is set to be sentenced on June 14 and could spend the rest of his life behind bars.

The jury that convicted Stanford also cleared the way for U.S. authorities to go after \$330 million in stolen investor funds sitting in his frozen foreign bank accounts.

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Barry Chenevix, Minister of Music
D. Johnnie Funderburk, Pastor

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 21, the 81st day of 2011. There are 285 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 21, 1963, the Alcatraz federal prison island in San Francisco Bay was emptied of its last inmates at the order of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

On this date:

In 1556, Thomas Cranmer, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, was burned at the stake for heresy.

In 1685, composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

In 1804, the French civil code, or the "Code Napoleon" as it was later called, was adopted.

In 1806, Mexican statesman Benito Juarez was born in the state of Oaxaca.

In 1871, journalist Henry M. Stanley began his famous expedition in Africa to locate the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone.

In 1907, U.S. Marines arrived in Honduras to protect American lives and interests in the wake of political violence.

In 1940, a new government was formed in France by Paul Reynaud, who became prime minister, succeeding Edouard Daladier.

In 1960, about 70 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, when police fired on black protesters.

In 1962, the first Taco Bell restaurant was opened by Glen Bell in Downey, Calif.

In 1965, more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. began their march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

In 1972, the Supreme Court, in *Dunn v. Blumstein*, ruled that states may not require at least a year's residency for voting eligibility.

In 1985, police in Langa, South Africa, opened fire on blacks marching to mark the 25th anniversary of Sharpeville; the reported death toll varied between 29 and 43.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush began a four-day trip to Latin America. Marjorie Knoller, whose two huge dogs had mauled neighbor Diane Whipple to death in their San Francisco apartment building, was convicted in Los Angeles of second-degree murder; her husband, Robert Noel, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter. (The judge later threw out the murder conviction against Knoller, replacing it with manslaughter, but the murder conviction was reinstated by an appeals court.) Alexei Yagudin won the men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Nagano, Japan. Former Georgia governor and U.S. senator Herman Talmadge died in Hampton, Ga., at age 88.

Five years ago: Former Vice President Al Gore made an emotional return to Congress as he pleaded with House and Senate committees to fight global warming; skeptical Republicans questioned the science behind his climate-change documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth."

One year ago: Syrians chanting "No more fear!" held a defiant march after a deadly government crackdown failed to quash three days of mass protests in the southern city of Deraa. Grammy-winning bluesman Pinetop Perkins died in Austin, Texas, at 97. Mayhew "Bo" Foster, a World War II U.S. Army pilot who transported Nazi official Hermann Goering for interrogation in an unarmed, unescorted plane, died in Missoula, Mont. at age 99.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Al Freeman Jr. is 81. Violinist-conductor Joseph Silverstein is 80. Actress Kathleen Widdoes is 73. Actress Marie-Christine Barrault is 68. Singer-musician Rose Stone (Sly and the Family Stone) is 67. Actor Timothy Dalton is 66. Singer Eddie Money is 63. Rock singer-musician Roger Hodgson (Supertramp) is 62. Rock musician Conrad Lozano (Los Lobos) is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Russell Thompkins Jr. (The Stylistics) is 61. Comedy writer-performer Brad Hall is 54. Actress Sabrina LeBeauf is 54. Actor Gary Oldman is 54. Actor Matthew Broderick is 50. Comedian-talk show host Rosie O'Donnell is 50. Rock musician Jonas "Joker" Berggren (Ace of Base) is 45. Rock MC Maxim (Prodigy) is 45. Rock musician Andrew Copeland (Sister Hazel) is 44. Hip-hop DJ Premier (Gang Starr) is 43. Actress Laura Allen is 38. Rapper-TV personality Kevin Federline is 34.

Thought for Today: "Is it worse to be scared than to be bored, that is the question." - Gertrude Stein, American writer (1874-1946).

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.



The Texas bluebonnet: A blossom of renewal

"No other flower — for me at least — brings such upsurging of the spirit and at the same time such restfulness." — J. Frank Dobie

After one of the worst droughts and wildfire seasons in Texas' history, a sign of renewal is springing up along Texas highways. It is the State Flower of Texas: the bluebonnet.

For decades, poets, authors and artists of all kinds have been drawn to the bright blue flower, which typically makes its debut for a few weeks each Spring, decorating the Texas landscape in a sea of blue. It is believed that the first to observe and write about the bluebonnet were European naturalists who traveled to Texas, then part of Mexico, in the early 1800s to collect and document specimens of new plants and animals.

The first of these was 20-year-old Jean Louis Berlandier, a Franco-Swiss botanical explorer who was sent to Mexico by his professor to serve as the botanist for the Mexican Boundary Commission, which was tasked with establishing the border between Mexico and the U.S.

While traveling from Ciudad de Bexar (San Antonio) toward Nacogdoches, his company camped overnight by the Salado Creek. It was here that Berlandier first described the bluebonnet in his journal: "The fields, strewn with flowers, were yet only a small thing compared with what we saw in the upper regions of Texas. A lupine, verberna, delphinium, some lilies, and a great many evening primroses contrasted with the tender green of the grasses, from which sprang flowers of various colors."

Berlandier called the bluebonnet a "lupine," which is a genus that includes mostly perennials and stems from the Latin "lupinus," or wolf. Lupines were classified as such because many were believed

to rob the soil of its nourishment, much like wolves rob shepherds of their sheep. In fact, the bluebonnet is not predatory in nature and actually has the opposite effect, nourishing the soil through nitrogen nodules on its roots.

Over the next several decades, the blue lupine continued to draw attention as a new specimen for naturalists and a beautiful sight for weary travelers.

In 1901, State Representative John M. Green, of Cuero, Texas, made a compelling argument before the state legislature as to why the bluebonnet should be the official state flower. When he rose to the podium to suggest the bluebonnet, someone on the floor called out, "What the devil is a bluebonnet?"

One explanation was given comparing the bluebonnet to the sunbonnets worn by Texas women in the pioneer days to protect their faces from the sun.

Another called the bluebonnet by its Spanish nickname "el conejo" or "the rabbit" because of its resemblance to the tail of a cottontail rabbit.

After the legislators were shown a painting of the blue flower, the bluebonnet stole the show. A resolution making the bluebonnet, specifically the *Lupinus subcarneus*, the official state flower of Texas was signed by then-Governor Joseph D. Sayers on March 7, 1901.

The debate did not end there, however. Different groups argued that the *Lupinus subcarneus* was not the most attractive of the bluebonnet family. They claimed another species, the *Lupinus texensis*, was bolder, more beautiful and should be named the official flower. For the next 70 years, this debate would ensue.

Finally, in 1971, then-Governor



JOHN CORNYN

Preston Smith signed a resolution designating both species of the bluebonnet as the official state flower, along with "any other variety of bluebonnet not heretofore recorded." As it turns out, three other species have been discovered.

The 70-year debate did prove one thing: Texans are passionate about bluebonnets. Over the years, this flower has been a source of inspiration for many. In *Tales of Old-Time Texas*, Texas historian and author J. Frank Dobie wrote, "Every dauber in the country tries his hand at painting it, and bluebonnet chromos are as plentiful as cowboy figures on pulp magazine covers."

Towns across Texas have developed wildflower tours and festivals to showcase their bluebonnets as the best and most colorful in the state.

Every April, thousands of visitors flock to the historic cotton town of Chappell Hill for the official "Texas Bluebonnet Festival," complete with bluebonnet contests and crafts.

I hope this spring we can all pause to enjoy the beauty of our state's flower—in any of its five forms. Indeed, the bluebonnet runs wild throughout Texas and deep in our state's history.

Sources: *Legends and Lore of Texas Wildflowers*, Elizabeth Silverthorne; *Tales of Old-time Texas*, J. Frank Dobie; *The Texas Bluebonnet*, Jean Andrews; *Texas State Historical Association*

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Finance, Judiciary, Armed Services, and Budget Committees. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Refugees and Border Security subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

Steve the cowboy opines on hospital cuisine

We hadn't seen our pal, Steve the cowboy, at the philosophy counter at the Mule Barn truck stop for a while.

After a week's absence, he showed back up for his daily ration of caffeine, and it was obvious he'd lost some weight, if not attitude.

"Hospital again," he said. We nodded. Steve has internal workings situations from time to time. Usually, these happen during a cold snap when the bunkhouse needs extra firewood. He swears this is just a coincidence.

He appreciates doctors a lot, it turns out. Especially young, cute, female-type doctors. He has two of them that look after him. To quote Steve: "Cuter'n a pocketful of baby mouses!" But nurses? That's another thing entirely.

"They run this nurse in on me," he said, "to give me one of them baths, you know?"

Doc grinned. "Cute, was she,



SLIM RANGLES

Steve?"

"Cute? Doc, her face looked like it had worn out two bodies. She had the exact aerodynamics of a milk carton, and the human kindness of a meter maid. I didn't stand a chance!"

"Food any better this year?" asked Herb.

We had heard all about 12,000 mile-an-hour toast last year and how they had used it as heat shields on the space

shuttle.

"Boys, they don't have food in that hospital. They just want to tease you by telling you it's edible stuff. You just take our special Sunday dinner. They called it ribeye steak."

We waited while he sucked down another cup of coffee and asked Loretta to bring him something that wasn't good for his situation.

"Ribeye sounds good, Steve." "Ribeye? RIBEYE? Say listen, guys, I don't know what gopher they cut that off of, but it was sure as sin a long-distance gopher. That was so small and tough ... I'll bet that steak had more miles on it than my pickup."

To buy Slim's books, go to www.slimrandles.com.

Home Country is a weekly syndicated newspaper column written by outdoors journalist and humorist Slim Randles.

Worship

How do you know what God wants?

"I don't know," says Malli. "I just got to trust in myself." If you're doing the right thing, "you'll like it and it'll be for you to do," says Victoria, 8. Lots of people today would agree. They say, "If it feels good, do it."

What if a bank robber has fun stealing money? Does that make it right?

Here's the test, says Jeremy, 9: "If nothing bad happens to you then you know it's OK to do."

Hey, Jeremy! Some murderers and robbers never get caught.

Try this test, says Lacey, 12: "If you don't want to tell your parents, it's not what God wants you to do." Does this include the time my friend Deb wrote her brother's name in the dust on her dad's new car?

Deb was sick when she heard her dad yell at her brother for messing up the car — but not sick enough to tell Dad the truth right away.

"If you're doing something wrong, the Holy Spirit will convict you," says Janna, 9.

But isn't that a feeling? How does the Holy Spirit convict us? "He tells us in our sleep," says Morgan, 7. Ummm. Do I have to wait until bedtime and listen for a big voice saying, "Noooo" in my dreams?

The Holy Spirit is more than a mystical feeling or emotional experience. He is a person. The earthly life of Jesus Christ is described as being led or filled with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 4:1). In this, Jesus set the example for all who believe in him. "If you have Jesus in your heart, the Holy Spirit will tell you what God's will is," says Shelby, 10.

Often this kind of assurance only comes from spending time alone with God, says Grace, 8: "I can hear him in my mind when nobody is around me." In the midst of Jesus' ministry, he often sought solitude to pray.

Spending time alone with God is good, but don't overlook the obvious, says Brad, 6: "I read the Bible."

Sometimes we make divine guidance too



CARY KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

complex. About the only thing I remember from high-school algebra is that there's an unknown "X" factor, which in my case usually remained unknown. The only hope I had for discovering the

unknown "X" factor was to focus on the known quantities.

The Bible is the known or revealed Word of God. By focusing on what God has revealed, the unknown often becomes known. For example, if you're tempted to steal a candy bar from a store, there's no need to ask God about that. He's already told us his will: "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15).

"The Bible is God's special instruction book for you to read and check your progress," says Heather, 12. Madison, 7, says it's important to read the Bible and then obey. She knows God's will because she's a "hearer and a doer."

After all, why should God disclose his will about a career choice, a relationship or any number of personal decisions if we aren't acting on what he has already explained in the scriptures? If we are doers of his revealed will, then the experience of Thomas, 12, will certainly be ours:

"You can hear him in your heart saying, 'Good job!'"

Hey, Thomas! That's the feeling Deb got when she did the right thing and told her dad she was the one who messed up his car.

Cary Kinsolving is an experienced public speaker, syndicated newspaper columnist, author, and producer.

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

First Baptist choir to perform 'Jesus... More Than Enough'

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

First Baptist Church invites the public to join them on Palm Sunday, April 1 at 11 a.m., when the choir performs "Jesus... More Than Enough."

"The public is invited to worship with us," Barry Owens, music pastor said. "They are welcome to experience that with us."

Also performing with the worship choir is a hand bell choir and the children's choir. Last year, First Baptist performed a pageant titled "Jesus... No Other Name." Worship pastor Barry Owens said this year won't be as complex.

"It will be selections that have to do with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ," Owens said.

First Baptist Church is located on the 200 block of N. West Street.

Pampa Church Directory

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
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665-2545
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First Presbyterian
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665-1031
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669-7967
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2700 W. Kentucky Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
665-4922
Harvest Bible Church
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669-2923
Hobart Baptist Church
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GOD'S GOOD NEWS

Insights about God and the stars

One night in 1609, Galileo Galilei looked through his telescope at the heavens over Italy and changed astronomy forever. With his telescope he listed the amazing number of over 30,000 stars. He has been called the "Father of Modern Astronomy." Today, the Hubble Space Telescope has told us there are over 200,000 billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy. A person could count three stars per second for 100 years and would only have counted five percent of this number.

King David in writing Psalm 8 under the inspiration of God said, "When I consider the



DAVID BOULTER

of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him" (Psalm 8:3-4). As David looked at the heavens over Israel, he had something that many astronomers lack: The simple faith to see in the stars a realization

heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful

that the God who created it all loves him. Tonight, as you look upon the beauty of the night sky and the brilliance of the moon and stars, let it cause your heart to reflect upon God.

Look at God's beautiful creation and thank Him for His love for you. Take heed to Psalm 19:1-3, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament (heavens) sheweth his handywork.

"God doesn't just love all of us — He loves each one of us!"

David Boulter is a pastor at Highland Park Baptist in Chattanooga, Tenn.

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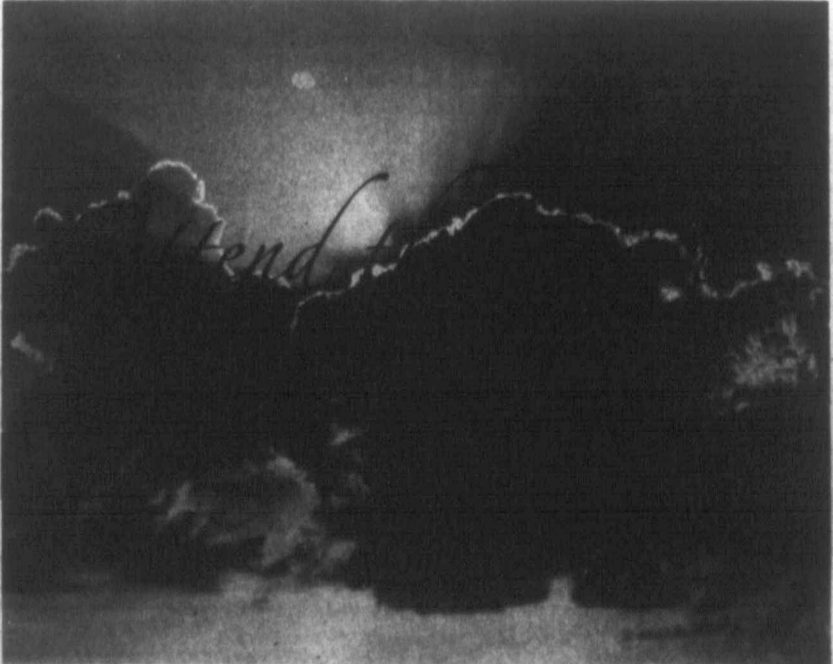
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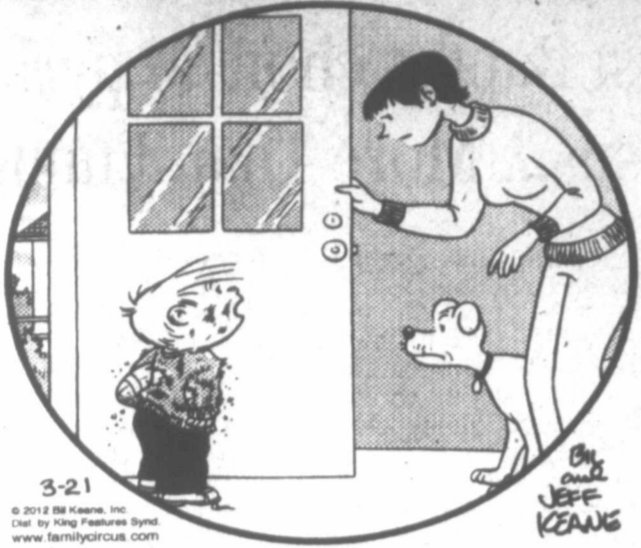
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COMICS PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



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Nest Heads



ALLEN 3/21

daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 22, 2012:
New beginnings earmark this year. You will be direct, and others will respond in kind. Communication flows. Above everything, you greet life with renewed excitement and interest; boredom will not be an issue. You draw many new people into your life. If you are single, you could meet "the one." However, time is your ally. Take the time to get to know this person. If you are attached, the two of you romp around as if you have not a care in the world. As a couple, you might make a radical change involving your lifestyle. Another ARIES often surprises you with his or her energy.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Today's New Moon in your sign signals a new beginning in a most appropriate area. You will feel far more connected and free as a result. An element of the unexpected adds excitement to your day. Enjoy the spontaneity. Tonight: Seize the moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You could decide to say little and observe a lot. You also could have an unusually strong reaction to a situation. Try to process your feelings before responding. You gain insight into someone else's decision that previously baffled you. Tonight: Do your thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Zero in on a meeting. The discussion that ensues could have a lot more to do with your plans than you'd thought. Others act strangely, leaving you wondering what might be going on. The people behaving in this manner might not even know why they are. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You are on top of a project, work or errands. You feel as if you cannot be stopped from attaining a long-desired goal. Do not be surprised by an unanticipated change that comes from out of left field. Tonight: Work with the situation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Look past the obvious. It might be time to finally indulge a long-term goal or desire. This wish could involve travel, someone at a distance or a special seminar. You might not know what to do with some good news, but you will figure it out. Unexpected developments happen out of the blue. Flex. Tonight: Try a new spot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be exhausted by recent events and might wonder how much more of yourself you can give. A new beginning in a relationship becomes possible. You could be surprised by a money matter. Tonight: Keep it personal, with just you and one other person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Others believe they are in control, yet it is rather obvious that that might not be true. You might opt not to burst their bubbles. Use today to contact someone you want to get to know better. An unexpected action could have you regrouping. Tonight: Sort through invitations with an eye to the weekend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by someone who affects your day-to-day life. This person's words could toss your mood and/or plans into disarray. Flex, and find a way to do everything. Yes, it is possible. Start a long-overdue project. Tonight: Do errands.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Whether approaching a creative project or deciding to date a special person, a green light beams. Though you might be focused on serious matters a lot of the time, you like the lightening up that occurs. Share plans with a friend or sibling. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Stay close to home, and be aware that you really are not limited. A discussion with a roommate or family member could enlighten you about alternatives. You will have a lot to consider. Unexpected happenings could force you to regroup. Tonight: Stay close to home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your words have an impact. Conversations evolve from a simple statement. You can clear out what has been a problem or start over with a new beginning. Use caution when driving or handling machinery, as you could be happily distracted. Tonight: Join friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Be aware of your needs and what you have to offer. Financial matters easily could change in your favor in the near future. Make a personal resolution, and refuse to get into impulse buying. Still, you just might buy one last item. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.

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Wildlife agency suspending burro-killing policy in park

LUBBOCK (AP) — The Texas wildlife agency said Tuesday it is suspending a policy that allows the killing of burros in a state park along the Mexican border after the Humane Society of the United States offered to devise a nonlethal plan to remove the destructive animals.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will contribute up to \$10,000 toward a humane society aerial survey of the wild donkeys at Big Bend Ranch State Park this spring to establish baseline data, agency executive director Carter Smith said.

"We believe this could be valuable information to assess the problem with burros around the park," Smith said. "We still have a long way to go to see if a viable, long-term plan can be developed."

Officials estimate that only about 300 burros live in the 316,000-acre park on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, he said. Park rangers have killed 130 there since 2007, although not during the peak October-to-April tourist season.

"We are happy to work with the department and are pleased that they have halted lethal control of the burros while discussions are under way," Texas humane society director Nicole Paquette said.

The state, which says it doesn't have the money to capture or quarantine the burros, considers them destructive intruders, hogging forage and lapping

up precious water in the drought-starved mountains. Officials say they threaten the survival of hundreds of other native species, including bighorn sheep which the state wants to re-establish in the park.

In Big Bend National Park, adjacent to the state-owned land, killing wild burros is prohibited by a 40-year-old federal ban that Congress said protects the "living symbols and pioneer spirit of the West."

Protesters rode three donkeys to the Texas Capitol in January to deliver 103,000 signatures asking Gov. Rick Perry to change the state policy and halt the shooting of the wild animals.

The humane society needs an accurate count of the burro population before it can begin to consider alternatives to killing them, Paquette said. The group recently airlifted 119 burros from Hawaii to a ranch in California, and it has a 1,300-acre rescue ranch in northeast Texas that is home to about 1,200 animals of various species.

"We'd have to look at the population (at the rescue ranch) and see how much more the acreage could stand," she said, adding that 300 burros rescued years ago already live there.

Wildlife department officials explored live trapping and consulted U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarians and other experts on humane solutions. But efforts to trap the feral animals within the state park

were unsuccessful.

With no obvious option to control the population, Big Bend Ranch State Park rangers began shooting burros in 2007. A public uproar ensued when news leaked that 71 had been killed and the state halted the shootings in 2008, allowing Peaceful Valley Donkey Rescue to try to help. But the nonprofit group failed to catch any burros in two years and the shooting resumed. Fifty-nine burros were killed between August 2010 and September 2011.

Smith, the parks and wildlife's executive director, then asked people or groups outside the department to solicit practical alternatives.

Wildlife officials say protecting the park's land and water is their highest priority and controlling feral burros is part of that. If nonlethal methods prove unfeasible, they made need to resume killing the animals.

Louis Harveson, professor of wildlife management at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, compared the burros to feral hogs that cause millions of dollars in damage annually in Texas. He said he hoped the humane society would devise a plan to at least reduce the burro numbers, which would take some pressure off native plants and animals in the park.

"We know that every exotic species has a negative impact," Harveson said. "They didn't evolve within that system. They have an advantage in a system."

Strong winds cause chaos in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Pampa wasn't the only place that saw wind damage this week.

Severe thunderstorms caused sporadic damage in parts of Oklahoma and Arkansas late Monday, but no injuries were reported, authorities said.

Strong, straight-line winds blew a barn into a house near Muldrow and knocked down a power pole and trees in Roland in eastern Oklahoma, but no one was hurt, a Sequoyah County Sheriff's Office dispatcher said.

Across the border in northwestern Arkansas, strong winds knocked a tree onto Arkansas Highway 220 near Cedarville and a 60-mph wind gust was reported at Uniontown in Crawford County. Again, no injuries were reported, a sheriff's dispatcher said.

It was the second day of severe weather in Oklahoma, where several short-lived tornadoes touched down in the western part of the state Sunday.

Emergency management officials in both states had begun preparing for Monday's round of storms, which brought not only the possibility of tornadoes, but a flash-flooding threat as well.

Tommy Jackson, a spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, said he hadn't received any reports of significant flooding problems yet but expected that to change as the slow-moving system producing the severe weather tracked toward his state.

In Oklahoma, heavy rain inundated roads and prompted at least one high-water rescue request to Oklahoma City firefighters.

Firefighters responded to the call about 12:38 p.m. in northeast Oklahoma City but by the time crews arrived, the vehicle's occupants had gotten out safely, Battalion Chief Brian Stanaland said. Officials also believe lightning caused two fires — one at an oil tank battery and another at a residence. No injuries were reported, Stanaland said.

In northeast Oklahoma, straight-line winds from a thunderstorm snapped power poles in Tulsa County, knocking out power to about 700 for a time. About 60 Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co. customers were without power in Muldrow early Tuesday, officials reported.

Obama to stop at New Mexico oil fields

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — With gas prices steadily on the rise, President Barack Obama makes a stop Wednesday in New Mexico's oil fields to tout the fact that domestic oil and gas production is at an all-time high.

But he'll also step into solidly Republican territory dominated by an industry upset with his administration's environmental policies and what it says is inadequate funding to push production to the levels needed to bring fuel costs down.

"If this administration is serious about increasing domestic oil and gas production," said Steve Henke, president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, "there are two steps they can take immediately: one is to decide not to list the dunes sagebrush lizard (as an endangered species) and the second is to provide the funding the Bureau of Land Management office in Carlsbad needs to process drilling permits."

The listing of the lizard has been a hot-button issue for the industry, which is concerned it would mean curtailed development and job losses across the Permian Basin.

Henke said he was surprised to hear Obama would be visiting oil fields in New Mexico, "so I am cautiously optimistic that he is going to bring good news" on at least one of those fronts for the industry.

Although New Mexico is one of a handful of key states considered up for grabs in November's elections, southeastern New Mexico is one of the most conservative regions of the state and is home to the state's only Republican congressman, Rep. Steven Pearce.

Obama will travel to oil and gas production fields on federal lands outside of Maljamar, which is part of the Permian Basin, the nation's second-largest oil-producing region after Alaska.

In a press release, the White House said the president's stop will "highlight the Administration's commitment to expanding domestic oil and gas production, which has increased each year he has been in office, with domestic oil production currently at an eight year high and domestic natural gas production at an all-time high."

But Henke said production could be even higher. The BLM office in Carlsbad is unable to keep up with demand for the drilling permits needed to accelerate the development of federally owned oil and gas resources in the state, he said.

"We feel that if the administration wants to invest with a partner to create jobs and revenue, that they

should invest in the BLM and the Carlsbad field office," Henke said.

The Permian Basin makes up a large chunk of New Mexico's oil and gas industry and accounts for more than two-thirds of Texas' total oil production.

Nearly one-third of the basin's 8.1 million acres is made up of New Mexico trust land. State officials said there are more than 6,000 oil and gas leases in the area and more than 70 active drilling rigs.

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Mexico City shaken after 7.4-magnitude earthquake hits

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A strong 7.4-magnitude earthquake hit Mexico on Tuesday, shaking central and southern parts of the country, sending a pedestrian bridge crashing atop a transit bus and swaying high-rises in Mexico City. At least one building in the capital appeared on the verge of collapse.

More than 60 homes were damaged near the epicenter in Ometepe in southern Guerrero state, though there were no reports of death or serious injury. Fear and panic spread as a less powerful, magnitude-5.1 aftershock was also felt in the capital, where there were also no reports of deaths.

Other aftershocks were felt around the borders of Oaxaca and Guerrero states close to the epicenter.

"It was very strong, very substantial," Campos Benitez, hospital director in Ometepe.

Police radio operator Marcos Marroquin said there were preliminary reports of 60 houses damaged in the municipality but only a report of a broken arm.

In Mexico City, frightened workers and residents poured into the streets of the capital just minutes after noon local time (18:02 GMT). Telephone service was down in the city and throughout the area where the quake was felt, and some neighborhoods were without power, according to Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard, who set up a hotline for people to report damage.

About 40 passengers were stranded for a short time on the Mexico City airport air train, but later released. The airport closed for a time but officials said there was no runway damage and they resumed operations.

Samantha Rodriguez, a 37-year old environmental consultant, was evacuated from the 11th floor on the Angel Tower office building.

"I thought it was going to pass rapidly but the walls began to thunder and we decided to get out," she said.

The quake was felt strongly in southern Guerrero state, where the epicenter was located about 15 miles (25 kilometers) from the city of Ometepe. Neighboring

Oaxaca state also shook heavily.

Governors in both states and civil protection reported strong shakes and some building damage but no casualties.

In Huajuapán, Guerrero, near the epicenter, hotel owner Marco Antonio Estrada also reported shaken-up guests but no major damage. He said it was the longest and strongest earthquake he had ever felt and people ran out of their homes and cars.

"It was very strong, but we didn't see anything fall," said Irma Ortiz, who runs a guesthouse in Oaxaca. She said their telephones were down, and that the quake shook them side-to-side.

The U.S. Geological Survey set the preliminary magnitude of the first quake at 7.4 and said the epicenter was 11 miles underground. The survey set the aftershock at 5.1.

U.S. President Barack Obama's oldest daughter, Malia, was reported safe while on vacation with a school group in Oaxaca.

Groups of women hugged and cried at Mexico City's Angel of Independence monument, where hundreds of people evacuated from office buildings said they had never felt such a strong earthquake. Others typed ferociously on their Blackberries.

Mexico City's airport was closed for a short time but there was no damage to runways and operations were returning to normal.

In Oaxaca, Sylvia Valencia was teaching Spanish to five adult students at the Vinigulaza language school when the earthquake hit.

"Some of us sat down, others ran out," she said. "It was hard, it was strong and it was long."

After the shaking stopped, however, she said they found no damage in their own classrooms, nor outside in the historic center of the city, so they went back to class.

Celia Galicia, who works at the U.S. consular office in Oaxaca, had just flown in from Mexico City when the

temblor hit.

She said there was panic in the airport, and a dash for the doors. But she said that she saw no damage at the airport and no one was hurt. She says one building in downtown Oaxaca appears to be damaged and has been evacuated.

She added that they felt two strong aftershocks, and that in downtown Oaxaca most people were out on the street.

"It started shaking badly," she said.

Drugs

cont. from page 1A

Rustin Lee Horton, 22, was in possession of methamphetamine.

Horton was charged with possession of a controlled substance, in an amount greater than four grams but less than 200 grams, and transported to the Gray County Jail. Horton's bond was set at \$25,000.

NRCS

cont. from page 1A

healthy grazing lands and are also beneficial for the lesser prairie chicken. These practices include prescribed grazing, upland wildlife habitat management, brush management, prescribed burning and range planting.

"In 2011, this was a very successful initiative for improving the lesser prairie chicken habitat in Texas," Salinas said. "Producers entered into 127 contracts and enrolled 114,131 acres for which over \$2.9 million were obligated in the targeted counties."

Another option for landowners to improve and protect the habitat would be enrollment in the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP). Under the GRP, a landowner may enter into a rental agreement for a period of 10, 15 or 20 years. The agreement requires implementation of a grazing plan developed by NRCS, and the participant agrees to maintain the land in grass cover in exchange for a per-acre payment. Under GRP, the land may still be used for grazing or haying purposes.

Landowners may also apply for a conservation easement to protect the land in perpetuity. GRP 20-year

rental contracts and easement applications place priority on CRP land that are within 12 months of expiring. GRP also offers cost-share assistance for practices needed to restore the grazing values.

Landowners with expiring or expired CRP land may also be interested in applying for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP is a voluntary five-year program that offers payments to producers who sustain a high level of conservation on their land. Under CSP, landowners have a variety of land management activities to consider.

NRCS also reminds landowners that if land is converted back to crop production, it may be necessary for them to apply certain conservation practice alternatives on their land to ensure compliance with the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985. Conservation compliance could involve the implementation of a crop rotation that includes high residue-producing crops like wheat or sorghum, or the installation, repair and maintenance of structural practices like terraces.

Charter

cont. from page 1A

Unfortunately, a side effect of the MOVE Act's implementation is the compression of the state's election cycle to a point that election offices around the state had an unmanageably short 10-day window to get their equipment and staff ready in between elections.

To prevent those problems, the city examined its options regarding changing its own election schedule to work around SB 100. In November of last year, Water presented a slate of options to the City Commission and outlined the advantages and disadvantages of each one.

"The first choice, leaving things as is, would cost some money and we would need extra staff," Waters said. "The second choice presented was we could move the elections to November. That would not have involved extra costs, but would have caused our nonpartisan city election to be added to the partisan November election, where the city candidates would, in all likelihood, have been lost at the bottom of the ballot. (The city election) would also have to compete for attention with all the other elections going on, and worse, there would have to have been maybe 20 or more different ballots, which would have led to voter confusion and polling place mistakes."

"Another choice, the third choice, was for the city to just conduct its own elections, but that would have cost about \$24,000 for extra equipment and for the additional staffing for that. Fourth, we could untagger the terms of office."

"Unstaggering," Waters said, meant having all five elections (for the mayor and four city commis-

sioners) at once. The city currently operates under a staggered system: Two commissioners and the mayor in one election, the other two commissioners in the next election.

"This would avoid all the timing and equipment and staffing issues," Waters said. "It would be convenient for the voters, but it would mean that all the commissioners and the mayor would be elected at the same time every other May."

The drawback to this option, Waters said, exists in the chance of a complete turnover of officials after city election.

"There would be problems of continuity, experience and other related issues," Waters said.

After mulling over the choices, the City Commission opted for the last scenario Waters presented: Extending the terms an additional two years.

"The disadvantages considered on that included possible criticism of the Commission for increasing their own terms of office, but all those issues are left to the voters to decide whether they want to take this choice or not," Waters said. "There are a lot of issues that we have considered and, basically, (the City Commission) felt that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. The advantages included the fact that all the timing and extra staffing issues would be avoided. Second, the additional cost would be less... It would be a onetime expense of around \$4,000. Third, there would actually be a cost savings because elections ordinarily would take place every other year instead of every year like we're doing now."

The amendment will be voted

on in the May 12 city election. If passed, the amendment would enter the city charter and the first four-year for the mayor and Wards 1 and 3 commissioners would begin May 2013 and end May 2017. The newly elected city commissioners for Wards 2 and 4 in this year's election would then serve three year terms that expire in May 2015, and thereafter would be on the four-year election cycle as well.

If the amendment is rejected by public vote, Waters said that the city would then be required to choose one of the other options that does not require a change to the charter. Those choices would be to either leave the elections as they are and incur the additional expense and timing issues; purchase new equipment and have the city to conduct its own elections; and to move the elections to November. That choice would have to be made by Dec. 31.

Waters added that if the amendment were to pass, there would be another pair of changes to the city's current regulations as required by the Texas constitution regarding officials who hold four-year terms.

"There is a requirement that any vacancy on the government body be filled by special election rather than by appointment as we currently do," Waters said. "There's another constitutional provision that if an officeholder announces candidacy or becomes a candidate for state or national office, it's an automatic resignation of the office then held."

Also on the May 12 ballot are the races for city commissioners of Wards 2 and 4 and the bond issue to finance the city's proposed new animal shelter.

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Sports

Lady Harvesters begin title defense against Borger

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After finishing non-district with momentum, the Pampa Lady Harvesters hope to start district strong when they host the Borger Lady Bulldogs 4:30 p.m. Friday and visit the Perryton Rangerettes at noon on Saturday.



Gill

"We are in a good place," head coach Bobbi Gill said. "Every team has a couple innings here and there were they have some issues. We got those ironed out."

The Lady Harvesters (11-7) have won four of their last five games. Pampa finished 9-0 last season in District 1-3A, winning four of them by 10 or more.



O'Brien

Sophomore Alexa O'Brien said district won't be as challenging as non-district.

"The teams we play in district aren't as talented (as Vernon)," O'Brien said. "We just have to work on some things."

Pampa beat Borger by 14 in their first

game last season. The Lady Bulldogs improved, only losing the next two games by seven and three.

Senior McKinlee Stokes said she thinks the team will do well in district play.



Stokes

"Since we came out on top in that last game, we are going to be confident going into district."

In last season's meetings with Perryton, Pampa won the first game 14-3, but the Rangerettes also played closer, losing by six and seven runs. Perryton finished at the bottom of the district last year.

Lady Harvesters' district schedule

Fri.	vs. Borger	4:30 p.m.
Sat.	at Perryton	12 p.m.
Mar. 31	Dalhart	12 p.m.
Apr. 3	at Borger	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 7	Perryton	12 p.m.
Apr. 10	at Dalhart	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 14	Borger	12 p.m.
Apr. 17	at Perryton	4:30 p.m.
Apr. 21	Dalhart	12 p.m.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Sophomore Alexa O'Brien catches a pop fly Friday. O'Brien said district won't be as challenging as non-district.

Rangers, Holland strike \$28.5 million, 5 years deal

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Derek Holland wanted to ensure his long-term future with the Texas Rangers, so he agreed to a \$28.5 million, five-year contract rather than wait to become a free agent.

The deal, announced Tuesday, calls for salaries of \$1 million this year, \$3.2 million next year, \$5.4 million in 2014, \$7.4 million in 2015 and \$10 million in 2016.

Texas holds an \$11 million option for 2017 with a \$1.5 million buyout. If the first option is exercised, the Rangers have an \$11.5 million option for 2018 with a \$1 million buyout. There are additional escalators.

He would have been eligible for free agency after the 2015 season.

"I know I gave up that stuff, the three years, but to me it's all about being in Texas and wearing that Texas uniform and going back and getting some championships," the 25-year-old left-hander said. "I'm very excited to be a part of this. We've got an unbelievable team. We've got upcoming stars coming up

through the organization, and I want to be part of that, as well. I want to show them what it takes to be up here. That's my main objective is to carry out what I've been doing, continue to work hard."

Holland, originally from Ohio, intends to purchase a home in Texas.

"The most important thing for me is getting a house in Dallas, being a resident in Texas," he said.

Holland was 16-5 last season, the most wins for Texas among players under 25. He pitched two-hit ball over 8 1-3 shutout innings against St. Louis in Game 4 of the World Series and is 3-0 with a 3.82 ERA in 12 postseason appearances during the past two years.

"We said at the beginning of the off-season that it was one of our goals to extend some of our core members and keep this group intact as long as possible," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "I think we all saw Derek really start to reach his potential last year especially in the second half."

Texas added Japanese right-hander

Yu Darvish during the offseason for a \$56 million, six-year deal.

"They're going to be big parts of our rotation, no doubt about that," Daniels said. "It's certainly about the individual, but it's about our commitment to signing and developing the best pitching we can. It's an organizational mindset. We've tried to turn that corner a little bit and this is further evidence of that."

Holland made only 10 starts and four relief appearances in 2010 after rotator cuff inflammation. He went 8-13 with a 6.12 ERA in 2009.

"Baseball is full of adversity," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "There wasn't a time that Derek dealt with adversity that he didn't fight

back. That's what I like about him. He's maturing."

Rangers president Nolan Ryan said most young players go through struggles. "With Derek, he would bounce back from them and be better each time he went through a period like that," Ryan said.

Holland said there were "quite a few times" Washington chewed him out on the mound.

"When Wash comes out there, I don't take it to heart," Holland said. "He's always out there to make you better. That's just the way it is. If he sees something, he's going to tell you. That's what makes him so good. He's not afraid to speak his mind and let you know."

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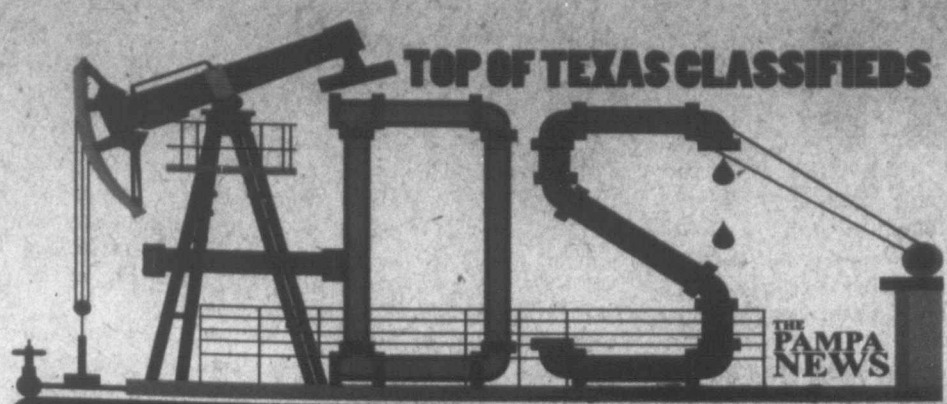
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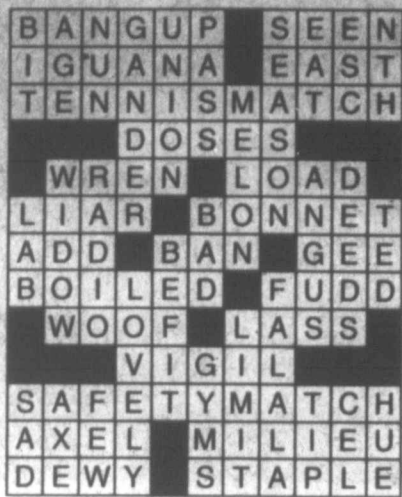
\$19

The Best Staff Sells

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

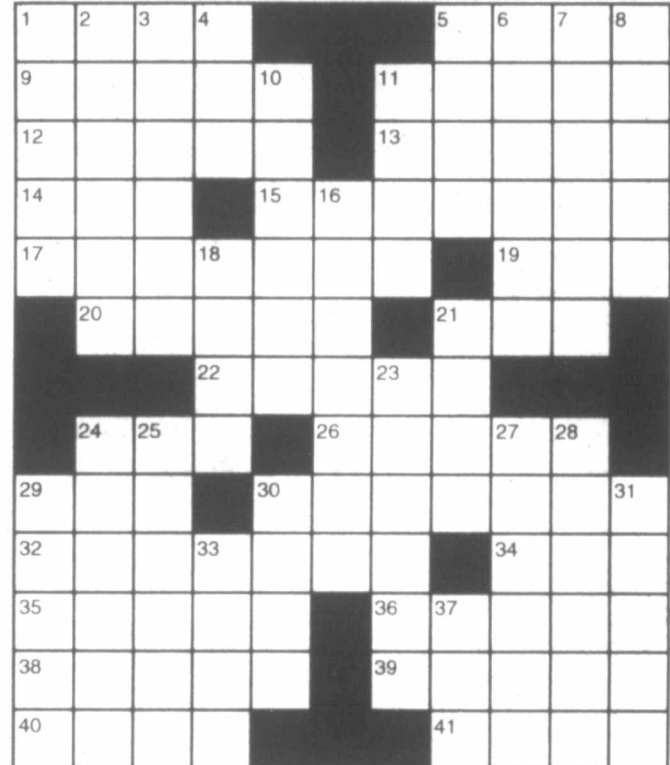
- ACROSS**
- 39 Go — (decay)
 - 1 First person
 - 5 Valley
 - 9 Paraphrase
 - 11 Flatten
 - 12 Cow of commercials
 - 13 "The Vampire Diaries" heroine
 - 14 Maiden name label
 - 15 Originally
 - 17 As soon as seen
 - 19 Golf support
 - 20 Lauder of cosmetics
 - 21 Cart puller
 - 22 Blunder
 - 24 Sandwich choice
 - 26 "— Pretty"
 - 29 Buddy
 - 30 Culpable
 - 32 Now and then
 - 34 "Norma —"
 - 35 Augusta's state
 - 36 Short jackets
 - 38 "Reversal of Fortune" star
- DOWN**
- 1 Fight site
 - 2 Strike out
 - 3 Rate
 - 4 Month after avril
 - 5 Sandwich shop
 - 6 Wards off
 - 7 Eye parts
 - 8 Gladden
 - 10 Test pilot
 - 11 Departed
 - 16 2011
 - 17 Anthony Hopkins movie
 - 18 Gossip bit
 - 21 Bailiwick
 - 23 Printing method
 - 24 1962 John Wayne film
 - 25 Director's cry
 - 27 Atlas section
 - 28 Bolivian plains
 - 29 Dwight's wife
 - 30 Iowa city
 - 31 Lab work
 - 33 Travel stops
 - 37 Male turkey



Yesterday's answer

- 16 2011
- 17 Anthony Hopkins movie
- 18 Gossip bit
- 21 Bailiwick
- 23 Printing method
- 24 1962 John Wayne film
- 25 Director's cry
- 27 Atlas section
- 28 Bolivian plains
- 29 Dwight's wife
- 30 Iowa city
- 31 Lab work
- 33 Travel stops
- 37 Male turkey

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3-21

Dear Abby...

By **Pauline & Jeanne Phillips**



DEAR ABBY: At a recent dinner party the men and women got into a heated debate about porn. The men said men love porn because it shows women enjoying sex with abandon. We women protested that women who behave this way in real life are labeled "sluts" by both men and women. Do men not realize this makes no sense? If you can't answer this, maybe your male readers can. — **NO FAN OF PORN**

DEAR NO FAN: Not being an expert on the subject of pornography or why men enjoy it, I posed your question to a recognized expert — **Larry Flynt. His answer is different than the one given by the men at the dinner party. He said that men love porn because men are aroused by the visual. Then he added that women are more turned on by the written word, which is why torrid romance novels are so popular.**

P.S. Women who enjoy sex with abandon are not necessarily "sluts." Many of them have high morals, are very happily married, and find it stimulating to watch porn with their husbands.

DEAR ABBY: I'm getting married this summer. I want to send an invitation to my brother, but I don't want his live-in girlfriend to come. We used to be friends until I realized she was lying to me and using me. Now she's with my brother, who is 23 years older than she is, which caused a rift in my relationship with him. We barely talk anymore.

I know I should be more understanding because it's my brother's life. He enjoys her company. But I find her hospitality fake — just like the smile she puts on. She's not welcome at my wedding.

I want my brother there, but I'll feel terrible if he feels alone. What's the best way to handle this? Should I tell him verbally that only

he is invited and not send an invitation? — **WANTS A HAPPY WEDDING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR WANTS A HAPPY WEDDING: Telling your brother with whom you are no longer close that his live-in girlfriend isn't welcome at your wedding is sure to go over like a lead balloon. If you want him to be there, accept that his girlfriend is part of the package deal. You can bank on the fact that he would feel alone without her, so plan on seating them some distance from your table at the reception. It will make her presence less painful for you.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Justin," and I are in our early 20s. We were high school sweethearts and we have a little girl together. Everything was going well until Justin went to a car lot to look for a car for his moth-

er. He came home that day with a new one. My problem is he used the money he told me he was saving for my engagement ring as the down payment.

I am very hurt. I tried to seem happy and excited for him, but he knew I was upset and says I'm being "ridiculous." At this rate, with the new car and the insurance for it almost doubled, I don't see how he'll have anything put away for a ring in the near future.

I have told Justin I don't care about the size or the price of the ring, it's the thought behind it that counts. Justin still says he wants to get me an expensive one.

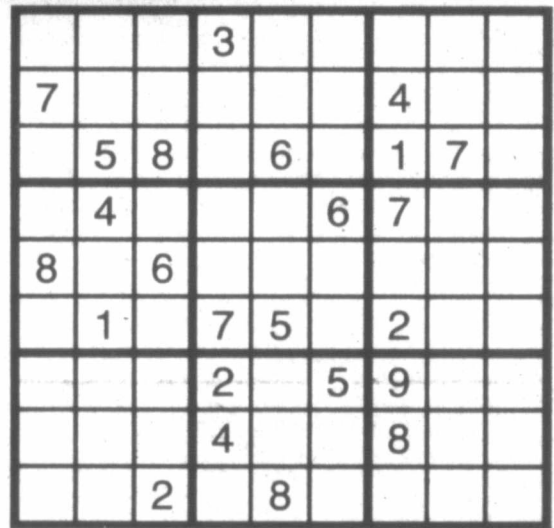
I'm beginning to think he's making excuses so he won't have to propose to me anytime soon. What do you think? — **ENGAGED-IN-WAITING IN OHIO**

DEAR ENGAGED-IN-WAITING: I think you nailed it!

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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



Level: Intermediate

BANANAGRAMS!

Add an **L** to each of the words below and then rearrange the letters in each word to form a new seven-letter word.

LEVEL

PALATE



SECURE



CANTER



RATIFY



Yesterday's Answer: HENNA/HALVE; WEAVE/DRAWL; TRACT/BLIMP

3-21

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

3-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

FDQCQNPD MBRMCDF PX CQE

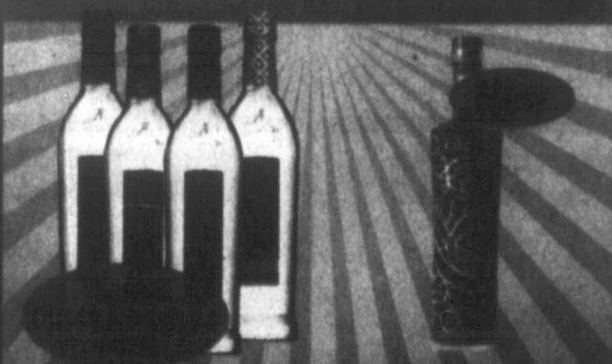
EJF XMNF EJPCI MX JTNMC

KOQIOFXX. — UQJC DYMJKMN

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I DON'T AGREE WITH MATHEMATICS; THE SUM TOTAL OF ZEROS IS A FRIGHTENING FIGURE. — STANISLAW J. LEC

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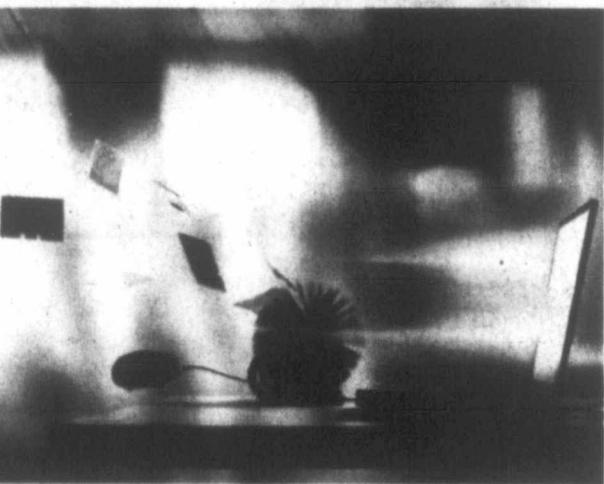
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