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The PAMPA NEWS



Wednesday, March 28, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 302

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 INSIDE SECTION C PART ONE

Eyes on the ball in district
 Softball needs to stay strong against lesser talent | p12

Optimists: Baseball, softball leagues not in danger

Contrary to rumors, Optimists report healthy numbers for stick-and-ball leagues

ANDREW GLOVER
 aglover@thepampanews.com

Despite rumors of low numbers that pushed the Optimist baseball and softball programs to the brink of nonexistence,

numbers are up for both leagues for the club, according to Optimist Club officials.

"The girls league made (enough numbers to have a league)," said Jeanna Zuniga, who was in charge of softball

sign-ups for the Optimist Club. "We are probably going to have a meeting the first part of next week."

The league held sign-ups from last Tuesday to Thursday. Sign-up numbers were reported in the league's meeting Monday night.

"It seemed busy every night that we are at sign-ups," Zuniga said. "We are going to have four teams in the 7- to 9-(year-old division) and at least three teams in the 10- to 13-(year-old division)."

During their March 19 meeting, the league voted to expand the leagues' age range to 4 to 15 years old (4- to 6-year-olds will be mixed tee-ball). Previously, a child had to be 5 years old before he or she could participate.

Zuniga said she doesn't know for sure what has caused the increase in numbers. "Maybe word of mouth or interest," Zuniga said. "You have some new ones coming in that haven't played before. Of course, you have your returners."

Zuniga said everyone should start around April 16. The Babe Ruth League — which is independent of Optimist league play — won't start until the high school baseball and softball teams are finished with their season, Zuniga.

Regarding the rumors of the club's **OPTIMIST** cont. on page 11A

A LITTLE SPRING COLOR



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Taking advantage of the warm weather, Sacora Bellknop of A&T Yard Service and Greenhouse lays out a fresh spring spread of flowers on Tuesday afternoon.

Pampa man, 39, killed in truck wreck

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

A Pampa man passed away Monday after an accident in Wheeler County that involved one vehicle.



Stark

Around 7:40 a.m., Eli Samuel Stark, 39, was driving north on Farm to Market Road 48 about five miles north of Mobeetie in a 2000 Chevrolet pickup when the truck drifted off of the pavement, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Stark overcorrected and lost control of the vehicle. The pickup overturned, and he was ejected from the driver's seat.

Stark was pronounced dead at the scene by a justice of the peace at around 9 a.m. The DPS reported that he was not wearing a seat belt at the time.

Stark, a welder, left behind a wife, daughter, and two sons. His full obituary is on page 2 of today's issue.

Pampa given clean financial audit for fiscal year

Report given by CPA at Tuesday commission meeting

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The city received a clean, or unqualified, audit of its financials at a presentation during its commissioners meeting yesterday afternoon at City Hall.

For the previous fiscal year, which ended September 30, 2011, the city had net assets of \$24,866,719, and \$4,959,922 of that amount made up Pampa's unrestricted net assets. The city had total liabilities of \$27,762,698 and total revenue of \$12,921,649.

"You'll see property taxes, sales taxes and charges for services represent the lion's share of your revenue

for the year," said Danny Woods, a CPA with Brown, Graham and Company, who provided the financial report.

He added that the city stayed within budget during the year, and provided a few recommendations regarding the H2O Aquatic Center, which began its first year of operation during the previous fiscal year.

"When we were going through, we recognized that the aquatic center was a new operation for the city this year, so there were some growing pains to be expected," said Woods. "We identified some items that were potentially deficiencies that could be addressed through some amended procedures, and so we sat down with Robin (Bailey, Finance Director) and Shane (Stokes, assistant city manager), and they were able to propose some updates to procedures that were implemented during last year. What we're going to do is recommend that those updated procedures be put into place, as well as to make sure that some of the items we know, as far as this year's

audit, don't occur again."

Woods also mentioned putting into place a ticket system at the park.

"It's basically just a recommendation that the attendants to the park and admission be monitored through a ticketing or some kind of control system, so you can be sure that everyone that's gaining entrance has indeed purchased a ticket," he said.

The city commission opted to increase cart and green fees at the city-run Hidden Hills Golf Course, effective April 1.

"This is just an effort to stay current on our fees at the golf course, and we looked at this last a couple years ago, and said that we would try to look at it every couple years," said Stokes. "Really, what we're looking at changing is the cart fees for 18 holes for two riders from \$24 to \$26, single carts for 18 (holes) (from) \$12.50 to \$14, two riders for nine (holes from) \$12 to \$13, and one

CITY cont. on page 11A

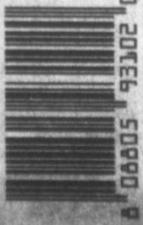
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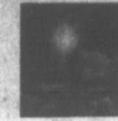
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PAMPA FORECAST

| Today | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| High 83 Low 55 | High 83 Low 51 | High 76 Low 53 |

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. Breezy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northwest.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

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Report: Schools lack financial accountability

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas public schools rely on such opaque accounting practices that no average citizen can determine how they are spending the billions in state funds they get every year, making it impossible to design a fair and efficient education system, according to a new, privately funded report.

Titled "No Financial Accountability" and released Tuesday night, the report concludes that school districts dutifully follow state rules and provide copious amounts of data in their annual financial statements. But it also shows that they lump large expenditures into nebulous categories like "instruction" — which can mean everything from how much teachers are paid to the cost of insuring students in driver's education.

"We've spoken to the wealthy districts, the poor districts and they're all acting like, 'Why are you surprised at this? ... These are the rules that we have to follow,'" said Mark Hurley, one of three co-authors who spent their spare time over two years compiling the report.

All are private equity investors who say they do not have financial links to public education. They paid for the report on their own and have

gotten no outside support.

Speaking to journalists before the report's release, Hurley said the authors tried to collect financial information from about 100 school districts statewide, and had about half comply. Some of the data was easily available on district Websites, while other districts never produced any information — claiming doing so would take months and cost up to \$10,000.

Hurley wouldn't say which districts provided data. But scrutinizing one's annual report, the authors determined that just 22 percent of "instruction" funds were actually going to pay teachers for teaching. Other respondents listed things like hotel expenses and staff Christmas gifts as instructional costs.

The report says state rules mandate that 29 categories of expenses are grouped under "instruction" in school districts' financial reports. And, the category encompasses an average of 56 percent of all district expenditures, according to the state Comptroller's office.

Last summer, the state Legislature rewrote the school funding formula to cut \$4 billion over the next two years — even though average pub-

lic school enrollment statewide is increasing by 80,000 students annually. Lawmakers also cut another \$1.4 billion to grant programs. Per-student funding fell more than \$500, the first such decline since World War II.

Four lawsuits have been filed on behalf of more than 500 school districts representing over 3 million Texas students. They charge that the Legislature's plan is not equitable in how it distributes funding to districts.

The report concludes that neither state lawmakers nor judges can really evaluate whether the system is fair without knowing how school districts spend their money. It recommends that Texas change the way districts report data to make it easier for the general public to understand. Hurley said those changes could be implemented around the state as pilot programs, even as the lawsuits run their course.

"It's like baseball," he said. "The umpire calls strikes and balls but the lights are out."

Jenny LaCoste-Caputo, spokeswoman for the Texas Association of School Administrators, said that

SCHOOLS cont. on page 11A

Obituaries

Eli Samuel Stark, 39

Eli Samuel Stark, 39, died March 26, 2012, in Wheeler County.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 29, 2012, at Briarwood Church, with Rev. Charles Lowry, pastor of CrossPointe Church, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Stark was born February 26, 1973, in Amarillo to Lewis and Alice Stark. He was reared in Pampa and attended Pampa schools until his 9th grade year. He was a 1992 graduate of Dangerfield High School in Dangerfield. In September of 1992, Eli enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving a short time before he was dismissed due to health reasons. He returned to Pampa in 1992. He graduated from Frank Phillips Welding School and Clarendon College HVAC. One of his business dreams came true when he opened MIX3D-UP indoor putt-putt golf in 2005. He worked for OWPSI out of Mobeetie for 4 years as a welder.

He married Brienna Dale Taylor on December 9, 2006. He lovingly stepped in as a husband to Brienna and a fa-



Stark

ther for her son, Braeden King. Brienna and Eli had one son, Jensen Trey Stark on September 20, 2007.

Eli and his family attended Paint the Town Red and CrossPointe Church. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, spending time with his family, and church activities. He was actively involved in the church by being a connection group leader, sound man, and maintenance supervisor. He loved the Lord and his family. He was fondly known as "Peepaw" by the nieces and nephews of the family, who all loved him dearly.

Survivors include his wife, Brienna Stark of the home; a daughter, Ashley Blain of Fond Du Lac, Wis.; two sons, Trey Stark and Braeden King, both of the home; his mother, Alice Stark of Pampa; a brother, Zack Stark and wife Allie of Pampa; Brienna's parents, A.W. (Dale) and Joann Taylor of Pampa; four brothers-in-law, A.J. Taylor and wife Crystal of Pampa, Bryce Taylor and wife Ashley of Skellytown, Chris Taylor and wife Melissa of Burton, and Brandon Taylor of Giddings; a sister-in-law, Amber Martin and husband Chris of Giddings; four nieces and three nephews; numerous cousins, aunts and uncles, including his uncle, Robert Jacobs and wife Jane of Pampa; a great-uncle, Jesse Smart of Pampa. He was preceded in death by his father, Lewis Stark in 1992.

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

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

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Tuesday, March 27 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 15 traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents

and the Pampa PD reported 13 animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS responded to four medical calls.

Monday, March 26
Criminal mischief occurred at the 900 block of South Banks.

An accident occurred at the 800 block of North Nel-

son.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1900 block of North Grape.

A gas drive off occurred at the 1900 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 400 block of West Atchison.

Phone harassment was reported.

A suspicious person was reported at the 2100 block of West Browning.

An accident occurred at the 1700 block of North Hobart.

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

A theft occurred at the 100 block of East Harvester.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1300 block of North Mary Ellen.

A threat occurred at the 800 block of East Scott.

A theft occurred at the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 800 block of East Scott.

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

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Cuyler and Brown.

Fraud was reported.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 500 block of North Magnolia.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 800 block of East Kingsmill.

1400 block of West Somerville.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 300 block of North Hazel.

Tuesday, March 27
A theft occurred at the 300 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 2600 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported at the 800 block of South Price.

A burglary occurred at the 600 block of South Reid.

A prowler was reported at the 1100 block of Prairie.

Accidents occurred at the intersection of 23rd and Hobart and Highway 273 in McLean.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Tuesday, March 27 at 7 a.m.

Monday, March 26
Karl Wayne Crow, 51, was arrested by police on warrants for defective tail lamps and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Holly Elizabeth Wintborne, 25, was arrested by deputies for failure to maintain financial responsibility and on warrants of failure to appear in court and displaying expired registration.

Timothy Joe Broadbent, 31, was arrested by police on a warrant for failure to appear in court.

Kelle Sue Cuthbert, 46, was arrested by police for disorderly conduct.

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MORNINGRUSH

Conviction in 1986 murder

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A San Antonio flooring contractor has received a 45-year prison sentence after pleading no contest to murder in the 1986 slaying of a real estate agent at her newly bought house.

Daniel Flores Garcia had helped to renovate the property bought by Marilyn McDonald. On Monday, he entered his plea under an agreement with prosecutors one year after his release from a state jail where he was serving a sentence for a drug conviction.

According to the San Antonio Express-News, prosecutors say DNA taken from Garcia during his incarceration matched a blood smear taken from McDonald's body.

Dallas man's execution set

HUNTSVILLE (AP) - Jesse Joe Hernandez already was a convicted child sex offender when he was arrested for the horrendous beating death of a 10-month-old boy he was babysitting at a Dallas home.

Little Karlos Borjas had a skull fracture amid bruises to his head, thigh and abdomen when he was taken off life support after a week in a Dallas hospital. His 4-year-old sister also was attacked but survived injuries to her head, ear and right eye.

The 47-year-old Hernandez is set for execution Wednesday evening in Huntsville for the baby's death 11 years ago.

His lawyers are appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the punishment.

The lethal injection would be the fourth this year in Texas.

Reps want surplus equipment

(AP) - Two Texas lawmakers are pushing the Pentagon to hand off surplus combat equipment from Iraq to local law enforcement agencies along the U.S.-Mexico border. The equipment includes Humvees, weapons and night vision goggles.

The Houston Chronicle reports Texas Reps. Ted Poe and Henry Cuellar (have been joined by 17 border sheriffs from Texas, New Mexico and Arizona in a letter to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta requesting that he move up delivery of surplus equipment.

The lawmakers said more than 1.5 million pieces of equipment have already been shipped out of Iraq over the last year and nearly 900,000 remain.

Poe also has a bill pending in Congress that would require the Department of Defense to make 10 percent of certain equipment returning from Iraq available to law enforcement agencies patrolling the southern border.

Nazi art theft material found

DALLAS (AP) - The U.S. National Archives is set to unveil newly discovered material related to art works stolen by the Nazis during World War II.

U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero says the National Archives will announce "a significant discovery which will allow for a more complete view of Hitler's premeditated theft of art and other cultural treasures," on Tuesday morning.

The material, which has been held privately, is being donated to the National Archives by the Dallas-based Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art.

Robert M. Edsel launched the foundation that honors and continues the work of the men and women who helped Allied forces protect cultural treasures during World War II. Edsel will also attend the Tuesday news conference.

Town requires bad dog insurance

ELEPHANT BUTTE, N.M. (AP) - Own a dog like a pit bull and live in Elephant Butte and you must carry special liability insurance.

As of March 1, those dogs are considered potentially dangerous by the city of Elephant Butte. Anyone with that breed and others now has 90 days to insure their dogs for \$100,000 worth of personal property liability.

City Manager Alan Briley tells KOAT-TV it's the city's response to the fatal pit bull mauling in neighboring Truth or Consequences last year.

Briley says pit bulls, rottweilers and German shepherds are the top three breeds more likely to attack people according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Briley says it shouldn't be difficult to find companies willing to cover dogs like pit bulls.

However, Chastity Cervantes of Elephant Butte has three pit bulls and insurance carriers are telling her no.

Committee to study elderly care

AUSTIN (AP) - The Texas House Committee on Human Services is scheduled to hear about how the state can improve care for the elderly and keep them in their communities.

House Speaker Joe Straus has ordered the committee to explore strategies for long-term care that keep people out of nursing homes. What the committee learns this year will likely be used to make new laws when the Legislature meets again in 2013.

The committee will hear testimony on Tuesday about what other states are doing and whether the state can leverage volunteer-supported efforts to keep senior citizens active and involved in their communities.

Advocates say too often nursing homes are used like warehouses for the elderly and they don't receive the care they need to remain happy and healthy.

Gulf boater rescued, friend dies

CONROE (AP) - A Houston-area man has survived more than 30 hours in the water but his best friend died after their boat sank in the Gulf of Mexico.

Ken Henderson on Monday described to the Conroe Courier how he swam for miles, reached an oil rig and was rescued Saturday.

The retired Montgomery County Sheriff's deputy says he and Ed Coen were fishing Thursday in the Matagorda Bay area when their 30-foot boat sank.

The Conroe men tied their life jackets together. Henderson says both were suffering from hypothermia and dehydration when on Friday afternoon he untied the connecting strap and began to swim.

Henderson early Saturday made it to a natural gas rig, managed to reach the galley and phoned for help.

His friend's body was found by a fisherman.

Metal beer tip trays popular collectibles

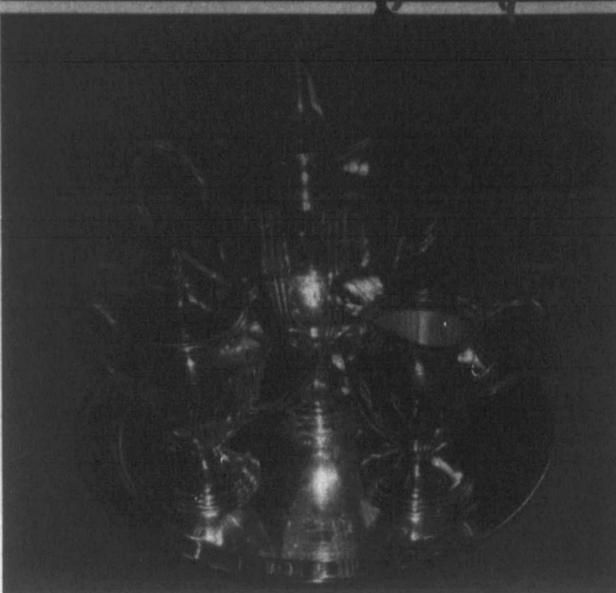
Q: This is a photo of a metal tray that I bought at a garage sale. Marked along the top edge are the words "Christian Feigenspan Brewing Co. Newark, N.J." At the bottom of the edge are the words "A. Asti -- Amer. Can Co -- 71-A -- PON." The tray is round and measures 13 inches in diameter, just less than 2 inches deep. It is decorated with a portrait of a Victorian young woman. It is in excellent condition. What can you tell me about this tray?

A: You have a beer tip tray that was made by American Can Co. for Christian Feigenspan Brewing Co. The brewery was founded in Newark, N. J., in 1875 and closed in 1943. They started out as Christian Feigenspan and Co., and the name was changed to Christian Feigenspan Brewing Co. in 1933. Angelo Asti is the name of the artist who created the original painting of the young woman. "PON" stands for the "Pride of Newark." Based on the 1933 name change, your tray was made sometime between 1933 and 1943. Your beer tray would probably be worth \$65 to \$125.

Q: Enclosed is the mark I found on the back of a set of porcelain dinnerware that I have. The set includes a service for eight, and there are seven pieces in each place setting. They are decorated with floral urns against a cream background and tan bands at the edges. The set is in mint condition. Could you please tell me the history of my dishes as well as the vintage and value?

A: Your dinnerware was made in Czechoslovakia. Epiag stands for the association of porcelain factories known as "Erste Bohemische Porzellan Industrien AG." "Moresque" is the name of the pattern

Antique OR JUNKIE?



Circa 1925 dinnerware was made in Czechoslovakia.

and was inspired by Moorish design. Your set was made around 1925. Five-piece place settings can be found selling for \$70 to

\$75 each.

Q: I found a Jackie Kennedy paper-doll set stored away in my basement that I had as a child. It is probably over 30 years old, still in the original, unopened package and in perfect condition. On the front are the words "Jackie -- She's Magnetic" and the paper doll is 11 inches tall. There are a variety of outfits and accessories. Does this set have any value?

A: Paper dolls are collectible, and your set would probably fetch \$15 to \$20 in an antiques shop.

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.



Christian Feigenspan Brewing Co. operated from 1875 to 1943

Men with Army ties held in drugs, murder plot

EL PASO (AP) - Two men with Army ties - including an active-duty sergeant - sought to work with a Mexican drug cartel in a murder-for-hire scheme in which they would kill rival gang members and recover stolen cocaine for \$50,000 and drugs, according to a federal criminal complaint.

Sgt. Samuel Walker, 28, and former Lt. Kevin Corley, 29, believed they were meeting with members of the Zetas drug cartel last weekend in Texas, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Instead, they were dealing with undercover federal agents who arrested the men along with another man, Shavar Davis, on Saturday in Laredo. A third suspect, Corley's cousin Jerome Corley, was fatally shot during the arrests.

Kevin Corley also is accused of selling military-grade weapons to the agents and offering to train cartel members.

Walker is stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado, and Kevin Corley was stationed at the post before he was discharged from the Army two weeks ago.

Investigators said the three men, along with Shavar Davis, were meeting Saturday with undercover agents posing as members of the Zetas to discuss details of the murder-for-hire scheme. After agreeing on payment, federal agents moved in. Kevin Corley, Walker and Davis were arrested, while Jerome Corley was shot several times. He died at a local hospital.

No attorneys were listed for the three men in court documents Monday, and it wasn't clear where they were being held. The men weren't at the jail in Laredo as of Monday. The men are facing drug, weapons and conspiracy charges.

Four other suspects also were arrested in connection to the case in Texas and South Carolina.

Kevin Corley's mother

declined comment, and other relatives did not return phone messages Monday. His girlfriend declined comment except to say she hadn't spoken to Corley, who played football for two seasons at South Carolina State

University, since his arrest.

His uncle, Robert Corley Jr., called his nephew "as

PLOT cont. on page 10A

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Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 7:30

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG)
Fri 7:00 9:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

The Hunger Games (PG-13)
Fri 7:00 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

Disney's John Carter (PG-13)
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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, March 28, the 88th day of 2012. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 28, 1942, during World War II, British naval forces staged a successful raid on the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire in Operation Chariot, destroying the only dry dock on the Atlantic coast capable of repairing the German battleship Tirpitz.

On this date:

In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Andrew Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

In 1898, the Supreme Court, in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a U.S. citizen.

In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

In 1935, the notorious Nazi propaganda film "Triumph des Willens" (Triumph of the Will), directed by Leni Riefenstahl, premiered in Berlin with Adolf Hitler present.

In 1939, the Spanish Civil War effectively ended as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf, 59, drowned herself near her home in Lewes, East Sussex, England.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington, D.C., at age 78.

In 1978, in Stump v. Sparkman, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld, 5-3, the judicial immunity of an Indiana judge against a lawsuit brought by a young woman who'd been ordered sterilized by the judge when she was a teenager.

In 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pa.

In 1987, Maria von Trapp, whose life story inspired the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music," died in Morrisville, Vt., at age 82.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush presented the Congressional Gold Medal to the widow of U.S. Olympic legend Jesse Owens, who was honored for his "humanitarian contributions in the race of life."

Ten years ago: The Arab League, meeting in Beirut, Lebanon, agreed on a peace plan that offered Israel normal relations in exchange for a full withdrawal from war-won lands and a Palestinian state. Archbishop Juliusz Paetz of Poznan, Poland, announced his resignation, but also protested his innocence, following accusations he'd made sexual advances toward young clerics. U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy Woodland was convicted in a Japanese court and sentenced to nearly three years in prison for raping a woman on the southern island of Okinawa.

Five years ago: Iran aired a video of 15 captured British sailors and marines; the lone female captive, shown in a white tunic and a black head scarf, said the British boats had "trespassed." (The crew members were released April 4, 2007.) In the Philippines, dozens of children were taken hostage on a bus by a day-care center owner armed with grenades and guns; the crisis ended peacefully 10 hours later with the hostage-taker's surrender.

One year ago: Vigorously defending American attacks in Libya, President Barack Obama declared in a nationally broadcast address that the United States intervened to prevent a slaughter of civilians. Yet he ruled out targeting Moammar Gadhafi, warning that trying to oust him militarily would be a mistake as costly as the war in Iraq.

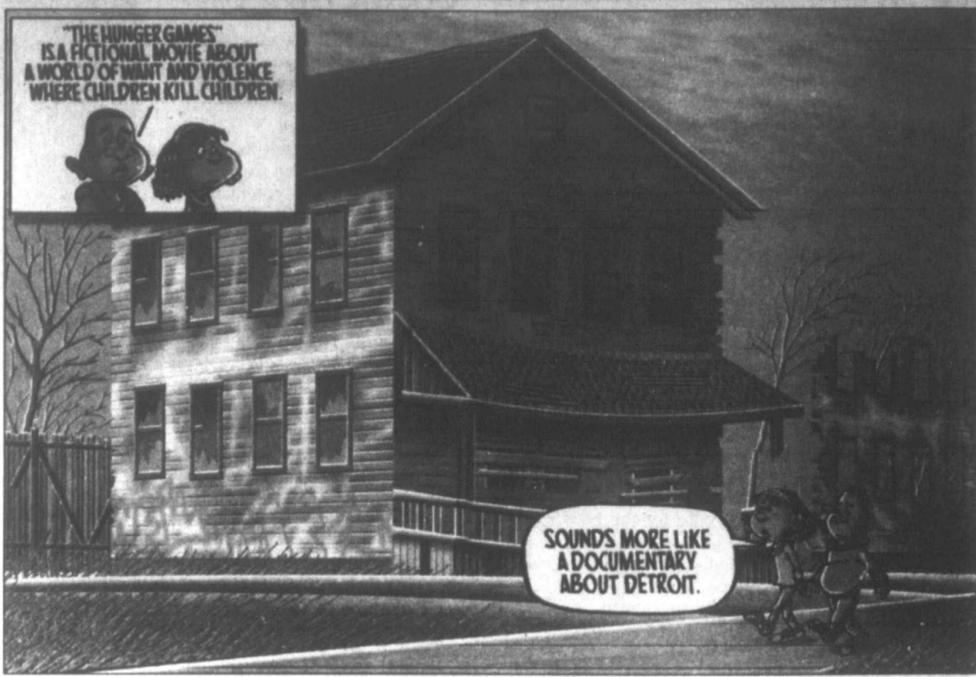
Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski is 84. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 71. Movie director Mike Newell is 70. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 69. Actor Ken Howard is 68. Actress Dianne Wiest (weest) is 64. Country singer Reba McEntire is 57. Olympic gold medal gymnast Bart Conner is 54. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 46. Actress Tracey Needham is 45. Actor Max Perlich is 44. Movie director Brett Ratner is 43. Country singer Rodney Atkins is 43. Actor Vince Vaughn is 42. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 41. Actor Ken L. is 39. Rock musician Dave Keuning is 36. Actress Annie Wersching is 35. Actress Julia Stiles is 31. Singer Lady Gaga is 26.

Thought for Today: "You cannot find peace by avoiding life." -Virginia Woolf (1882-1941).

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.



Banking hubris knows no bounds

Have you heard about the earthquake that has shaken Wall Street to its very core? Well, brace yourself, for this really is a shocker: Bonus payments are down.

Yes, the exorbitant bonus checks pocketed each year by the Goldman Sachs, Citigroups and other financial tinkers have been cut by about 25 percent this year, and -- oh! -- you should hear the Wall Streeters moaning the hard-times, down-and-out banker blues.

"It's a disaster," sobbed one. "The entire construct of compensation has changed."

Many Americans, of course, will say ... "Good! About time!" And it is difficult in these times of middle-class collapse and rising poverty to get teary-eyed over a few financial swells getting a trim. But, come on, Wall Street bankers are human, too (aren't they?) -- so open your hearts to their pain.

A hedge-fund manager, for example, says he'll now have to strain to pay his \$7,500 annual dues to remain a member of the Trump National Golf Club in Westchester. Plus, he worries about food, health care and boarding. Not for his two and his family, but for his two dogs -- he's been laying out \$17,000 a year for upkeep of his labradoodle and bichon frise, including around \$5,000 to hire a dog-walker to take them out each day. He might resort to walking them himself a couple times a week.

The crunch is so bad that one financier confesses that he now shops for discounted salmon for dinner and has had to give up his annual ski trip to Aspen, Colo. And a high-dollar

accountant who does financial planning for the wealthy practically weeps for clients who are having to cut back.

Empathizing with the stress of it all, he asks: "Could you imagine what it's like to say, 'I got three kids in private school, I have to think about pulling them out?' How do you do that?" Dabbing his eyes with tissues, he adds that these people have been raking in around \$500,000 a year, and they never dreamed "that they'd be broke."

"Broke? We should all be as 'broke' as they are."

Are these one-percenters actually worth their bonus checks, even at this year's discounted level? Well, one of the top one-tenth-of-one-percenters, Lloyd Blankfein, says: Hell yes! CEO of Goldman Sachs, Blankfein has sacked up a multimillion personal fortune in bonus cash, but he claims to be worth every penny because he's doing "God's work."

Whoa -- that would be one very mean god! Blankfein actually is an ungodly angel of avarice, who turned his once-proud investment house into a casino of greed that was a central player in Wall Street's crash of our economy. But don't take my word for it. He has now been burned by one of his own -- a Goldman Sachs executive who got so fed up with the "toxic and destructive" culture fostered by Blankfein that he has resigned and gone public with the banking giant's internal ugliness. Greg Smith, a 12-year veteran

with Goldman and head of one of its major divisions, penned a March 14 New York Times op-ed piece declaring, "It makes me ill how callously (Goldman bankers) talk about ripping their clients off." Forget about the quaint notion that banks are meant to serve the public good, Smith confirms that his fellow financiers no longer care about serving the good of their own customers, instead focusing laser-like on enriching the bankers themselves.

Rather than helping clients, he writes, "it's purely about how we can make the most possible money off of them." Smith pointedly adds that this crass selfishness all comes from the top, noting that it's now common to hear Goldman's managing directors privately deride their own clients as "muppets" -- stupid people who're easily manipulated. The ruling ethic is -- by hook or crook -- to haul in bags of client gold for Goldman. If you do that, he writes, "(and are not currently an ax murderer) you will be promoted into a position of influence."

Remember, these are the people you and I were forced to bail out, yet far from showing even a modicum of humility or gratitude, their narcissism is now so extreme that it's even causing bankers to gag!



JIM HIGHTOWER

Hightower is a nationally syndicated columnist.

There is something goofy and fun about spring

It was the sun's fault; that's all we could figure out later. Well, that and the demise of Doc's phantom squirrel.

For a couple of days the sun had been warming our shoulders and making us smile. You know, whispering semi-forgotten things in our ears like "fly fishing ... gardens ... barbecue ... swimming hole..."

Normally, our good doctor would've put another phony ad in the Valley Weekly Miracle offering a reward for his non-existent squirrel, Chipper, just to hoax us into spring. But after the last time, and the ransom money for squirrel nappers, everyone here knew there wasn't a squirrel at Doc's house. It just wouldn't be the same as it had been.

So Doc got this madness started by putting an ad in the VWM that took a different turn: "Spring Special! Half off on all amputations. Call Doc."

That was the first pickle out of the jar. The first tiny slip toward Spring Madness. We look up to Doc because he has more initials after his name than anyone else in town, and besides, he delivered all of us at least once. So we waited to see who would follow his example. In our case, you have to wait a week, of course, and despite a couple of inquiring phone calls, Alberta down at the paper wasn't telling.

Turns out it was Dewey and Bert



SLIM RANDES

HOME COUNTRY

who struck next.

Bert's quarter-page ad promoted the town's first (in a long time) sock hop. "Sock Hop! Town square! Wear socks! Nothing else!"

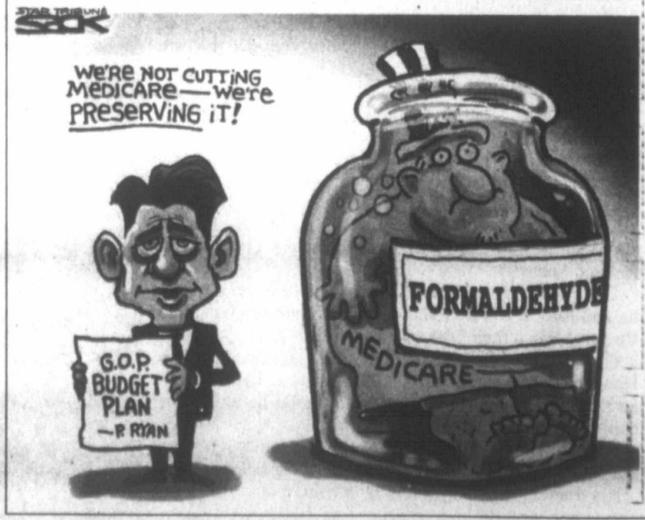
Now he didn't say when this would take place, but we did notice some teenage boys hanging around the square just to see if there was any chance of naked nubile nymphets. There wasn't.

Dewey Decker, the accident-prone king of garden fertilizer in the valley (it's hard to damage cow manure), bought an ad for his garden-enhancing products offering a free taste test.

There is something goofy and fun about spring, all right. Just ask Alberta down at the paper. She has this little spring smile ...

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.



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What if everyone kept their word?

If everyone kept their word, attorneys might go out of business.

A lawyer once told a client: "Let me give you my honest opinion." The client responded, "No, no. I'm paying for professional advice."

We're more interested in how we can get out of something than the truth. Is it mere coincidence that immediately after Jesus said to "let your 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no,' 'no,'" he said, "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also" (Matthew 5:40)?

Before we unpack this saying that could send many attorneys packing for a permanent vacation from law, let's see what some of my friends have to say. "If you say 'yes' and your friend says 'no,' you should go your own way," says Joshua, 9.

Think of how many bruises would be saved, both emotional and physical, if everyone applied Joshua's rule. In some circumstances, it could save lives.

Mariel, 10, says we should first consider the motivation behind our answers: "Ask 'What would Jesus do?' to yourself. And always seek his kingdom first."

Most of us want what's best for both our loved ones and ourselves. That's natural. But Jesus didn't live by his natural life. He lived by his Father's life. Even in his final agonizing hours, he prayed for another way other than bearing our sins in his own body. Nevertheless, he submitted to his Father, "Not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

By praying this prayer, Jesus applied what he had taught earlier, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33).

"You either do the right thing or the wrong thing, and there is no middle," says Daron, 11. "Jesus wants us to walk the fine line and not straddle the middle."

Isn't this why lawyers do so well? If people wanted to do the right thing, attorneys could go fishing.

"If someone asked you to marry him, and you say 'yes,' you have to mean 'yes,'" says



CARY KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

Haley, 10.

We live in a culture when taking an oath before God and witnesses "until death do us part" doesn't seem to have the same binding effect it had in former generations.

Again, is it mere coincidence that Jesus taught about the binding nature of marriage immediately before the importance of keeping one's word (Matthew 5:31-32)?

"Jesus said this because he wants us to mean what we say," says Cecily, 10. "Some people say 'yes,' but they really do not mean it. Or some people say 'no' but do the opposite of it."

First-century Jews had an elaborate system of oaths, according to extra-biblical Hebrew writings. For example, swearing "by Jerusalem" was not binding, but swearing "toward Jerusalem" was binding. If oaths become clever ways to deceive by invoking Jerusalem, heaven, Earth or even God's name, Jesus said, "Do not swear at all" (Matthew 5:34). In other words, forget oaths altogether. Just tell the truth.

While we might be tempted to ridicule oath taking among first-century Jews, are we any better today? Do we really consider our word binding, even if we haven't signed a contract? Will we keep our word even though it may cost us something we hadn't anticipated?

In 1883, "Semper Fidelis" became the official title of the musical march of the Marine Corps. Translated from the Latin, it means "Always Faithful." Can Christians afford to adopt any less of a motto when saying "yes" to someone as a representative of a God who has always been faithful? No!

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

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

Calvary Baptist gears up for Easter celebration service

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampianews.com

Calvary Baptist invites the public to join them for on April 8 on 10:45 a.m. for their Easter Celebration Service.

Music pastor Gary Jameson said the worship team is putting on a special drama.

"There isn't going to be anything extra special," Jameson said. "It's definitely going to be a great service."

Jameson said head pastor Dallas Stringer's message will focus on the Easter story.

Calvary Baptist is located on the 900 block of E. 23rd Street.

Pampa Church Directory

| | | |
|--|---|--|
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| Briarwood Full Gospel Church 1800 W. Harvester Avenue Pampa TX 79065 665-7201 | First Pentecostal Holiness 1700 Alcock Pampa TX 79065 665-8192 | New Hope Missionary Baptist Church 912 S. Gray St. Pampa TX 79065 665-4044 |
| Calvary Assembly of God Church 1030 Love Street Pampa TX 79065 669-7207 | First Presbyterian 525 N. Gray Pampa TX 79065 665-1031 | New Life Assembly of God 1435 N. Sumner Pampa TX 79065 665-0804 |
| Calvary Baptist 900 E. 23rd Street Pampa TX 79065 665-0842 | First United Methodist Foster & Ballard Pampa TX 79065 669-7411 | Open Door Church of God in Christ 402 Oklahoma Pampa TX 79065 665-6132 |
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| Church of Christ 1342 Mary Ellen Pampa TX 79065 665-0031 | Harvest Fellowship Baptist Church 2700 W. Kentucky Ave. Pampa TX 79065 665-4922 | Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana 541 Hamilton Pampa TX 79065 665-8347 |
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| Crosspointe 711 E. Harvester Pampa TX 79065 665-2480 | Iglesia Cristiana Canaan 905 E. Beryl St. Pampa TX 79065 669-3330 | St. Matthews Episcopal Church 727 W. Browning Pampa TX 79065 665-0703 |
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GOD'S GOOD NEWS

Bouler's insight on April Fool's Day

April Fool's Day is celebrated around the world on April 1 every year. The day is marked by committing good-humored funny jokes, hoaxes, and practical jokes on friends, family members, and associates at work.

The earliest recorded association with April 1 and foolish events is found in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" (1392). In Chaucer's Tale, the vain rooster Chanticleer is tricked by the fox. The official point of the April Fool tradition



DAVID BOULER

seems to have taken root in France in 1582 and spread throughout Europe. It was later introduced to the American colonies and has, over the years, developed into an international fun

fest. In Scotland, they had so much fun that April Fool's is actually celebrated for two days. The second day is devoted to pranks involving the posterior of the body and is called "Taily Day." The original "Kick Me" sign can be traced back to this period.

But the Bible tells us of the one true fool, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God" (Psalm 14:1).

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

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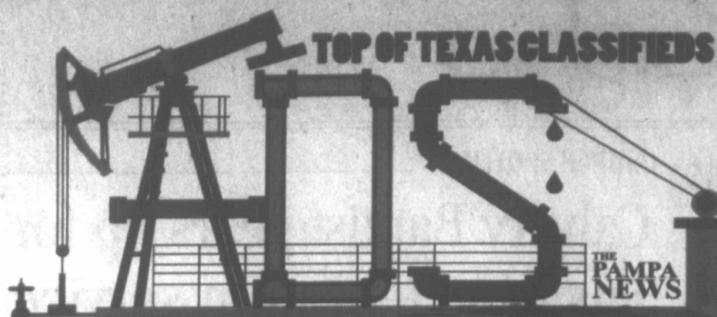
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10 Lost/Found

FOUND on the east side of Pampa. Female reddish carnal brown color, short hair Huskey mix dog. Call 662-8104

FOUND small Cocker Spaniel puppy in Braum's parking lot. Call 806-202-7894.

LOST Blue Heeler puppy in downtown Pampa area. **REWARD** Call 662-4754

13 Bus. Opp.

HAVE large Pool Hall for lease. Great downtown location. Call for details. 665-1875.

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HOUSECLEANING, outdoor cleaning, minor repairs, hauling, also party planning. Call 806-664-4817

COACH looking for yards during the Spring/Summer. Call (806) 898-4427 for est. Have ref. Thanks!

21 Help Wanted

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

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

DRS Simmons Office needs temporary staff to help in scanning of files & general office duties. Approx. 24 hrs per week, 4-5 months. NO Fridays. Fax resumes accepted 806-665-3511. Professional office dress & appearance required. 1324 N. Banks

21 Help Wanted

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

EXCEL PRODUCTION CO. Looking for experienced Pumper / Lease Operator. 5 yrs. pumping exp. & clean driving required. Benefits include but not limited to:

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- *401K w/ Co Match
- *Paid Vacation

Send Resume to Po Box 1800 Pampa, TX 79066-1800

SECRETARY Wanted. QuickBooks experience required. Call 806-217-0399.

21 Help Wanted

Curtis Companies LLC Looking for experienced Administrative Assistant. 7 yrs. of professional administrative exp. included but not limited to:

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- *401K w/ Co Match
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Send Resume to: Curtis Well Service and Excel Production Po Box 1800 Pampa, TX 79066

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AXYDLBAAXR IS LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different. **3-28 CRYPTOQUOTE** **PKSUF BKSHQ MX GJ VQXGH** **IUGUX VR VU YGLX G** **HVUUHX HGUXO VJ HVRX.** **— FXOMXOU GINSVUF** Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FORGIVENESS IS A FUNNY THING. IT WARMS THE HEART AND COOLS THE STING. — WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Big parties
- 7 Influence
- 11 Return to office
- 12 Vault's need
- 13 Promise
- 14 Pupil sur-rounder
- 15 Gospel writer
- 17 Field cries
- 20 Hills
- 23 In the past
- 24 Nickname
- 26 Postal-oath word
- 27 Compete
- 28 Lyricist Gershwin
- 29 Some printers
- 31 Crater part
- 32 Holyfield rival
- 33 Dance move
- 34 Paid assassin
- 37 Related
- 39 Wood of Hollywood
- 43 Headed out
- 44 So far
- 45 Small workers
- 46 Worrywart

DOWN

- 1 Lingerie item
- 2 Guitar pioneer Paul
- 3 Farm animal
- 4 Yertle's creator
- 5 Like lemons
- 6 Bud holder
- 7 Brio
- 8 Heavy-duty top
- 9 Ring legend
- 10 "You betcha!"
- 16 Spring sign
- 17 "Be quiet!"
- 18 Unbearable pain
- 19 Clocked-in time
- 21 Like Poe tales
- 22 Envelope item
- 24 News item
- 25 Orchestra's place
- 30 Elbows and knees
- 33 Disparaging
- 35 1969 Series
- 36 Heaps
- 37 In the style of
- 38 Writer Follett
- 40 Mouth part
- 41 Chowed down
- 42 That girl

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3-28

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 45-year-old married woman with four kids. I fell in love with a longtime friend, "Hugh," two years ago. He's single and has never been married.

I told him I want a relationship, but he says that since I'm married we can't have one. I told him I love him, but he's not sure he feels as strong about it as I do. We have been spending a lot of time together and have started to get intimate.

I told Hugh I don't want to just fool around -- I want a commitment. He worries about my kids, and that if I leave their father they won't understand.

My husband is very cold and distant. We don't say much to each other anymore; we're just two adults living in the same house raising our kids. We have gone to counseling, but it didn't help. My husband says things are fine -- but they're not.

I'm angry because Hugh is willing to fool around but not commit. He says this shouldn't go on anymore and his heart isn't in it. The fact that I'm married bothers him. I told him to wait and eventually my husband and I will divorce. I'm hurt by his decision to back out. I feel he wanted the intimacy but doesn't want ME, and I feel used.

How do I sort this out? -- USED IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR "USED": You weren't used -- you threw yourself at Hugh, and what has happened was by mutual consent. Why would you expect a commitment from him when you haven't shown

yourself capable of sticking with one? I credit Hugh for his honesty -- he hasn't led you on. That you're married SHOULD bother him.

When a man tells you his "heart" isn't in it, trust me, the rest of him isn't far behind. Don't waste your time being hurt. Learn from this. You have unfinished business to attend to. Your marriage is a mess. If it doesn't survive, you owe it to the next man in your life to be available before you start prospecting. If you're not, this will happen to you again and again.

DEAR ABBY: A few days ago, my significant other, his 18-year-old daughter, "Maria," and I were in our living room discussing "Jonah," a slightly older guy she has been dating and who spends a lot of time here. I told her I have high expectations for her and think she can do a lot better than him.

I didn't realize that Jonah was in the next room when I spoke my mind or that he had heard me. My boyfriend told me later that Jonah said, "Now I know how she really feels about me!"

Abby, he's a nice kid, and he's always welcome here. I feel terrible about hurting his feelings, even though my opinion about him not being good enough for Maria hasn't changed. Still, I know the effect crass words can have on a young person, and I should have thought twice before opening my mouth.

Should I apologize to him for what I said?

If so, what should I say? -- HOOF IN MOUTH IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOOF IN MOUTH: What happened was regrettable. By all means apologize to Maria's boyfriend for hurting his feelings. Tell him that you didn't mean to be cruel, but that you would feel better about the relationship if he had higher goals. It might be the push he needs to raise his ambitions and become more successful in life when he's older.

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Each of the three-letter groups below may be extended on both the right and the left to form a seven-letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

LEVEL

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Yesterday's Answer: BRAVER, GYRATE, LOCALE, CRAYON

3.28

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

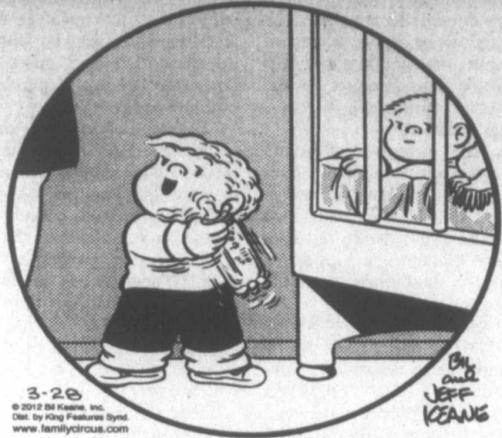
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Level: Intermediate

COMICS PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



3-28
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Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

"I figured PJ would rather have a milkshake!"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 29, 2012:

This year you swing from emotional to intellectual and back again. If you think this constant change of feelings is hard on you, imagine how those who deal with you feel! Others might attempt to stabilize your moods. Claim your power, and honor the free spirit within. If you are single, you might think you want to settle down, but your feelings could rapidly change. If you are attached, share your feelings more often. Your partner will understand you better. **CANCER** naturally understands you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) **★★★★** Integrate different ideas as you put plans together. Whether they are for a vacation or work makes no difference. Others make suggestions that prove to be valid. Be aware that you could encounter a power play later today. Do not let this situation color the remainder of your day. Tonight: Head home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **★★★★** You have the ability to make a big difference emotionally, financially and intellectually. Where you point your radar is your call, but your efforts do pay off. You could encounter difficulties dealing with a foreigner, a distant friend or a very intellectual associate. Be smart. Tonight: Hang out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **★★★★** Listen to what is being shared. A key person is determined to have you absorb the meaning behind his or her words. Do not get into a battle. Just listen. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) **★★★★** Don't worry if you do not feel up to snuff. Your energy will build during the day. In fact, you could give quite a jolt to someone you feel is bullying you. Be sensitive to this person, yet establish your boundaries. Tonight: Act like you are feeling your Wheaties. Count on high energy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **★★★★** Use the daylight hours to the max. You might ponder something too long and lose a winning proposition. If you need time to think, plan on going through Saturday without a decision. At that point, the Force will be with you. Tonight: Slow down and center yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **★★★★** Others want you to take a stand,

but you might not be ready or want to. Focus on your priorities. By late afternoon, hon in on your desires and long-term goals. You will know what to do. Do not miss a meeting scheduled in the next 24 hours. Tonight: Now the fun begins.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **★★★★** Look at what is going on around you, especially in your personal life. Take a serious look at the situation. You also are changing within. Note what you are feeling. Resist power plays, and walk away from controlling people, if possible. Tonight: At home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **★★★★★** Keep reaching out for someone you really care about. You also need to get more information about a project or key interest. If you hear grumbling, it is probably because your mind is elsewhere. Let the natural sequence of events happen. Tonight: Explore and discuss opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **★★★★** Others share their thoughts and feelings. In a sense, you might feel as if you are getting too much information. Pull back, and speak with those you trust. You will get a better sense of what is happening and whether you want to be involved. Tonight: Say "yes" to living well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **★★★★** Finish a project before you decide to relax. You will need to insulate yourself from talks and confusion in general. Your creativity mounts to a new level and opens a door. Pressure builds, and you might need to detach a little from others. Tonight: Let it all happen.

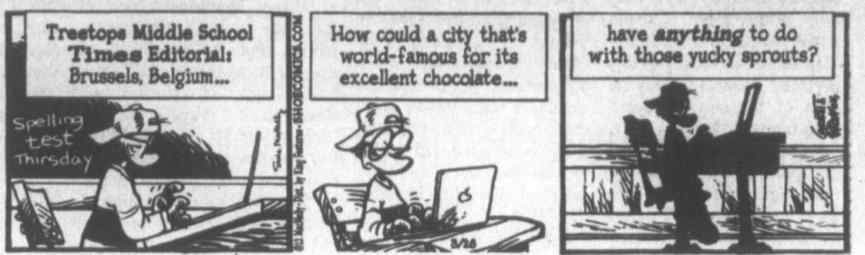
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **★★★★** Pace yourself, and honor a need to get a lot done in a small period of time. Fortunately, your creativity is high. Solutions will be found easily. Do not stand on ceremony with someone. Call this person one more time, even if he or she did not return your original call. Tonight: Feeling tired.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) **★★★★** Your concerns involve your immediate circle and your friends. You might need to do something very differently from in the past. Think, and take your time. You will discover the right path when you least expect it. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Plot

cont. from page 3A

good a kid as you want to be around," but said he didn't know anything about the criminal allegations.

Robert Corley's son, Mario Corley, also was arrested in connection to case in South Carolina, along with two other men charged with marijuana trafficking. "He didn't have any drugs on him," Robert Corley Jr. said of his son. "I don't understand it."

According to the federal complaint, Kevin Corley told undercover agents they could have 40 cartel members trained in two weeks and that several members of his Army unit expressed interest in helping.

The criminal complaint alleges that Corley sold the agents a ballistic vest that was allegedly stolen from another soldier, Army training manuals and other equipment for \$6,000. He later sold two AR-15

assault rifles and several ballistic vests to undercover agents for \$10,000, according to court documents.

Fort Carson officials said the Army does not use AR-15 rifles.

Kevin Corley was discharged from the Army on March 13, according to the Army Human Resources Command. Fort Carson officials said Walker is on active duty, and that both men were assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, part of the 4th Infantry Division.

Fort Carson didn't know the circumstances of Corley's discharge, and the Army Human Resources Command declined to provide details. The 4th Brigade began deploying to Afghanistan in mid-February, though it wasn't immediately known whether Walker or Corley had been expected to be part of that deployment.

Native Americans worry that pipeline will disturb graves

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — As President Barack Obama pushes to fast-track an oil pipeline from Oklahoma south to the Gulf Coast, an American Indian tribe that calls the oil hub home worries the route might disrupt sacred sites holding the unmarked graves of their ancestors.

Sac and Fox Nation Chief George Thurman plans to voice his concerns this week in Washington. He said he fears workers placing the 485-mile Keystone XL pipeline that would run from Cushing to refineries on Texas' Gulf Coast could disturb holy ground without consideration of the tribe. He and another tribe member say the pipeline's route travels through areas where unmarked graves are likely buried.

"We've been here 171 years," said Sandra Massey, the Sac and Fox Nation's historic preservation officer. "We've been living and dying here. We are all over."

Obama announced last week in Oklahoma that he was directing federal agencies to expedite the southern segment of the Keystone XL line, removing a critical bottleneck in the country's oil transportation system. The full, 1,700-mile Keystone pipeline, which would run from Canada to the Gulf Coast,

became a political flash-point late last year when congressional Republicans wrote a provision forcing Obama to make a decision, and environmental groups waged a campaign to kill the project. Obama delayed the full project in January.

Shawn Howard, a spokesman for TransCanada, the Calgary-based Keystone pipeline operator, said the company works closely with Indian tribes whenever its operations have a potential impact on their lands. TransCanada has archaeologists and other experts to help identify and avoid areas of concern, he said.

Work stops immediately when artifacts or important materials are discovered, said Terry Cunha, manager of stakeholder relations for Keystone Pipeline System. "We would then work with the tribe to ensure that the materials are handled properly and that we agree on a plan to move forward before work resumes," Cunha said.

According to a report released by TransCanada, a survey of the project found 70 archaeological sites, 18 individual artifacts and 34 historic structures in the area where the pipeline will be built in Oklahoma. The numbers were first reported by The

PIPELINE cont. on page 11A

Pipeline negotiations can be a headache

BRYAN POPE
Associate Editor, Real Estate Center

COLLEGE STATION — Natural gas drilling in Texas' shale regions may be lucrative for mineral rights owners, but it can be a headache for landowners with surface rights who are unprepared to negotiate with pipeline companies.

"Most landowners are unfamiliar with how to deal with companies that are acquiring pipeline easements to move gas," said Judon Fambrough, an attorney with the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University. "If the landowner and the company can't reach a deal, the easement will be condemned."

The condemnation process can be complex, but Fambrough walks landowners through all three stages in Understanding the Condemnation Process in Texas.

The publication has been revised to include changes implemented Sept. 1, 2011, by SB 18. It covers a

wide range of facts surface owners need to know.

For example, the condemnor has the right to enter a property to conduct preliminary surveys even before any documents are signed.

"The landowner cannot stop them legally, but the condemnor will be liable for any damages to the land incurred during the survey," Fambrough said.

Also, the proposed Pipeline Easement Agreement that the condemnor offers to landowners is negotiable. This is important since the condemnor can legally attempt to purchase (acquire) in that document property and property rights not needed for the project.

"For example, the company needs a 30-foot easement for one 20-inch pipeline to transport natural gas," Fambrough said. "However, according to the high court, they can attempt to purchase in the proposal — without telling the landowners — a 50-foot easement for multiple

lines to carry multiple products. It's up to the landowners to limit them to what is reasonably needed during negotiations."

Fambrough said the pipeline company does not have to offer the landowner fair market value for the easement, but they must make a bona fide attempt to purchase it as outlined in SB 18.

Finally, landowners should be compensated for two items: the fair market value of the easement and the resulting damages to the remaining uncondemned property caused by the presence of the pipeline.

"Generally, condemnors recognize the need to pay the landowner for the easement, but they take the position that there is no resulting damage to the remaining property," Fambrough said. "This is where the battles generally lie."

Understanding the Condemnation Process in Texas is available on the Center's website at <http://recenter.tamu.edu/pdf/394.pdf>.

Amnesty: US ranks 5th on global execution scale

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States was the only Western democracy that executed prisoners last year, even as an increasing number of U.S. states are moving to abolish the death penalty, Amnesty International announced Monday.

America's 43 executions in 2011 ranked it fifth in the world in capital punishment, the rights group said in its annual review of worldwide death penalty trends. U.S. executions were down from 46 a year earlier.

"If you look at the company we're in globally, it's not the company we want to be in: China, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq," Suzanne Nossell, executive director of Amnesty International USA, told The Associated Press.

The United States seems deeply divided on the issue.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry was cheered at a Republican presidential candidates' debate last September when he defended his signature on 234 execution warrants over more than 10 years as being the "ultimate justice."

Just weeks later, young people rallied in person and online to protest the execution of Troy Davis in Georgia for the 1991 murder of a police officer. In the intervening years, key witnesses for the prosecution had recanted or changed their stories.

"I think the debate on the issue may be nearing a tipping point in this country," Nossell said. "I think we're seeing momentum at the state

level, in the direction of waning support for the death penalty."

Illinois banned the death penalty last year, and Oregon adopted a moratorium on executions.

Maryland and Connecticut are close to banning executions, Amnesty said. And more than 800,000 Californians signed petitions to put a referendum on the state ballot in November that would abolish the death penalty.

However, 34 U.S. states have the death penalty.

Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, which tracks U.S. trends, told the AP that last year 78 prisoners received death sentences, down from an average of more than 300 annually a few years ago. "Executions peaked in 1999 at 98," he added. "By all measures, the death penalty is on the defensive."

Dieter attributed much of the decline to the introduction of DNA testing, which has exposed some mistaken convictions. With stronger defense tactics and appeals processes getting longer, U.S. states also found it more and more expensive to pursue death penalty cases, he said.

The United States was the only member of the G-8 group of developed nations to use the death penalty last year. Japan, which also retains capital punishment, recorded no executions for the first time in 19 years, Amnesty reported.

"Our government has made a very

strong point of trying to reassert its position as a standard-bearer on human rights globally," Nossell said. "When other countries look at the United States, the use of the death penalty really stands out a lot in the mind of Europeans and others around the world. We're in such incongruous company."

Mexico strongly protested the July execution in the U.S. of one of its citizens, Humberto Leal, for rape and murder on the grounds that he had not been advised of his rights to receive legal advice and assistance from his consulate. The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations is supposed to guarantee the right of any citizen to consular help.

Leal was one of 51 Mexican men who have been sentenced to death in the United States after being denied consular assistance, Amnesty said. The International Court of Justice had ordered a full review of all these cases after Texas executed another Mexican man in 2008.

The U.S. federal stance on capital punishment was complicated by the Defense Department's announcement that it would seek the death penalty for six foreign nationals detained at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for trial by military commission. Amnesty contends that military commissions are discriminatory because they do not give foreign citizens the same right to appeal as U.S. courts.

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Enbridge to spend \$3.8 billion on pipeline work projects

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Pipeline builder Enbridge Inc. is investing nearly \$4 billion in a new round of construction that will increase the flow of Canadian oil sands crude to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Enbridge, Canada's largest transporter of crude, said Tuesday it will expand its Flanagan South Pipeline from Flanagan, Illinois to Cushing, Oklahoma to a 36-inch (9-meter) diameter line with a capacity of 585,000 barrels per day.

The Flanagan pipeline, expected to

be in service by mid-2014, will be built along the route of Enbridge's existing pipeline from southeast of Chicago to Oklahoma.

In a separate announcement, Enbridge said it will twin the jointly owned Seaway Pipeline from Cushing to the U.S. Gulf Coast at Houston, where crude is expected to start flowing in June.

The expansion, which includes an extension of the pipeline to Port Arthur-Beaumont, will add 450,000 barrels of

capacity to that system.

Both projects will cost Enbridge \$3.8 billion, including \$2.8 billion for the Flanagan project and \$1 billion for the twin line and extension of Seaway, which is partly owned by Enterprise Products Partners LP.

The new construction will relieve a supply glut of oil in the U.S. Midwest and boost prices and producers' bottom lines.

Oversupply at Cushing, caused by ever-

increasing domestic supplies, has been eroding the value of North American crude. Draining that oil to refineries along the coast would likely act to lift prices and increase producer revenue.

The construction also gives Enbridge an edge in the race to tap into profits from domestic oil over rival TransCanada Corp., which is still waiting for U.S. State Department approval for its controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

Aside from Enbridge's network of oil

Texas takes Round 1 against EPA in federal appeals court

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal appeals court scolded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday for rejecting a series of state pollution control projects in Texas that federal regulators said failed to satisfy requirements of the Clean Air Act.

The ruling from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals stopped short of ordering the EPA to accept the previously rejected Texas measures. Yet the three-judge panel directed the agency to take another look at the state's regulations and issue a quick decision.

At issue are state permits that govern pollution control projects at coal plants and energy producers in Texas. The EPA must sign off on the permit standards, but Judge

Jennifer Elrod condemned the agency for waiting four years before taking action. The statutory deadline is 18 months.

"Because the EPA waited until more than three years after the statutory deadline to act on Texas's submission, we order the EPA to reconsider it expeditiously," Elrod wrote.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality cheered the ruling as a decision that should help keep the EPA in check when reviewing whether a state is meeting federal pollution standards.

"This is a significant victory for our Texas regulatory process," said commission spokesman Andy Saenz.

The judges did not set a deadline for when the EPA must approve or reject the Texas standards. An EPA spokesperson did not immediately return an email seeking comment late Tuesday.

The EPA and Texas have been battling over pollution controls and federal environmental rules for years. Gov. Rick Perry made it an issue on the campaign trail, both when he ran for governor and in his failed bid for the GOP presidential nomination, saying the EPA is an example of Washington overstepping and meddling into state affairs.

Texas has filed numerous lawsuits challenging EPA rulings, and the EPA has taken over permitting on a variety of programs due to the state's refusal to comply with its orders.

Schools

"transparency has become a buzzword, but what people don't understand is that state budgets are always difficult to interpret."

"Children aren't widgets," she said. "You can't apply business practices to them and have it work very well."

Hurley said he contacted attorneys handling each of the school finance lawsuits and has been asked to testify by one legal team.

"I think the districts can show where the money is going, I just don't think it's reflected on the reports the state has them file," said Rick Gray, lead counsel for a suit filed by the Texas Taxpayer & Student Fairness Coalition on behalf of more than 150 school districts.

Hurley agreed that most districts can track their funds down to the penny, but said that outsiders can't

— meaning the notion of local control over schools statewide is laughable.

"Local control is a fantasy if you don't have financial accountability," he said, "and the basis for financial accountability is that the average parent can pick up a district's annual report and have an idea of how it's spending money."

City

— rider for nine (holes from) \$6.50 to \$7. In addition (to that), the current weekday green fee (will increase) from \$13 to \$14 and weekend green fee from \$16 to \$17. All other fees will stay the same at this time."

In other business, the commission:

- gave final approval to the rezoning of properties at 801 and 821 East Campbell from residential to commercial property;
- gave final approval to an amended adult business ordinance to more fully define adult business licenses and what designates an adult business, such as having viewing booths for pornography;
- appointed Jane Steele as the city's representative on the Emergency Services Foundation of Texas board.

Optimist

demise, Zuniga said both baseball and softball are far from dying off.

"Definitely in the boys," Zuniga said. "The girls, we are pushing really hard and they are coming through for us. It's good."

Pipeline

Oklahoma Daily.

Seven of the sites met criteria to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and TransCanada agreed to bypass six of them, said Oklahoma Historical Society Director Bob Blackburn. The site that will be partially destroyed is a Works Progress Administration drainage ditch built around the 1930s, he said. Details about the other sites and whether any Indian graves were included were not immediately known.

Blackburn said the federal government identified tribes, including the Sac and Fox Nation, that may be affected by the pipeline and asked for input. None of the tribes in Oklahoma corresponded with the Historical Society or indicated there were potential problems, he said.

"Some Indian tribe could have a site they never told anybody was important," Blackburn said. "If it is not entered into our database we may have missed it."

Thurman said he met Obama briefly Thursday near Cushing but he was not given enough time to raise the issue of unmarked graves. He said he was disappointed the pipeline was put on a fast-track without knowing whether sacred sites would lie in its way.

White House regional spokeswoman Caroline Hughes declined to comment and referred questions to the Interior Department.

In a statement, department spokesman Adam Fetcher said all permitting activity on the project will fully comply with the Native American

Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

"If any construction is determined likely to result in the excavation of Native American human remains, the permitting agency will consult with potentially affiliated tribes and tribes recognized as having lands in the project area and complete a plan of action that the agency will take should an encounter with a tribal grave take place," the statement read.

During a recent tour of the nation, Massey said a number of tribal ancestors are buried in marked cemeteries but there are many other unmarked sites. At times, tribal members

were buried along creek beds and generations later, it's possible that there are no longer remains at a particular location.

"Even if nothing is left, it's still a sacred site," she said.

The concern over whether the pipeline route could run through sacred Indian grounds has prompted some activists to protest its construction.

"We will walk the whole route, Cushing to the Red River, to make sure they don't destroy an Indian grave," said Fannie Bates, who is of Cherokee descent and from Oklahoma City.

cont. from page 2A

cont. from page 1A

cont. from page 10A

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Sports

Lady Harvesters need to keep their level of play up

Like every season, the Pampa Lady Harvesters softball team challenged themselves against some of the top teams in the state and came out of non-district with a decent record. The challenge for this team is to keep their level of play up in district against lesser competition. This is something that's going to be key if Pampa wants to achieve its goals this year.

I remember interviewing the girls before the season about district and they seemed confident they would run the table again.

"I think district will be the same 9-0," senior Alanna Stephens said.

There is nothing wrong with confidence unless it turns into overconfidence. That can be dangerous. I think head coach Bobbi Gill and her coaching staff will make sure that doesn't happen this year.

The first thing Pampa needs to do is keep piling runs on their opponent. If it can do that, then it will put pressure on its opponents and should lead to victories. For the most part, the Lady Harvesters

have done this well. Against the Borger Lady Bulldogs on Friday, Pampa scored every inning and made it tough for Borger to get in the game. Against Perryton on Saturday, Pampa jumped out to a 5-0 lead and scored in the second and third. The Rangerettes held them scoreless in three of the last four innings. The Lady Harvesters missed a great opportunity to put Perryton away early. When Pampa gets a large lead, it needs to push harder and not let up until the final out is made or the final run is scored.

Five runs may be enough to beat Borger, Dalhart or Perryton. It might not be enough to beat Midland Greenwood or any other opponent the Lady Harvesters face in the playoffs. There are several things Pampa can do to keep piling on runs. One of those is having patience at the plate. Saturday there were several one-pitch at-bats. Some of them were successful, but others led to quick endings to innings. The beauty of softball is there is nothing that limits the offense. If an at-bat takes 20 pitches, it takes 20



ANDREW GLOVER

The pitching has been great so far. Sophomore Alexa O'Brien shut down Borger and senior Heather Coffee limited Perryton's opportunities. The only thing both pitchers need to limit is wild pitches and passed balls. Those allow baserunners to advance easily and puts more pressure on the defense to get an out.

Next, Pampa needs to shore up its fielding issues. The Lady Harvesters made four errors in each district game. Fortunately, Pampa's offense didn't

make those errors costly. As we saw in the playoffs last year, errors definitely hurt Pampa. In their losses against The Colony, Prosper and Vernon this season, errors were key. The Lady Harvesters need to make plays no matter the situation. Some of those errors were on routine plays that they practice everyday. If Pampa keeps the errors down, it's going to increase their chances of winning and advancing in the playoffs.

Finally, the senior class of Stephens, McKinlee Stokes, Heather Coffee and Nakayla Hardman need to hold their teammates accountable. This is their last chance to write their legacy. Hopefully, that legacy is that they continued the Lady Harvesters' winning tradition.

The Lady Harvesters are a great team and have the potential to advance far in May and maybe June. They just have to keep their level of play up.

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

CC Golf team moves into Top 10 rankings

THE PAMPA NEWS

CLARENDON — The Clarendon College golf team has moved back into the Top 10 in the nation according to a recent Golfstat poll. The tournament in Alabama over spring break pushed the CC Golf Team up 6 spots from 15th to 9th.

Steve Evans leads the squad with

his ranking of #48 in the nation among college golfers.

"I am thrilled to see this move," CC athletic director and golf coach John Green said. "I believe in these guys and they have worked hard."

"We had a slump, but look to be on the road to recovery. We are in a great position with just two tournaments left at Sugar Tree Golf Course

in three weeks and at Rainmaker Golf Course at the end of April," Green said. "The trip to the NJCAA National Golf Tournament is right in front of us."

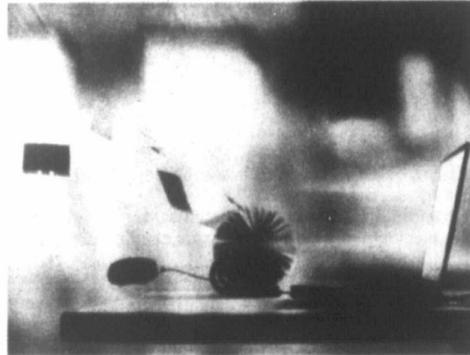
Recruiting is under way for next year and this ranking will attract a lot of attention to the Clarendon College golf program.

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Top talent defines this year's Final Four

Lurking in virtually every corner of the Superdome this weekend will be lottery picks, some other NBA first rounders and assorted AP All-Americans.

Everywhere, that is, except the Louisville locker room.

This year's Final Four features three teams — Kentucky, Kansas and Ohio State — all with their fair share of the most gifted players in the country, and a fourth with a coach who has squeezed the most out of the next tier of talent.

Does that make Louisville's Rick Pitino the best coach, or say something about John Calipari, Bill Self and Thad Matta? Well, those three might tell you something about how tough it is dealing with a bench full of stars.

"A lot of coaches would agree that, at times, coaching teams with a ton of talent is probably more difficult because you're constantly trying to get the maximum out of them," said Matta, who has a star in AP All-American first-teamer Jared Sullinger, widely viewed as a top-15 NBA draft pick. "It's so much easier to get to the top than stay at the top. A lot of times when you have a team that's loaded, you fight a lot more adversity on the outside than when you're scraping to get to the top."

Which brings us to the Kentucky Wildcats, who play Louisville on Saturday in the first semifinal.

By choice, Calipari has developed a program so overflowing with top-level talent that he's spending more time looking to replace players after a season or two than developing them over four.

Freshman Anthony Davis, another AP All-American, will likely be the top player in the draft should he leave after this season. Classmate Michael Kidd-Gilchrist won't be far behind. Freshman Marquis Teague and sophomores Terrence Jones and Doron Lamb will also have a chance at the first round if they leave.

So, Calipari must be the most persuasive (some might have another adjective to describe this after those run-ins with the NCAA) recruiter in history, right?

"We don't do anything outlandish," he said. "We're not promising minutes or shots. They've just really got to trust that you have their best interest at heart. It's a players-first program and they learn that, as you sacrifice, we all gain, as individuals and as a team."

Getting his players to buy into that, and to come to a team where they aren't guaranteed to be the only star, might be Calipari's biggest accomplishment as a coach. But once they get there, he insists he's doing more than simply rolling the ball out on the floor.

Kentucky leads the nation in field goal defense and blocked shots and has a nearly 6-5 assist-to-turnover ratio. Stoked by this combination of

less-glamorous numbers, Calipari claims he has the most efficient team in the country.

"What I'm going to try to do is get guys to play as well as they can play," he said. "Let's go out and play great. If it's not good enough, let's make sure we have more fun than anyone else and we'll take the results from there."

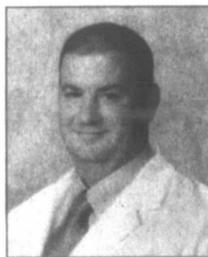
While Calipari tries to get the most out of a lot of talent, Pitino has been playing a different game this season. He is the only Final Four coach without an AP first-teamer. In fact, there were no Louisville players on the second or third teams either, or even on the honorable mention list.

According to most lists, not a single one of Pitino's players would get drafted by the NBA if they left this year. Meanwhile, a raft of injuries and roster adjustments has turned every practice this season into an adventure. Pitino coaxed his sixth Final Four trip

out of a team that reminds him in many ways of his first — an undersized, underappreciated group of players at Providence in 1987, headlined by Billy Donovan.

The Cardinals are led by point guard Peyton Siva and center Gorgui Dieng. Yet they went down the stretch in a tight game against Florida on Saturday with Siva gone from the game with five fouls and with a relatively unheralded freshman, Chane Behanan, taking over.

"We may not have as much talent in certain areas as other teams. But there's young talent and we're going to develop," Pitino said. "The great thing about March Madness and college basketball is that, generally speaking, in the pros, 90 percent of the time, the best team is going to win a five- or seven-game series. In college, it's a one-game stint, maybe somebody shoots great, anything can happen."



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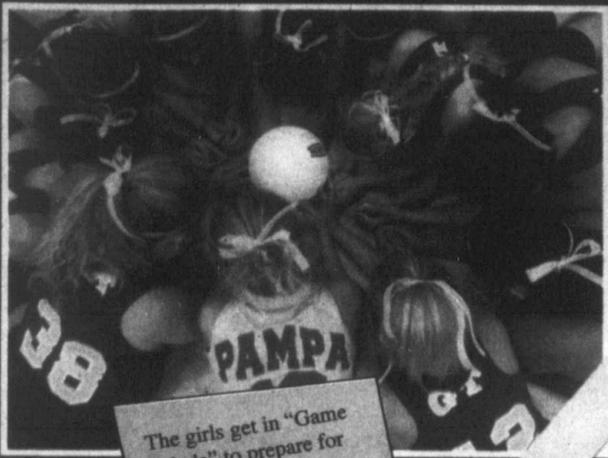
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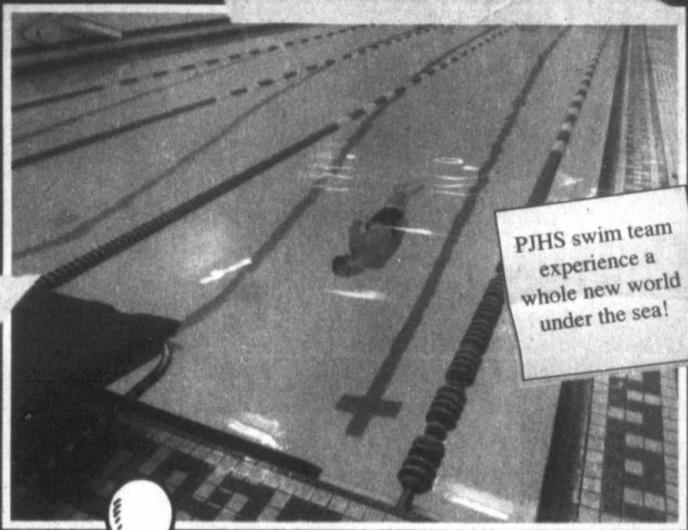


Pampa Schools

PAMPA JUNIOR HIGH



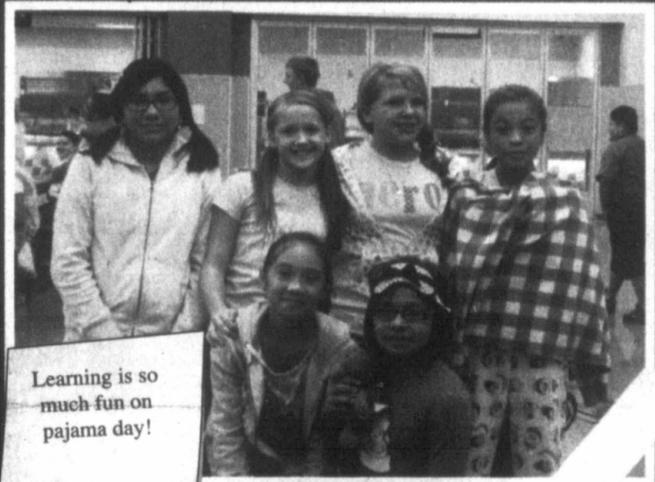
The girls get in "Game Mode" to prepare for their volleyball game.



PJHS swim team experience a whole new world under the sea!



The strong winds of West Texas do not stop PJHS band from performing at the home high school football game.



Learning is so much fun on pajama day!

WILSON ELEMENTARY



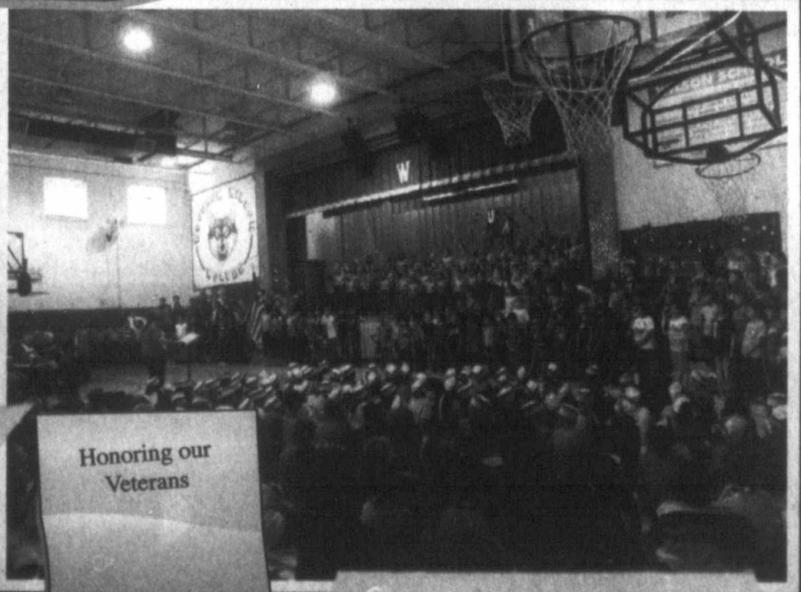
Spelling Bee winners. First place-Brittney Cueves (left) and Alternate-Kallie Harding (right)



Mrs. Dyson's First grade class gets a visit from Woody.



Devon Davila and Natasha Gray singing Christmas carols at Firstbank Southwest.



Honoring our Veterans

Pampa Schools

AUSTIN ELEMENTARY



Third grade students Riley Devoll, Kati Johnson, and Mariah Godwin wait to go on stage to present their October musical, *Once Upon a Lily Pad*.



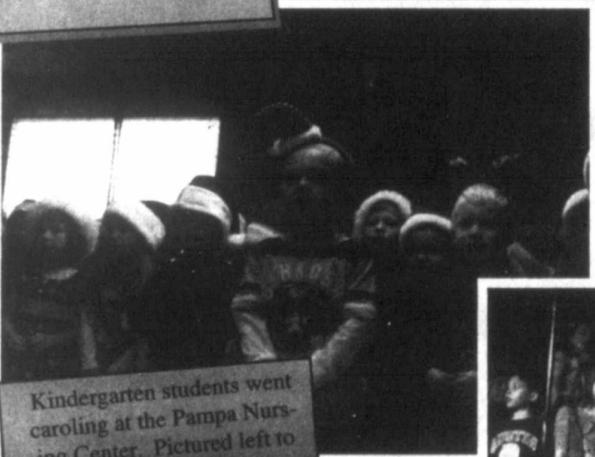
Kindergarten students Jazlyn Ridener, Emily Armendariz, and Jarrett Waggoner stop to pet Harley. Harley belongs to Austin teacher, Brandi Cayce.



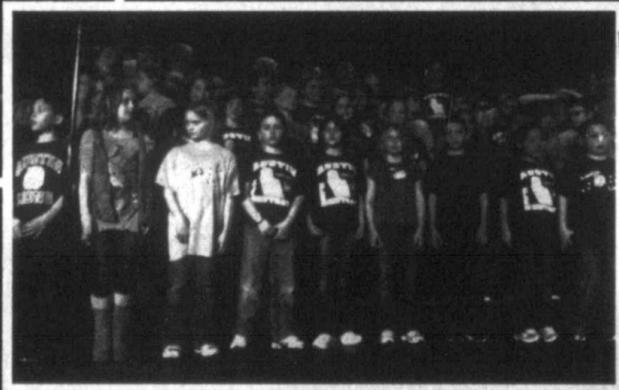
Austin second grade students show Harvester pride. Pictured in back (left to right) are Mallory Alexander, Lexi Maul, Morgan Joyce, Marlee Quarles, Savannah Valentine, and Cayson Steward. On the front are students Jade Ward, Katie Carter, Lizzy Devoll, Rhett Elliff, and Isaih Arreola.



Fifth graders Jacee Baten (Elmo) and Jacque Spiller (Baby Alive), are pictured here prior to their Christmas play, *The Littlest Reindeer*.



Kindergarten students went caroling at the Pampa Nursing Center. Pictured left to right are Elizabeta Rodriguez, McKenzie Woods, Jude Towles, Riley Whitson, Colton Cambern, Tucker Crutchfield, Isaiah Anguiano, and Hudson Weaver.



Fourth grade students are preparing to sing at Pampa ISD's annual Showcase in January. Austin Elementary fourth graders joined with Wilson Elementary fourth graders for this event.

TRAVIS ELEMENTARY



Travis fifth grade students all dressed up for the Christmas musical.

Travis fourth grade students singing at the nursing home.

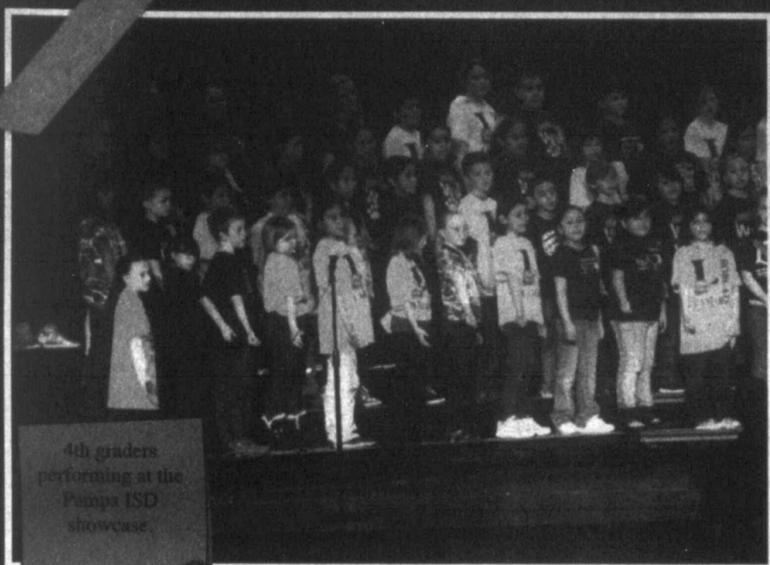


Travis Kindergarten students enjoying the newly donated bench honoring Veterans.

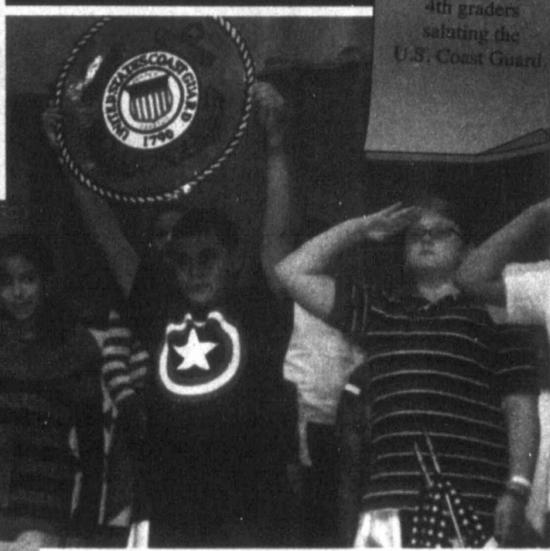


Pampa Schools

LAMAR ELEMENTARY

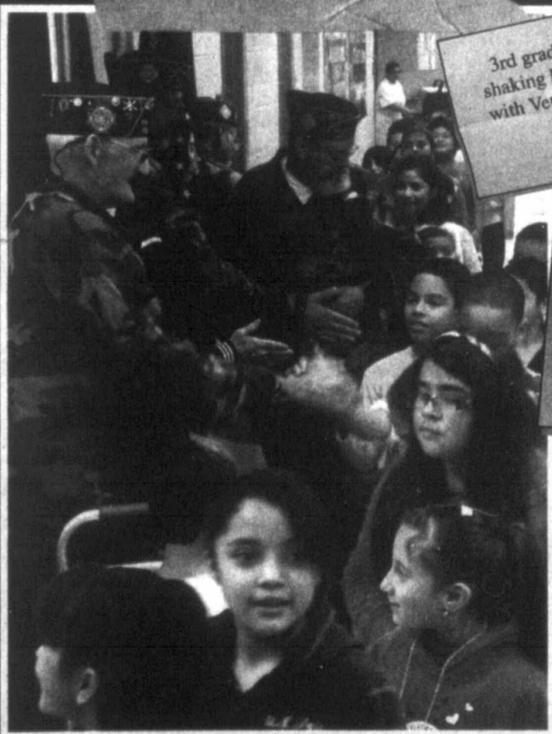


4th graders performing at the Pampa ISD showcase.



4th graders saluting the U.S. Coast Guard.

WOW!



3rd graders shaking hands with Veterans.

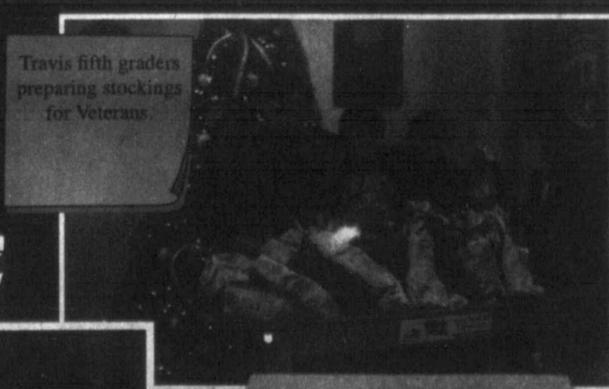
Sarah Rodriguez (left) and Roscio Garcia (right) playing 'O Come Little Children' on recorders while 3rd grade sings along.



TRAVIS ELEMENTARY



Travis Third Graders enjoy a Thanksgiving feast.



Travis fifth graders preparing stockings for Veterans.

MUSIC



Travis third graders performing their musical.

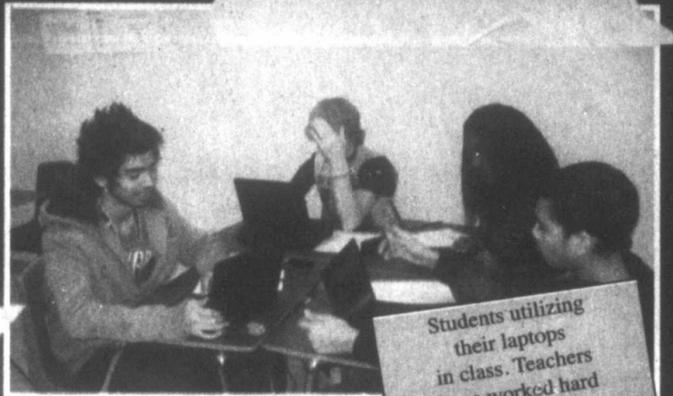


Pampa Schools

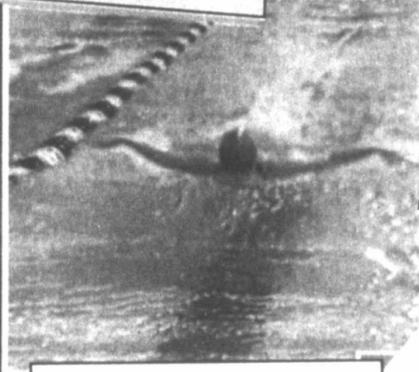
PAMPA HIGH SCHOOL



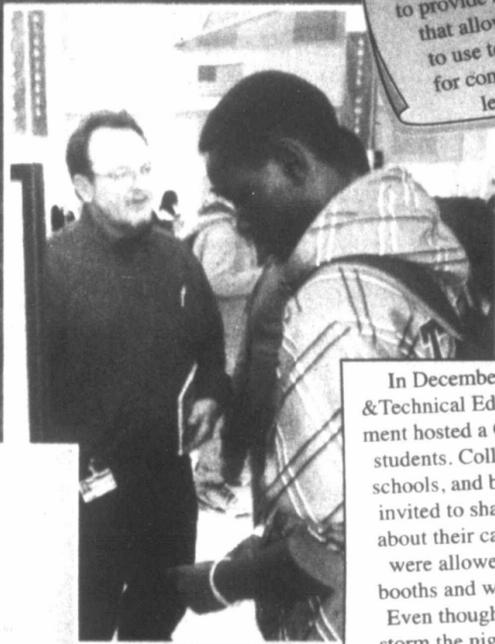
Speech & Debate members have been very successful at meets this year. Pampa High School will be hosting a UIL Meet in March. We have TWO Debate teams going to State competition!!!



Students utilizing their laptops in class. Teachers have worked hard to provide assignments that allow students to use technology for completion of lessons.



The Swim Team recently competed at the Regional Swim Meet. We had several swimmers qualify for the State Meet this year.



In December, the Career & Technical Education Department hosted a Career Expo for students. Colleges, technical schools, and businesses were invited to share information about their careers. Students were allowed time to visit booths and win a door prize! Even though we had an ice storm the night before, many people braved the bad weather for our students!

Also new this year at Pampa High School is the HELP Center. Students who are having difficulty in their classes may go for tutorials in the HELP Center before, during, and after school to get the help they need with the assistance of a peer tutor and/or the HELP Center teacher, Shelley Smith.



PAMPA LEARNING CENTER



Students clock in each morning.



Business Classroom



Bright Beginnings Day Care has the highest ranking available at the state level and is the day care for the teen mom's of PLC.

PAMPA LEARNING CENTER



Mr. Steele with PLC students.

Thirty people. Under 30. Making Pampa proud.

They say youth is wasted on the young; well, we found 30 people in, around and from Pampa proving that adage wrong. This section is the first of two in which we profile these young people who are showing Gray County what youth is capable of.

Jason Ferguson

Assistant D.A., 31st District Court



Jason Ferguson, 27, assistant district attorney with the 31st District, recently announced that he is running for the office of district attorney. Ferguson views his purpose as seeking justice for the community at large.

"A prosecutor is the only lawyer who doesn't play to win," he said. "It's our job to find what's right, and that's not always winning. Defense attorneys always like to call us the government, but we're not the government. We're the state, and most states call it the people, because we're the community's voice. Everyone has a client, and ours is the people, so it's not necessarily our job to win all the time like everyone else in law whether it's contracts or construction or anything else, it's your job to win, but it's our job to find the truth, and I love that."

Ferguson grew up in Dallas, and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Texas Tech University.

"I was pre-med my whole life," he said. "I had planned out medical school, and I had started taking college biology classes when I was 10 to do that, but then I guess philosophy sidetracked me, and I did an ethics seminar and a philosophy of law class, and I just enjoyed it and couldn't get out of it."

Ferguson saw law as the next logical step, and he graduated from the University of Houston Law School in 2009.

"After that, I worked litigation for a couple of attorneys," he said. "I worked civil side of stuff for a company, but I didn't

really enjoy any of it, and that's what made me come out here. This was a very unique chance. I hadn't really found anything in the law that I liked, and I thought this would be something like that."

Ferguson believes he has found his niche as an Assistant District Attorney.

"They call it 'wearing the white hat,' and you get to be the good guy, and I think a lot of people don't realize that that's our job, to seek justice for the community, to present the

case to the community, and that's what a jury is," he said. "We don't decide things. Here's what we see, and what do you think about it? And the actual community gets to decide, and I think that's pretty neat. Every other area of the law is cutthroat and no matter if what we're doing is right or wrong, we have to win."

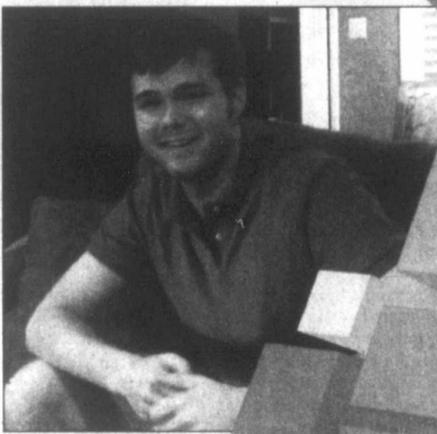
Although not a Panhandle native, Ferguson has grown to appreciate the unique qualities of the five counties he represents, including Gray County.

"Initially, since I wasn't from here, and I spent most of my life in very big cities, it was a little difficult at first, because I didn't know the community very well, but after being here for a while, you get a better grasp of what the community's values are, where they place their importance," he said. "We have our five counties (in the 31st district), and every one is a little bit different."

story by Mollie Bryant

Alex Clendening

Undergraduate, Abilene Christian University



Pampa graduate Alex Clendening's interest in the medical field started at a young age while observing his dad, Mike.

"He worked in the ICU at the hospital," Clendening said, "so I got to be around that a lot. It solidified what I wanted to do."

Currently, Clendening is attending Abilene Christian University and is seeking to get into medical school.

Clendening said he has shadowed doctors in Abilene.

"I got to shadow a couple orthopedics and a pediatrician," Clendening said. "Just to see what they do."

Last summer, Clendening took his medical experiences away from the classroom and went on a medical mission trip to Haiti with Trinity Fellowship. Later this month, Clendening will go on a mission trip to Guatemala with some kids at ACU.

He said it's a neat deal for him.

"To help people and get that experience in the medical field is invaluable," Clendening said.

Clendening said he likes helping people because it's a big part of his life.

"I try to do it as much as I can," Clendening said.

At Pampa High School, Clendening excelled in the classroom, as he graduated in 2010 with valedictorian honors. He said his parents pushed him to do well in school and it's still important to him now.

"I'm going to be applying for medical school," Clendening said. "The highest grades you can have make it easier to get in."

Clendening said he hopes to be a pediatrician once he graduates.

"I looked into surgery a lot and liked that," Clendening said. "I also like being around kids and interacting with them. I guess the perfect job would be a pediatric surgeon."

Clendening said he hopes to practice on the east coast because he used to live there.

"I was born in Virginia and lived for eight years," Clendening said. "Then I moved to Kentucky. We occasionally visit because we have family in Tennessee."

Clendening said it would be a huge accomplishment to get into medical school.

"Applying to med school is a competitive process," Clendening said. "I haven't succeeded yet."

Hopefully I will. It would be awesome to go to med school."

story by Andrew Glover

Brittany Walters

Jammer, Route 66 Roller Derby



Most of the time, she's Brittany Walters: Pampa resident, Hastings employee.

Except when she's on the track. There, she's "Sarah Michelle Killer."

Walters, you see, plays for Amarillo-based Route 66 Roller Derby. Roller derby, which saw its heyday in the 1950s, is experiencing a mild resurgence, and locally, Walters is seeing herself near the forefront of it — quite literally.

Walters is a jammer, or, for the non-derby-literate, a player who skates ahead of the pack, avoiding hits from the opposing team and passing rival skaters to score points for her club. It's an unusual athletic calling for some, but for Walters, it feels just like home.

"My dad (Zane Walters) was a speed skater," Walters said, "so I always liked (skating). When we still had Skate Town, we'd all go out there and everybody always had parties there."

"Well, at last year's Ink Life (Tattoo and Music Festival) tour, my dad had a booth there. My mom found the roller derby booth. ... I signed up and started going to practices right after."

Derby season doesn't actually start until April, but that doesn't mean Walters hasn't been busy. Route 66 practices four times a week, and we're not just talking about skating in circles.

"You don't know what it's like until you have on a pair of those skates and you're skating against somebody twice your size," she said. "It takes a lot (of athletic ability). You use your whole body for it. Our practices are two hours long, and the first 40 minutes of it is weightlifting and core training. Then, we jump right into endurance. We have to skate typically 25 laps in five minutes, but honestly, to be the best you can, they make us skate as fast as you can, no ifs, ands, or buts. If you can't do it, try harder."

"Once we get done with that, we go straight into practicing bouting (in-game contact). Hit as hard as you can. You wake up feeling like you got hit by a car."

Roller derby, though, is more than just speed and hits, Walters said. For starters, there's the on-track persona that every derby girl takes on. It's a character that's an extension of the skater's personality, Walters explained; hers is a take on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" actress Sarah Michelle Gellar.

"I'm a really big 'Buffy' fan, and I just stuck the 'Killer' in there because it sounded like Gellar," she laughed. "It sounds really lame, but Buffy was kind of like a hero for me growing up," she laughed. "She was like the little chick who looked like she could get beat up, but she always comes out and shows everybody what she's made of. For me, it's like I'm little, too, but when I put on my skates, it's like I'm all out."

The feeling that overtakes her when she's out on the track is priceless, Walters said.

"When you're out there, you can show who you are and be accepted," said Walters. "I've always said that this is the one group of people that I've walked into and it didn't matter how I looked or how I was. I could walk in with piercings or tattoos showing and they're like, 'Hey, you're you. That's awesome.' The more you express yourself in your character, the more it's appreciated. Most of us have jobs where we have to take out our piercings and cover up our tattoos, so when we're out there, it's like freedom. Complete freedom."

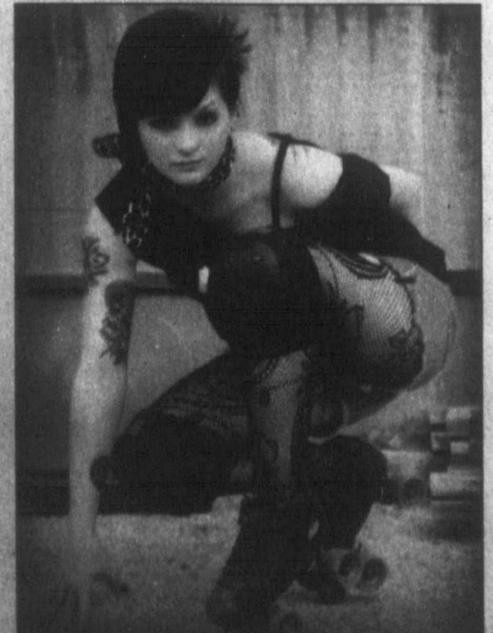
Some may see that freedom of expression as a sign of delinquency, but Walters said it's not like that. In fact, she said, her team makes it a point to underscore the importance of character.

"This is actually something that one of our new recruits said," Walters said. "When she saw one of our flyers while we were recruiting, it said, 'Be your own alter ego. Come in, we'll show you how to play.' There was another team and their stitck was free beer, hot girls, blah blah blah. She was like, I don't want to do that, so she came to us."

"Our team also does a lot of charity work, so I think that's starting to change people's minds a little bit about the image perception," she said. "That's one of the conditions to be on the team. You have to participate in so much of the charity work. That does raise money for us because that gets us sponsors, but at

the same time, we go to children's hospitals. We spend time with kids. We take part in (multiple sclerosis) walks, autism walks. We actually adopted a highway. We are really big on recycling. It makes a big difference, because that draws a lot of people to us. It makes them think, 'You know what? These are good role models for our daughters. They're doing all of this and showing it's still cool to have your own personality.' People are seeing that even though derby's so rough, we're still good people."

story by Arnie Aurellano; photo courtesy of Lilly Eager



Jacob Frost

Student, Pampa High School

Jacob Frost, 18, is a member of choir, show choir, ASTRA, Student Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions and the youth group at Central Baptist, but he didn't start out his time at Pampa High School that way.

"My first two years of high school, I was really uninvolved, and I really regret that, but starting junior year, I decided I needed to do something worthwhile with my time instead of just sitting at home. It's really paid off," he said.

In Student Council, Frost was active with the annual Pink Out event.

"Basically what we do is we try to get as much community involvement in breast cancer awareness as we can, and our biggest point of that is the Pink Out football game, which is where we sell our pink t-shirts and we have a huge community pep rally, where people can come and make donations, and we have cancer survivors come, and we do this thing where we go around the court and honor them with glow sticks and stuff like that," he said. "Basically, it's just to raise community awareness."

Frost said SADD plans to do a project called Shattered Dreams this year.

"We reenact a drunk driving accident where students die, and it has a really strong impact on the students, because the students involved in the experiment that actually die, they get Lifestarred into one of the hospitals, and they're not allowed to come home at night, and they have to stay together," he said. "They have to write letters to their parents and tell them anything they want to tell them. It's just really more to show



students how much underage drinking can negatively impact their life."

With ASTRA, Frost has worked on the Shine the Light project, along with Soup with Mrs. Claus, helping to repaint the Sears building and the Children's Shopping Tour.

"I think the Children's Shopping Tour was the most rewarding, because it makes you feel like you helped someone out, and just seeing the joy you can bring to little kids by showing them that people do care, it means a lot," he said.

Since his junior year, Frost has been active with the Pampa High School choir, and he has made All State Choir twice.

"I really joined choir just because I needed the arts credit, and that's really surprising to me, because I had no idea that I either could sing or care about singing, and once I started auditioning for all state choir and my director told me that I could do it, that I had the voice, and once I did finally make it, I realized that that's what I needed to do with my life," he said. "Really, joining choir was probably the best decision I've made in my life, because I used to want to be a doctor, and I realized that that's not really what I cared about. What I cared about was sharing my love for music with other people."

Frost said the friendships he has made in choir have made a strong impact on him.

"I had friends, but none that were really as close and personal as I've gotten through choir," he said. "It's less friendships I have with people in choir. It's more of a family. You can be who you are in there and not worry about being judged or anything like that. It's a lot like choir or band or any kind of art in general. You're more likely to be accepted for who you are, because there's not a certain mold of a type of person you have to be."

Frost plans to attend the music program at either Baylor University or Hardin-Simmons University, where he plans to pursue a degree in music education. But for now, this Pampa native is happy where he is.

story by Mollie Bryant

Joshua Nachtigall

Assistant General Manager, AmericInn

Joshua Nachtigall just might be crazy. He left the sandy beaches, crashing waves and tropical climes of Maui and came home to Pampa.

The son of Highland Baptist preacher Paul Nachtigall, Nachtigall ended up in Hawaii after wife Danielle landed a teaching job there a few years ago. Nachtigall himself, who graduated from Oklahoma State with a degree in hotel and restaurant management, worked a front desk position at one of the hotels. He did well out there, he said, but when a position opened up in Pampa with a better chance at upward mobility, he jumped at the opportunity.

"It was good, but I wasn't in the position I wanted to be in," Nachtigall said. "I was offered the chance to come back here and given an opportunity to be in the position that I wanted to be in, so it just really worked out."

Nachtigall returned in June and is now the assistant general manager at Pampa's AmericInn, learning the ropes and being groomed to potentially take the hotel's reins one day. He is also back and involved with the youth at Highland Baptist, inspired to help lead after a very positive experience at Maui's Kihei Baptist Chapel.

"Honestly, out in Maui, I got really attached to the church over there," Nachtigall said. "It was such a strong, young group. If it wasn't for them, I probably would have not enjoyed Maui as much even though it was warm and beautiful. It's just not the same if you don't have that close-knit group. They were pretty much my family over there."

"There were a lot of things I learned out there that I felt our church here was missing," he continued. "I love this church and I'll always have a tie to it because my dad's the pastor, but I really felt that there were so many ways our church could grow. I wanted to draw that close-knit, family atmosphere for young adults and young people here. Not that we didn't have that here, but even moreso, I wanted to help our young people really be able to connect and build that bond through their faith and Christianity."

He hopes to integrate the literature study they had at Kihei back into Highland Baptist's youth program.

"I loved the book studies that we did out there," Nachtigall

said. "They were challenging, they were pushing, and they really opened my eyes to a lot of different things that I hadn't really thought about. ... Wednesday nights are really my key focus on getting involved with the youth. I wouldn't say it's just strictly my input, but I definitely feel that what we're doing has really challenged the youth."

That's not all he hopes to accomplish.

"We're trying to develop a praise and worship band," he said. "We're just trying to get more instruments involved, and what's neat about it is it's the youth that are starting to step up and wanting to play the instruments at the service. I think once you get involved, you start to feel so much more connected in the church. That's really the big challenge, getting people connected and getting them involved, not feeling like it's an obligation but really wanting to be there. I think we're on our way to that."

As far as Pampa itself goes, Nachtigall said that he sees the potential for the city to be much more amenable for its youth and young adult crowd. The people are there, he said; they just need to have ways to connect.

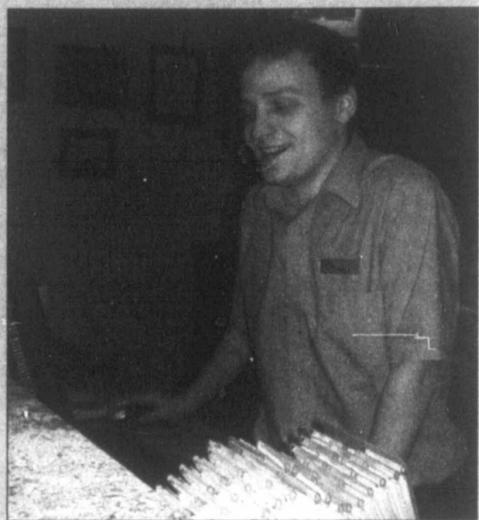
"I feel like there's a lot of young people here, but there's not the things that are bringing them together," he said. "Everyone's kind of here and there, but there's not the events or the outreach for the younger crowd. I think events here and there would help, maybe bringing in some concerts or something like that. There's really not the venues or anything that would really house the things that young people are interested in. Having those would help. I just kind of feel like there's a lot of opportunity here for young people if (Pampa) opened some doors and did some things aimed at young people."

It's something that he considers when he thinks about how the AmericInn can grow.

"We've got a large event center over there, and I think that we can house a lot of events and we can do a lot of things with that," he said. We do house weddings and things like that, class reunions, but honestly, it can hold up to 200 people and I think it would be a nice venue to hold maybe a small concert. We've talked with the owner about putting in a sports bar in our meeting space. There's definitely been some things that we've started brainstorming on."

He says that he sees the fact that he's been so well-traveled — he's also managed a restaurant in Oklahoma City — as an asset when it comes to evaluating his hometown.

"I've seen a lot of good things about a bigger city that



maybe could be brought in to this area that could enhance it a little bit. The people that have been here for a long time, a lot of them are like, one way or no way, so I definitely feel that it's an advantage, I would say, to come back and have different perspectives on things. Coming back from Maui, for example, and having such a different lifestyle, it was so enriching and it was an experience that I'll always remember."

Don't get him wrong, though. Despite missing the waves and the Maui sun, he's a Pampa boy through and through.

"I really like it here," he said. "I just really enjoy the relaxed style of everything around here. It's not 30 minutes to get from here to there. I like the size. It's not small, but it's not a big city. You can still ride your bike across town without worrying about anything. I enjoy the sports. It's a good community."

He and Danielle, who is now a teacher at Community Christian School, will be welcoming another Pampa boy (or girl) into the world soon; the couple is expecting their first child later this year.

story by Arnie Aurellano



Spencer DeFever

Funeral Director, Carmichael-Whatley

Spencer DeFever is the youngest funeral director at Pampa's Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

The quiet 24-year-old is a graduate of the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service, earning an associate degree and the skills to be effective in a very stressful, but necessary profession.

"It isn't for everyone," DeFever said with a smile. "Like any profession, you have to be called to it, and you definitely must have a sense of humor."

Family circumstance led him away from Pampa to McKinney from the eighth grade through high school. In fact, he worked at a funeral home in McKinney for 3 1/2 years before he decided to return to Pampa in 2010 and join his dad, Lance, who was already employed at Carmichael-Whatley.

"Doug (Carmichael) is a great employer and being close to both sides of our families is a plus," he said. "A small town is a better place to raise kids."

Spencer and his wife, Lauren, have two children — Madelain, 6, and Blayke, 1.

Lauren is a native Pampan who grew up here. She teaches dyslexic children at Pampa Junior High, Travis Elementary and Wilson Elementary.

With two small children, DeFever doesn't have a lot of spare time, but he manages to serve on the advisory board of the Pampa Salvation Army,

is a member of the Lions Club and is becoming involved with the Young Professionals organization.

His profession is changing — at least the technology side of it.

Gone are the days of working without gloves or smoking in the embalming room.

As a funeral director, he has to be aware of the possibility of contagions and protect himself against them, he acts as consoler and listener to families of the deceased, takes care of arrangements and myriad other things that we have come to know as a modern funeral service.

Spencer decided he would become a director in high school out of a sense of helping people, the aspect of the job he most enjoys.

"Quite a few times I realize I am acquainted with the deceased," he said. "It does make it a little more difficult if you know the families, because you hate to seem them in pain, but it also makes you feel good to be able to console and help them."

"It is a delicate balance," he added. "You must stay close to the business to be compassionate, but at the same time, you have to make sure you don't become too attached."

That is also where the affore-mentioned sense of humor comes in handy.

"The guys I work with are serious when we need to be serious," he said, "but we also have a good time."

story by Randy Priloble

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McKinlee Stokes 11

Student, Pampa High School

If you were to visit Pampa High School at any point, odds are you'll probably see McKinlee Stokes, as she's involved in activities year-round.

Stokes, 17, played volleyball and is a member of the softball team and cheerleading squad.

"It keeps me focused," Stokes said. "It helps me stay on top of school and I like doing those things."

Stokes said that she were encouraged to be involved in junior high.

"I think being involved with everything in junior high carried over to high school," Stokes said.

The senior said it's important for her to be involved with so much because it can build character.

"They all have life lessons. I think," Stokes said. "Playing volleyball and softball taught me life lessons. Being on good teams help."

Stokes played on three playoff teams in softball and two playoff teams in volleyball.

Stokes dad, Shane, is the city's assistant city manager, and her mom, Sandee, has been the high school cheerleading coach for 10 years. Stokes said her mom influenced her to get involved with cheerleading.

"It made me really want to do cheerleading," Stokes said. "It's allowed us to grow closer. Our family being so athletic allowed me to do a lot of sports."

The senior will sign to play softball at Southwestern Assemblies of God, where she plans to begin studying psychology in the fall. Stokes said her softball coach Bobbi Gill influenced her to pursue the field.

"She's my psychology teacher," Stokes said. "She definitely set me on that path."

Stokes said she hopes in five years to have a job in psychology but also stay involved in some of her high school activities.

"Hopefully, I can still do softball in some way," Stokes said.

Stokes said she would encourage future Pampa High School students to be involved as much as she was.

"It helps keep you out of trouble," Stokes laughed.

story by Andrew Glover

Aaron Simon 26

Co-operator, Pampa Office Supply

Since 2009, Aaron Simon, 26, has been working with his family at Pampa Office Supply.

"I went to Texas A&M for economics and business, and always kind of related my education to what I've grown up with in Pampa Office Supply, so putting two and two together is fun," he said.

Simon has a strong appreciation for small town business, where he believes you have an opportunity to get to know your customers better.

"In the past, that's all people dealt with was businesses in their towns, so I think the main difference is having a close knit group of people that you're dealing with, and you're not having to deal with bigger businesses, and you have close relationships with everyone," he said. "That's the big difference."

Simon also plays bass guitar in a band called Kingsmill, which recently produced a folk album.

"We've played probably eight or nine years," he said. "We played throughout college, and we moved to Nashville, and now I'm still playing, but more focused on helping out Pampa Office Supply and trying to grow the business."

At the moment, Simon said he is trying to make a few changes at the store.

"I'm going to try to change Pampa Office Supply itself, try to make it a better company,

more efficient, grow our customer base," he said. "I'm building a website right now, (which) will probably be up within the month, where you can have an online ordering system and a drop ship program where other small communities will be able to provide for them as well."

Simon grew up in Pampa, and he has been happy to return to his hometown after graduating from Texas A&M.

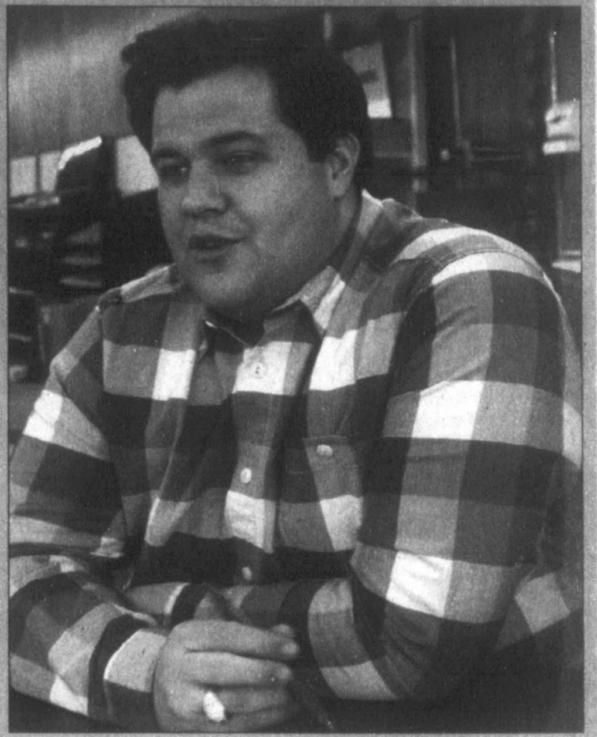
"You go to college, and you think that nothing's really going on in your small town, and you can't go back, because you won't be able to live that lifestyle anymore, but once you've been back a while, you realize that there's a balance," he said. "You have a tight group of people that you know, and it outweighs being in a big town, where there are more things to do but it's not as fulfilling."

"(It's satisfying) to be in a small town with people that you really care about, and they probably care about you just as much," he added.

Simon hopes to see some changes in Pampa in the future when it comes to downtown business.

"I had a group of friends that almost started a nonprofit organization that was going to be designed to help out the local economy and get people involved and donate to renovate buildings and bring in new business," he said. "Of course, I'd like to see people try to get business downtown and renovate buildings, and just make the town look a little better."

story by Mollie Bryant



Jessica Covil 11

Student, Pampa High School

Jessica Covil, a senior at Pampa High School, is a National Merit Scholarship finalist. She's in the choir and the show choir. She's the student body reporter. She's an algebra tutor.

A lot of kids who are so involved in academics and extracurriculars have a hard time picking out a passion, but not Covil. She'll tell you what it is straight up.

"I want to write," she said matter-of-factly. "I would like to be an English literature major and I've also looked at getting a teacher certification. I plan on being a writer. I write some poetry right now and I want to be a fiction novelist, so I'd like to probably teach a writing class when I get over there. I love writing so much. I've always been this kind of person who really thinks about things in my head. I try to make all these connections with all that I've learned, and I think that that's given me a very unique perception."

"I've always enjoyed writing. Last year, I was able to get into AP English III, and this year I'm in AP English IV. My teacher, Mr. (Barry) Cochran, does everything he can to make the subject as interesting as possible. I feel like when you write and when you read, you're just getting a new perception on everything."

Armed with a \$55,000 scholarship, Covil aims to take her talents to the University of Chicago next year. Afterwards, she intends on parlaying that edu-



cation into chasing her dream as a writer, no matter how daunting the task may seem.

"It may be harder to get into a writing career, but I feel that that is one field that you're not at all limited in, either. You kind of determine how far you'll go in that field, and I definitely didn't want to be cooped up in the office doing the same routine. I just want to write about what I'm passionate about, you know — what life experiences kind of shape how I

see things."

Covil names a variety of influences as a young writer, ranging from Rowling to Frost to Tan to Dr. Seuss. Voices and perspectives like theirs, Covil said, have inspired her to want to craft her own world as a writer, much like they have.

"We read something like that recently in Mr. Cochran's class," she said. "He was talking about how every author is given the opportunity to create their own universe, and that's really what a book is supposed to be. It's supposed to be this universe that's within itself that isn't completely dictated by the real world. I really want the chance to be able to create that."

Of course, Covil said, there are some things she'd bring into that world that are transplanted right from her Panhandle home.

"Things that I would keep would be definitely the school experience that permeates the whole town," she said. "You can definitely see that on the football team and surrounding all the sports — how everyone in town cheers them on and everyone's so involved — and that's something that I would keep, definitely. ... There's also a certain, not only friendliness but beyond that. It's a certain pride — Pampa pride — that people take in how they represent themselves and how they represent their town. It's about carrying yourself with class, because you represent the whole town and not just yourself. That would go in there, too."

story by Arnie Aurellano

Stephen Nelson 27

Engineering Specialist, Open Range

Stephen Nelson, 27, is Pampa's version of a triple threat. He balances work as a design and engineering specialist position at Open Range Engineering and manager of The Coffee Shop with being the worship leader at Redeemer, one of the newest churches in town.

Nelson graduated from West Texas A&M with a business degree, and after working in coffee shops during college, managing the Coffee Shop has been a natural transition for him over the last few months. He is planning a face lift for the shop, which includes a redesigned interior and updated menu options.

"I'm excited," he said. "We're trying to make everything a little more consistent and like a bigger city atmosphere, while keeping the back room small town. You've got to balance the two."

Amid his work schedule, Nelson leads praise and worship once a week, something the musician said was an unexpected and welcome surprise.

"Now I couldn't imagine anything better," he said. "I love my Redeemer family, and it's just different than any church that I've ever been a part of, not just in this town, but in other towns, just the community of meeting with people and being yourself."

Nelson said that the church is learning as they go, while trying to set themselves apart by trying different things.

"We really want our congregation to be representative of our community from an ethnic perspective, from an age perspective," he said. "If you walk into a lot of churches right now, they don't tend to be that way, and we had people that told us it couldn't be done. We're not there by any means, and we're looking for-

ward to the journey, but at the same time, I believe that we're closing in on that."

Nelson recognizes a resurgence in Pampa since leaving town for college.

"It finally feels like it's turned around some, and it's started on a different track, and people don't have to go to Amarillo to do something," he said. "They can find something if they look, the new waterpark, for example. They had a lot more people show up in their first year than they ever thought possible. So there is some excitement."

"In growing the way that we are right now, I think that we can be a light to the other towns around us, being Miami and even Canadian and even places like Perryton," Nelson added. "Right now they drive all the way to Amarillo to do stuff, and if we can provide something for them, anything for them, then they wouldn't. They'd stop in Pampa, and Pampa would be their destination, and they would still have that small town atmosphere, but they'd still have things that they could do."

Each of Nelson's endeavors center around downtown Pampa, with the Coffee Shop, Open Range Engineering and Redeemer all on North Cuyler.

"One thing I would love to see, which is hard because some of these old buildings have a lot of issues with them, but I would love to see Pampa have a real downtown again, and have a place that has businesses that are open past nine o'clock at night, that you can come down here, and catch yogurt and a coffee and have dinner somewhere, and on a nice summer night, stroll down the street with your family or your date or your friends and just enjoy it," he said. "You look at places like Canadian right now, and they're doing it, and they're smaller than us. Why can't we get there? That's where some of those changes are going to have

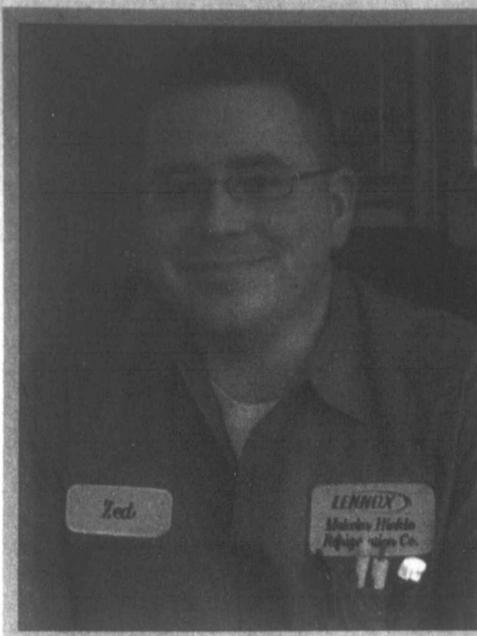


to take place, and people are just going to have to have faith and want to get there."

Nelson also has high hopes for business in the area.

"I would like to see the city pushing for new and different kinds of businesses," he said. "We don't have to stick with the same thing over and over again. Let's branch out, and bring in some new stuff, and see how it works. And if it doesn't work, it probably won't last, but if it does, then it will bring in new jobs and new people, new families."

story by Mollie Bryant



Zed Richards

Executive Vice President, M&H Leasing

Zed Richards, 24, has recently opened a new branch of Pampa's M&H Leasing in Amarillo, and this executive vice president splits his time between the two offices. Richards' grandfather, Malcolm Hinkle, started up the business in 1952.

"We did plumbing, heating, air, commercial refrigeration, and at some point in the mid 1960s, we actually had another location in Amarillo that we operated over 20 years, along with the location here," said Richards. "That location was closed soon before Malcolm died 20 years ago this year, and a couple years after that, Malcolm Hinkle, as it were, was closed, and M&H was the only entity that was kept open."

Last year, Richards decided he wanted to expand the family business' services.

"Along with the commercial refrigeration and ice-maker work that M&H was doing, we're also doing heating and air conditioning again," he said.

Richards likes to vary the kinds of work he does for the company.

"I'm young, so I don't want to sit behind the desk, so I'm in the field doing service work," he said. "I usually handle all of our bids for equipment, things like that,

and day to day stuff."

"I like to be out in the field, because that's the fun part," he added. "Solving problems and meeting people."

Richards grew up in Pampa, and as far as the town goes, he would like to see some of the blight buildings addressed.

"We could have some very inviting entrances into town if it wasn't for the overgrown lots and buildings that are falling apart," he said. "There was a big push 40 years ago under my great grandfather, who was head of public works, and in the course of three years, they demolished over 200 delinquent buildings in town. There are some eyesores downtown that could be taken care of quite easily."

"I'd love to see more business come into town," he added. "I'd like to see downtown fill up, because there's a lot of empty space down there, and I think the (Economic Development Corporation) could potentially commit more time to helping that."

Richards' family has been in town for generations, and they don't plan on going anywhere soon.

"Our family has been deeply engrained in this area, and continue to be here and plan to be here," he said. "We like Pampa. There's potential for Pampa. People just have to realize that potential."

story by Mollie Bryant

Lynnzy Standerfer

Student, Lefors Elementary

Just about everyone around Gray County probably knows about Lynnzy Standerfer at this point: How she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and spent the better part of a year undergoing countless sessions of chemotherapy and other treatments to fight the deadly disease.

She's now cancer-free, with her last chemo session on Feb. 9 of last year. And while beating cancer (before she's old enough to see a PG-13 movie, no less) is no small feat, she appears again in this space not for the fact that she faced the disease head on and won, but the way she did it: With grace, courage and an omnipresent smile on her face.

"I'm very proud," said Stormy Standerfer, Lynnzy's mother. "The whole time she was fighting cancer, she stayed upbeat. She didn't ever get down and want to give up. That helps a parent stay upbeat. I'm very proud of her and it's made her a stronger person, and that's made me a stronger person."

Stormy's not the only one. Standerfer's fight had a profound impact on Gray County as a community, with several people and groups banding together to stand behind Lynnzy and her family.

In turn, Standerfer herself gave Gray County the gift of hope. Christy Robinson, the area's local American Cancer Society chair, once called Lynnzy an "inspiration to all of us" and "a strong little girl" with "a big heart."

For her part, Lynnzy was humble about her ordeal



and said that she appreciated the community's thoughts and prayers.

"I have to say it's very calming to know that everybody around you cares," Standerfer said. "I really can't explain it. ... It makes me happy."

Now, she's back on the path she was on before cancer struck, a happy, healthy, bubbly 11-year-old student at Lefors Elementary School.

She was told in June that she wouldn't have to

undergo any more chemo treatments. It was a moment, she said, that she still vividly remembers.

"It was the doctor (who told me)," Lynnzy said. "I was very excited. Inside, I was jumping and screaming, 'Hallelujah!'"

Looking back, she said that the ordeal was a difficult one but made her a stronger person.

"I have to say so," Standerfer said. "Before, I thought that was never going to happen to me, but when it happened, I was just fighting and fighting and I knew that I couldn't stop. I knew that I could make it go away."

Now, she said, she aims to stay active in Gray County's cancer awareness network and will be appearing at this year's Relay for Life with a message to any others who are going through what she did just a few short months ago.

"Never give up," she said. "If you give up, it will never end."

With that smile still on her face, she added that she doesn't mind when people approach her about what she experienced, because she wants people to know that if she can beat cancer, they can, too.

"I have to say I think it's nice that people want to ask me all these questions so that they know what I've gone through," Lynnzy said.

"I think it's good for her to talk about it so she remembers," chimed Stormy. "She remembers how far she came. She remembers what it took."

"And it helps," she added with a laugh, "to refresh her memory when she gets a little sassy and gets the preteen-itis a little bit."

story by Arnie Aurellano

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Craig Merritt

Patrol Officer, Pampa Police Dept.



Like many people in Pampa, patrolman Craig Merritt grew up in another part of Texas, but found a place here that feels like home.

"Pampa is a good place to be and I've learned to love it," the 27-year-old Merritt said.

He joined the Pampa Police Force fresh out of the Amarillo Police Academy in Sept. 2008. It was the first time he had ever been to the community and now he insists he has "no desire to leave Pampa, ever."

Merritt lived in Lubbock since he was 2 1/2 years old. He graduated from Coronado High School there when he was 17 and spent two years taking business courses through South Plains College at both the Lubbock and Levelland campuses.

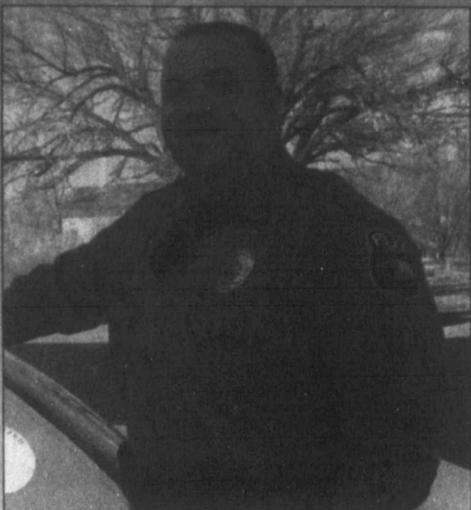
Although he enjoyed the business classes, in the back of his mind he knew he was just biding time until he turned 21, the age at which he became eligible to join most of the police forces in Texas.

After college, he found a job with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at Lubbock's Montford Psychiatric Unit, a maximum security facility.

"I learned a lot of psychology and that fascinates me," Merritt said. He considered it a good training ground for learning "how to talk to people and how not to talk to people."

In other words, it was good training for a future police officer.

"I always wanted to be a police officer," he said. "I really did. While I was growing up, I idolized the



cops." "They were impressive. They appeared to be strong both mentally and physically. They have pride in themselves and their uniforms and it showed in the way they carried themselves."

So for the last eight months he was with the Montford Unit, he was also attending classes at the Police Academy.

Now he looks at the world from behind the badge

and realizes that many people "have a negative attitude toward police officers."

"I enjoy helping people," Merritt said. "People call us on the worst days of their lives and that is where we come in to help."

"Not all cops are jerks," he added. "I think I can try to change that attitude one person at a time and that is what I want to do. I want to change people's outlooks, if I can be a positive influence on someone, then I've done my job."

The officer is not married, but he and his girlfriend, Ericka Woods, dote on his dog Jackson, a black Labrador retriever, and on her dog Raleigh, a Shih Tzu.

Merritt has recently taken up photography and plays a little golf. If it weren't for the nearly constant burn bans in effect in the local area, he would do a lot more camping.

"But you can't camp without a campfire," he said with a smile.

He hopes to get some experience under his belt and advance within the department as the opportunities arise.

"I would really like to be a detective because it is a totally different side of police work," he said. "You finish the investigations started by the patrolmen. One of my supervisors told me that you really should have five years of experience on the job before you become a detective."

One thing he is sure of is that he has found a home. "Texas is the greatest state in America," he avows. "You can't go wrong in Texas. It's beautiful. I love West Texas and I love the plains. I never want to leave."

story by Randy Pribble

Landon McNeely

Instructor, Dyno-Rock Climbing Center



Pampa's been home to myriad different kinds of people, but here's something we're willing to bet the city has yet to produce: a ninja warrior.

That, though, is exactly what Pampan Landon McNeely is aiming to become after being invited to audition for "Ninja Warrior," the American iteration of the Japanese game show "Sasuke."

The premise is simple: It's an obstacle course designed to be an extreme test of strength, agility and dexterity. It's a daunting challenge, to be sure, but McNeely, a seasoned rock climber who now works as an instructor at Arlington's Dyno-Rock Climbing gym, is looking forward to it.

"They did this whole recruiting push," McNeely said. "They called a lot of gyms. I was talking to some of my buddies and it was like, 'Hey, I think I could do this.'"

McNeely made a five-minute audition tape demonstrating his skills and sent it into the "Ninja Warrior" producers, who invited him to try out in Dallas.

"It was a lot of fun," he said of the tryout. "It was a lot of really laid-back guys — a bunch of free runners and a bunch of climbers — trying something really cool, so it was a great atmosphere."

The audition process itself is classified, so McNeely was

unable to discuss any of the particulars. He did say, though, that he's looking forward to when the trials are televised (he's not quite sure when they will air, if they do at all) and said he'd do it again in a heartbeat.

It's the taxing combination of mental and physical challenge that appeals to McNeely about climbing.

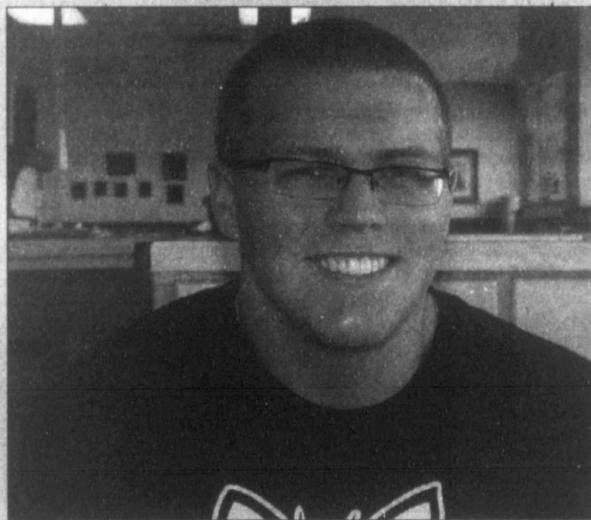
"I think the biggest thing, and a lot of climbers would probably tell you this, is that it's super physical, it's super demanding," McNeely said. "But it's also super, super mental. A lot of it's a mind game, and so there's even certain types of climbing where we just refer to it as a 'problem.' So we'll go climb this problem. Instead of figuring it out, you grab the solution. You're playing chess with the wall, which is kind of cool."

"You'll get up on a wall and there's ways to transfer your body weight or hold a hold a different way and you have to do something about it," he continued. "When you think about doing it, it becomes this graceful easy movement where, before, it was awkward. You start figuring out little tricks and it gets to be a lot more fun that way. It's not one or the other (physical or mental). It's both, all the time."

Asked if he thought it would surprise people that he's now doing what he's doing, McNeely, the valedictorian of Pampa High School's class of 2007, laughed.

"To everybody else, probably, but to people who actually knew me well, it would make a lot of sense," he said.

story by Arnie Aurellano



Ryan Pearson

Student, Pampa High School



Pampa High School senior Ryan Pearson finished his first year on the wrestling team 19-4.

"It was really fun," he said. "I wish I would have done it earlier. It's a little bit of (a team sport and individual). We have individual tournaments and then we have duels where it's our team versus their team. We really have to rely on everybody in order to do well in the duel."

"When you're at a duel, you're watching everybody else, and everybody's cheering you on," he added. "It's a really neat experience."

Pearson also is playing tennis this year. "I never played before until this year," he said. "It's my senior year, and I thought I'd just go and play whatever I can. It's really fun."

Trying new things has been a focus for Pearson during his last school year at PHS.

"I wanted to make the most of my senior year, and I thought that would be the best way to do it," he said.

For the last few years, Pearson has been involved with People's Kenpo.

"It's a type of karate," he said. "I'm really big into martial arts."

"We do everything. We do a little jujitsu,

stand up, we do everything there. It's really fun."

Pearson, though, isn't just about athletic pursuits. Pampa High School principal Tanya Larkin described Pearson as "just a really good kid, excellent person," and PHS administrative assistant Sandee Stokes called him "one of our great kids."

Pearson said that growing up in Pampa has been a special experience.

"You get to know everybody, and there are not too many people, so you get to know people better," he said. "You can be friends with everybody, rather than small groups of people in a big town."

"I get along with everybody, and everyone else does, too," he added. "It's a really neat class we have."

Pearson plans to attend West Texas A&M, to pursue an education degree and eventually teach high school math.

"I really like the subject, and I'm a nerd, I guess," he said with a laugh. "Everything has an answer, so there's no gray area. It's just black and white. I'm more interested in the high school level of math. It just fascinates me."

story by Mollie Bryant

The PAMPA News

your source for area news and local sports

FIND YOUR CAREER AT CLARENDON COLLEGE

— Pampa Center Career & Technical Programs



NURSING PROGRAM Associate of Applied Science

A vocational nursing program at Clarendon College-Pampa Center is underway. The program is designed to help students work toward taking the exam to become a licensed vocational nurse. Students who complete the one-year course which starts in January could take the state exam as early as December to become LVNs.

Applicants must have a high school diploma or a GED. They must take a pre-admission test, have immunizations completed including Hepatitis B, followed by an interview with the college's nursing committee. A background check will be conducted on students selected for the course. The pre-admission test consists of math, science, English and reading comprehension questions, and is taken on a computer. The test can be scheduled and taken at the Pampa campus. Classes are Monday - Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Clinical are from 6:00am to 2:00 or 4:00pm. Clarendon College students get hands on training with personalized instruction.

EMT PROGRAM Associate of Applied Science

Clarendon College Pampa Center EMS Program has the most up-to-date equipment and training facility available. Students enrolled in this program will have use of the latest technology, including our SimMan mannequin. This equipment allows the student to perform real life scenarios with a mannequin that will interact with the student just like a real person will.

The Emergency Medical Services Program offers three levels of certification. Basic EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), Intermediate and Paramedic Technicians. The Basic certification is a 1 semester program. The Intermediate portion of the program will take 3 semesters and the Paramedic level is a 2 year Associate of Applied Science Degree. Upon completion of each certification students will be ready to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians examinations. This field offers a wide variety of workforce opportunity upon completion of each portion of the program.



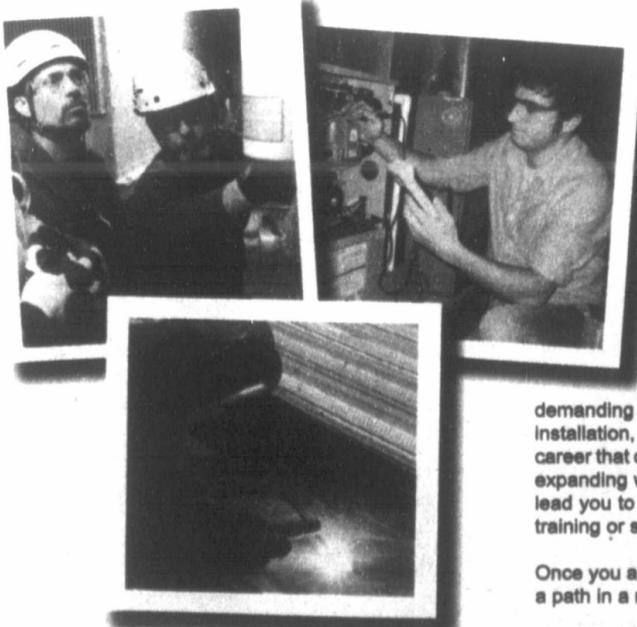
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Whether you propose a certificate or A.A.S. in Office Technology and go right to work, or continue your education seeking a higher degree, you'll find opportunities at all levels. Gain skills and confidence. Secretaries and administrative assistants are aided in their tasks by a variety of office equipment, such as fax machines, photocopiers, scanners, calculators, and telephone systems. In addition, secretaries and administrative assistants often use computers to do tasks previously handled by managers and professionals such as create spreadsheets; compose correspondence; manage databases; and create presentations, reports and documents using desktop publishing software. In the Office Technology Program you grow personally as you learn different entry-level skills such as computer technology, accounting, professional development, business math, calculating machines, advance keyboarding, record keeping and medical office procedures.

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Join the many students that have started their Cosmetology career at Clarendon College. You will learn the latest styles & techniques to help you become a success locally or anywhere. Learn the skills necessary to be a professional beauty consultant or be your own boss and own your own salon. By receiving the certificate, the student is qualified to take the cosmetologist licensing exam given by the Texas Department of Licenses and Regulation.

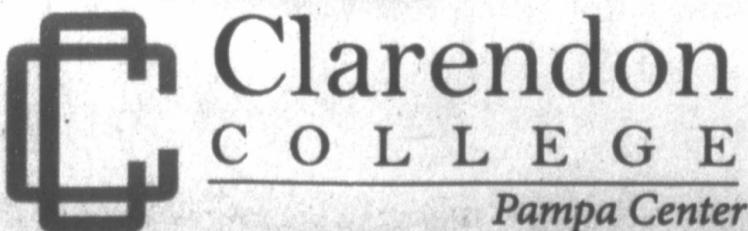


CAREER / TECHNICAL HVAC, Welding, and Wind Technology

Do you enjoy working with your hands? One of our trade programs might be for you. No matter how technology changes there will always be a need for hands-on experience. Our welding program has experienced instructors that will give you the skills and knowledge that will make you a successful and sought after employee. Classes include basic arc welding, GMAW/FCAW (MIG) Plate Welding and GMAW/FCAW (MIG) Pipe Welding, and more.

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Once you acquire the skills and knowledge of one of our trade programs, you can will be ready to begin a path in a new rewarding career.



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FOCUS ON Faith

With its rich tapestry of churches, Pampa is a community rooted deeply in its religious values. In today's Pride of Gray County special section, we celebrate those values by spotlighting the churches: their services, outreach programs, fellowship events, and what they do to keep us together in God.



submitted photo

Mollie Nelson smiles during the First Presbyterian youth group's January ski trip to Monarch, Colo.

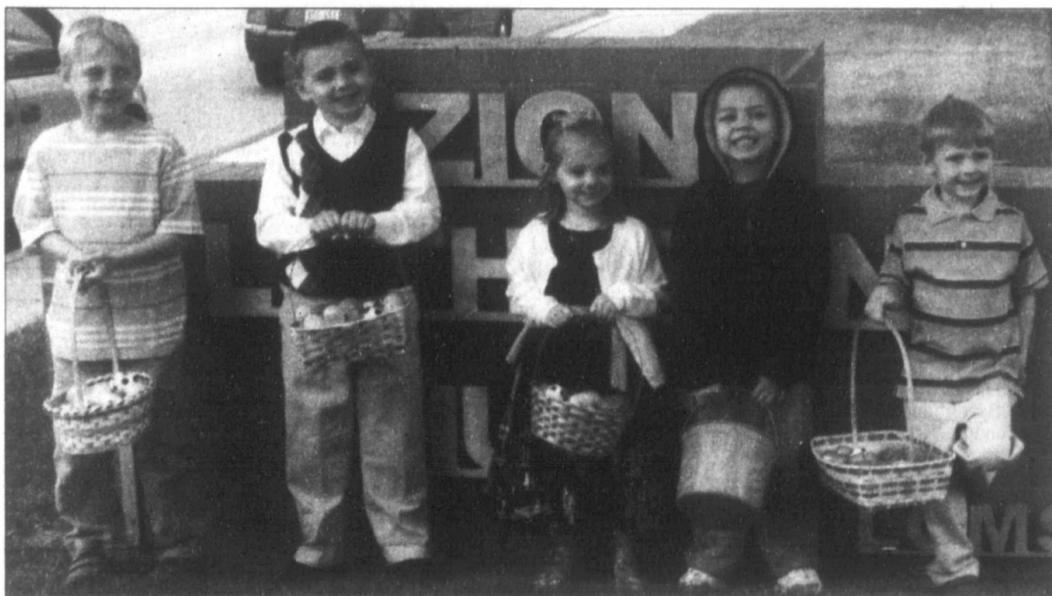
First Presbyterian Church

This year, the First Presbyterian Church took a big step of faith in hiring its first ever full-time Christian Education Coordinator, Jim Anderson. The Church's WOW (Worship On Wednesday) program is designed for children from age 3 to fifth grade and the youth group is for sixth to twelfth grades. Our new Christian Ed. Coordinator is mainly responsible for overseeing these programs.

The WOW program is designed to teach stories of the Bible through different faucets of learning. We explore important characters and stories through activities such as art, science, cooking, computers, videos, music, and storytelling. We have a certain theme every month where we concentrate on just one story or just one character from the bible so at the end of the month the children come away knowing and remembering the lessons. These lessons are all taught by faithful volunteers of the church who have a heart for bringing up the children by way of the Word.

The youth are taught and led by Jim Anderson, our Christian Ed. Coordinator. Wednesday nights are never really the same cookie-cutter meetings. Sometimes the youth serve the church by cooking our regular Wednesday night fellowship meal, sometimes they have video lessons, and sometimes they have activities/games that go along with a lesson. At the beginning of this year, the youth have been asked questions such as, "How do you know you can trust the Bible?" and, "Where did the Bible even come from?" Then they moved into a video series that challenged them to build a strong foundation in Jesus Christ for their lives to stand on. After that, they took a couple field trips to show the importance of serving and helping others and how doing something small could have a really big impact on the world around them.

Our youth group isn't all just study and lessons though; we have fun too! In October the youth attended a Casting Crowns concert in Amarillo and in January they took a ski trip to Monarch, Colo. Early in March they drove to Amarillo's indoor rock climbing wall and had some fun climbing around. And in between all of that have been game nights and movie nights! The youth are also planning on attending Summer Camp this year in June which they are all looking forward to once they get some fundraisers under their belts!



submitted photo

Zion Lutheran's kids gear up for Easter.

Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church is a friendly congregation and a member of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, a 2.3 million member church body in the United States. The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is a theologically conservative denomination which preaches clearly the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind. It was formed from a group of Saxon Germans who immigrated to the St. Louis area in 1838.

Our congregation consists of about 50 families that gather together to hear God's holy Word and to receive the sacraments as instituted by the Gospel of Christ. The Lutheran Church is a liturgical church in that we use a historic service that has been handed down from early church and has lasted until today. During the Reformation many abuses had entered the Mass, but Martin Luther kept all the parts of the Mass that promoted the Gospel and put out those that obscured the Gospel. The holy liturgy is predominately Scripture and points to Christ in every aspect. The Lord speaks to His people through His Word and we,

through the liturgy, listen.

Our congregation appreciates the reverent holy services that are celebrated week in and week out at our parish. From babies to the very old we all gather around the preached Word. We all assemble to be nourished and fed by the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures in our life together. We all together sing the same liturgy and hymns and speak the same Creed and Lord's Prayer. It is very unifying to have the whole congregation (from very young to very old) gathered around the main thing that happens at the parish: the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of Christ's holy body and blood. It is here that Christ delivers His gifts of salvation that we need.

Sunday school is offered for all ages in our parish. For those in 4th and 5th grades we have Catechism class taught by the pastor during the week. It is a two year class with memory work and learning the basics of Christian doctrine from the Small Catechism. One of the strengths of the Lutheran Church is that we really strive to teach what we believe and confess as a church about

Christ and salvation. We don't separate our children from their families during the Divine Service. We all receive the gifts of our Lord together in the worship service.

These gifts are the central focus of the life of our people. Christ is delivered to the hurting and those troubled by their conscience. In Christ we receive forgiveness and through His word and sacraments.

Other groups within our parish also come together to serve the church and others. Our high school youth plan various fundraisers to go to Higher Things conferences where they learn and grow in God's Word. Our Lutheran Women's Missionary League is busy with various projects for missions and many agencies and groups in Pampa. Zion remains committed to support Good Samaritan and the Pregnancy Support Center which upholds the sanctity of human life.

We gather for the Divine Service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school and Bible Class are at 9:15 a.m. For questions or information please contact Rev. Michael Erickson at 806-669-2774.

First Christian Church

The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is located at 1633 N. Nelson in Pampa. Our Fellowship of Faith was born on the plains in April of 1908, gathered together by eight dedicated frontier Christians. The heritage we share is that of America's first indigenous denomination, born in Kentucky in 1832.

The denomination was formed by Christians seeking a restoration of New Testament Christianity, and unity among all followers of Jesus Christ. Part of the directive of the denomination was later simply stated, "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; and in all things, love."

Here in Pampa, we continue to strive in what we think, say, and do, to be a genuine, real, and loving community of people devoted to Christ. We seek always to know and follow God through the wisdom and leadership of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that we are not the only Christians, but we are Chris-

tians only.

The First Christian Church of Pampa Youth Ministry strives to provide a safe, accepting, and age appropriate environment for fun and fellowship, as well as opportunities for service, growing in faith, and worship. Please join us for our regular activities:

- Wednesdays:**
6:15 p.m.: \$2 Supper in the Fellowship Hall
6:45 p.m.: Skits/Worship/Music/Announcements
7:00 p.m.: Six available Youth Groups with curriculum
• Nursery Class
• PCYF (Pre-K - K)
• CCYF (1st-2nd)
• JYF (3rd-5th)
• ChiRho (6th-8th)
• CYF (9th-12th)

- Sundays:**
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School
10:50 a.m.: Worship
In addition to our regular Wednesday and Sunday schedule, FCC

Youth are given opportunities for:

- Christian Camps and Retreats
- Mission Trips
- Local Service Projects
- Fellowship Activities (ski trips, bowling, movies, lock-ins, etc.)

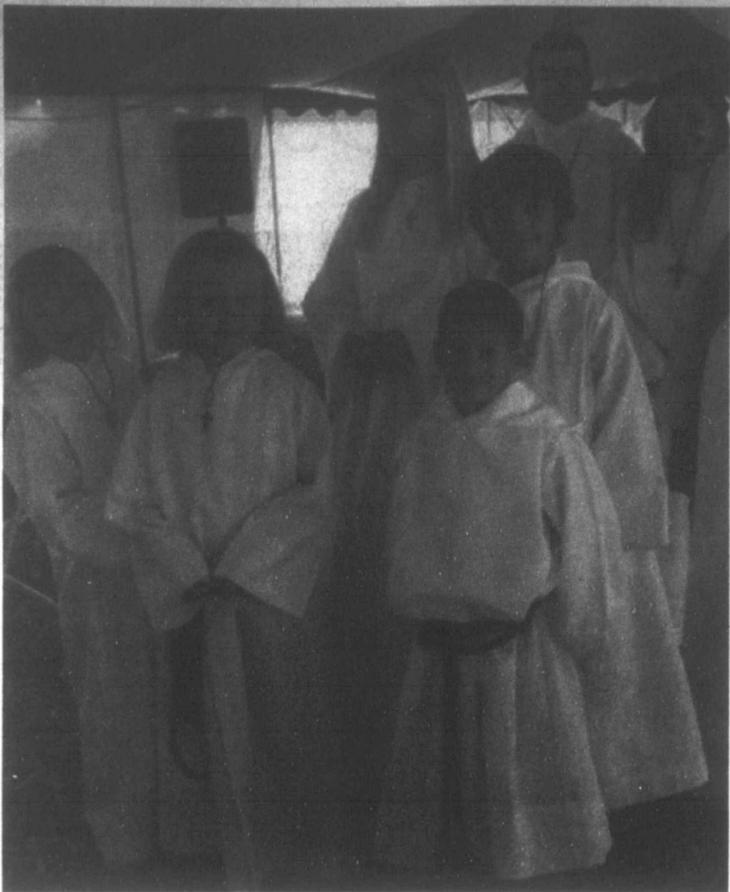
Youth are involved in the whole life of the people of God at the same time they find their primary identity with a part of the people of God — their peers. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-9) as God's prophet and the Apostle Paul's charge to Timothy to be in ministry (1 Timothy 4:12-16) provide strong biblical imagery for the call of youth to service and leadership for God. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirms that its youth are integral members of the people of God. They belong and as members they participate in its whole life, ministry, and mission.

Real kids having real faith in a real world. We invite you to join us as we guide our youth to worship, serve and honor God with their lives.



submitted photo

Derek Norris jumps for joy at a First Christian Church retreat.



submitted photo

Jojo Ragsdale (from left), Hallie Schoenrock, Sarah Schoenrock, Oliver Garcia, Nicholas Garcia, Ian Smith and Maddie Smith share a smile at the Lord's Acre Harvest Festival.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church offers Catechesis of the Good Shepherd on Sunday mornings for pre-school through middle school age children. The Catechesis is also a regular part of the Day School curriculum. Based on the Montessori method, children learn the parables and teachings of Jesus, biblical events and settings, and how we worship in church in a beautifully prepared environment with lots of hands-on activities.

In the summer we have a family weekend Vacation Church School event.

In the fall our older youth help with

activities offered for younger children at the "Lord's Acre"; face painting, pumpkin painting, petting zoo, jumping house and train rides.

We are pleased to sponsor a very active Boy Scout Troop #413 and a new Girl Scout (Brownie) Troop #5511 which already has 14 girls.

Our church also offers a summer camp for grades 2 through high school.

Youth second grade and up are invited to take an active part in Sunday worship by serving as acolytes and singing in the choir.



submitted photo

Paige Fox, Amy Hyatt, Teaira Jordan, Nate Rodibaugh, Kamri Scott, Michael Fox, Kambrin Fox, Mason Parsley, Raul Majea and Nathan Ohsfeldt hang out at one of Grace Baptist's youth activities.

Grace Baptist Church

Grace Baptist Church is an independent Baptist Church that was established in March of 1977 under the leadership of Ed Korsmo. As the church began meeting in rented property, it was in 1978 that we were able to acquire the former property of Calvary Baptist Church on S. Barnes when they made the decision to relocate to the north side of town.

In the 35 years that Grace has been established, it has been our desire to reach the people of this community. While we desire to reach people from all stages and walks of life, we, like most churches, recognize that the future of a church is vitally connected to the youth IN the church. Because of this vital connection between the two, it has been our desire/goal to reach children and young people with the truth of God's word. While our ideas are far from new or innovative, some of the

ministries we have made available in our church in an effort to reach the young people of this community consist of:

- A weekly bus route: this allows children/teens (and adults) an opportunity to attend church when it would not otherwise be possible.

- Junior Church: this ministry takes place on Sunday mornings and allows the children to learn the truth of God's word on a level that makes sense to them and is easier to understand.

- Wednesday Night Teen Service- this ministry takes place on Wednesday nights while the adults are involved in their own bible study. Again, this service allows the teens to give consideration to God's word from a perspective that is relevant to them and on their level.

As we have a desire to reach out to & serve the young people of our community, it is also our desire to teach our young

people to serve others in the church. Because of this, our young people are used in a variety of ways in the ministry. Many are involved in our choirs, playing instruments for specials or serving as ushers or assistants in different areas. As a church, we recognize there is still much to do in reaching people in our community; at the same time, we are grateful for what we have been allowed to accomplish with the Lord's help. As we look to the future, we are currently involved in building a new youth building that will give them a place to call their own. We are also seeking to hire a full-time couple to work with our young people so we can continue to see the ministry expand.

We'd love to invite you to come and see what is happening at Grace Baptist Church; or, you can learn more about us on our website at www.gbcpampa.com.

First Baptist Church

203 N. West Street • Pampa, Texas
806-669-1155 • 806-665-PRAY



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| <h3 style="margin: 0;">Sunday Activities</h3> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Worship Service</td> <td style="width: 20%;">11:00 a.m.</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Children's Choirs</td> <td style="width: 20%;">4:45 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday School</td> <td>9:45 a.m.</td> <td>Prayer Service</td> <td>6:00 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evening Worship</td> <td>6:00 p.m.</td> <td>Youth Activities:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Jr. High Bible Study</td> <td>6:15 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>High School Bible Study</td> <td>7:15 p.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Children's & Preschool Discipleship</td> <td>6:00 p.m.</td> </tr> </table> | Worship Service | 11:00 a.m. | Children's Choirs | 4:45 p.m. | Sunday School | 9:45 a.m. | Prayer Service | 6:00 p.m. | Evening Worship | 6:00 p.m. | Youth Activities: | | | | Jr. High Bible Study | 6:15 p.m. | | | High School Bible Study | 7:15 p.m. | | | Children's & Preschool Discipleship | 6:00 p.m. | <h3 style="margin: 0;">Wednesday Ministries</h3> |
| Worship Service | 11:00 a.m. | Children's Choirs | 4:45 p.m. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunday School | 9:45 a.m. | Prayer Service | 6:00 p.m. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Evening Worship | 6:00 p.m. | Youth Activities: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Jr. High Bible Study | 6:15 p.m. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | High School Bible Study | 7:15 p.m. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Children's & Preschool Discipleship | 6:00 p.m. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Small Group Bible Studies

Wednesdays & Sundays

Pastor Johnny Funderburg Invites You To
Come Join Us In God's Blessings!

FIRST

United Methodist Church
of Pampa

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Sunday Morning | |
| Sunday School | 9:15 am |
| Worship Service | 10:30 am |
| Jr. High dEVOS | 5:00 pm |
| Sr. High dEVOS | 6:30 pm |

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Wednesday Night | |
| Church Cafe | 5:30 pm |
| King's Kids | 6:30 pm |
| Club 56 | 6:30 pm |
| VERB (Youth) | 6:30 pm |
| Adult Small Groups | 6:30 pm |

Adult Bible studies and spiritual formation groups are offered throughout the year. Check our website or call us for information on our current small group offerings: www.pampafumc.com

First United Methodist Church

Pastors: Revs. Blossom and Nick Matthews
201 E. Foster | Pampa, TX | 806.669.7411

Worship with us live by tuning in to KOMX FM 100.3 at 10:30 am for a live broadcast.



submitted photo

Fourth graders bow their heads in prayer at First Baptist's vacation Bible school.



submitted photo

Jeremy Buck (from left), Carl Novian, Johnny Funderburg, Nicole Routh, Tony Bolin, Barry Owens share a smile during the church's 100-year celebration.

First Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Pampa is a church that is passionate about the Lord Jesus. Our plan is simple: We want to know Him, love Him, worship Him, and serve Him. We want Him to know that and we want You to know that.

We are unapologetically a Southern Baptist Church that is filled with activities, programs, and service opportunities for all ages. We are set up in a traditional fashion. Graded Sunday School classes are available for all beginning at 9:45 a.m. Since faith comes by hearing the Word of God, we have Bible teachers who love God, His Word, and people. These committed teachers study hard to present Biblical truths in a relevant fashion to their classes. An 11 a.m. worship service follows that provides a "blended" worship experience. Old Gospel hymns are led by a great choir and uplifting praise songs are accompanied by a talented praise team. We believe that God is pleased with our praise.

The focal point of our worship services is the preaching, explaining, and sharing of the infallible Word of God. The Word of God is foundational to us. We preach it. We teach it. We strive to live it. And we seek to do it all in the fullness of God's Spirit.

Yes, we still meet on Sunday nights. A preaching service begins at 6 p.m. Many and varied study groups also meet in that 6 p.m. hour throughout the church plant.

Wednesday nights are really taking off around here. With children's missions groups, choirs, and musical groups meeting each Wednesday evening, there are kids of all ages everywhere. Worship services and Bible studies for Junior High and High School students likewise fill the rooms of our church on Wednesdays. Adults are in no way left out of the mid-week time slot. A passionate prayer meeting takes place in our chapel. Surrounding the prayer meeting are many small group

classes, where Biblical instruction, discussion and fellowship, aid in making us committed, service-oriented disciples of the Lord Jesus.

Our church is blessed with Children's ministries and Student ministries that strive for passion and excellence. Biblical teaching and many fellowship-oriented activities run throughout the entire year.

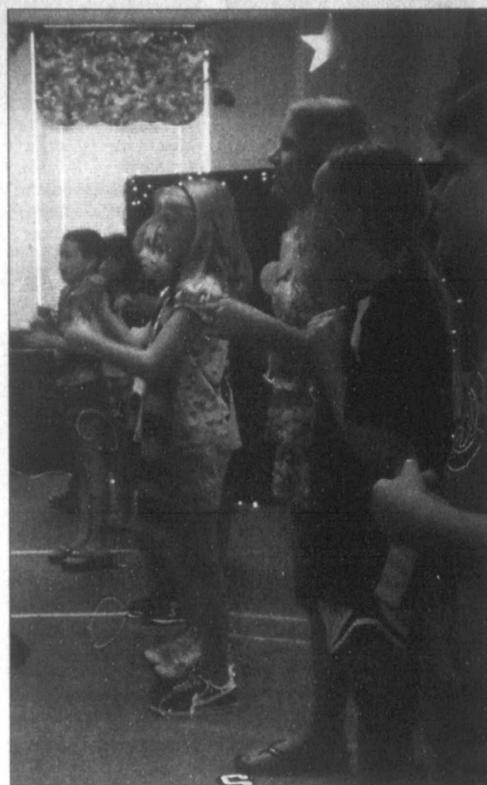
We are very blessed with wonderful leadership and enthusiastic participants that help to make these ministries exciting and profitable for all involved.

Our church also houses the First Baptist Church Child Development Center (CDC). The CDC is structured to love children from six weeks old to elementary age and to teach them from a Bible-based curriculum.

There are, of course, many other special programs throughout the year: Vacation Bible School, Children's camps, Student camps, Women's ministries, Men's ministries, Mission opportunities, and the like are some of these special programs and exciting opportunities.

Our greatest concern is to please the Lord in all that we do. We also hope to be everything that you have always wanted in a church and may never have found. If you come, we will love you. We will become a friend and try to minister the love and grace of Jesus Christ to you and your family. We love being the church of Jesus. We invite you to come and join us on this journey of Becoming—because we have not arrived, of Believing—because we have the Rock of Ages to stand upon, and of Being—because this world needs to know who Jesus Christ really is.

We have a website where you can find out more about us. It is www.fhpcpampa.org. Our phone number is 806-669-1155. And we are located at 203 N. West Street. Who are we? Please come find out for yourself.



submitted photo

Kids clap along with the music during First Baptist's vacation Bible school for third graders in 2011.

First Presbyterian Church

525 N. Gray St. • Pampa, TX 79065
806-665-1031

SUNDAY

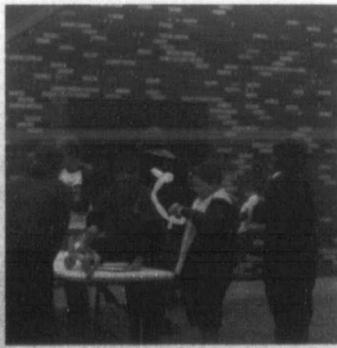
Coffee Fellowship - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages - 9:30 a.m.
Worship - 10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Studies for Children and Adults at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Youth at 7:00 p.m.
Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.



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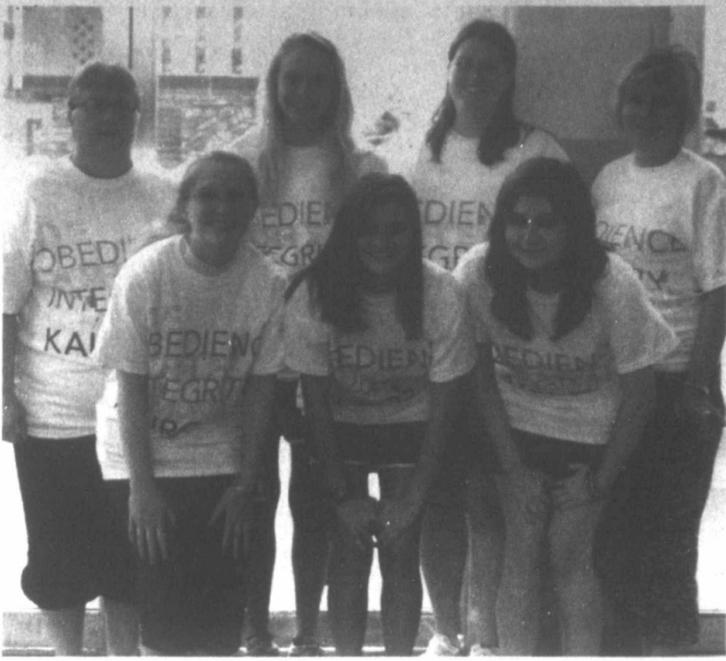


Mike



Steve

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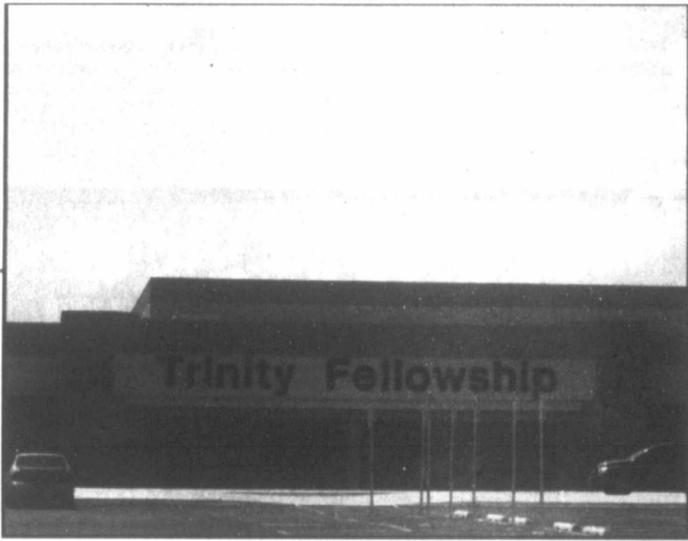
submitted photo

Among those from Harvester Baptist Church who attended a summer church camp were (from left) Karla Howell, Chelsea Goodwin, Natalie Parker, Claire Hopkins, Hannah Hopkins, Rachel Parker and Lois Parker.

Harvest Fellowship Church

Harvest Fellowship Church began in October of 2005 with the purpose of being a church on mission, sharing the love of Jesus with a world in need. Since its founding the church has been involved in ministries around the world. HFC is affiliated with and supports the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention and the Top of Texas Baptist Area. Ministry involvement includes local support of the Good Samaritan, the Pampa Pregnancy Support Center, Prison Ministry, & Disaster Relief. Additionally, the church supports a youth camp in Kotzebue, Alaska; a church in Spearfish, South Dakota that emphasizes college ministry; a hotel

and construction ministry in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; two churches in Romania; and has involved its own youth in Mission Santa Fe, New Mexico. This summer two young ladies will be going on mission trips to Africa: Natalie Parker to Kenya in May and Claire Hopkins to South Africa in July. Harvest Fellowship encourages its members young and old to be involved wherever they are. HFC is a church in a small corner of the world with a big heart for the world. Sunday Bible Study is at 9:30 am followed by Morning Worship at 10:30 am & Sunday Evening Service is at 6:00 pm. The church is located at 2700 W. Kentucky in Pampa. The pastor is C. W. Parker. Contact us at 806-665-4922.



Trinity is a non-denominational local church, serving people to impact a city.

Sunday Service Schedule - 10 am

Worship Service
Children's Church & Nursery

Wednesday Schedule - 7 pm

Sozo Zone • Kindergarten - 5th grade
Zoe • 6th - 12th grade
Adults Praise & Prayer

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP
2225 N. Hobart St. Pampa, TX 79065



submitted photo

Julia Conely, Alicia Heil, Louise Ward, Lanora Ripple, Lavena Abbott and Barbara Pipkin enjoy a MEHCOC banquet.

Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ

The Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ has had a rich history in Pampa, and continues to serve our community. The church began in 1927 after meeting in private homes and public buildings and then a permanent building was erected at Francis and Warren Streets. In December of 1951, our present building was opened. Since that time, the church has enjoyed a steady growth numerically and spiritually.

We are beginning a new chapter in the family life of the MEHCOC. Keith Feerer, who was the youth minister from 1980 to 1991, has returned to be our pulpit minister. He began his work in December 2011. His wife Joyce will begin as a nurse practitioner at The Genesis Clinic this week.

Our focus now is to build a "Happy Church Together." We have a nice cross section of young married, middle age, and seniors in our church family who love each other and the community we live in. We teach the Word of God in its purity in all our classes and worship. We have Bible classes for all ages from the cradle up on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Our Worship is very simple New Testament style where everyone participates in every act of worship. We sing together, pray together, give together, study together and most importantly, we take the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. Come join us for a taste of "simple, no frills, New Testament Christianity" Sundays at

10:30 a.m. and 5 pm. The youth of our congregation enjoy spending time in fellowship together on a number of occasions. Three Dollar Thursday, which is held at the youth house directly across from the high school on Mary Ellen Street, is a crowd favorite. It is a time of fun, fellowship and awesome food. The cooks are amazing. Our youth group is also involved in local area missions and relationship building; each Tuesday afternoon several of our youth spend an hour or two at Hampton Village helping with their after-school program. No matter who you are or where you are at in your faith, you are always welcome in our group. Join us, and let's grow closer to God together.

Mission of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Pampa, TX: To Welcome & Serve All People, Share the Message of Jesus Christ, & Nourish Spiritual Growth through faith in God.

Sunday

8:00 am to 8:30 am Silent Prayer
9:45 am Sunday School
10:50am Worship

Tuesday & Thursday

9am to 3pm Mothers Day Out

Wednesday

6:15 pm \$2.00 Snack Supper
6:50 pm Youth Lead Worship
7:05 pm Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study

Other Programs for You & Your Family
Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts, Small groups for all ages, Summer Camping Program for 3rd-12th

We hope you will join us!

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065
Office Phone: 806-669-3225
Web Site: www.fccpampa.org

Dr. Rev. Jeff Knighton, Senior Minister

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Southside Church

Southside Church of Christ is located at 11923 W. McCullough Ave.

We are a Bible-teaching and Bible-believing church. We are extending an open invitation to you

to come and worship with us where the gospel, "God's Word," is always preached.

If there is ever a time that you do not understand or have a question about what has been preached, please feel free to get with the minister and the brothers after the services so that they may give you a Bible answer for a Bible question.

We have an annual "Songfest" which is held the third weekend in September. The Songfest is not a competition. It is a gathering of the Churches of Christ to come together to praise the Lord through preaching, praying, and singing praises unto our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Our services are as follows: Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; morning worship, 10:45 a.m.

Our plan is to start our singing ministry at the nursing homes again. The dates and times will be announced at a later date.

We love the Lord and we love his creation, so please come and join us so that we can praise and worship the Lord together.



submitted photo

Primary helps children ages 18 months to 11 years learn and understand the gospel of Christ.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

The Pampa Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints includes members from a large area in the Texas Panhandle. The ward includes members from Canadian, Wheeler, Shamrock, McLean, Panhandle, White Deer, Laketon, and Pampa. The international headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are located in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Pampa Ward is led by Bishop Paul Smith of Pampa, and his two counselors, Bryan Guymon of Pampa, and Cecil Martin of Laketon, who constitute the bishopric of the Pampa Ward. Other groups within the local Pampa Ward and some of their activities are described in the paragraphs below.

The Pampa Ward has numerous ward activities throughout the year, including celebrations for Cinco de Mayo and the 4th of July, as well as a Trunk-or-Treat around Halloween and a Ward Christmas dinner and gathering in December. The Pampa Ward is the charter organization for Cub Scout Pack 401, Boy Scout Troop 401, and Varsity Team 401 of the Boy Scouts of America. The Pampa Ward is a close community of approximately 100 active members who love Jesus Christ, His gospel, and serving their fellow man.

The Pampa Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meets weekly on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Services are simultaneously translated into the Spanish language. The Church building is located at 411 E 29th St. in Pampa. For more information, please visit www.lds.org or www.mormon.org.

Melchizedek Priesthood: Worthy adult men in the Church receive the Melchizedek Priesthood, which is authority from God to perform sacred ordinances and to lead in the Church. Within the Pampa Ward, the men who hold the Melchizedek Priesthood belong to either the elders quorum or the high priests group. The high priests group of the Pampa Ward is led by Richard Gattis of Pampa, Bryce Robison of Pampa, and Walter Howell of Pampa. Members of these groups meet in their respective groups each Sunday to study the gospel of Jesus Christ and be instructed in their duties, which include teaching and watching over the members of the ward, home teaching, and carrying out specific service projects.

Relief Society: All women in the ward ages 18 and older, as well as women younger than 18 who are married or are single mothers, belong to the Relief Society organization. The purpose of Relief Society is to organize, teach, and inspire women to prepare them for the blessings of eternal life. Members of the Relief Society fulfill this purpose by increasing faith and personal righteousness,

strengthening families and homes, and seeking out and helping those in need. The Pampa Ward Relief Society is led by Karryn Conlin of Lefors, Tara Bingham of Pampa, and Kendall Bunch of Wheeler. The Relief Society meets on Sundays for gospel instruction and typically meets every other month for activities.

Young Men: Worthy young men are ordained as deacons in the Aaronic Priesthood at the age of 12. They advance to the office of a teacher at age 14 and to the office of priest at age 16. The purpose of the Young Men organization is to help young men learn and fulfill their Aaronic Priesthood duties and to prepare them for future responsibilities as missionaries, husbands, fathers, and leaders in the Church. The young men are led by adult leaders Jeff Witcher of White Deer, Chris Marks of Clarendon, and Ronnie Duvall of Pampa. The young men meet on Sundays for priesthood instruction and on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for social, service, or cultural activities.

Young Women: Young women ages 12 to 17 belong to the ward's Young Women organization. The purpose of this organization is to help young women build their testimonies of Christ and prepare to receive the blessings of the temple. The Young Women organization also prepares them for their future roles as women in the Church and as contributing members of society. The young women are led by adult leaders Diane Wheeler of Pampa, and Jerilyn Brooks of Pampa. The young women meet on Sundays for gospel instruction and on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for social, service, or cultural activities.

Sunday School: Sunday School classes are held for approximately one hour each Sunday. Sunday School provides age-specific gospel instruction for ward members ages 12 and older (younger members attend Primary). The Pampa Ward Sunday School is led by Larry Jackson of Shamrock, and many teachers called to instruct various age groups.

Primary: Children ages 18 months to 11 years belong to the Primary organization. Its purpose is to help children learn and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ and prepare to make and keep sacred covenants. Children attend Primary classes for two hours each Sunday while their parents participate in other Church meetings. Children also participate in other regularly held activities. The Pampa Ward Primary is led by Janelle Guymon of Pampa, Brooke White of Canadian, Angela Wendel of Pampa, and Alexandria Gray of Pampa. Primary leaders are assisted by teachers for different age groups, a music director, and an activity day leader.



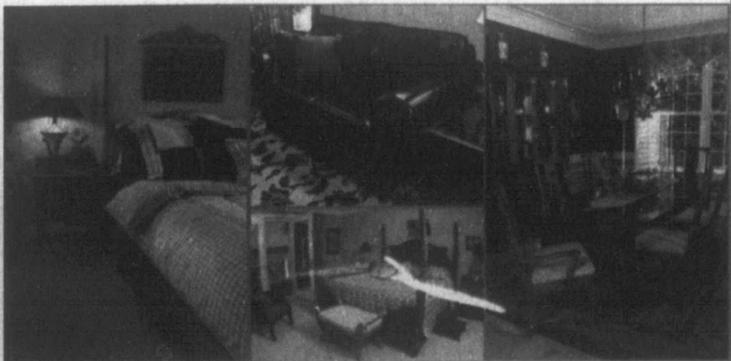
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First United Methodist high schoolers took a trip to Africa this year, where they shared Christ's love through working with orphans, many of whom were HIV positive.



submitted photo

First United Methodist's youth had fun at last year's Mud Wars.

First United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church is a congregation that loves God, one another, and our community. We show our love for God through our weekly worship experiences; we grow in faith with one another through our diverse faith development and fellowship groups; and we reach out to our community through the ministries of our church as well as through numerous community service groups.

We gather for worship each Sunday at 10:30 am in a service prayerfully created to encourage and renew you in your walk with Jesus Christ. Our pastors seek to open God's Word in a way that touches the heart and challenges the mind so that those of every age and stage of faith may grow in their relationship with God. Our current building program includes an updating of worship technology within our sanctuary. We look forward to using this tool to further develop the richness of our worship experience, from thought-provoking liturgies to laughter-inspiring video clips, we do all for the glory of God and for the spiritual nurture of God's children.

FUMC Youth is a family of teens from different economic and social backgrounds that connect to God in their own unique way together. They go deeper into God and social issues through casual lessons on Sunday Nights. They learn, play and serve together on Wednesday nights where our motto is to be, love and

serve. There's no sitting on the sidelines. Christian is a VERB, not a noun here. FUMC youth experience God and the world actively together. They've taken what they learned around the world and back to Pampa on foreign, domestic and local missions. Most importantly, they are imperfect people striving together to be more like God. If you're a searching and imperfect person then this is the place for you.

Another year has come and gone for our youth group and what a year it was. Our group is named VERB for two reasons. The first reason is that its an acronym for our five practices and the second is because our faith should be active.

One of the most notable things I think we did this year was our senior high trip to Africa. It was an amazing time for our senior highers to share the love of Jesus through engaging orphans (many of whom were HIV Positive). So many memories were made during this unforgettable experience. If you don't believe me just say the word Baboon to anyone that went on the trip and you'll get a fun reaction.

We took a number of youth to camp at Ceta Canyon where they got to see first hand God's provision in how He saved the camp from the fires of May. They also worshipped, learned and fellowshiped with almost 400 other teens.

Our youth had a great deal of fun this year. Whether it was our Junior High Lock-In with 28 kiddos, Live Angry Birds, movie nights, video game tournaments, Mud Wars, Senior High Laser Tag Lock-In or an Amarillo Bulls game, there was youth having an awesome time.

FUMC youth were all over the place in our community as well. They participated in the Silver Ring Thing, See You and Saw You at the Pole as well as the Ministry Alliance Fifth Quarter we hosted with 37 Jr. Highers in attendance.

Club 56, our ministry to fifth and sixth graders, continued its special brand of fun, chaos and spiritual depth on Wednesday nights with amazing adult volunteers. Our Sunday Night Devos for junior and senior high were enjoyable times of scriptural study and fellowship. I always enjoy watching youth grow in their understanding of God's Word. Our Wednesday night services were blessed with the addition of Orange and some unique services on and off campus.

The teens not only served abroad, but they served in Pampa as we hosted ROTC, went door to door with light bulbs and smoke alarm batteries, fixed up the volleyball court, spread Christmas cheer to shut in church members and collected over 600 non perishable items for the needy during thanksgiving.

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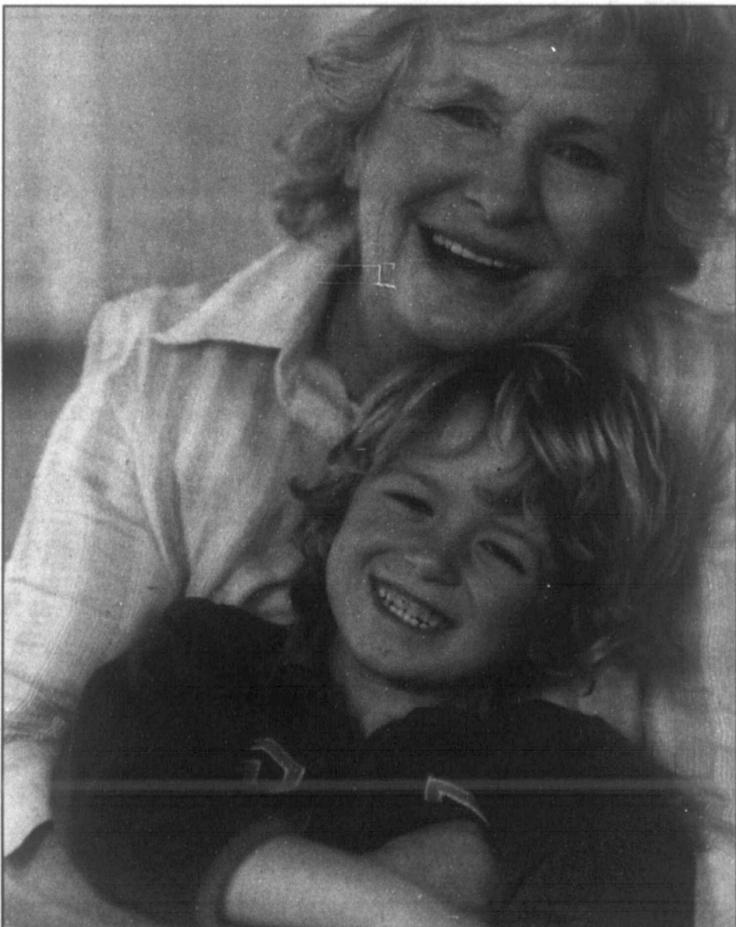
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submitted photo

Keundre Ashford (from left), **Memorie Davis**, **Iyanna Clarida**, **Kayces Brown**, **Montaisha Brown**, **K'isha Brown**, **Kiarra Terrell** and **Kordae Brown** are part of Macedonia's praise dancers.

Macedonia Baptist Church

The Macedonia Baptist Church has been in existence for over 84 years in Pampa. We are located at 441 Elm Street. Sunday services start at 8:45 a.m. with Baptist Training Union, and continue into Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday morning worship service begins at 11 a.m. Under the current leadership of Pastor Wesly Smith, the church has been actively involved in outreach ministry and in re-beautifying the community.

The youth of Macedonia, under the leadership of youth directors Stacy Brown and Teresa Brown, have been actively involved in praise and worship and have increased their membership at a constant pace. Our church motto is from Psalm 34:1, which states, "I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." The church celebrated the first anniversary of our pastor and his wife on Sunday, March 4, and the Young Voices of

Praise will be performing a praise dance and ministering in song.

Some other areas we are planning to involve our youth in is the ministry of giving and service. Just a few of the ministerial activities our pastor and wife are engaged in are feeding the homeless and visiting the nursing homes throughout the area. We are in the planning process of engaging our youth in cleaning up the neighborhood and encouraging other youth to participate in doing the same.



submitted photo

Matthew Forman (left) and **Joseph White** read together at a Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship youth event.

Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship

Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship has an established Youth Program consisting of about 15 youth ranging in age from sixth grade to twelfth grade. Elevate Youth Ministry is led by our youth directors, Joseph and Heather White. The identification of "Elevate" was established to be a constant reminder of their responsibility to elevate (lift up) both themselves and other youth in the Pampa community in a spiritual sense. The group stated with three boys and has grown rapidly. Elevate Youth Ministry has been active in ministering in both our community and in Amarillo. At Christmas time, they ministered to school age children with gifts and treats. Also Elevate has been involved in helping the Paint This Town Red ministry in community outreaches.

Elevate does the regular youth activities like Wonderland Park, Pizza parties,

overnight lock-ins and summer camp. The greatest advantage we can give our youth at Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship is the Wednesday and Sunday evening encounters. These involve fun, food and fellowship, but are designed to instill God's word in their hearts. Joseph and Heather White meet with the youth on Wednesday evenings at 7 P.M. and Sunday evenings at 6 P.M. After a time of praise and worship, teaching aids like DVDs, CDs and music are used to teach and "elevate the youth" of our church. There are several opportunities for Elevate to be involved in gatherings in North Carolina, Tennessee and Amarillo. These are exciting days for our youth and we would invite any youth to attend our meetings. Our youth directors can be reached through the Church office at 806-669-6915 from Tuesday through Friday.

Pastor Lynn Hancock

Schedule of Services:

Sunday

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship Service
- 10:45 am Kidz Town Children's Service

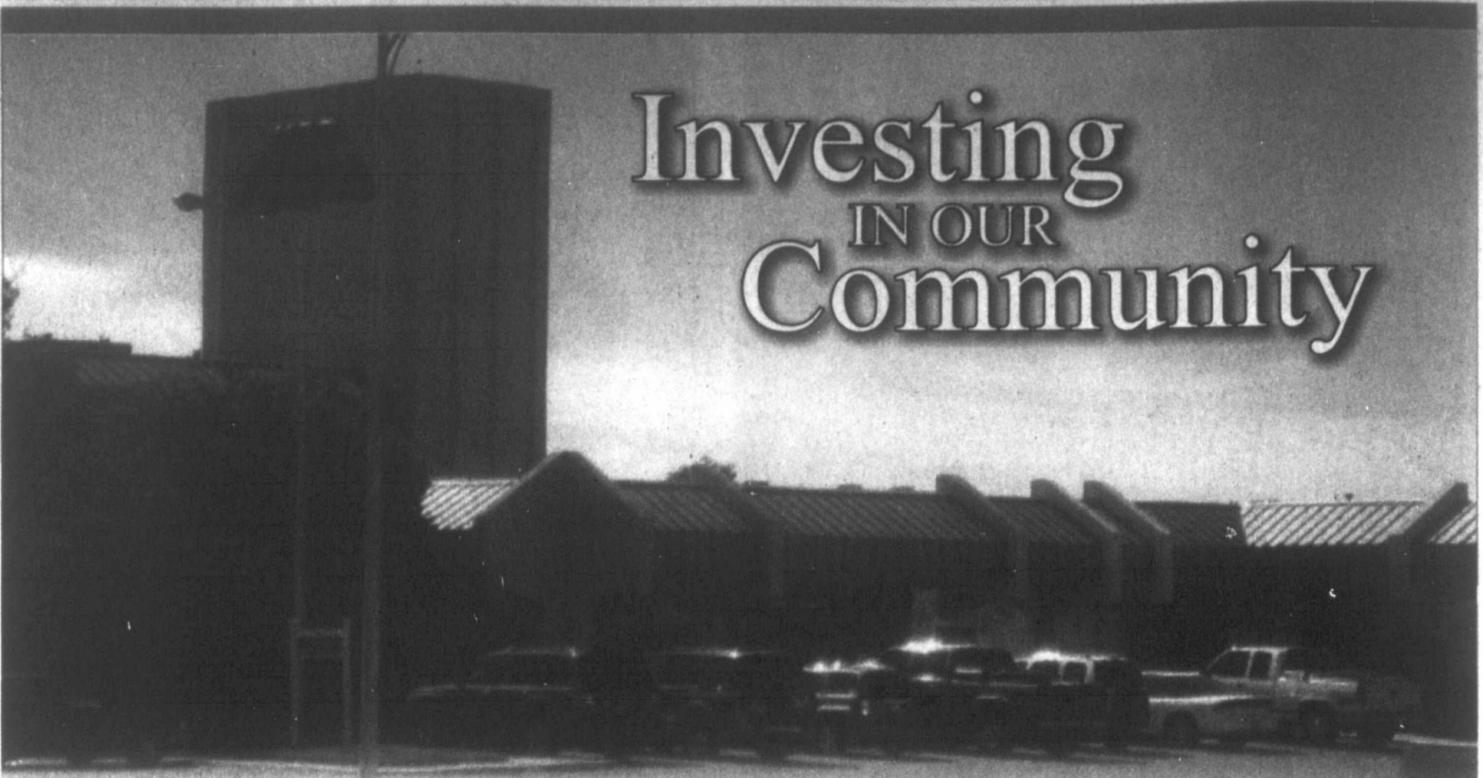
Wednesday

- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 pm Friend's Club Children's Ministry
- 7:00 pm H2O Youth Ministry

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| 20% | 20% | |
| High 82 Low 52 | High 83 Low 51 | High 85 Low 49 |

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. South wind around 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east southeast.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. South southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east southeast.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 85. South southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER 2011

Found boy to remain in foster care

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston boy who disappeared as an infant eight years ago and who was recently found will remain in foster care while therapists determine when he can be reunited with his parents, a judge ruled on Wednesday.

State District Judge Mike Schneider agreed with a Child Protective Services recommendation that 8-year-old Miguel Morin should remain in the state's care at least until a May 16 hearing. The judge also signed off on a child services recommendation that Miguel and his parents, Auboni Champion-Morin and Fernando Morin, undergo therapy separately to see when the boy might be ready for a reunion.

The parents, who live in Hous-

ton and are both 29. They have four other children, ages 7 to 14, who are living with another couple under an agreement between the two couples. Child welfare officials can't discuss the reasons the children aren't living with their parents due to confidentiality issues.

After the hearing, the couple said little to reporters, although when asked when she hopes to see Miguel, Champion-Morin responded, "Whenever the court says so."

Mark Cooper, an attorney for Fernando Morin, said the couple is willing to do what's best for the boy and will see him "at the appropriate time."

Itze Soliz-Matthews, an attorney for Miguel's mother, said her cli-

ent wants Miguel out of foster care as soon as possible and the boy's parents have submitted the names of three relatives who could take in Miguel while his situation is sorted out.

"We're hoping to have some visits start really soon," she said.

In addition to therapy, Miguel's parents will also undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Soliz-Matthews confirmed that DNA tests show Champion-Morin is Miguel's mother. Tests released last week confirmed Morin is the boy's father.

The boy has been in foster care since authorities found him earlier this month living with his godmother and **MORIN** cont. on page 8A

Obituaries

Marietta Archer Suttle, 74

Marietta Archer Suttle, 74, died March 28, 2012, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, March 30, 2012, at Fairview Cemetery, with Rev. Roy King, Disciples of Christ minister, and Dr. Jeff Knighton, pastor of First Christian Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Suttle was born May 9, 1937, in Pampa to Buford and Thelma Archer, a pioneer family in early Gray County. She was a 1955 graduate of Pampa High School. She married Haldane Suttle on February 16, 1957, in Pampa. Marietta worked at Friendly Men's Wear as a bookkeeper for several years and worked as a receptionist for Dr. Foster Elder and Dr. Richard Falkenstein for 21 years, retiring in 1987. She was a member of First Christian Church and was a lifetime member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority.

Survivors include her husband, Haldane Suttle of the home; two daughters, Jeffie Lowrey and Jenifer Carter, both of Pampa; daughter-in-law, Louan Suttle of Pampa; five grandchildren, Kasia Bledsoe of Amarillo, Grayson Lewis and wife Kate of Rifle, Colo., Braden Suttle, Kenzie Carter and Kaylee Suttle, all of Pampa; three great-grandchildren, Sayer and Sage Bledsoe, both of Amarillo, and Anna Marie Suttle of Pampa. Marietta was preceded in death by her parents; and by a son, Randy Suttle in 2007.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church,



Suttle

1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065, or Texas Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 190567, Dallas, TX 75219-0567.

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

Teddie Lewis Oldham, 75

Teddie Lewis Oldham, 75, died March 27, 2012, in Pampa.

There are no services scheduled at this time. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Oldham was born November 2, 1936, in Hollis, Okla. He graduated from Shamrock High School. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, serving for six years. He married Dixie Lea Wigington on July 5, 1975, in California. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1992, working at W & W Fiberglass. He was a very loving husband, father, grandfather and friend.

Survivors include his wife, Dixie Lea Oldham of the home; three sons, Terry Hartzel of Michigan, Ted Liberty and George Liberty and wife Mindy, all of Pampa; three daughters, Twila Henderson of Gatesville, Kelly Liberty and Cindy Rodriguez and husband Abel, all of Pampa; 13 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

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



Oldham

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, March 28 at 7 a.m.

Animal Control agents and the Pampa PD reported 14 animal related incidents.

Pampa PD reported 11 traffic related incidents.

Lefors Volunteer EMS responded to one medical call.

Tuesday, March 27

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

A stolen vehicle was reported at the 100 block of South Ward.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 400 block of North Wynne.

A theft occurred at the 900 block of South Love.

Domestic disturbances

occurred at the 1400 block of North Somerville, the 800 block of South Banks, the 700 block of South Banks and the 1000 block of North Hobart.

Phone harassment was reported.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 100 block of East Harvester and the 4000 block of North Bad Cattle Company.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 200 block of East Atchison.

A theft was reported.

A grass fire occurred at the 2200 block of North Price.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 700 block of East Scott.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1400 block of North Hobart.

An assault was reported.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 1700 block

of North Coffee.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1000 block of North Frost and the 1100 block of Sierra.

A suspicious person was reported at the 200 block of East Brown.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 400 block of North Starkweather.

A theft occurred at the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 600 block of North Wells.

A theft occurred at the 500 block of East Foster.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 800 block of East Gordon.

Criminal mischief occurred at the 1500 block of North Hobart.

A theft occurred at the 1900 block of North Grape.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1000 block

of South Faulkner.

Wednesday, March 28

Suspicious persons were reported at the 700 block of East Browning, the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 1600 block of North Hamilton.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1200 block of South Christy.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Wednesday, March 28 at 7 a.m.

Tuesday, March 27
 Alfonso Alejandro Lopez, 19, was arrested by deputies on charges of public intoxication and burglary of a habitation.

Caleb Logan Hart, 22, was arrested by police for theft of property.

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JetBlue captain suspended

NEW YORK (AP) — JetBlue Airways is suspending the captain whose erratic behavior caused an emergency landing of an early morning flight from New York bound for Las Vegas.

Clayton Osborn has been a pilot at JetBlue since 2000, the airline's first year of flying. The company said a "medical situation" occurred onboard the plane on Tuesday but wouldn't elaborate.

Passengers said the pilot was yelling and acting unruly in the cabin after he was locked out of the cockpit of the plane. A group of passengers tackled the captain and restrained him until the plane made an emergency landing in Amarillo, Texas.

JetBlue spokeswoman Allison Steinberg said Wednesday that Osborn was taken off active duty pending review of the incident.

Bush to formally back Romney

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former President George H.W. Bush plans to endorse Mitt Romney at an event Thursday in Houston.

Romney spokeswoman Gail Gitcho says the two will appear together and speak to reporters.

Formal backing from the 41st president is another sign that the Republican Party is uniting behind Romney as pressure builds on challengers Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich to leave the race.

The elder Bush has offered encouraging words to Romney throughout the primary season but had withheld a formal endorsement. Former first lady Barbara Bush has formally backed Romney. She recorded automated telephone calls for him during the primary in Ohio.

Their son, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, endorsed Romney last week.

Romney begins visit to Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Mitt Romney is scheduled to arrive in Texas to begin a two-day, three-city swing through the Lone Star State.

The trip will mostly be for the purpose of fundraising for his Republican presidential campaign as the former Massachusetts governor. His first stop will be a Wednesday evening fundraiser in Dallas, followed Thursday by fundraising stops in San Antonio and Houston.

The Texas presidential primary is scheduled for May 29.

Cornyn tries to block lizard listing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Republican U.S. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas is trying to block the proposed listing of the dunes sagebrush lizard as an endangered species.

Cornyn on Wednesday filed an amendment to energy tax credit legislation that would block the lizard's addition to the federal endangered species list.

Echoing oil and natural gas producers throughout the Permian Basin, Cornyn says listing the species could bring production in parts of West Texas and southeastern New Mexico to "a screeching halt."

The basin produces more than 1 million barrels of oil a day.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has delayed until this summer a final decision on whether to list the lizard.

Cornyn and congressional representatives from several other states had sent letters to the agency and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar asking for the delay.

Firefighters accused of arson

NEW BRAUNFELS (AP) — Two volunteer firefighters in South Texas and another man have been accused of starting a 2011 grass fire.

Officials say 23-year-old Dustin James Ronshausen of New Braunfels, 21-year-old David Paul Puckett Jr. of Seguin and 18-year-old Terrell Edward Garrett Jr. of Seguin have been charged with arson.

New Braunfels fire Marshal Patrick O'Connell says last June's fire involved use of fireworks.

Guadalupe County Jail records indicate Puckett and Garrett were each held Wednesday on \$20,000 bond. Ronshausen posted the same amount of bond and was released Tuesday. Jail records did not have information on attorneys for the men.

Investigators say Ronshausen and Puckett were members of the Geronimo Volunteer Fire Department at the time of the blaze. Both have been dismissed from the department.

Smuggling ring leaders sentenced

McALLEN (AP) — Prosecutors say two leaders of a deadly Houston-based illegal immigrant smuggling ring have been sentenced to prison.

Officials say 34-year-old Rafael Valles of the McAllen area was sentenced Tuesday to more than 10 years in federal prison. A Mexican citizen, 32-year-old Refugio Reyna-Huerta, received an eight-year prison term.

Both pleaded guilty last year to conspiracy to transport illegal immigrants.

Investigators say a February 2010 traffic accident near Falfurrias led to the death of a person from Mexico. Authorities say the victim was among 17 illegal immigrants being transported in a fleeing pickup when the truck rolled.

Seven other convicted members of the smuggling ring received prison terms Tuesday ranging from nearly two years to more than six years.

Okla. panel passes anti-meth law

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Cold and allergy sufferers in Oklahoma will have their identities and birth dates entered into a searchable database when they purchase certain cold medications under a bill approved by a Senate panel.

The Senate committee on Wednesday approved the bill that requires pharmacies to track sales of products containing pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient used to make methamphetamine. The names would be entered into a database searchable by law enforcement.

The measure also further restricts how much pseudoephedrine products a person can buy each month, from nine grams to 7.1 grams. A new daily limit of 3.4 grams also is put into place under the bill.

Assuring a place among the 95 percent

MATTHEW "UNCLE MATTY" MARGOLIS
Creator's Syndicate



The right professional dog training can solve 95 percent of dog problems -- the majority of which might better be described as people problems. But there are some problems training can't touch, and often that's because people ignored the warning signs and put off getting help. Keep reading:

Last week, Seven, our 10-year-old German Shepherd, bit my 2-year-old daughter causing her to get stitches in her face. The incident was caused by a granola bar being left on the couch. Seven snatched the bar when I stepped out of the room for a minute. Our daughter either wanted to get it back or wanted to see what Seven had, and Seven attacked her. She required four stitches in her face and sustained a few other minor bites. Seven didn't bite and thrash. Rather, he growled and nipped multiple times.

The positive about Seven: He is a very loving dog. He loves to play fetch and wrestle and to just cuddle up with you. He listens well and is trained to sit, stay and come. He is a great dog for car rides, and he sits still for baths, teeth brushing and coat brushing. He loves to run! He and my daughter get along all right. They don't play a whole lot together, but Seven would come up to the couch where my daughter would be sitting and wait for a pet or a scratch.

The negative about Seven: He is overprotective and displays signs of food-aggression. He also has a barking issue that bark collars haven't been able to solve. He doesn't like small dogs or neighborhood cats.

These folks have a problem -- and so does Seven. The wife wants to get rid of the dog; the

husband wants to keep him. She has called local shelters, hoping to find someone who will take Seven and find him a new home. So far, no luck. The unfortunate reality is that Seven is old, he's big, he's untrained, and he now has a history of biting. The wife is losing hope and considering euthanasia; her husband refuses.

In my opinion, they are both wrong. Seven cannot live in a home with a small child -- especially a child who is allowed to crawl and jump on the family dog, as this child is. It's dangerous, and the mother is right to be afraid for her daughter's safety.

But they do have a duty to Seven to find an appropriate home where he can live out the rest of his life comfortably. I advised contacting last-resort sanctuaries and German Shepherd rescues, as well as stepping up their search for a new home without children.

Stories like this are exceptionally hard for me to hear because I know things didn't have to get to this point. If I had received a call about Seven eight years ago, when his barking was a fresh nuisance and the food-aggression first surfaced, or even four or five years ago, when the baby was still an idea, you wouldn't be reading this story today. Seven would have been among the 95 percent.

My hope is that, in reading this story, anyone who sees themselves heading down this path will find help now -- when the issues are relatively small and solvable and the much larger problems that lie ahead are entirely avoidable.

Woof!

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

Texas man executed for child's death

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A convicted child sex offender was executed Wednesday for the beating death of a 10-month-old boy he was baby-sitting at a home in Dallas.

Jesse Joe Hernandez smiled and laughed at times before receiving a lethal injection for the slaying of Karlos Borja 11 years ago.

"God bless everybody. Continue to walk with God," the 47-year-old Hernandez said. Moments later, he shouted "Go Cowboys!" in honor of his favorite football team.

As the drugs took effect, the condemned man repeated his appreciation for those he knew who had gathered to witness the execution. "Love y'all, man," Hernandez said. "Thank you. I can feel it, taste it. It's not bad."

He took about 10 deep breaths, which grew progressively weaker until he was no longer moving. Ten minutes later, at 6:18 p.m. CDT, he was pronounced dead.

No one related to the slain child attended the execution, the fourth this year in Texas. It was carried out about two hours after the U.S. Supreme Court denied last-ditch appeals for Hernandez.

Ten-month-old Karlos was taken to a Dallas hospital in April 2001 with a skull fracture and bruises to his head, thigh and abdomen. A week later, he was taken off life support and died. His 4-year-old sister had similar beating injuries to her head, ears and eyes but survived.

Hernandez's DNA was found in Karlos' blood on a pillowcase and on the child's clothing. The boy's sister drew stick figures for detectives to help describe her attack.

Hernandez denied beating the children but later told a detective he may have hit the boy with a flashlight. He did not include the flashlight reference in a written confession in which he said he "just exploded" and struck them with the back of his hand.

"They were being very bad by crying a lot for nothing," Hernandez wrote.

Howard Blackmon, the former assistant district attorney in Dallas County who prosecuted Hernandez, recalled see-

ing photos of the badly bruised boy connected to tubes while in the hospital and his sister's red, bruised forehead.

"I don't think Hernandez admitted to any intent to kill," he said. "He did admit to striking."

Jurors saw those images and also learned that Hernandez had a previous conviction for molesting a child and drug possession, had beat his ex-wife with a baseball bat, burned a girlfriend's child with cigarettes and was found with a shank while locked up in jail.

Court records showed Hernandez and his wife of six years had been living with the two children and their 22-year-old mother about three days in a Dallas house that had no running water. Hernandez and his wife were to watch the children while their mother was working as a waitress.

On April 11, 2001, Hernandez's wife left to

run some errands. When she returned he told her the kids were sleeping and not to disturb them. Hours later, after their mother returned from work, the girl complained her head was hurting and the mother took her to a hospital. While they were gone, Hernandez's wife checked

on Karlos, discovered his injuries and called paramedics. Police were then notified.

In trying to stop the execution, Hernandez's attorneys unsuccessfully argued that his trial lawyers were deficient because they didn't pursue.

EXECUTION cont. on page 8A.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, March 29, the 89th day of 2012. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 29, 1912, British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, his expedition stranded in an Antarctic blizzard after failing to be the first to reach the South Pole, wrote in his journal, "We shall stick it out to the end but we are getting weaker of course and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more." Scott concluded with, "Last entry. For Gods sake look after our people." (Scott is presumed to have died shortly thereafter; his four companions also perished.)

On this date:

In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In 1790, the tenth president of the United States, John Tyler, was born in Charles City County, Va.

In 1792, Sweden's King Gustav III died, nearly two weeks after he had been shot and mortally wounded by assassins during a masquerade party.

In 1812, the first White House wedding took place as Lucy Payne Washington, the sister of First Lady Dolley Madison, married Supreme Court Justice Thomas Todd.

In 1871, the Royal Albert Hall in London was opened by Queen Victoria.

In 1882, the Knights of Columbus was chartered in Connecticut.

In 1943, World War II rationing of meat, fats and cheese began.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage. (They were executed in June 1953.) The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I" opened on Broadway.

In 1962, Jack Paar hosted NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time, although the network aired a repeat the following night. (Johnny Carson debuted as host in Oct. 1962.)

In 1971, Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering 22 Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai (mee ly) massacre. (Calley ended up serving three years under house arrest.) A jury in Los Angeles recommended the death penalty for Charles Manson and three female followers for the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. (The sentences were later commuted.)

In 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1992, Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton acknowledged experimenting with marijuana "a time or two" while attending Oxford University, adding, "I didn't inhale and I didn't try it again." More than a month after winning the Olympic gold medal in ladies figure skating, Kristi Yamaguchi of the United States won the world championship title in Oakland, Calif.

Ten years ago: Israeli troops stormed Yasser Arafat's headquarters complex in the West Bank in a raid that was launched in response to anti-Israeli attacks that had killed 30 people in three days.

Five years ago: A defiant, Democratic-controlled Senate approved legislation calling for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq within a year. Veteran diplomat Ryan Crocker was sworn in as the new U.S. ambassador to Iraq. West Virginia beat Clemson, 78-73, for its first NIT title in 65 years.

One year ago: Gunmen held an Iraqi government center in Tikrit (tih-KREET) hostage in a grisly siege that ended with the deaths of at least 56 people, including three councilmen, plus the attackers, who blew themselves up. A seriously ill 73-year-old British woman was accidentally dropped into the bitterly cold Norwegian Sea as rescue workers took her off the cruise ship Ocean Countess (Janet Richardson later died at a hospital).

Today's Birthdays: Political commentator John McLaughlin is 85. Author Judith Guest is 76. Former British Prime Minister Sir John Major is 69. Comedian Eric Idle is 69. Composer Vangelis is 69. Basketball Hall of Famer Walt Frazier is 67. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 65. Actor Brendan Gleeson is 57. Actor Christopher Lawford is 57. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Earl Campbell is 57. International Gymnastics Hall of Famer Kurt Thomas is 56. Actor Christopher Lambert is 55. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Porno for Pyros; Jane's Addiction) is 53. Comedian-actress Amy Sedaris is 51. Model Elle Macpherson is 49. Movie director Michel Hazanavicius is 45. Rock singer-musician John Popper (Blues Traveler) is 45. Actress Lucy Lawless (44. Country singer Regina Leigh (Regina Regina) is 44. Country singer Brady Seals is 43. Former White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs is 41. Tennis player Jennifer Capriati is 36. Actor Chris D'Elia is 32. Pop singer Kelly Sweet is 24.

Thought for Today: "A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are for." - William G.T. Shedd, American theologian (1820-1894).



Candor gaffes add to campaign cynicism

WASHINGTON (AP) - After a week like this, is it any wonder voters are cynical?

Within five days of each other, both the president and the campaign of his leading Republican opponent have had to deal with their own "oops" moments of candor.

President Barack Obama was caught on an open mic telling Russia's president that his dealings with the country on missile defense may be different after the elections, raising the specter of a hidden agenda.

A few days earlier, Mitt Romney's top aide suggested his boss's primary-season positions may shift in the fall campaign, altered as easily as erasing an Etch A Sketch.

Both campaigns tried to explain away the significance of the statements on their own side, while exploiting the missteps on the other side.

The net result is just another reason for voters not to trust what they're hearing from the presidential candidates, and to wonder how they'd truly govern in 2013 and beyond.

Distrust among voters already was so strong that it's hard to get worse. "The level of voter cynicism about the way politicking happens is pretty high, and so it takes a lot to meaningfully move the needle," said pollster Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center. He added that the latest episodes "will certainly play a reinforcing role" for doubting voters.

Romney can at least take solace in the fact that most voters missed his aide's Etch A Sketch comments altogether.

Just 44 percent of voters said they'd heard about the remarks, according to Pew results released this week. And only 11 percent said

it made them less likely to support Romney.

But plenty of voters already had doubts about Romney's convictions, and is GOP opponents have been more than happy to have a catchy new, red visual aid to wave around as they offer themselves as more solid conservatives.

"I have not written my public policy pronouncements on an Etch A Sketch," Rick Santorum promised while campaigning in next-to-vote Wisconsin. "They are written on my heart."

"I think having an Etch A Sketch as your campaign model raises every doubt about where we're going," said Newt Gingrich, campaigning in Louisiana before the weekend vote there.

Romney has tried to reassure voters that "the issues I'm running on will be exactly the same" in **GAFFES** cont. on page 5A

Campaign video: It's not morning in America

President Barack Obama's 17-minute video, "The Road We've Traveled," gives us an idea of how he wants to frame the issues in the fall election.

The first thing you notice about the video is that the atmosphere is dark, wintry, minor key. You see but don't hear the election night crowd in Grant Park, and then the video switches to graphics about the economic meltdown that followed the financial crisis of 2008.

There are gloomy scenes throughout. Obama's economic advisers arrive in a bleak Chicago after a snowstorm. The president is shown in the Oval Office through a window at night.

The visuals are oddly antique for a president who promises hope and change. When narrator Tom Hanks talks of the "middle class," we see downscale neighborhoods with houses built in the 1910s or 1920s. When he talks about economic recovery, we see an early 1950s Ford coming off the assembly line.

Hanks strikes another historical note. "Not since the days of Franklin Roosevelt has so much fallen on the shoulders of one president." Well, Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan might disagree, but one gets the idea. If America is not standing tall, it's because Obama started off nearly 6 feet under.

We hear a lot about the burdens of office and the loneliness of presidential decision-making. The same point was made in 30- and 60-second ads run by Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign in 1980.

Those spots featured only Carter and the narrator speaking. The 17-minute video has time for testimony from Joe Biden, Bill Clinton and, briefly, Michelle Obama.

The resemblance to the Carter ads is ominous, seeing as Carter lost

51-41 percent in November. Americans want to think well of their presidents, but sometimes they decide they've had enough.

Republicans and political reporters will find much to quibble with in "The Road We've Traveled." There are misstatements of facts, and issues are framed in ways that are arguably misleading. The Washington Post's fact checker has given the video three of a possible four Pinocchios for the Obamas' description of his mother's insurance situation in her final illness.

On issues, we don't hear the words "stimulus package"; there is just a brief reference to the otherwise unidentified Recovery Act. Much more is made of the GM and Chrysler bailouts, which Biden says -- some Pinocchios due here -- exacted sacrifices from the United Auto Workers.

There is also much more -- more than there was in January's State of the Union -- on health care. We hear a list of promised benefits -- keeping adult children on parents' insurance, banning refusals to insure for pre-existing conditions -- which so far have failed to make most Americans love the law.

We hear little about foreign policy except for the withdrawal from Iraq, with some attractive footage of soldiers returning home and praise from Clinton and Biden for ordering the SEALs to kill Osama bin Laden.

There are the predictable shoutouts (liberals call them dog whistles) to Democratic constituency groups -- feminists, gay rights supporters, seculars, fans of green energy.



MICHAEL BARONE

Altogether, this seems more like an attempt to shore up the Democratic base than it does an attempt to win over independents, who, polls indicate, are skeptical about many claims made in the video. Its main message is what I heard from Democratic voters I encountered on the primary trail: Things were really bad when he got in, and he needs another term to straighten them out.

For a contrast, look at the 1984 Reagan campaign's "Morning in America" ad. The narrator, ad man Hal Riney, has a soothing voice like Hanks', but his message is vastly more upbeat. America is "prouder and stronger and better," he proclaims, because of the policies of President Reagan.

You see more flags than you do in the Obama video, more smiles, couples at the altar. It looks like springtime and is filled with light.

"Why would we ever want to return to where we were less than four short years ago?" Riney asks. Which surely reminded viewers of the question Ronald Reagan posed in his only debate with Jimmy Carter: "Are you better off than you were four years ago?"

Reagan stole the line from the master, Franklin Roosevelt, who, in a fireside chat before the 1934 off-year elections, asked, "Are you better off than you were last year?" But that was 46 years earlier, and no one remembered.

It's a question that the Obama campaign dares not ask.

Michael Barone, senior political analyst for The Washington Examiner (www.washingtonexaminer.com), is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a Fox News Channel contributor and a co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.

We welcome your letters

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Gaffes

the future — consistently conservative all the way.

But Jeffrey Goldfarb, a professor at the New School for Social Research in New York who has written a book about cynicism and politics, said the remarks by Romney's aide so neatly fit with what voters already know about the candidate's shifting stances that it's likely "people will understand and accept or reject him, knowing that's who he is."

"Moderate Republicans have been praying all along that Romney is not who he's pretending to be during the primaries," Goldfarb added.

Obama, for his part, tried to laugh off his open-mic remark as simply a restatement of the obvious — that it's hard to get things done during a campaign year and he'll

have more flexibility once the elections are past.

"This not a matter of hiding the ball," he insisted, after jokingly covering up his microphone.

Republicans weren't ready to make light of the matter.

Romney said it was "very alarming for the president of the United States to suggest to Russia that he has a different agenda that he's going to work out with the Russians after the elections."

It's not the first time Obama has run into trouble for candid comments meant to remain private.

In 2008, his presidential campaign caught grief when word leaked out about a memo in which one of his senior economic advisers suggested to the Canadians that Obama's harsh words

about the North American Free Trade Agreement had merely been for political show.

Obama's Democratic opponent, Hillary Rodham Clinton, said his campaign had given the Canadians "the old wink-wink."

Stanley Renshon, a political psychologist at the City University of New York, said voters may not get too worked up about either of the latest episodes because people are beyond cynicism by now.

"They have moved on to resignation," Renshon said. "And the difference is that cynicism makes you angry; resignation makes you depressed."

Between campaign gaffes, gridlock in Congress and disappointment with government, "everywhere the public turns there's no evidence

of competence, and that can be very deeply corrosive," Renshon said. "Anybody who's elected in 2012 is going to have to deal with that, and it's going to be an awfully difficult barrier to overcome."

Public trust in government has been sliding for decades and has never been worse. A CBS/New York Times survey last year found 89 percent of Americans trust the government only some of the time or never.

Princeton historian Julian Zelizer said presidents are forever governing in ways that are at odds with their campaign promises — think of President George H.W. Bush raising taxes despite his "read my lips" pledge that it wouldn't happen, or Woodrow Wilson leading the country into World

War I after a re-election campaign with the slogan "He kept us out of war."

But Zelizer said broken promises are often "more accidental or circumstantial" than deliberate.

"Events change," he said. "It's hard for a candidate to predict what will actually happen when they're in the White House."

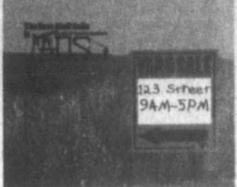
Obama and Romney, after reminding voters of that truth, must wish they could take an Etch A Sketch and clear the slate.

cont. from page 4A

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TIPS

Energy Center as a catalyst for new development, marketing the town to investors and a talent pool, and focusing on the community's assets, including the downtown area.

"The downtown does matter," said Stellman. "It's where your sense of place is. ... Not to knock WalMart or any of the chains out there, but I have that 100 yards from my house in Austin, so when I go into a community, I'm trying to find out what's unique, what's interesting about that community. Is it the White Deer (Land) Museum? Is it that Woody Guthrie learned to play the guitar here?"

Promoting the town to tourists and retirees ties into this idea of redevelopment through marketing.

"Tourism is marketing," Stellman said. "You're telling a story about a community and the assets that it has, and I think that's hugely important."

Perhaps the most emphasized goal in the plan involves fostering a talent pool through recruiting a skilled workforce and providing opportunities for workforce development through Clarendon College and other avenues.

"Early on in the process, we had a focus group meeting with the major industrial employers, and all of them were saying, bar none, that they're really ramping up production and ready to grow... but their biggest barrier was this entire talented workforce question," said senior consultant Alan Cox.

Stellman and Cox have observed a recent nationwide shift in the workforce, especially in areas like manufacturing, industrial maintenance, welding and instrumentation. Many companies are having a difficulty filling skilled positions that often require certification or associate's degrees rather than bachelor's degrees, and the same trend is occurring in Pampa. This skills gap has been impacted by experienced workers in the baby boomer generation retiring from the workforce.

"Those that had some of the skills that are in demand right now are starting to move out of the workforce, and the next generations don't necessarily have some of the

same technical skills," said Stellman. "...This is a challenge."

He said that he observes this pattern in the corporate world, as well as in places like Pampa.

"I also see it in communities, where it's a community that's not necessarily attracting young people or keeping its young people, so you've got an aging leadership, and there's really not a group that's moving in," said Stellman.

He touched on a campaign from Midland, which ran advertisements in papers in cities like Dallas encouraging young people to maintain ties with their hometown.

"If (the nightlife of Dallas or Austin) is what a young person wants at that particular point in their life or career, by golly, support them, but stay connected to them, ...because that's really your future," said Stellman. "If you can't figure that out, then you're going to be in trouble, because the expectation that you're going to

attract new people to this community who have no connection to it whatsoever, there's a (really) small percentage that are going to be willing to do that. Your better bet is making sure that you stay connected to those who already have an affinity for Pampa or just have an affinity for the Panhandle, and really see this as the kind of lifestyle and climate that they're interested in."

"If you're going to maintain your population base here or grow your population base over time, you either have to have new people move here, have more people stay here that are being born here or you've got to bring people back who are from this area," he added.

The consultants strongly recommended including Clarendon College in economic development and workforce development conversations.

"We really think that the opportunities around Clarendon College are going to be huge," said Stellman. "...There are a

cont. from page 1A

lot of two year, one year, technical degrees, certifications that really are needed to meet the demands of your employers. That can be met through a combination of the school district and community college working together with employers."

"One of the key strategies here is coordinating among all of the different organizations and stakeholder groups to try to figure out this problem," said Cox, "because I think the talented workforce question is really the biggest challenge that Pampa is facing right now. It certainly isn't economic. It's really a demographic issue for you guys."

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Bunny

cont. from page 1A

he added. "Also, at Rheams Diamond Shop, we're going to give two Easter baskets away in a drawing."

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10 Lost/Found

FOUND on the east side of Pampa. Female reddish carnal brown color, short hair Husky mix dog. Call 662-8104
FOUND small Cocker Spaniel puppy in Braum's parking lot. Call 806-202-7894.
LOST Blue Heeler puppy in downtown Pampa area. **REWARD**. Call 662-4754

13 Bus. Opp.

HAVE large Pool Hall for lease. Great downtown location. Call for details. 665-1875.

14d Carpentry

CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. New or Additions. Shawn Deaver Const., 662-2977.

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Looking for experienced **Pumper / Lease Operator**. 5 yrs. pumping exp. & clean driving required. Benefits include but not limited to:
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EXP. Cook (part-time) needed. Apply only if you want to work. **NO PHONE CALLS**. 328 E. Frederic, Pampa.

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GENESIS Clinic - F/T Clinic Nurse Position. Exp. preferred. Competitive wages & benefits. Send resumes or questions to **ericagarcia@thegenesisclinic.org** or come by the office 107 W. 30th Ave.

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69 Misc.

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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CURT B. BECK, Deceased, were issued on March 23, 2012, in Cause No. 9913, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: CURT E. BECK. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. CURT E. BECK c/o KENNETH W. FIELDS Attorney at Law P.O. Box 662 Pampa, Texas 79066-0662 DATED the 23rd day of March, 2012. KENNETH W. FIELDS

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The PAMPA NEWS

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PISD aids homeless students through fund

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com
Within the Pampa Independent School District, 134 students have been identified as homeless, and while these kids are probably not living on the streets, they may be in the need of stability, that



sarily know where they'll spend the next night," said Suzanne Pingel, P I S D ' s Homeless

added. "Kids living with their parents in a shelter count as homeless, and so do kids who choose not to live with their parents because of drugs, abuse or being kicked out." According to Pingel, PISD also includes kids placed in temporary homes through CPS or those who to ask for help. Enrollment may be the first chance to find these students. "New enrollments into PISD fill out a student residence form which asks if they live in their own home or in the home of a family member. Students who don't own their own home in their own



TODAY IN SPORTS
Not so fast
No. 12 Lady Harvesters fall in area round to Monahans
Page 8

inside:
Social Security and how to apply for it
by Tom Mangano
Page 3

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Morin

her family in the East Texas town of San Augustine, about 140 miles northeast of Houston.

The godmother, Krystle Tanner, and her mother, Gloria Jean Walker, were indicted Wednesday on charges of kidnapping and injuring a child, and they may be arraigned next week, said San Augustine County District Attorney Kevin Dutton. They were being held in the county jail, and neither has publicly addressed the allegations.

Authorities allege that Tanner abducted Miguel in 2004 when he was 8 months old, and that Walker knew and didn't notify the authorities. Officials have previously disclosed in court that Miguel, in interviews with child welfare authorities, said his name was Jaquan and identified Tanner as his mother and Walker as his grandmother.

Estella Olguin, a spokeswoman for CPS in Houston, said child welfare officials will conduct home studies to determine if Miguel can be returned to his parents or if he should stay with relatives. But the final word on when Miguel is ready to see his

parents will come from the therapists who will meet separately with the boy and his mother and father.

"Miguel is going to need them to be supportive and understand the transition that he's going to go through," Olguin said. "Right now Miguel believes his family lives in San Augustine and he truly believes he is going to be reunited with them soon."

Olguin said if Miguel is not returned to his parents or placed with relatives, another option would be to place him with a couple who currently has custody of his parents' four other children.

She said the fact that the Morins entered into an agreement on their own with another couple to take care of their children doesn't necessarily warrant CPS intervention as long as the kids are being properly cared for, which they are. She also said CPS hasn't previously investigated Miguel's parents.

Champion-Morin had previously implied her four other children were living with her

and her husband.

The long-dormant case got new life last summer when Tanner took the boy to a hospital for a leg injury. When she couldn't provide his name or a Social Security number, hospital staff contacted child welfare investigators who eventu-

ally were able to link Tanner to the 2004 Houston case.

Police had identified Tanner as a suspect shortly after the boy disappeared, but investigators soon lost track of her. Relatives said she had vanished, too.

cont. from page 2A

Execution

cont. from page 3A

evidence that the boy was prematurely removed from life support and had toxic levels of the drug pentobarbital in his blood. The same barbiturate is used in the execution process in Texas.

The attorneys also claimed an initial appeals lawyer did not investigate the case beyond the trial record and that failure cost Hernandez his lone opportunity to raise substantive legal claims following his conviction.

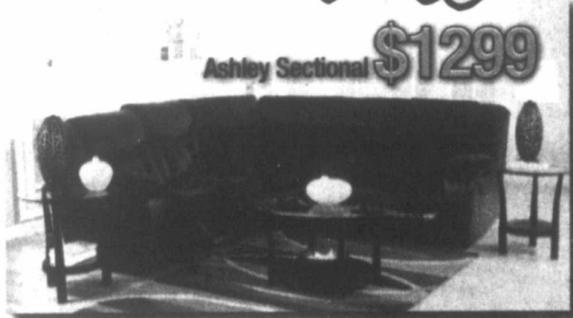
Brad Levenson, director of the Texas

Office of Capital Writs, said a more thorough investigation could have shown Hernandez wasn't responsible for the child's death.

The Texas attorney general's office opposed any delay, questioning whether the high court even had jurisdiction in the case because constitutional claims weren't raised earlier in state courts.

At least six other condemned Texas inmates have execution dates scheduled for the coming months.

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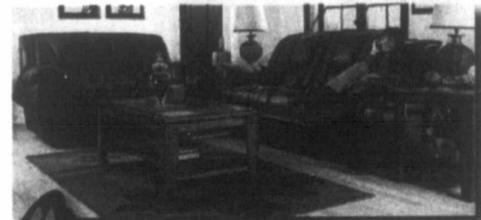


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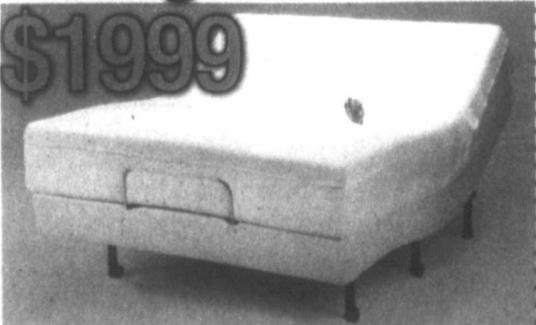


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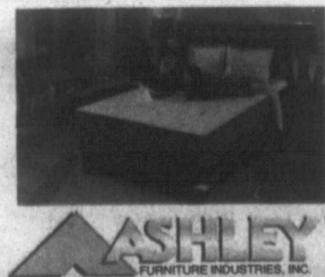


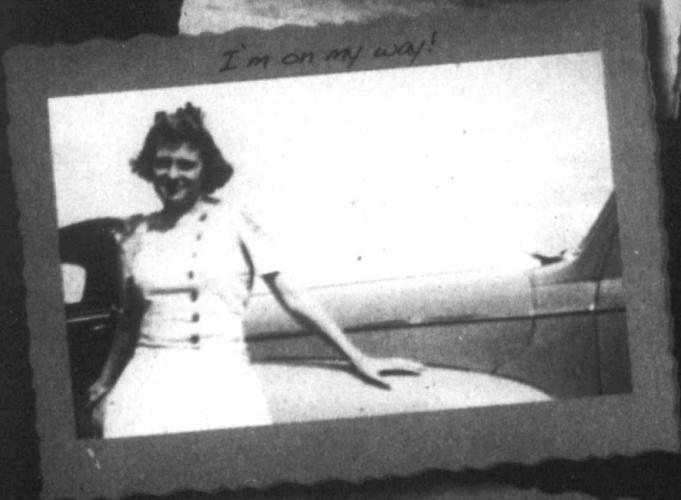
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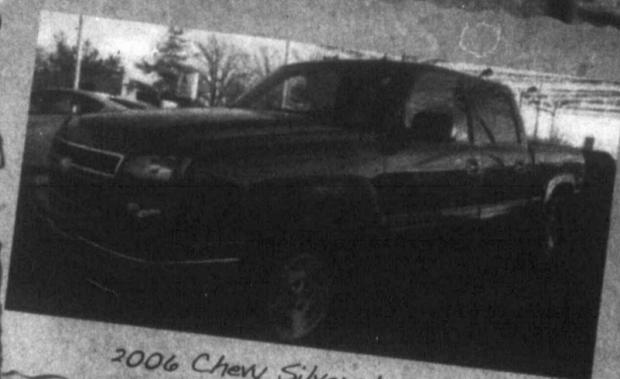
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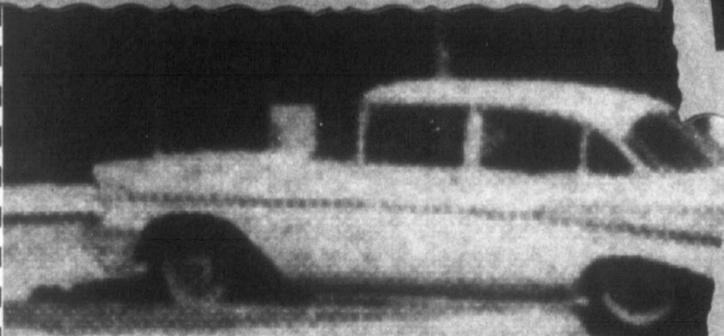
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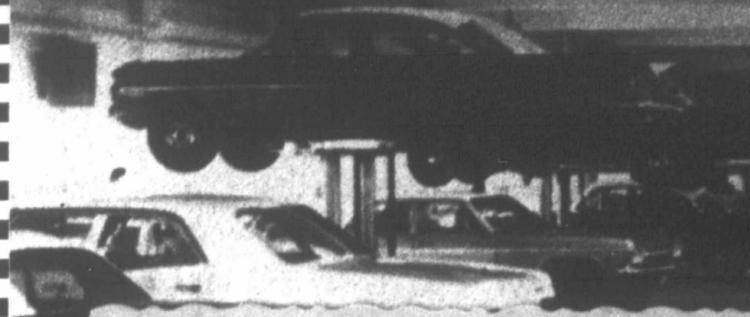
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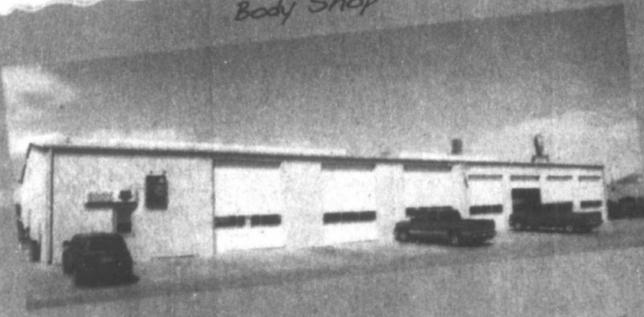
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Thirty people. Under 30. Making Pampa proud.

They say youth is wasted on the young; well, we found 30 people in, around and from Pampa proving that adage wrong. This section is the second of two in which we profile these young people who are showing Gray County what youth is capable of.



Tyson Hickman

Assistant coach, Pampa High School



Tyson Hickman was born to like baseball. "When I was brought home from the hospital, my parents gave me a baseball glove instead of a teddy bear," Hickman said.

Hickman, 23, has pursued his interest in his professional life as an assistant coach on Pampa High School's varsity baseball team.

"I figured since I played and enjoyed it and didn't want to be out of the game after I quit playing, the best way to do that was coaching," he said.

Hickman graduated from Pampa in 2006 and was part of back to back district champion teams in his last two seasons. Hickman played two seasons at Frank Phillips and finished his college career at West Texas A&M.

After college, Hickman worked as a student teacher and got to help with the baseball team. Hickman primarily worked with the junior varsity; he said the experience motivated him further to teach kids about the game.

"Getting to teach kids things I didn't know

in high school and things I learned in college, they can hear it now," Hickman said. "Instead of them getting to college baseball and hearing it then, they'll have heard it in high school and know it when they get to college."

Some of the players Hickman coached on junior varsity have since been promoted to important positions on the varsity roster. Hickman said it's a cool thing.

"I remember when I was on JV in high school and moved up to varsity," Hickman said. "It's pretty special. It's pretty special to see those guys come in and contribute. They don't just get to put a jersey on. They get to start and play."

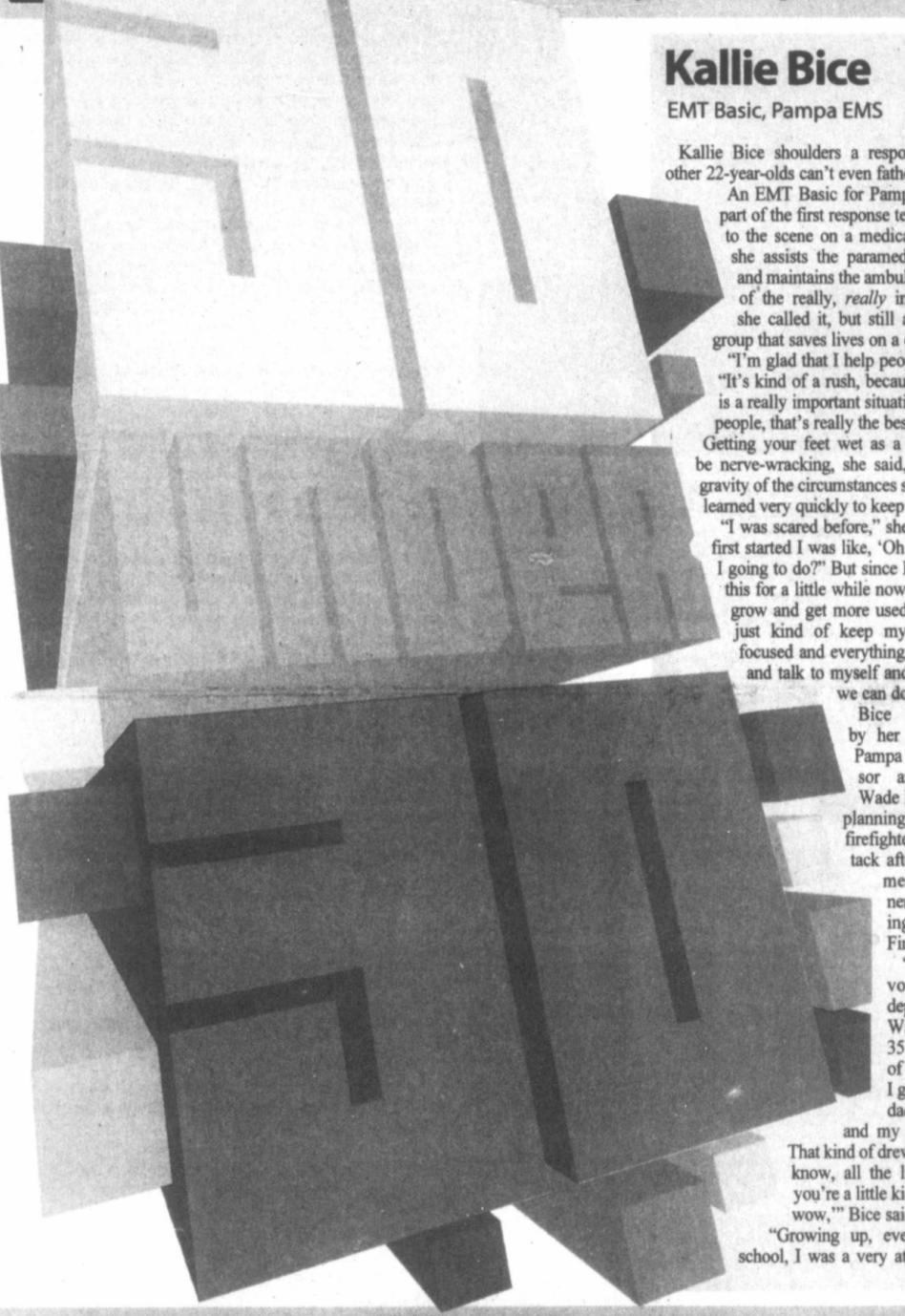
Hickman says he wants to be a head coach in the future.

"I will go wherever (the game) takes me," Hickman said. "If I'm still here, I'm still here. I will be happy no matter what as long as I'm doing the things I get to do in life."

Hickman said it's cool to see some of his classmates as coaches.

"I went to school with Braydon Barker," Hickman said. "Coach (Britten) East at the junior high. Coach (Aaron) Pena. We've got a bunch of young coaches in this system. I think these 20-somethings can do something."

story by Andrew Glover



Kallie Bice

EMT Basic, Pampa EMS



Kallie Bice shoulders a responsibility many other 22-year-olds can't even fathom.

An EMT Basic for Pampa EMS, she is part of the first response team that hurries to the scene on a medical call. Mostly, she assists the paramedics and drives and maintains the ambulance; "Not one of the really, really important jobs," she called it, but still a key cog of a group that saves lives on a daily basis.

"I'm glad that I help people," Bice said. "It's kind of a rush, because you know it is a really important situation, but helping people, that's really the best part of it."

Getting your feet wet as a paramedic can be nerve-racking, she said, but given the gravity of the circumstances she deals in, she learned very quickly to keep her cool.

"I was scared before," she said. "When I first started I was like, 'Oh gosh, what am I going to do?'" But since I've been doing this for a little while now, I've started to grow and get more used to it. I mostly just kind of keep myself calm and focused and everything. I just sit there and talk to myself and say, 'It's OK, we can do this.'"

Bice was inspired by her father, former Pampa EMS supervisor and paramedic Wade Bell. Originally planning on being a firefighter, she changed tack after enjoying the medical components of her training at Amarillo Fire Academy.

"We have a volunteer fire department out at Wayside (about 35 miles southeast of Canyon) where I grew up, and my dad worked on it and my mom did, too. That kind of drew me to it - you know, all the lights whenever you're a little kid. It's like, 'Oh, wow,'" Bice said, laughing.

"Growing up, even during high school, I was a very athletic person. I



was like, you know, God gave me this ability, so I want to be able to do something with it, so that's also what drew me to the firefighting stuff. But then I just started doing my clinicals with the EMT stuff, and I just grew and started to like the ambulance stuff and switched."

Bice, who commutes to Pampa to work, said that she plans on staying with Pampa EMS for a while to pursue her EMT Intermediate. She said she enjoys working in Pampa because, after working in other emergency departments, this one has offered the most familial atmosphere.

"We all help each other out whenever we need to and we all just really get along here," Bice said. "Everybody's always there for you here. You get the sense that the whole town might be like that, I think."

So far, Bice has never lost a patient. Still, in a profession where her actions could make a life-or-death difference for someone, she said that she's thankful to have been instilled with the drive to succeed, especially at such a young age.

"With this job, you see all different kinds of people," she said, "and sometimes I see people my age who are worse off than I am. I'm like, 'Man, I'm glad I really focused myself.' So yeah, I'm really proud that I ended up with this job and the way things have turned out for me. The way I was raised was that my parents aren't always going to be able to take care of me, and so I wanted to be able to take care of myself. I guess that's kind of what made me, like, 'This is what I need to do,' and I'm real grateful for that."

story by Amie Aurellano

Lindsey Been

Account Coordinator, Accolade



It might be fair to ask when Lindsey Been sleeps.

Been, 29, is an account coordinator at Accolade Home Health Care while donating her spare time to a slew of groups around town, including Lions Club, Meals on Wheels and the Lovett Library's Tea and Talk Book Club.

She recently she became a certified dementia practitioner, and at Accolade, she is also a Parkinson's support group leader.

"We're changing the group up to more of a support group in general for anyone that has an illness, like an aging parent, the caregiver and the person that's sick," she said.

She also serves on an AgriLife Extension Leadership Advisory Board and teaches diabetes education and cooking classes annually through the organization.

She also volunteers with and serves on the board for GrayCares, and was actively involved in a project to build wheelchair ramps during the early stages of the organization.

"That first year, we were able to build three ramps for people who otherwise wouldn't be able to, and without it, they can't get out of their home very well," she said. "They've gone on to build other ramps, so it's a big program for them."

She's also made a priority for events like Relay for Life and Bowl Over Cancer, a fundraiser that provided support to cancer patients.

"Relay for Life is very dear to my heart," she said. "My late husband (Brad) passed away from cancer a little over a year ago, and so once he was diagnosed with cancer, we were involved in Relay for Life locally. Throughout the oncology centers that he went to, we would participate in their events, so now it's just important for me to continue going to them and spreading the word about Relay for Life and what it does for the community and cancer awareness, even for young adults."

If that weren't enough, Been has served on the board for the



Pampa Chamber of Commerce since January.

"I'm really just getting my feet wet, but it's been interesting to learn what the Chamber does, how involved they are in the community and the different events we put on each year," she said. "It takes a lot of work throughout the businesses every year to make Pampa what it is, and we need those businesses to be part of the Chamber in order to continue. It's a co-relationship. You have to work together with each one in order to be successful."

Been is also a member of an organization that was started by the Chamber: The Pampa Young Professionals.

"Young Professionals (is something) I was interested in because of my job and being in a professional position," she said. "I wanted to further that, have education from people who have been successful in their careers, possibly learn from them. Being able to network with other young professionals in the area I think is important to be able to have those networks

in place, plus we're the leadership of the future, especially the leadership of Pampa."

Oh, and through 26:12 — the nonprofit branch of Accolade — Been plans to participate in an upcoming mission trip to Bulembu, Swaziland, which will involve working with an orphanage.

If that sounded a lot, that's because it is. And that's just fine with Been, a Pampa native who believes that the town has more or less stayed the same during her lifetime.

"For the most part, I think it's a good thing, because I think there are some core values that are essential, especially in a small town," she said. "At the same time, I would like to see other businesses come in and be able to grow Pampa. I think there have been some good opportunities in the past that maybe should have taken place so that Pampa could have expanded more."

In the future, Been would like to see a more active downtown in Pampa, and more community events during the year.

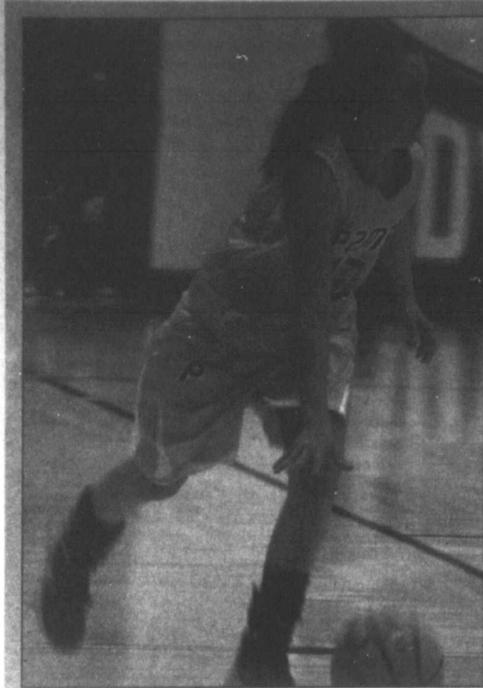
"One of my dreams for Pampa is our downtown area being cleaned up, and a lot of the dilapidated buildings being cleaned up or torn down," she said. "I'd like to see a more hopping downtown area. I feel like we lack a little bit in that."

"I would like to see community stuff," she continued, "maybe concerts in the park or family-friendly things where people can go out and enjoy events, maybe theater or whatnot throughout the summer," she said. "I'd like to see more events take place in Pampa that people can key into and take part of, rather than having to travel outside of town to do those kinds of things."

Been described Pampa as a really good place and plans to remain a part of the area.

"Of course, I wish there was more to do for young adults, but it's a matter of making those things happen, too," she said. "It's one thing to complain about it, but you have to try to make those things happen. I think that's what I'm trying to do, and why I'm so active, is to make it a good place for young families to move back to and be a part of."

story by Mollie Bryant



Caitlin Sieck

Student, Pampa High School

Caitlin Sieck can think of a lot of words to sum up her senior year in a nutshell, but there's one she hopes will stand out from the rest: Leadership.

The 17-year-old was a senior captain in both volleyball and cheerleading, and she was also involved in student council and show choir. They're duties the soon-to-be Oklahoma State student doesn't take lightly.

"(Being a senior captain) just means a lot because my coach and my fellow players voted me in on that," she said. "Knowing that they're the ones who put me there means a lot, and just that I'm representing my school in student council, too. I was voted in to that, and I want them to know they picked the right person. ... I really think it's important to have confidence in yourself, to be a role model for younger classes and to be able to take on those leadership skills and pass them on to other people."

She said that when it comes to being a leader, she's lucky to have a good role model herself in her own family.

"I have an older brother (Blake Sieck)," she said. "He was a leader and I just looked up to him, so I want my brother and sister to look up to me like I looked up to him."

She added that, growing up in Pampa, there's an extra sense of pressure to lead because of the tradition that her brother and those before him have established. It's a pressure that she embraces, she said, because she hopes one day to be looked at as a person who helped uphold

that tradition.

"We always hear about the tradition as we go on through school and just through the community, and we want to help keep a positive light on that," said Sieck. "It's just very important that we keep that going and to pass it on to the classes below us so that they know that it's an expectation."

Living in Pampa, she continued, has helped motivate her to get as involved as she can.

"You can get involved so much here because it is a small town," she said. "You know all the people around you and you get to hear their stories about going to school here, the stuff that they did before. That stuff just has really made me want to be the best that I can be and just live up to their traditions, and then hopefully help start some of our own."

She counts her academic success — she's currently ranked sixth out of 211 seniors by grade point average — as one of her highest accomplishments.

"It's always been a goal of mine to do good in school, and number six out of 211, that's just really big for me and really made me proud of myself."

It's perseverance, Sieck said, that's brought her far, and when asked about what advice she'd give younger students about how to get the most out of Pampa High School, she recommended more of the same.

"Just no matter what, the hard work you put in to something is always worth it, and even if it gets hard, just making it through that will just make you feel so much better," she said. "You won't think about the hard work, you'll think about what came out of it."

story by Arnie Aurellano

Samuel Gordon

Chiropractor, New Life Wellness Center



Dr. Samuel Gordon, 29, has worked as a chiropractor at the New Life Wellness Center for a little over a year, and this Texas Tech graduate has enjoyed settling down in the Panhandle.

"All of my family is originally from Lubbock and the surrounding communities around there," he said. "I went to Tech, and a lot of my friends I met at Tech were farmers and ranchers from around this general area, so during my time in college, I spent a lot of time in the Panhandle area."

Gordon received a bachelor's degree in exercise sports science, then moved to Dallas to attend chiropractor school at Parker University.

"I'm one of those people that will try anything, and I'd never been to a chiropractor before I went to school," he said. "I didn't have a whole lot of knowledge about what it entailed. I graduated, and was still trying to figure out what I wanted to do. My mom had sent me an article about chiropractors, and I started researching that."

"I do my best not to take any medications unless it's just absolutely necessary, and that's kind of the philosophy of most chiropractors," he added. "Worst case scenario, you go with the medication, and otherwise, you find ways to correct and help out by doing the adjusting and the things that we do."

A big part of chiropractic medicine involves allowing the body to heal on its own, and initiating that process. "Any joint can have a misalignment, and the nerves



that go throughout the body, they're designed to be in specific alignment, and when you have irritation on those nerves from something being in misalignment, you're not going to function at the level that you should be, which in turn is going to cause things like pain, irradiating numbness, tingling, a bunch of different symptoms like that," Gordon said. "By correcting some of those misalignments, you're going to increase the function of it, and get everything communicating back on the level it should be communicating."

He added that even indigestion can have links to misalignments.

"People will come in and have a pretty big misalignment in the middle of their chest, and the nerves that come out of that particular area of the spine are associated with some of the upper digestive tract and can cause some of the reflux and stuff like that, so there's a lot more to it than back pain," said Gordon.

In his spare time, Gordon is a member of Pampa Young Professionals and enjoys water skiing, fishing and hunting.

"Mostly I go to McLean (to hunt)," he said. "One of my friends from college has family land in McLean, and we go down there quite a bit to hang out and just get away from everything. It's a good way to relax."

Gordon, originally from Corpus Christi, doesn't think that Pampa and his hometown are as different as they may sound at first blush.

"A lot of people think I'm in shock because of the differences, and Corpus is some big, tropical paradise, but in reality, other than the humidity, it's very similar," he said. "I like it, and people here are a whole lot more friendly and outgoing than the ones in Corpus, but overall, I have nothing but positive (things) to say about the Panhandle in general."

Gordon hopes to see a little more growth in town in the future.

"It'd be nice to have a few more restaurant options, but I think anything that would help grow Pampa in general, whether it be the oil field or the wind energy that we're trying to get started would be a great thing in general," he said.

"You can find just about everything you need here, but it never hurts to have a little expansion," he added.

story by Mollie Bryant



Andrew Curtis

Partner, Powers & Curtis



For the second year in a row, a house built by Powers & Curtis, Real Estate Development and Brokerage will grace the October cover of Fort Worth magazine as the year's "Dream Home." The "Curtis" in that company's name refers to Andrew Curtis, 26, a young man who grew up in Pampa, attended Texas Christian University (TCU-Fort Worth), and decided to go into real estate in 2008.

The timing was both terrible and fortuitous. "I really got to see how bad things can get if you get overextended," Curtis said. "It was also a time of good deals on the market with people trying to get out of the bad deals that they had made."

He calls that his foundation years, where he watched and learned from the mistakes of others in a less than stellar real estate market.

"I've always enjoyed the tangible part of real estate," he said. "I love building things, starting from the ground up and realizing your vision."

He and a friend of like mind from his TCU days, Chris Powers, partnered to found Powers & Curtis in

October 2010.

Curtis said the company still does residential work, but is also branching out to commercial projects.

"I always had a vision of getting into large scale commercial building, but you have to start small," he said. "Currently we are doing a 30,000 square foot, 12-unit townhouse-style student housing project right off the TCU campus."

"We've also made a large purchase of about 5 1/2 acres of land in what is known as the West 7th area (for development)."

He said he "always had dreams of coming back to Pampa," but now, for he and his wife, Sarah, Fort Worth seems like home.

"I love Pampa and I love the people," he said. "My dad and my brother run Curtis Well Service or Excel Productions."

"Luckily, my brothers and I have been able to partner on different deals. It is kind of a neat situation. They get in on my real estate deals and I get in on their oil and gas deals and it seems to work very well for us."

He said Pampa was a great place to grow up.

"I had great friends there and still do," Curtis said. "I was fortunate to grow up in a great town surrounded by great people."

story by Randy Pribble

Autumn Schaub

Recreation Coordinator, City of Pampa



Pampa native Autumn Schaub is back in her hometown, doing what she loves to do.

The Pampa graduate and former Austin Lion is Pampa's recreation coordinator, having joined the city last year succeeding the now-departed Enrique Cabrales. She organizes all the city league sports and tournaments, scheduling them, advertising and registering participants. For an athletically oriented person like Schaub, it's a great fit.

"I love recreation," she said. "I grew up playing softball, basketball, tried soccer, tried volleyball. I'm definitely an adventure person, so even if I'm not doing a sport or anything like that, I still love to be outside. This job is fun for me because I get to be around it so much."

It's not all fun and games, though, Schaub said. She takes her work seriously, adding that she believes it's important for the city to offer recreational activities to relieve stress and bring its residents together.

"I think it's a great thing for Pampa to have recreation for adults," Schaub said. "With jobs being so busy and the way that our lifestyle is with stress and everything like that, I feel like it makes people want to be able to get out there and let go of some of that stress and whatnot. A lot of people have grown up playing sports, and so it's good for them to get out there and do what they like doing just as they were a kid."

Coordinating year-round recreational activities is comprehensive job, and Schaub believes that her youth gives her an advantage in that respect.

"It kind of brings me back to the interview that I had getting this job," she said. "They knew that I was young and that I could basically just soak everything up like a sponge. ... Now, I'm settling in and I basically have a team that is with me, and they're young, too. We have a couple more people here who are young that are wanting to make Pampa recreation a success and that's good, because we're all in it together, we can all grow together, and we all want the same thing."

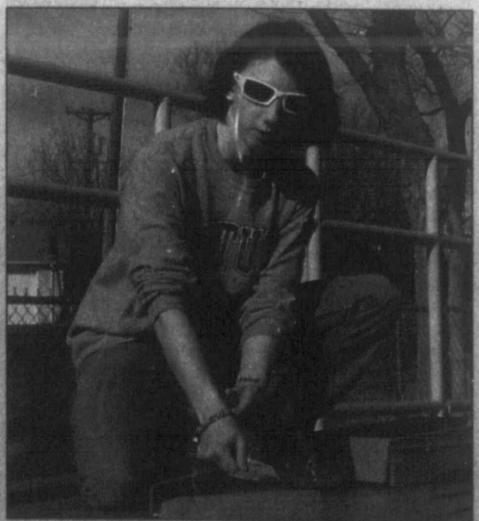
She's hoping that a few fresh ideas will help rejuvenate the rec program.

"We've got some new ones coming," she said. "Street ball, three versus three, and flag football, things like that. I want to try some different things and see how the people respond to them. Volleyball and softball are the main things, but those have been going on for forever and we wanted to push some different tournaments just to see if people will participate. It's good to try new things, and we'll see if God wants them to happen, you know?"

A member of First Baptist Church, Schaub is driven in large part by her faith. After graduating from Wayland Baptist in Plainview, she moved briefly to Louisville to work with the homeless at the Jefferson Street Baptist Center. She enjoyed her time there, but she said that she felt called back by God to Pampa and that she's happy she's back.

"I definitely felt like God led me back here for a reason," she said. "I still don't really know what that is yet, but I like Pampa. I grew up here, so that's good. ... I hope I can help do something for the community here."

She also works with the youth at First Baptist, an opportunity that she's been grateful for ever since she's returned.



"I was just interning for the youth, basically helping them out until they got a youth minister," she said. "They just recently got one, but I still help him out. I don't get paid, but I still love to help out, and I also preach Sunday school there. I just want to give back to God for all He's given and all that He's done. It's been a blessing, too, just being able to serve (the church) that I grew up in. Being able to serve the community, too. It's been a blessing just to do what God wants me to do."

story by Arnie Aurellano



CJ Frazier

Head Pastor, Paint This Town Red

CJ Frazier is a decidedly upbeat person. Born 29 years ago as Christopher James Frazier ("The only person who calls me Chris is my grandpa," he says), he is now the lead pastor with Paint This Town Red, a church and outreach ministry he recently helped to found in Pampa. His "big bro" Ryan is a co-founder and the executive pastor, big sister Miranda Frazier Bailey is a founding member and church publications editor, and dad Bernie Frazier, while no longer a full-time minister, serves on the PTTR board of directors and continues his role as mentor to his sons.

"Growing up as a preacher's kid, the ministry life was sort of the family business," Frazier said with a smile. "A business that I hated, so I didn't want to follow in my dad's footsteps." Nevertheless, he became a preacher who kept gravitating back to Pampa.

He recalls being a "confused and troubled" teenager while living with his parents in New Mexico.

"I moved here in 1998 (at the age of 16) and lived with my sister, Miranda, for two years and finished high school here," he said. "I had a dramatic revelation of God's love in my life. From that moment on, I could not shake that calling. People told me that I was called to serve and I thought I might one day be a lead pastor, but I didn't want to do that. But I couldn't shake it and eventually that calling became my passion. It became very easy at one point, because I loved it and didn't have to fight it."

After graduation, he moved back to Albuquerque to



live with his mom and dad, Roxanne and Bernie. He began a long-distance romance with Micki, his future wife, who lived in Amarillo. They married in 2001.

CJ helped plant a church in Albuquerque for four years, and then moved back to Pampa in 2005 to take a job as headmaster at St. Matthew's Day School. After completing that year, he became the youth minister at Trinity Fellowship. In 2009, he traded Pampa for Tampa, Fla., where he became Youth Minister at Crossing Church.

"It was incredible," he said. "I got to work with my brother, Ryan, and we spent a lot of time at the beach, but the Lord called us back to Pampa on New Year's 2011."

That's when Paint This Town Red began.

"We were able to help a lot of families last year," said the young minister, "and the community rallied around hope like I didn't expect."

"Because I had lived in Pampa, I know it can be very hopeless here and it can affect everybody, whether you have a good job or live in a shack. People got behind loving people with no strings attached, because it was so simple and that was the success of it."

He added that he grew up in a big city and has a tremendous love for Pampa's small town atmosphere.

"I thrive in Pampa," he said. "This is my promised land. This is where the milk and honey is flowing in my life."

"I love the fact that when I go to United (Supermarket), I guarantee I will run into a minimum of five people that I know. I love that. But ultimately, it is a question of attitude. Something beautiful can begin here. I found hope here and I want to be a part of giving that hope to other people."

Kasey Presson

Equipment Operator, Pampa Fire Dept.



Kasey Presson, 27, is an equipment operator now in his eighth year with the Pampa Fire Department, and this Pampa native and father is enjoying the experience, which started with attending the Kilgore College Fire Academy.

"They sent us down to a small city named Elderville in east Texas," he said. "It has a population of only about 300 people, a small community, and you live in a volunteer fire station for three and a half months, and it's surrounded by pine trees and there are rivers and stuff like that. You leave there every morning and drive about 10 minutes to get to Kilgore, Texas and take fire academy there."

For about three years, Presson worked both at the Pampa Fire Department and as an EMT.

"A lot of the guys who work here also work down there, for one thing, so you become good friends with these guys working here," he said. "And you've already got those skills, so why not apply them down there, pick up an extra salary and spend more time with your friends? I did that for as long as I could, and then it got where my daughter just needed me home more."

"When I got the job, I fell in love with it," he added. "I just decided I would rather stay this course

than the EMS course. I can do both, I've done both, I'm capable of both, but this is where it's at."

In his spare time, Presson works as a portrait artist.

"I thought (this job) would give me more time to focus on art, because it's not like a regular full time job," he said. "I don't have to work eight to five, Monday through Friday. I just work nine days a month. They're 24 hour shifts, so it's a lot more hours a month than a normal job, but I also get about 20 days off a month. In theory, I was going to focus on art and try to have a dual career, but this took priority mostly."

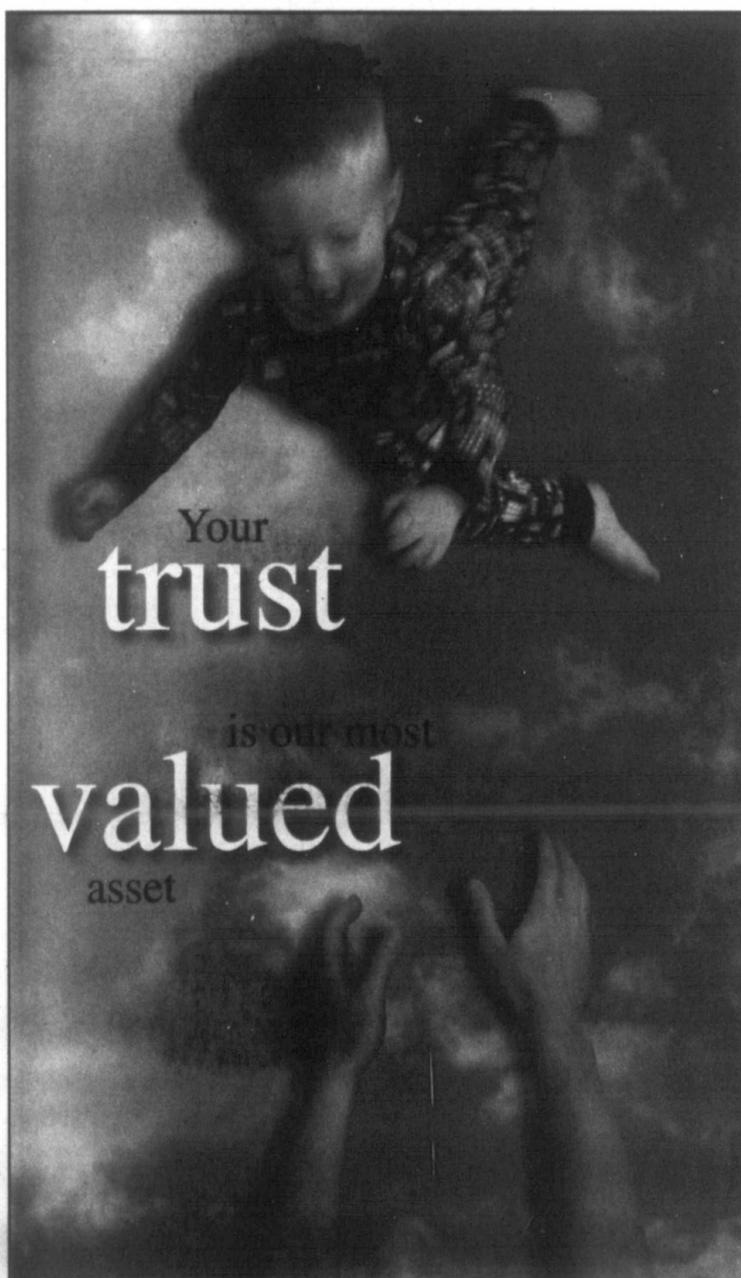
Growing up away from the distractions of a big city afforded Presson the opportunity to hone his skills as an artist.

"That's why I drew as a kid," he said. "There was literally almost nothing else to do. We didn't have the Facebook and video games back then, so you had to keep yourself occupied. I would get comic books out and replicate what was on the pages, and I guess that led to drawing the real people and stuff like that."

"You don't realize while you're growing up in it how good of a place it is to grow up," he added. "It's kind of sheltered from the outside world. I know there are some bad influences creeping in, but for the most part, you can live a quiet life, a nice childhood growing up."



story by Mollie Bryant



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Ryan Zemanek

Salesman, Bourland and Leverich

Ryan Zemanek, 27, works in tubular sales at Bourland and Leverich Supply Company, but selling pipe for down-hill oil companies was a pleasant surprise for this Pampa native.

Zemanek attended Texas A&M, where he studied food science and technology with the intention to go to chiropractic school down the line.

"It's a little bit of nutrition, a little bit of actual makeup of food, and I was just using it as a transition, too, because I know chiropractors," he said. "Their philosophy is a lot of nutrition based, as far as proactive form of health care."

Zemanek attended chiropractic school for about a year and a half before deciding it wasn't for him and returning to Pampa to work.

"I'd always heard of Bourland Leverich whenever I was growing up, and I knew it was a big company, but I didn't realize the area it covers," he said. "It's a national company. We sell pipe all over the United States. The most volume we do is probably in the Midland-Odessa area, and then probably after that would be North Dakota."

"I was pretty green when it came to what actually goes on here," he continued. "My dad is in the oil field business, so I knew about it a little bit, but as far as in detail, I've learned a ton the last 11 months," he added.

In his spare time, Zemanek attends St. Vincent's, works

out at Crossfit Pampa, plays golf and plays the guitar. "I'm just now picking up the guitar, and I've played off and on for a few years, but I'd really like to learn more about it," he said.

Zemanek has been happy to return back to the town he grew up in.

"I knew it'd be a good place to work," he said. "I know everybody around here, and everybody in Texas is nice, but especially the people around here since I've been back. It was a great opportunity to work here, so I figured it would be a good move."

Zemanek said that young people like himself appear to be returning to Pampa.

"I know the population used to be bigger whenever I was growing up here, but with Celanese gone, there are a lot of people who left, but as far as coming back, I really do see a lot more — and I might have been blind to it when I was growing up — but I feel like a lot more people my age are starting to move back, to either start their own business or just the job opportunities are better than when I was growing up," he said.

As far as Pampa goes, Zemanek enjoys the experience of living here.

"Whenever I was little, I said that once I left for college, I would never come back, but I feel like now that I'm here, it was a pretty good decision as far as career opportunities, and it is a great place to grow up and raise a family at some point," he said.

story by Mollie Bryant

Tyler Hudson

Music Director, Epicentre Church

Saying that Tyler Hudson is far from his hometown is an understatement. Halfway across the planet is more like it.

Hudson, 29, is a resident of Echuca, Australia, about two and a half hours north of Melbourne on the Murray River. He lived in Pampa from the time he was 3 until he graduated Pampa High School in 2002, and came to Australia straight out of high school to study music at Sydney's Hillsong International Leadership College. After receiving a diploma in ministry, Hudson married college sweetheart Libby and pioneered a youth ministry in Echuca, her hometown.

"This country is the size of the U.S., has fewer people than Texas and has been dubbed 'The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit,'" he said. "What better place to raise a godly family with the intent of living life on Earth as it is in heaven?"

After a four-year comeback to Pampa, Hudson and his family returned to Echuca to work with their ministry, which had blossomed into a full-blown church called Epicentre. Hudson leads worship for Epicentre's weekly services and makes his living as a musician, playing at wine bars, restaurants, pubs and weddings, which allows him to invest the majority of his time serving the ministry and its proactive nonprofit community service wing, called Project Change.

It's a faith-based lifestyle that had its beginnings in the Texas Panhandle, Hudson said.

"Having grown up in Pampa, I'll forever be grateful to those there who invested in me and helped shape who I am as an individual," he said. "My entire family is still there to this day. I count myself extremely blessed to have received

the spiritual heritage I did. To those leaders in my life, I say 'Thanks for the ride.'"

Hudson said that his return stateside was bittersweet due to a rough six months (which included the loss of two jobs, a car accident involving his wife and child, and a miscarriage), but going back to sow the seeds of faith in Echuca was the reason for going back Down Under.

"For many reasons, but mostly because of healthy relationships we had in Australia, we undeniably felt God calling us back there," he said. "We haven't looked back since. The little youth ministry we planted five years earlier had grown into a healthy, vibrant church. ... It was a natural fit for us to return there to serve."

Project Change, Hudson said, is Epicentre's latest initiative, influenced by Pampa's own Paint This Town Red, helmed in part by best friend CJ Frazier.

"We are sister ministries with Paint This Town Red," Hudson said. "The work they are doing in the Pampa community is what has inspired Project Change here in Australia. We desire to see the kingdom of heaven invade the Earth like never before. Jesus came serving others, so we figure that's a great place to start. Our leadership is knit together at the heart with Paint This Town Red, so much so (that) we even get the chance to preach to each other's congregations live via Skype. My pastor and I were over ministering in Pampa in February, our associate pastor Dylan will be there in May, and we're hoping to set up an internship exchange program soon so that our youth in Australia will be able to come serve the people of Pampa and vice versa."

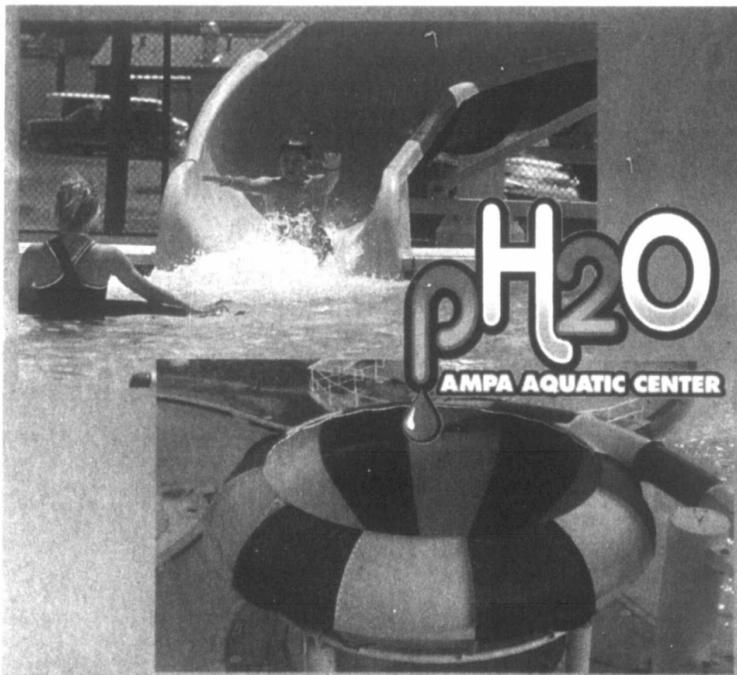
Hudson said that, for now, he sees himself and his family (Libby and kids Lyric and Loxley) firmly rooted to Australia, but he added that he'll never forget what this little Panhandle



town has done for him.

"I've learned to never say never, but I can't ever see myself leaving Australia again," he said. "I'm living the dream. That being said, our hearts will always be attached to the people of Pampa, and that's why I'm glad we can partner with people there to continue making a difference."

story by Arnie Aurellano



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Keela Garrett

Geography Teacher, Pampa High School

Keela Garrett, 25, is in her first year of teaching, and this world geography teacher at Pampa High School is enjoying a career which she says involves "thinking on your toes."

For instance, on a day when the projector wasn't working in class, Garrett opted to do a mixed book project instead.

"Mixed book is having them find pictures from the culture we're studying right now, and they put it in PowerPoint, and it's a visual understanding of what we're learning instead of me lecturing at them," she said. "I try to make sure we are using those laptops, because we have them, so that's one thing we do is mixed book. You're using the Internet and PowerPoint. Last semester was a lot of heavy vocabulary, and we found a great website called Quizlet and you can put vocabulary online. We did that, and did a lot of quizzes and tests and they can study all of their vocabulary online."

In her classes, Garrett has been pushing vocabulary, particularly with the transition into the STAAR exam.

"We know the vocabulary's going to be a lot harder than the TAKS, and that's really what we're focusing

on," she said. "The kids can understand the concepts, but then you give them these questions that are worded in vocabulary that they aren't really used to, and they don't really have an understanding of it, and they panic, and they forget the information that they know."

Garrett has been working to implement technology into her classroom, particularly with the advantage of the new student laptops.

"We also use Epsilon, Project Share, and we put all of our notes on there, so I have a lot of kids that just take their notes on there instead of on paper," she said.

Acquiring classroom management skills has been a priority for this teacher.

"You have to start the year kind of mean," Garrett laughed, "because if you start out easy and then try to get tough, it doesn't work. I just try to figure out what works for classroom management. I came up with warnings and rewards with the kids, and just different little tools. I have this timer and I count seconds, and that's how long they have to stay if they're wasting any of my time. So I'm really just learning classroom management, and how to keep 30 teenagers under control in a class."

Garrett moved to Pampa from Canyon in August, and for the most part, she has been happy with the change.

"I've enjoyed it more than I thought I would when I first moved here," she said. "I'm getting to where I know more people, and that's made it a lot easier. There's



really great people that I've gotten to know here. I was told before I moved here that I'd love the people, and after you are here a while, you find that people are really great here."

story by Mollie Bryant

Brittany Anderson

Soil Conservationist, NRCS

The young person involved in the agricultural field is a dying breed, it seems, but Brittany Anderson is helping to stem the tide.

Anderson, 27, is a soil conservationist for the local National Resources Conservation Service office. She works with farmers and ranchers, helping them implement conservation measures into their property — everything from plant ID to coming up with grazing schedules to designing wells, pumps and pipelines to deciding how much water their livestock need.

It may seem an odd calling for a 27-year-old, but agriculture is a field that Anderson has been interested in for a while. She took a liking to it in high school and pursued it at Oklahoma Panhandle State, where she got her degree in ag business.

Asked why she chose to make a living in agriculture, she smiled from ear to ear.

"Well, it's everywhere," she said. "It's important. Everybody needs it. Everybody who eats, everybody who wears clothes. It's just interesting because (working in agriculture) you can see where it starts — planting the grains, planting the cotton. That's what we get at the store — what you're eating, what you're wearing. It's everywhere."

For her part, she said that being a young person in agriculture gives her a unique perspective because of her comprehension of the ever-changing technologies involved.

"I know the technological side. I know what's available to (farmers and ranchers), how they can access it. We have a lot of our program information online, a bunch of our soils information, and anybody can access that. And as far as the new technologies in farming, I'm familiar with that. I understand it. I know how it works, so if they come in and have questions, I can talk to them about that. I mean,



you don't have to be young to understand the technology, obviously, but I grew up with technology always changing, you know, so it's pretty natural to keep up.

She said that she wanted to get more involved with GPS (global positioning systems) and GIS (geographic information systems) technology, which she forecasts will play a big part in the future of farming.

"It's real, hard data basically from the ground up, and to have access and manipulate it to help design pipelines or where roads are going to go or where water's going to go, that's cool," she said. "It's data that can be really useful. Like, actually, now they have tractors set up with GPS beacons on them where you don't even have to drive, really,

You just turn on the GPS and when you get to the end of the road, you turn it around. That cuts down on diesel for plowing, because you don't plow over the same area, and at the same time, it cuts down on seed cost because you're not seeding over the same line. It cuts down on fertilizer cost because you're not overlapping. If you're willing to pay for it, you can get within a couple of inches (of previous lines). That's how accurate they are. That's how accurate the tractor is."

She smiled again. "There's also technology where... there's sensors in the field that measure soil moisture or the amount of green that they're reflecting to know how much you're actually growing, and then it sends a signal back to your pivot saying to turn on or turn off depending on what it sees. That stuff's so interesting, or at least I think so, anyway."

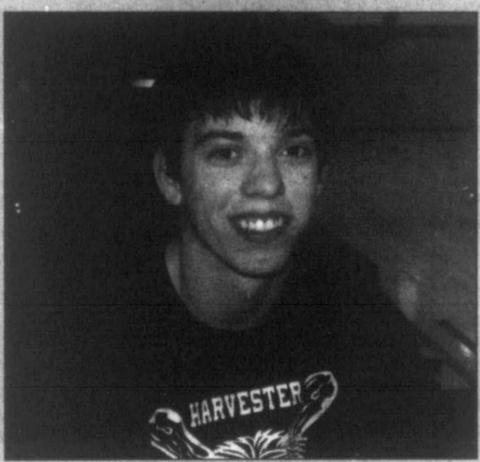
At the same time, she said that she also enjoys learning from the farmers and ranchers that she works with, many of whom have been working family land for decades.

"They've been doing it for so long," she said. "They know what works. They know what doesn't work. We learn from each other."

She'd like to see more young people get into farming, she said, simply because of how important it is to our culture.

"I just think it's important to have the American people involved in production — just to be part of it, to make it our own. And it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle and you have to like that. Most of the farmers and ranchers, they're getting older. Not all of them, but generally your average age of a landowner is 50 and older. Well, you know, what are we going to do when they're in their 70s? They can't be out there farming all the time anymore. Somebody's got to take over. Sometimes family does and sometimes they don't. We need to have more young people involved in that sort of thing. We have a few programs that sort of helps bring the young farmers in, a few incentives, and I think that's a good thing."

story by Arnie Aureliano



Chris Howard

Student, Pampa High School

Most juniors have several ideas about what they want to do after graduation, but Chris Howard already has his mind made up. Howard has obtained early enlistment into the Marines.

"You learn a lot of life lessons (in the Marines)," Howard said. "They teach you a lot in there. It gets you ready for life. After the Marines, I can go into college."

Howard said his friend Trace Carter inspired him to join.

"He's going," Howard said. "I went with him one time to the things in Amarillo and liked it."

The activities Howard went to in Amarillo were workouts to prepare him for boot camp. Howard will leave for camp a few months after his graduation in 2013.

Howard said that several members of his family have

served in the Armed Forces.

"My brother's dad was in the Navy," Howard said. "My brother's grandpa was a Marine."

Howard said serving his country is important to him. "We aren't just free," Howard said. "You have to fight to be free. I want to go in there and fight for my country."

This year, Howard was a member of the varsity football and baseball teams. Howard said playing on those teams helped prepare him for the Marines.

"Football definitely has helped a lot," Howard said. "In offseason we have a good hard workout. It's going to prepare me for boot camp and the things I go to in Amarillo. It's going to help me out a lot."

Howard said he is only serving four years and will go to college.

"I'm thinking about something in business," Howard said. "I'm not sure what yet."

story by Andrew Glover

Cynthia Ackley

Dietitian, PRMC/Morrison Management

Cynthia Ackley laughs about it, but she readily admits that part of why she came down to Pampa was the weather.

The 27-year-old dietitian at Pampa Regional Medical Center hails from Nyssa, Ore., a small town near the eastern edge of the state.

"My part of Oregon is the desert," said a chucking Ackley. "We get the snow and all that kind of stuff. I wanted less snow and more sun, so I looked at jobs in Texas and the South area and found this one. It was a great offer, so I decided to pack up and move."

What she found upon moving to the Panhandle, though, was more than just warmer air. Pampa, she said, was a good jumping-on point to her career path.

"I was fresh out of school and this was kind of a similar community (to where I'd grown up), so I figured it was a great place to get my feet wet," she said. "And it is. I came up for an interview and my boss (Ann Ogletree) and I just clicked."

Now, a little over a year and a half into her tenure at PRMC, Ackley is very involved in the hospital's day-to-day operations, keeping a close eye on patients' nutrition.

"I see in-patients and outpatients, and on the outpatient side, I do diet educations," she said. "I do a lot of diabetic ones or weight loss diets. I can also do support groups. I have a diabetic support group, and there's a cancer support group that we do every month. On the in-patient side, I screen the patients, make sure they're eating and try and work out if they're having any problems that way."

She also helps out in the hospital kitchen and has the opportunity to do outside catering. Basically, every day is different for Ackley, who said that she relishes the variety.

"I like that I don't know what I'm going to come in to," she said. "The patients are fun to interact with. I like solving problems for them, if there are any. (I like) the fact that I'm able to at least try different things and see how that works. I have the freedom to be like, 'Well, let's do this, this and this.' The

doctors and nurses, for the most part, we have a great relationship, so I know that I can just go to a nurse and be like, 'OK, I'm concerned about x, y and z,' and if the doctor isn't there, I know that they'll take that to the doctor and we can get that problem fixed for that patient."

Ackley said that, at first, it was intimidating to have such a big impact on the lives of patients, but it's since become one of the most rewarding facets of the job.

"At first I was nervous," she said, "but now it's kind of nice that I'll go out to the grocery store and I'll see somebody in my support group, and they'll just come up and talk to me. I like that the town also isn't judgmental, that they're not like, 'Well, you're younger than me, so I'm not going to listen to you.' That's very motivating to keep doing what I'm doing, and then to see even one new face come to the support group, it's good to see. It's good to make a difference. It's good to think that I'm doing something in the long run in the community that's beneficial."

The biggest mistake Pampans in general make regarding their food choices is fairly easy to pinpoint, she said.

"It's portion size. You know, you can go anywhere and you get a chicken fried steak and it covers the plate. You don't need that big of a chicken fried steak, along with the potatoes and the trip to the salad bar and whatever else your sides are."

"It's a national problem, but I've noticed it more here because we have huge plates here. That would be my biggest thing."

Regarding Pampa in general, she said that she wishes — like many other young adults who get their careers started in Pampa — that there were more cultural and entertainment options around the general area.

"I think about the fact that there's not a whole lot of entertainment stuff to do, and I think it would help even with the high school population to have something to do versus just sitting in the parking lot in your car," she said. "I think it would benefit (the city) in the long run to do some things to keep the young people here and involved. I think the town would benefit from trying to come up with different activities to keep the younger people in town a little bit longer instead



of (them staying until) the eighteen months to two years mark and everybody moving on."

Not that she's wavering on Pampa being a good place to live and work — quite the contrary, she said.

"I like it here," she said. "I like the people. The people are very friendly and very welcoming, which is helpful coming to town and not knowing anybody. I loved that when I got here. I love my coworkers. You get the sense that everybody cares."

"I really do think it's a great place for a young person to start working, because it's a place where they can get a lot of experience and learn a lot really quickly, and that's great. But we have a place here where young people can really get going, but nothing in town to keep them here when they do."

"I like it here," she added, "but it would be nice to have options to go out to dinner on a Sunday."

story by Arnie Aureliano

march
30

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PHS athletes playing new sports in senior seasons

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampa.com

High school seniors typically aren't in the mood to join new things. In fact, usually they cut back. Four Pampa High School seniors prove to the contrary of that point as they started different sports this year.

Senior Delaney Clendening played volleyball for three years and basketball for four. Instead of returning to the hardwood for the Lady Harvesters volleyball team last fall, Clendening took her talents to the tennis court. Clendening said she wanted to do something fun in her senior year.

"I tried to do golf," Clendening said. "As you could see in basketball, I wasn't fast, so I couldn't do track. I enjoyed (tennis). I played with my brother (Alex) when he was in high school. It was the right choice."

Clendening was a key contributor on the 2010 volleyball team that went to the regional quarterfinals. The senior said she didn't enjoy volleyball.

"It wasn't fun anymore," Clendening said. "I didn't want to have any regrets in my senior year. I wanted to enjoy my life and not be tied down."

Clendening said it was a challenge learning tennis.

"It's really different," Clendening said. "Learning new forms. Basically just starting over. I've been playing basketball all my life and it was weird to do something for one year."

Senior Nakayla Hardman has been a member of the softball team. This year, she participated in varsity cheerleading. Hardman said she wanted to be more involved.

"I was trying to do something new and make my senior year busy," Hardman

said. "It was pretty good."

Hardman said her friends got her involved.

"I had a lot of friends say it was good," Hardman said. "I wanted to be involved in all the sports and being there every game."

Hardman said she had to get used to a busier schedule.

"My first three years of high school I wasn't busy and as involved," Hardman said. "My senior year I was really involved and I wasn't used to stuff like that."

Senior Latigo Collins played football and basketball for four years. In his freshman year, he ran track and returned in his senior season. Collins said he did track to help keep him in shape.

"I'm playing two sports at the next level," Collins said. "It couldn't do nothing but help that."

Collins will play football and basketball for Northwest Oklahoma State next year. Collins said he didn't have anything to get used to.

"Track is pretty easy," Collins said. "Just run fast and turn left."

Senior Trace Carter played football for four years and ran track for two years. This year, Carter decided to give baseball a try.

"I just wanted to do it while I could," Carter said. "I knew this was the last year that I would have a chance to do it."

Carter said he ran track to keep him in shape for football and wanted to do something fun.

"Since football is over, I figured I would do baseball," Carter said.

Carter said he had to get used to batting.

"My fielding isn't that bad," Carter said. "Getting used to swinging the bat and making contact was rough at first. I'm doing all right now."

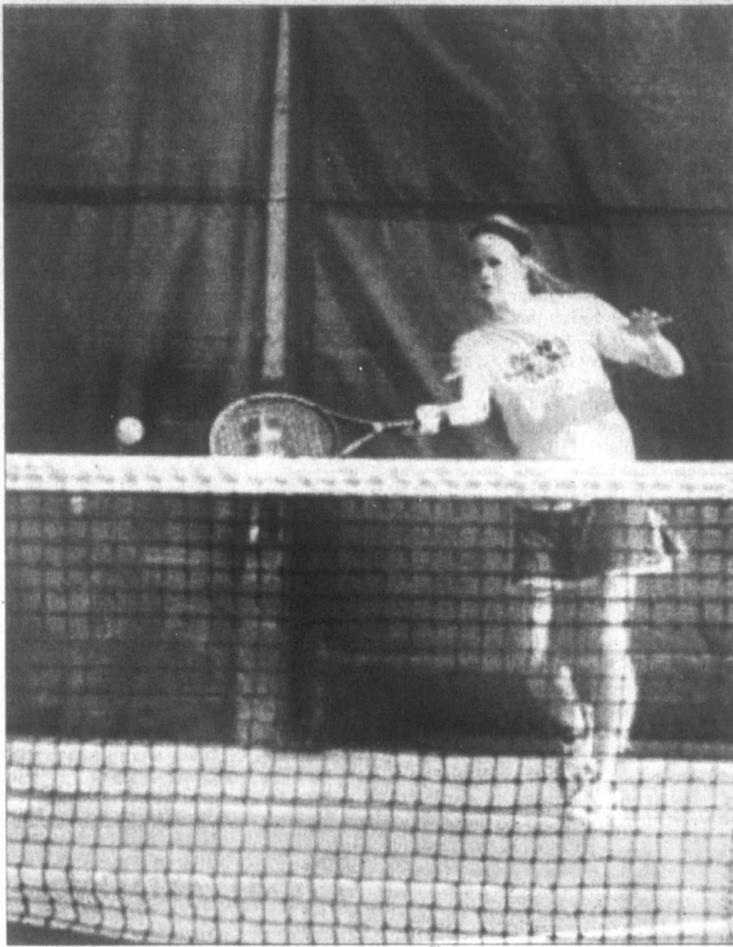


photo courtesy of Cody Moore

Senior Delaney Clendening returns a ball during the Plainview Tournament last September. Clendening said she wanted to do something fun.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Trace Carter hits a ball in a February 25 game. Carter said learning how to hit was his biggest challenge in his first year of baseball.

THE PAMPA NEWS

athletes



of the

week



Bailey Beck
Pampa High School



Collin Killgo
Pampa High School

Pampa High School junior softball player **Bailey Beck** is The Pampa News Female Athlete of the Week. Beck recorded three hits and drove in three runs in the Lady Harvesters' 10-2 victory over Perryton Saturday. This is Beck's first athlete of the week honor for 2011-12.

Pampa High School senior baseball player **Collin Killgo** is The Pampa News Male Athlete of the Week. Killgo pitched a complete game and struck out 10 to earn his first win of the season on Saturday against Perryton. This is Killgo's first athlete of the week honor.



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Sports

Mavericks return to Miami for first time since title

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James said it was one of the most painful moments that he can remember, one that is weighing heavily on him as the Miami Heat get ready for an NBA finals rematch with the Dallas Mavericks.

No, the Heat forward isn't talking about losing last year's title series.

He's talking about dislocating the ring finger on his left, non-shooting, hand at Indiana earlier this week.

"The only recovery for it, the doctors told me, was rest," James said. "And I think we all know I'm having none of that."

Not now, anyway — not with the Mavericks coming back to the building where they celebrated winning a championship a little over nine months ago, and not with the Heat trying to snap a two-game slide that left them looking up at both Chicago and Oklahoma City in the race for the NBA's best record.

Dallas visits Miami on Thursday night, the second and final meeting of this regular season between the clubs.

The first one: All Miami. The Heat watched the Mavs raise their championship banner on Christmas Day, then built as much as a 35-point lead before settling for a 105-94 victory.

"A bad taste in our mouth," Mavs guard Jason Terry said.

So as much as the Heat remember Dallas celebrating on their floor, the Mavs remember the opener, too.

"We've got to think back to Christmas Day because that was a miserable experience for us," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "That was really tough. I was watching some of it (Tuesday). They played terrific, and they were great that day, and we weren't, and so we're going to have to play a lot better."

Which is sort of a Heat mantra these days as well.

The Heat have been held under 100 points in 11 of their last 13 games, and that's not even the most staggering stat. Through March 1, Miami was the league's highest-scoring team at 103.8 points per game. Since then, the Heat

are 25th at 93.1 points per game — and all the clubs they're outscoring are well outside the playoff picture.

Miami has a 14-game home winning streak, the margin of victory in those games a little over 10 points. But after losing at Oklahoma City and Indiana by a combined 31 points — the first time since James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh became teammates nearly two years ago that the Heat endured double-digit losses in consecutive games — Heat coach Erik Spoelstra decided Wednesday's practice was the right time to address the slippage.

Not with words, but with action.

"Every team goes through this," Spoelstra said. "Sometimes you take things for granted and you become flat over the course of a long NBA season. And this season's been a challenge for everybody. So it's not an excuse."

James went through the workout, though his left ring finger was bandaged afterward. He dislocated it

in the first quarter against Indiana on Monday, popping it back into place himself and labored through the rest of the game. James was catching passes with his right hand only for much of that game, and this latest concern comes not long after two nasty falls in a game against Phoenix last week.

"He's got a football-type mentality," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said. "No one can ever question his toughness."

The Mavericks have won two straight, maybe turning things around after a stretch where they lost 11 of 18 games. Entering Wednesday, Dallas had the fifth-best record in the Western Conference, and was only two games ahead of ninth-place Houston.

Clearly, there's not a lot of time for reminiscing over last year's title run right now. And that may be one of the reasons why Mavs owner Mark Cuban didn't bring his championship ring on this trip to Miami.

"When I walk in, it'll be fun," Cuban said. "And when I hear from their

fans, it'll be more interesting. But we've got bigger issues to address."

Dallas has only six home games left, and three of those are next week. If the Mavericks are going to make a real playoff push, it probably should be starting right about now.

"Well, it's another critical game in the standings," Carlisle said. "We know they are a terrific team. They've lost a couple of games. We've been a little up and down over the last three weeks, so you know

it's ... we've got to get ready to lace it up and come at them."

James said he never wants to use injuries as an excuse, and that if he's in uniform, he should be considered ready to play. And he plans to be in uniform on Thursday night.

"The last few weeks, we haven't played to how we're capable of playing," James said. "It can change with (Thursday's) performance. So we're going to go out there and do what we need to do."

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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Level: Intermediate



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Darrel" and I have been married 28 years. I thought we had an easy, comfortable relationship. We have no children; it's just the two of us with a large family of furry animals. We don't take vacations together because one of us has to be home to care for the animals.

Last year Darrel took four trips to Las Vegas -- two for business and two for special sporting events. I'm beginning to get little nagging signals that he may not have been on these trips alone.

He shuts his phone off for hours at a time and changed the password on his computer after I had to get on it for a security update. The last time he went, he told me he had won two tickets in Las Vegas to a show, so I asked him to bring the extra one home so I could see it. When he returned, he didn't have it. He said he had misplaced it.

There are other things, too, and I don't know what to think. I don't want to hurt his feelings if there isn't anything going on, but I need to know. What do I do? -- WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS?

DEAR WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS: If your intuition is telling you that something is wrong, listen to it. Tell Darrel you're feeling insecure and why. Start going with him to Las Vegas. Hire a pet sitter if necessary. It will be money well spent. If your husband isn't open to it, hire a private investigator to tell you what's going on. Clearly, something is up.

DEAR ABBY: My 7-year-old son, "Kenny," is being bullied at school. He was punched so hard in the stomach that I had to get him medical care.

I have called the school board and no one has done anything about it. What else can I do? Kenny is small for his age and weighs only 40 pounds. I'm worried for him. -- WORRIED ABOUT MY BOY IN TULSA

DEAR WORRIED: Assuming that you have already spoken to your son's teacher and the principal of Kenny's school, as well as having contacted the school board, your next step would be to discuss this with a lawyer. The fact that your son was hit so hard he needed medical attention should be all the proof he or she needs to help you deal with this.

DEAR ABBY: I have muscular dystrophy and am beginning to need my wheelchair full time. My friends and family are doing whatever they can to make their homes accessible so I am not left out

of activities. They mean everything to me, and I depend on them a great deal.

My wheelchair can be unforgiving when going around doorways, hardwood flooring, etc. It's inevitable that I will damage something in someone's home and I will feel terrible about it. What should I do when this happens? I may not even know I did it. I can't fix every scratch I make or clean every track I leave on the rug. I want to be invited, but I also want to be a good guest. What do you think? -- PLANNING IN ADVANCE, COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR PLANNING IN ADVANCE: Because you are wisely planning in advance, this is a conversation you should have with your family and friends now, before the need arises. Explain your concerns and offer to pay for the repair of any damage caused by your wheelchair. I'm

sure the offer will be appreciated, whether or not they take you up on it in the event of an accident.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Take turns
 - 5 In a while
 - 10 Wine grape
 - 12 Make amends
 - 13 Superfluous
 - 14 Goes for
 - 15 AFL affiliate
 - 16 Polo shirt wearer
 - 18 — doll
 - 20 Drama division
 - 21 Reactor parts
 - 23 Legal matter
 - 24 Gator's cousin
 - 26 Course aids
 - 28 "The Bells" author
 - 29 Skewed
 - 31 Cobbler's tool
 - 32 Tearjerker
 - 36 Kind of pie
 - 39 What's more
 - 40 Cabaret sight
 - 41 Cease-fire
 - 43 Include
 - 44 Writer
 - 45 Adam and Mae
 - 46 Department-store section
- DOWN**
- 1 Tiny dot
 - 2 Mischievous fairy
 - 3 As a companion
 - 4 Negating link
 - 5 Doily stuff
 - 6 Resting on
 - 7 Beyond what's needed
 - 8 Lures
 - 9 Fixes the clock
 - 11 Pudding choice
 - 17 Warning color

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Yesterday's answer

- 19 Debate side
- 22 Block sur-rounders
- 24 Baseball cover
- 25 Attaches another clip
- 27 Potato part
- 28 Custard apple's cousin
- 30 It ended on Nov. 11
- 33 Brief rest
- 34 Like Machu Picchu
- 35 Utopias
- 37 "Step —!"
- 38 Soprano Lily
- 42 Toddy base

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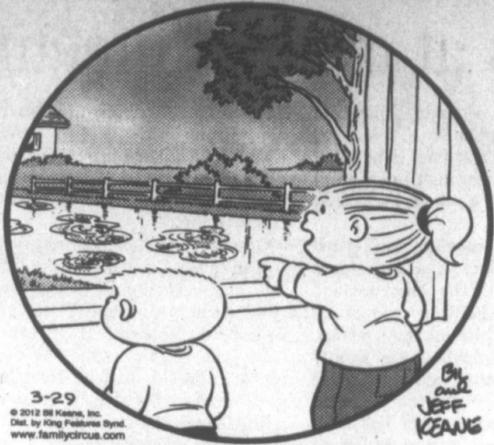
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Comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



“No, it hasn’t stopped raining. The puddles are still wiggling.”

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 30, 2012:

This year you are direct and upbeat. You frequently are energized by the excitement that defines your life. However, you can and will become difficult if you are pushed or encounter controlling behavior. Consider walking away from manipulative people. Live your life well. Give your personal life higher priority. Build greater security through your finances, and also through a strong emotional bond. If you are single, you could meet someone very special after May. Date, but do not commit until 2013. If you are attached, you could get into arguments. Accept and respect your differences. As a result, both of you will come together and grow closer. **CANCER** can be irritating.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
 ★★★★★ Others find you full of surprises; even you might be surprised by some of your choices. Someone attempts to control you, to no avail. You will discover other ways around this situation. Tonight: At home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★★★ Gracefully back away from an unpleasant conversation. You have the ability to get through a problem. Trust in your abilities, and you will gain. You are a firebrand, full of energy. You are a naturally optimistic leader. Tonight: Christen the weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Be more aware of your spending and your commitments. The unexpected occurs, and you could be a bit shocked. You have the resilience to bounce back, should you so choose. You also might decide that you have had enough. Tonight: Indulge a little.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ You beam, and others respond. This celebratory mood sets the right tone for the weekend. Still, you have some hoops to jump through, which you will do successfully. Rethink a partnership with someone who can be very difficult. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ Much goes through your mind. You might want to rethink your plans, especially if you don't feel up to snuff or just want some downtime. Do not push others too far, or you might not like the

results. Tonight: Not to be found.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might need to be around crowds or handle a meeting or two. Put a distinct barrier between the day and the night. Once you get past another's resistance, you will discover how important it is to focus on a key goal. Tonight: The fun finds you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You are on top of your responsibilities. Complete what you must, but also schedule some personal time. Others take their cue from you. Realize what your expectations are, and zero in on them. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Look at the big picture and where you are heading. You could be overwhelmed by everything that is going on. Do not hesitate to let someone know you need some time off from the same old story. Tonight: Count on that special person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Be direct with others. Playing games does not behoove you. Be aware of others and their implicit demands. Know when to establish boundaries. You might have to do this more than once. Tonight: Make nice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ You could be taken aback by everything that is happening with others. Could you possibly have triggered this behavior? Take into consideration how much you have been changing. People could be reacting to that and not be aware of what is triggering them. Tonight: Lighten up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ Focus on clearing out any errands or other not-so-exciting matters in order to really enjoy your weekend. Don't even give a difficult person or negative thoughts the time of day; relax instead. Tonight: Choose an activity that is totally nurturing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Think "forgiveness" when someone acts up. Why would you ruin your weekend with angry thoughts? Your creativity reaches a new level. Ask for more of the support you need to complete a project. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Sports

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NFL coaches talk about bounties at owners meeting

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — NFL coaches plan to go right at the league's most sensitive subject — bounties — when they get together with players next month.

Although a few shied away from commenting at owners meetings this week about the New Orleans Saints' extra payments, under which players were rewarded for big hits on specific opponents, most coaches said it's an important subject to address — with the media and with their players.

"The whole league will talk about it," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said Wednesday.

"The commissioner wants the entire league to make sure it's discussed — to go forward using it as an example, to stress there is no place for that in our league."

Last week, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended Saints coach Sean Payton for all of the 2012 season after the league investigated that team's bounties. Goodell also ordered every principal owner and head coach in the league to certify in writing that their team does not have any sort of pay-for-performance system.

Several coaches echoed Coughlin, hoping they only will need to bring it up once with their players. Clubs will gather for workouts in mid-April.

"It's definitely necessary to mention it," said Ron Rivera, whose Carolina Panthers play the Saints twice a year

in the NFC South. "The precedent has been set by the commissioner and they need to understand that and it is not to be broached again. Going forward, we won't have to go over these things again."

Payton's former defensive coordinator, Gregg Williams, is barred indefinitely for overseeing the system. Williams was hired as defensive coordinator in St. Louis earlier this year.

Joe Vitt, Payton's assistant head coach, was suspended for six games, Saints general manager Mickey Loomis got eight games, and the team was fined \$500,000. New Orleans also loses a second-round pick in each of the next two drafts.

Detroit Lions coach Jim Schwartz stressed how easy it is to cross the line from acceptable rewards to something sinister.

Schwartz said past awards he's given out while working for the Tennessee Titans and the Lions — baseball bats or a boxing glove for big hits — had league approval, because they didn't have any monetary significance.

"It was part of the game-ball program. It wasn't part of anything else," Schwartz said. "A recognition system has been in effect for football since pee wee ball. We give out game balls. We give out trophies at the end of the season for all different things. A lot of colleges give out stickers on helmets; high schools give out stickers on helmets. There's a

big difference between things like that and things like bounties."

Schwartz noted that it's not unheard of for QBs to buy gifts for their linemen, or for running backs to do the same if they have a big season.

"That would all receive very good press," he said. "I think what this shows is how fine some of the lines are and how easy it is to go from something like that that's been around and has been part of football to something that should never be part of football and is not good for our game."

The NFL sent lead counsel Jeff Pash and security director Jeffrey Miller to New Orleans to speak with the Saints about the bounties one day before they hosted Detroit in a wild-card game in January. The league officials told owner Tom Benson to make sure no bounty system still was in place.

New Orleans had already beaten Detroit in the regular season, when Lions pass rusher Ndamukong Suh was serving a suspension for stomping an opponent.

Was Schwartz aware of anything untoward by the Saints, either time?

"Other than we got beat twice?" he said. "They were physical games but I don't recall them drawing any penalties. We were the only ones drawing penalties (in Week 13). I don't recall anything that the guys thought was extra."

Mike Smith's Falcons are the Saints' main rival in their division. Atlanta-New

Orleans games usually are close, always are feisty.

"It is a physical game and there are rules we must play by," Smith said. "As coaches, it is important we make sure we coach to that."

One of the NFL's most physical teams — and most fined — is Pittsburgh. Star linebacker James Harrison was suspended one game in 2011 for a hit to a defenseless player, Browns quarterback Colt McCoy. Harrison was deemed a repeat offender, and he frequently has been fined by Goodell for illegal hits.

Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin said he's heard of other teams supposedly placing bounties on the Steelers.

"That talk has been around, but for us, it's not something that we've engaged in," Tomlin said. "We've always been somewhat amused by it. Not that it's amusing, of course."

Seattle coach Pete Carroll spent 15 years working in the NFL before going to Southern California for nine hugely successful seasons in college football. He returned to the pros in 2010.

He misses the aura that surrounded some players with a tough-guy image, but recognized that times change.

"The lore of the players that were unique — there's not a place for that in a way," he said. "Those of us who are the old-school guys, we miss that. We miss the uniqueness of the tough guys and the way that they were able to demonstrate that. But now, it just doesn't fit."

Postseason rules now to be implemented in regular season

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Even though the NFL's new rule for post-season overtime has never come into play, it's being expanded for the regular season, too.

NFL owners passed the playoff overtime rule for the regular schedule Wednesday. All games that go into overtime now cannot end on a field goal on the first possession.

The opposing team must get one series, and if it also kicks a field goal, the extra period continues. Of course, if it fails to score it loses, and if it gets a touchdown, it wins.

The rule has not been a factor since it was instituted in 2010, with only two playoff games going to OT. One ended on the first play, Tim Tebow's 80-yard touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas for a Denver victory over Pittsburgh. The other had several possessions for each team before the Giants beat the 49ers in the NFC title game this season.

The vote on adopting the new overtime rule was 30-2.

Owners also have given the replay official permission to review turnovers just as he reviews all scoring plays.

Other rules changes: a team will lose a down for illegally kicking a loose ball; too many men on the field becomes a dead ball foul; and a player receiving a crackback block is now considered a defenseless player and the hit will result in a 15-yard penalty.

Not passed were proposals to have the booth official handle video reviews rather than the referee, and outlawing the horse-collar tackle made on quarterbacks in the pocket.

Given the NFL's concern with player safety, the failure to extend the horse-collar rule seemed surprising. But competition committee chairman Rich McKay said the ownership "didn't think this can impact on player safety."

"The rule was developed for the open field tackle when a defender has the chance to do something else (in making the tackle)," he said. "He's also able to use the runner's momentum against him. We didn't think that applied to the pocket, didn't see the injury risk."

Several bylaw changes were tabled until the league meetings in May, including expanding pre-

season rosters to 90, designating one player suffering a major injury before Week 2 of the season as eligible to return from injured reserve, and moving the trading deadline back two weeks to after Week 8.

McKay expects them to pass at the next meetings in Atlanta.

"There were good ideas and suggestions, no resistance," he said. "We'll work on the language."

Commissioner Roger Goodell reiterated the league's strong stance against non-contract bonuses such as the Saints' bounty program that got coach Sean Payton suspended for one year and cost New Orleans a \$500,000 fine and two second-round draft choice. Goodell said the league will not allow any cash payments between players, whether the clubs are

involved or not.

"It's not permissible and we are going to take that out of the game," he said.

Goodell expects to speak with players' union head DeMaurice Smith before the end of the week and hopes to have the NFLPA's recommendations on punishment for players involved in the bounties by then or soon after. The league will be scheduling additional hearings in the investigation.

Also: — The NFL will not be awarding the 2016 Super Bowl, its 50th, to any city this year. Goodell said he expects many bidders for the game.

"It's an important game for us," he said. "We're looking at plans to make it spectacular."

There's been speculation the league was hoping a suitable stadium would be in place in Los Angeles

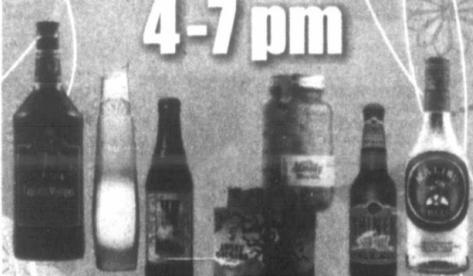
by 2016. The first Super Bowl was played in the LA Coliseum.

— The league is prepared to make an agreement with the union on HGH testing if a population study is the only thing standing in the way.

— The 18-game schedule has not been discussed and the NFL wants to go through a full cycle of the offseason schedule that came with the new collective bargaining agreement before reviewing the subject.

— No consensus has been reached in the medical community on the value of having an independent neurologist on the sidelines during games. Discussions likely will continue.

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