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# The PAMPA NEWS



Friday, April 6, 2012 [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com) Volume 107 • No. 311

**75¢**  
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**Life in oil field brings riches, sacrifice**  
 Economic realities in South Texas changing | p2

**One-two punch**  
 Beck's hitting, O'Brien's pitching KO Lady Rebels | p6

## GOOD HARE DAY



**The Easter Bunny** (Haley Roberts) smiles with Brittney Revell at this year's Downtown Business Celebration this past Saturday.

staff photo by **Bernie Frazier**

## PHS actors take stage at UIL contest

■ *Pampa third, but accolades for thespians, crew*

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

Pampa High School's young thespians took the hometown stage on Thursday as M.K. Brown Civic Center provided the setting for the District 1-3A round of the 2012 University Interscholastic League One Act Play Competition.

The Harvester actors and actresses, led by PHS theatre teacher Matthew Prather, finished third out of the four schools in the contest. The top two schools advance to the next round, meaning Pampa was designated as this year's alternate. Perryton and Dalhart moved on, with Borger finishing fourth.

Despite missing the cut, Prather was extremely positive about the Pampa performance.

"Things went fantastic," he said. "I knew when we got into our rehearsal period. We just ran some short little rehearsal sections, and they were doing better than they've done all along. They kept their energy in check. They got all the little things right and they put on a heck of a show."

Prather's ensemble performed "Hopes and Words and Ordinary Things," a turn-of-the-century-set romantic comedy by Ronald Burke that netted League City Clear Creek the 3A One-Act Play State Championship in the early 60s. It was a departure from the previous two years, during which the school brought period shows to the competition.

"In the last two years, we've done **PLAY** cont. on page 12

## Storm spotter training class at Hoover VFD on Monday

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Hoover Volunteer Fire Department and Gray County Emergency Management will host their 10th annual storm spotter training class on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Hoover Station on 2305 Chisum.

"National Weather Service instructors will be there to describe different cloud formations, the difference between serious and non-serious clouds, wall clouds and that sort of thing that's related to tornado season as it starts," said Joe Millican of Hoover.

The presentation will help storm spotters prepare for another tornado season



**Millican**

in the Panhandle. "The program changes every year, and provides a refresher course for storm spotters, who chase storms all over the Panhandle," said Millican. "They have to do the training, and there are a lot of storm chasers in this area." "We're warned before tornados happen," he added. "The department has spotters that watch for tornados in rural communities, and assist the Gray County Sheriff's Office in spotting these storms before they come into our county."

## NWS: La Niña change could improve Panhandle weather

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The outlook for the coming summer months may be looking up, as La Niña, a condition which affects weather patterns, is expected to enter a neutral state by the end of this month.

La Niña occurs when ocean temperatures are cooler than usual, causing drier than normal conditions in the southwest during summer and winter months.

"We experienced last year a slowed precipitation in the southwest as part of La Niña," said Nicholas Fenner, meteorologist intern at the National Weather Service in Amarillo.

The weather pattern change could

potentially improve dry conditions in the Panhandle.

"It's already evident somewhat with moisture coming up," said Fenner. "With La Niña, there's an increased chance for above average temperatures, and as it fades, we should see a chance that temperatures return more to a normal range of temperatures."

The state could, according to another NWS meteorologist, be headed for the El Nino phase, in which Texas winters tend to be cooler and wetter.

"If we go anywhere next winter, it will be a weak El Nino," meteorologist Barry Goldsmith told the Associated Press at the beginning of the week.

**WEATHER** cont. on page 12

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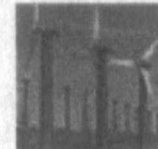

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Obituaries .....	2	Puzzles/Dear Abby...	6
Local Record .....	2	Comics .....	7
Weather .....	2	NASCAR .....	8
Morning Rush .....	3	Classifieds .....	9
Home How-to .....	3	Sports .....	10
Viewpoints .....	4		





### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
20%		
High 76 Low 48	High 68 Low 41	High 68 Low 48

**Today:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Patchy fog before 9am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 76. South southeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tonight:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. Breezy, with a south southeast wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Breezy, with a north northwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. East northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

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PAMPA NEWS office will close at noon Fri. Apr. 6th and there will be a Fri newspaper. We'll be open Mon. Apr. 9th, 8am. Happy Easter!!

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TPA

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## Life in oil field brings riches, sacrifice

CARRIZO SPRINGS (AP) — A few years ago, Frankie Gonzalez was working marginal jobs and running with the wrong crowd in his small South Texas hometown of San Diego. Now he's among the many oil field workers cashing in on the gusher known as the Eagle Ford Shale.

"I started out in the wash pit, washing trucks. I worked concrete for three years. Now I'm an equipment operator. I run the hydrator," said Gonzalez, 27, who works for a major hydraulic fracturing company, but spends little time with his family.

"My wife doesn't like the hours, but she's happy for what I bring home. I expect to make over \$100,000 this year. The oil field is a great place," he said.

The richest gas and oil play ever in South Texas is rapidly changing a region where historically wages were low and opportunities were few, and which promising young people tried to escape as soon as possible.

The boom has also blown up all the old economic realities, as oil and gas companies are pouring billions into the region to tap the sweet hydrocarbon lode found in a shale formation beneath two dozen counties.

Ranchers who once scraped by on bony cattle and seasonal deer leases have become millionaires. New motels, restaurants and other businesses are making local entrepreneurs rich.

In the oil field, drill-site consultants can make \$1,500 a day. Youths without special skills or college degrees can earn six-figure incomes by working 90-hour weeks in sometimes rough conditions.

But as every oil field veteran knows, there is a harsh trade-off, beyond the grueling labor. Some men work hundreds of miles from their

families, others live in primitive conditions or face the real risk of being maimed.

"You have no life. It's basically work, sleep, work, sleep, and when you do go home, you sleep," said Carlos Garza, 36, who drives a fluid truck and rarely sees his four kids in Mission, just two hours away.

"Sometimes we're 30 hours on location. I haven't seen my house in the daytime in two weeks," said Garza, who bunks in Asherton.

But the lure of big checks is still bringing waves of workers. In Dimmit County, population 10,000 before the boom, more than 1,000 oil field jobs were added in 2011. Around the 20 Eagle Ford Shale counties, at least 7,000 jobs have been added in two years.

"When we do hiring events, we draw candidates from all over the state. We had one individual drive all the way from El Paso for a job fair," said Betty Sifuentes, director of Work Force Programs for the region.

"The average wage for a driver is \$25 an hour. Some pay by the mile, others by the trip. For a roughneck, it's about \$16 an hour. For entry-level positions, they are depleting the workers from restaurants and retail," she said.

Cleo Bustamante, who owns several restaurants, is a prime example.

"I've got two carloads coming in from Eagle Pass every day to fill my positions at Church's Chicken in Carrizo Springs," he said.

The massive influx of workers is causing housing and labor shortages, traffic congestion, increased crime and new infrastructure demands.

"I'd say the population of Asherton has at least doubled in the last two

years. We have 10 to 15 RV parks, two 'man camps' with a third being built, and a motel being built," said Ralph Cordova.

Cordova, 27, a city councilman in this once dirt-poor city south of Carrizo Springs, quit his job at the Toyota plant in San Antonio for one in the oil patch.

"I haul fuel for a petroleum company. I'm doing much better," he said.

Around the region, dozens of man camps — large clusters of mobile homes equipped with bathrooms and a mess hall — have suddenly materialized.

Hundreds of often-primitive roadside RV parks have also sprouted on freshly graded caliche lots. There are now more than 60 in Dimmit County alone, up from just two a few years ago.

The more fortunate workers such as Gonzalez, who was staying at the Mesquite Lodge, a newly opened camp, sleep on clean sheets and eat good meals.

In the evenings, they can play horseshoes, watch movies on the patio or sip a beer around a campfire, all behind a security fence.

But smaller companies, cannot cough up the \$125 to \$160 a day to house and feed a man at a good man camp. Some workers, who have to find their own housing, stay in everything from horse trailers to converted shipping containers to mobile units parked by the rig site.

Still others are jammed into single-family houses being rented by the bed for \$100 or \$150 a week, or even "hot bedding," in which two men working opposite shifts share a bunk.

Far worse conditions used to be the

**OIL** cont. on page 12

## Obituaries

### Toni Marie Elizabeth Allena Brown,

56

Toni Marie Elizabeth Allena Brown, 56, died Tuesday, April 3, 2012, in Amarillo.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 7, 2012, at Macedonia Baptist Church, with Rev. Wesley Smith, pastor, and Rev. Darren Willis, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be at Farview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Miss Brown was born May 19, 1955 in Dallas to the union of Ezekiel and Marie Brown. She moved to Pampa in the mid 1950's and attended Carver school. Toni



Brown

was a certified nurse's aide. She was a longtime member of Macedonia Baptist Church. She served as a Sunday school teacher, teaching the Women's Mission Society, was a member of the Macedonia Senior Choir, and was the church decorator. Toni's other passion was to visit people in town and she always left them with an encouraging word. She was a strong prayer warrior as well as a woman of faith. Her most cherished pastime was spending time with her wonderful grandchildren.

Toni is survived by three sons: Zwalyne Marcell Brown, Cameron Gene Ellis and Jason Dion Ellis, all of Pampa; a sister: Patricia Murry and husband Tommy of Pampa; a brother: Owen Travis Brown of Borger; 7 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Toni is preceded in death by her parents; a sister: Sandra Norton; and a brother: Robert Allen Brown.

Memorials may be made to Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com)

## For the record

### Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, April 5 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 13 traffic related incidents.

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

Pampa EMS responded to two medical calls.

Wednesday, April 4

Burglaries of motor vehicles occurred at the 2600 block of North Hobart, the 900 block of Cinderella and the 2100 block of North Sumner.

Thefts occurred at the 300 block of East Brown and the 400 block of West Brown.

A suspicious person was reported at the 1000 block

of West McCullough.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 4000 block of North Bad Cattle Company.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 1000 block of North Charles.

Criminal trespassing occurred at the 800 block of East Campbell.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1300 block of East Foster.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1900 block of North Coffee.

A theft occurred at the 400 block of South Hughes.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 900 block of North Cinderella and the 1000 block of South Wells.

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

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 500 block of East 19th.

Disorderly conduct oc-

curred at the 700 block of North Sloan.

A suspicious person was reported at the 100 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Kingsmill and Gray.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 1800 block of North Beech.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 600 block of North Hazel.

Thursday, April 5

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 700 block of North Sloan.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 600 block of North Hazel.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at Atchison and Somerville.

A suspicious person was reported at Texas and Russell.

A suspicious person was reported at Christine and Kentucky.

A violation of city ordinance occurred at the 1000 block of Juniper.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1200 block of North Wells and the 700

block of North Sloan.

### Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, April 5 at 7 a.m.

Wednesday, April 4

Guadalupe Martin Dominguez, 41, was arrested by DPS officers on behalf of border patrol.

Manuel Palomares, 29, was arrested by deputies for unlawful use of a motor vehicle and criminal mischief.

Robert Lee Sanderson, 40, was arrested by deputies on a bond to serve involving possession of a controlled substance, insufficient bond and tampering with evidence.

Amanda Marie Helfer, 21, was arrested by deputies for failure to maintain financial responsibility, expired motor vehicle insurance and failure to appear in court.

Benjamin Eugene Crocker, 49, was arrested by police for possession of drug paraphernalia.

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## Open Meetings Act debated

HOUSTON (AP) — An attorney for 15 city leaders who are suing to declare part of the Texas Open Meetings Act unconstitutional says the law infringes on the free speech rights of officials through potential criminal penalties that promote censorship.

But an attorney with the office of Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott says the act ensures the public is informed about how government operates.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments Thursday in Houston in the lawsuit.

The 2009 suit is before the appeals court after a West Texas federal judge last year ruled the law doesn't muzzle the First Amendment right to free speech.

The appeals court will rule at a later date.

## Three innocent in 1994 robbery

DALLAS (AP) — The Innocence Project of Texas says a man serving 99 years in prison for a 1994 purse snatching and two other men convicted of the crime will be exonerated.

A judge in Dallas today is scheduled to formally declare the trio innocent.

Darryl Washington, Marcus Lashun Smith and Shakara Robertson were arrested in November 1994 and charged with aggravated robbery of an elderly person.

A jury convicted Washington and he was sentenced to 99 years. Washington remains in custody. Smith and Robertson accepted plea deals for probation.

The Innocence Project says witnesses erroneously identified the men.

A judge last month held a hearing where four other men confessed to the robbery. The judge agreed with prosecutors who reviewed the case and concluded that Washington, Smith and Robertson are innocent.

## Fire risk high in Mountain West

DENVER (AP) — Warm, windy weather is raising the fire danger in the Mountain West.

Red flag warnings were in effect Thursday for much of western Colorado and the San Luis Valley as well as parts of Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico.

In western Colorado, the National Weather Service said wind gusts could reach up to 35 mph before the threat is expected to subside Friday afternoon. Humidities are also expected to drop below 15 percent there, making it easier for fires to spread.

The agency warns that simple burns on farms or ranches could easily get out of control.

Weather service meteorologist Joe Ramey says the warm, windy weather is the result of southwesterly winds ahead of an approaching Pacific cold front. The front isn't expected to bring much moisture.

## Fire ants harming prairie chickens

HOUSTON (AP) — New research indicates voracious fire ants accidentally imported to the United States in the 1930s are harming the recovery of endangered prairie chickens in Texas.

Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge manager Terry Rossignol says initial findings released Thursday indicate treating for insect-devouring fire ants allows other bugs to thrive, increasing the survival rate of the Attwater chicks. He says this research could also be promising for other wildlife harmed by fire ants.

Rossignol says the lack of insects hurt the chicks' survival rate. In 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lay fire ant traps in a 760-acre area. It found there two times more and twice the variety of insects than untreated areas.

And in 2011 the refuge counted 82 birds, the most found there since 1990.

## Plea deal for Texas doctor

AUSTIN (AP) — A suspended Texas emergency room doctor whose son died of an overdose has reached a plea deal on a charge of wrongful prescription of thousands of doses of drugs.

The Austin American-Statesman reports the plea agreement for Dr. David James Jacoby has been filed in federal court.

Jacoby's son died in 2010. Prosecutors in Travis County determined 24-year-old Brandon Jacoby voluntarily took drugs and no one has been charged in his death.

Federal investigators say the doctor wrote unlawful prescriptions to 24 people associated with his son, who then returned some of the pills to the physician for his own use.

David Jacoby's attorney, Louis Leichter, says his client was an addict and will resign his suspended medical license. He faces up to 15 years in prison.

## Drugs stuffed in roofing paper

EL PASO (AP) — Officers at a West Texas border crossing have confiscated nearly a ton of marijuana stuffed in more than 190 rolls of roofing paper.

Customs and Border Protection authorities on Wednesday announced the seizure in El Paso at the Ysleta commercial cargo site.

A drug-sniffing dog on Tuesday drew attention to the load.

Customs officers discovered that smugglers had cut rectangular spaces into the roofing paper rolls and filled the spaces with bundles of marijuana. Authorities seized more than 1,800 pounds of marijuana.

Nobody has been arrested as the investigation continues.

# Finish stairway yourself like a professional

**Dear Pat: I am having a second stairway from the kitchen roughed in. It has a full wall on one side and half way down the other. I want to finish it myself. What is the most attractive way to do this? -- Carolyn F.**

Dear Carolyn: Installing a second stairway from the kitchen the second floor is becoming more common in homes. These are the stairs that the children will use most often so they don't wear out the main stairway. Dirty little pounding shoes can wear out carpeted or hardwood stairs quickly.

Even though the new stairway will be in the kitchen, not the front foyer, you still want it to be reasonably attractive. Using hardwood on the lower stairs with the open side and then fully carpeted stairs the rest of the way up would look nice.

Inform the carpenter you will be adding a hardwood layer on the lower stairs so thinner lumber is used there. It is important the vertical distance between each step is identical or people will likely stumble on the stairs.

The first, and one of the most difficult tasks, is to make the skirt boards for the stairway. These are the trim boards, usually made from 1x12 lumber, which are notched to fit over the stairs and against the walls.

There will be one skirt board along the long wall. Another will be on the inside of the stairway along the short wall, and then another below the stairs on the outside. Your existing stairway will most likely be trimmed this way, so inspect it to get a good understanding of the components.

Cut other pieces of 1-inch-thick lumber to close and finish the vertical opening between each step. This is called the riser. A butt joint is the simplest method to end the riser at the skirt boards. If you have a miter saw, it looks much nicer if the corners of the

## HOME HOW-TO

riser and skirtboards are mitered at 45 degrees for a professional-looking joint.

The risers will be longer for the lower open portion of the stairway. Once all the pieces are mitered, loosely screw the skirt boards to the rough stairway framing and hold the risers in position. It may take a few tries with the saw to get the mitered ends to fit properly, so don't get discouraged.

When you feel everything will fit together, nail the skirt board to the stairway framing. Position the skirt board slightly below the tread (horizontal step). This ensures the stress from a person's weight is carried by the thread and not the skirt board. If the skirt board ends up supporting

a person walking up the stairs, the mitered corner joints may begin to open up.

Attach the vertical risers to the stairway framing to close in the stairs. Use a gap-filling type of construction adhesive to bond the risers to the framing. At the visible miter joints at the ends, use standard wood glue for a cleaner look. Nail the risers to the framing, and allow the adhesive time to cure.

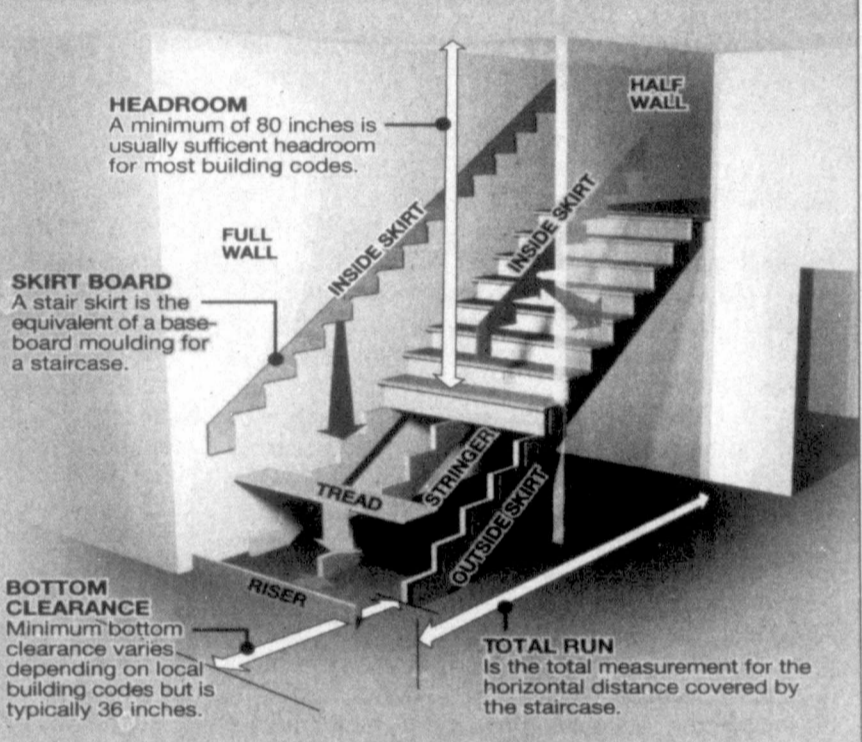
Finish the lower threads with a layer of attractive hardwood. This will require an additional hardwood trim strip around the edge of the hardwood and a short return piece around the skirt board. To simplify this, Young Manufacturing, (800) 646-6595, makes threads with preinstalled returns. Cover the stairs with carpet, and they are ready to use.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com).

## HOME HOW-TO

### Staircase

Installing stairs is generally not a difficult project, as long as it is planned and executed carefully. Before constructing a staircase, check your local building-code requirements.



# Perry surveys storm damage, lauds response

LANCASTER (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry on Thursday toured a town ravaged by storms that sent as many as a dozen twisters into North Texas, and he lauded local first responders for preventing more serious damage.

Ten people were injured in Lancaster, south of Dallas, and hundreds of homes and other buildings were affected when a tornado hit the town Tuesday. But no one was reported killed in the storms that blanketed the Dallas-Fort

Worth area with twisters, thunderstorms and hail.

"Witnessing this type of disaster always brings just starkly to your mind how quickly these events can occur," said Perry, flanked by local officials in front of a nearly destroyed home in Lancaster.

While many people lost their homes and belongings that might never be replaced, "we do need to thank the Lord that it could have been worse," Perry said.

"The reason it wasn't

worse, I will suggest to you, is because of these local first responders," he said.

The governor toured Lancaster first by helicopter and later met with local officials.

Perry suggested Texas eventually would ask for federal disaster aid, particularly for Dallas, Tarrant and Kaufman counties. Spokeswoman Lucy Nashed said a damage assessment still was under way and would determine what state officials would

request from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or other federal agencies. Nashed said she didn't know when the assessment would be completed.

Perry and state emergency management chief Nim Kidd both said the quick response in Lancaster prevented a much larger disaster.

"This response was flawless," Kidd said. "I can't think of another thing we should ask them to do next time."

# Successful launch yesterday at Spaceport America

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — Spaceport America officials say they have successfully launched the tenth rocket from the southern New Mexico launch site.

The SpaceLoft-6 reached the highest altitude on record for a launch for the spaceport north of Dona Ana County.

A news release issued by the New Mexico Spaceport Authority said the liftoff of the suborbital rocket took place from Spaceport America around 8:18 a.m.

The rocket reached an altitude of 73 miles or 385,640 feet, accomplishing a new Spaceport America altitude record.

The Las Cruces Sun-

News reports the primary payloads were Department of Defense experiments. Additional payloads were carried for the Federal

Aviation Administration, the University of Texas and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

[www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com)

## Chamber Luncheon Tuesday April 17

Sponsor - Pampa Nursing Center  
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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Good Friday, April 6, the 97th day of 2012. There are 269 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Passover begins at sunset.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1862, the Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.

### On this date:

In 1830, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was organized by Joseph Smith in Fayette, N.Y.

In 1886, the Canadian city of Vancouver, British Columbia, was incorporated.

In 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1917, Congress approved a declaration of war against Germany.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1954, a month after being criticized by newsman Edward R. Murrow on CBS' "See It Now," Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., given the chance to respond on the program, charged that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1965, the United States launched the Intelsat I, also known as the "Early Bird" communications satellite, into orbit.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.

In 1985, William J. Schroeder became the first artificial heart recipient to be discharged from the hospital as he moved into an apartment in Louisville, Ky.

In 1992, the Supreme Court ruled a Nebraska farmer had been entrapped by postal agents into buying mail-order child pornography. The European Community recognized the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state. Science-fiction author Isaac Asimov died in New York at age 72.

In 1994, the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were killed in a mysterious plane crash near Rwanda's capital; widespread violence and killings erupted in Rwanda over claims the plane had been shot down.

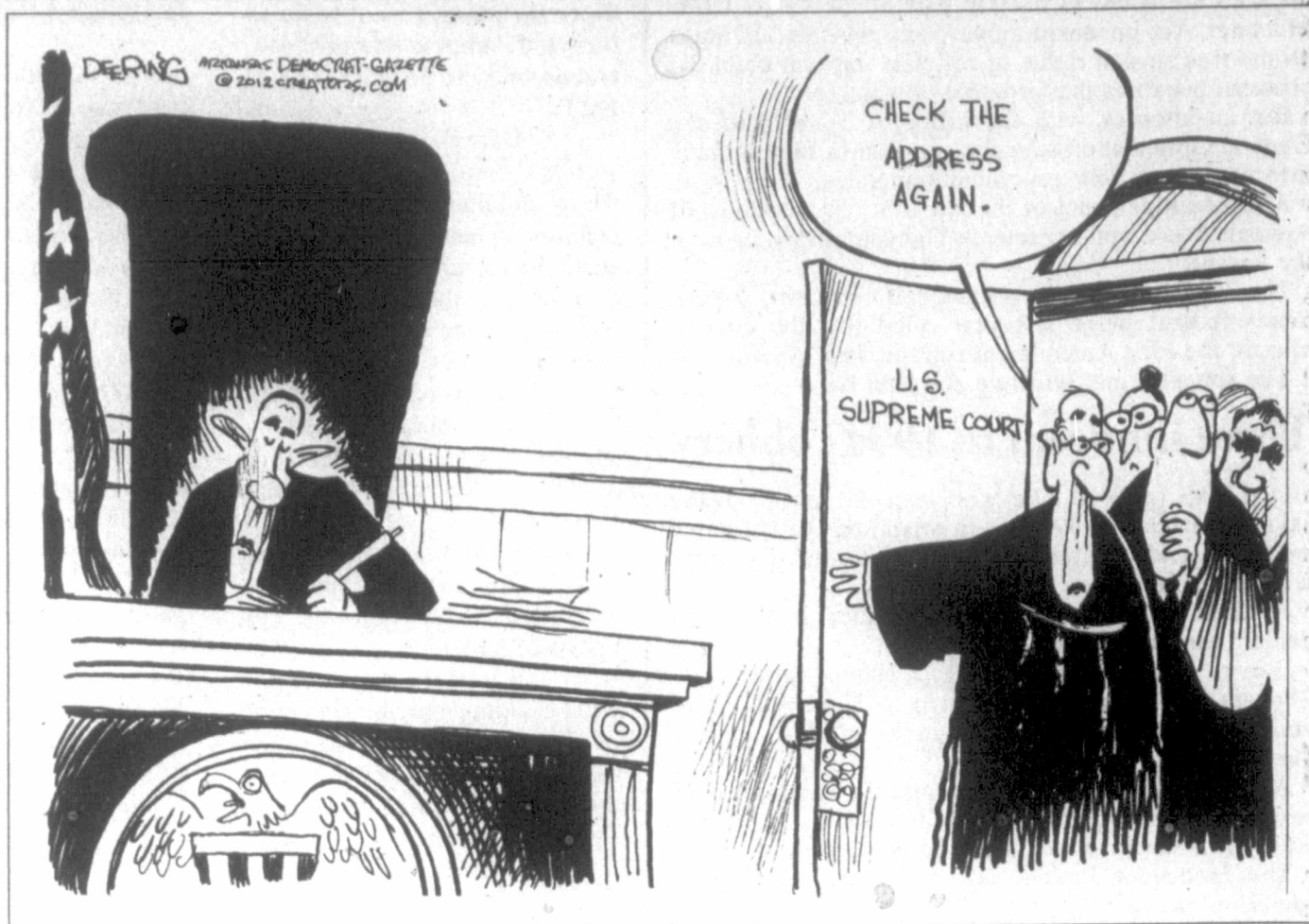
**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush repeated his call for Israel to "withdraw without delay" from West Bank towns it had occupied since launching an offensive after a string of suicide attacks; Bush also demanded the Palestinians call "an immediate and effective cease-fire."

**Five years ago:** British sailors and marines newly freed by Iran said they were blindfolded, isolated in cold stone cells and tricked into fearing execution while being coerced into falsely saying they had entered Iranian waters. A suicide bomber smashed a truck loaded with TNT and toxic chlorine gas into a police checkpoint in Ramadi, Iraq, killing 27 people.

**One year ago:** Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi appealed directly to President Barack Obama in a letter to end what Gadhafi called "an unjust war"; he also wished Obama good luck in his bid for reelection. Portugal became the third debt-stressed European country to need a bailout as the prime minister announced his country would request international assistance.

**Today's Birthdays:** Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 84. Composer-conductor Andre Previn is 83. Country singer Merle Haggard is 75. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 75. Actor Roy Thinnes is 74. Writer-comedian Phil Austin (Firesign Theatre) is 71. Movie director Barry Levinson is 70. Actor John Ratzemberger is 65. Actress Marilu Henner is 60. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 59. Actor Michael Rooker is 57. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 52. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 47. Author Vince Flynn is 46. Actress Ari Meyers is 43. Actor Paul Rudd is 43. Actor-producer Jason Hervey is 40. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen is 39. Actor Zach Braff is 37. Actress Candace Cameron Bure is 36. Actress Eliza Coupe is 31. Actor Bret Harrison is 30. Actor Charlie McDermott is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "Never think that you're not good enough yourself. A man should never think that. My belief is that in life people will take you at your own reckoning." - Isaac Asimov (1920-1992).



## Painkiller sales soar around US, fuel addiction

CHRIS HAWLEY  
Associated Press Analysis

NEW YORK (AP) - Sales of the nation's two most popular prescription painkillers have exploded in new parts of the country, an Associated Press analysis shows, worrying experts who say the push to relieve patients' suffering is spawning an addiction epidemic.

From New York's Staten Island to Santa Fe, N.M., Drug Enforcement Administration figures show dramatic rises between 2000 and 2010 in the distribution of oxycodone, the key ingredient in OxyContin, Percocet and Percodan. Some places saw sales increase sixteenfold.

Meanwhile, the distribution of hydrocodone, the key ingredient in Vicodin, Norco and Lortab, is rising in Appalachia, the original epicenter of the painkiller epidemic, as well as in the Midwest.

The increases have coincided with a wave of overdose deaths, pharmacy robberies and other problems in New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Florida and other states. Opioid pain relievers, the category that includes oxycodone and hydrocodone, caused 14,800 overdose deaths in 2008 alone, and the death toll is rising, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

Nationwide, pharmacies received and ultimately dispensed the equivalent of 69 tons of pure oxycodone and 42 tons of pure hydrocodone in 2010, the last year for which statistics are available. That's enough to give 40 5-mg Percocets and 24 5-mg Vicodins to every person in the United States. The DEA data records shipments from distributors to pharmacies, hospitals, practitioners and teaching institutions. The drugs are eventually dispensed and sold to patients, but the DEA does not keep track of how much individual patients receive.

The increase is partly due to the aging U.S. population with pain issues and a greater willingness by doctors to treat pain, said Gregory Bunt, medical director at New York's Daytop Village chain of drug treatment clinics.

Sales are also being driven by addiction, as users become physically dependent on painkillers and begin "doctor shopping" to keep the prescriptions coming, he said.

"Prescription medications can provide enormous health and quality-of-life benefits to patients," Gil Kerlikowske, the U.S. drug czar, told Congress in March. "However, we all now recognize that these drugs can be just as dangerous and deadly as illicit substances when misused or abused."

Opioids like hydrocodone and oxycodone can release intense feelings of well-being. Some abusers swallow the pills; others crush them, then smoke, snort or inject the powder.

Unlike most street drugs, the problem has its roots in two disparate

parts of the country - Appalachia and affluent suburbs, said Pete Jackson, president of Advocates for the Reform of Prescription Opioids.

"Now it's spreading from those two poles," Jackson said.

The AP analysis used drug data collected quarterly by the DEA's Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System. The

churn out dozens of prescriptions a day.

In 2000, Florida's oxycodone sales were centered around West Palm Beach. By 2010, oxycodone was flowing to nearly every part of the state.

While still not as high as in Appalachia or Florida, oxycodone sales also increased dramatically in

New York City and its suburbs. The borough of Staten Island saw sales leap 1,200 percent.

New York's Long Island has also seen huge increases. In Islip, N.Y., teenager Makenzie Emerson says she started stealing oxycodone that

her mother was prescribed in 2009 after a fall on ice. Soon Emerson was popping six pills at a time.

"When I would go over to friends' houses I would raid their medicine cabinets because I knew their parents were most likely taking something," said Emerson, now 19.

One day she overdosed at the mall. Her mother, Phyllis Ferraro, tried to keep her daughter breathing until the ambulance arrived.

"The pills are everywhere," Ferraro said. "There aren't enough treatment centers and yet there's a pharmacy on every corner."

The American Southwest has emerged as another hot spot.

Parts of New Mexico have seen tenfold increases in oxycodone sales per capita and fivefold increases in hydrocodone. The state had the highest rate of opioid painkiller overdoses in 2008, with 27 per 100,000 population.

Many parts of eastern California received only modest amounts of oxycodone in 2010, but the increase from 2000 was dramatic - more than 500 percent around Modesto and Stockton.

Many California addicts are switching from methamphetamine to prescription pills, said John Harsanyi, medical director of Riverside County's substance abuse program.

Hydrocodone use has increased in some areas with large Indian reservations, including South Dakota, northeastern Arizona and northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. Many of these communities have battled substance abuse problems in the past.

Experts worry painkiller sales are spreading quickly in areas where there are few clinics to treat people who get hooked, Bunt said.

In Utica, N.Y., Patricia Reynolds has struggled to find treatment after becoming dependent on hydrocodone pills originally prescribed for a broken tailbone.

The nearest clinics offering Suboxone, an anti-addiction drug, are an hour's drive away in Cooperstown or Syracuse. And those programs are full and are not accepting new patients, she said.

"You can't have one clinic like that in the whole area," Reynolds said. "It's a really sad epidemic. I want people to start talking about it instead of pretending it's not a problem and hiding."

## We welcome your letters

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- 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.



# New Keystone pipeline review bill advances in Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A bill that would allow Nebraska to restart a review of the Keystone XL pipeline project's route inched closer to final passage Thursday, with a requirement that the state's environmental agency hold at least one public hearing before releasing its recommendation.

The bill that advanced through a second-round legislative vote would also force pipeline developer TransCanada to reimburse the state for the cost of the study, which could reach \$2 million.

Gov. Dave Heineman would have final say on the route, and his approval would give TransCanada eminent domain power before they receive a federal permit. If he doesn't certify the route, the proposal would go to an independent state commission that regulates utilities.

Thousands of Nebraska pipeline opponents filled an auditorium and a high school gymnasium last year during two U.S. State Department hearings when the project was under a federal review. Political pressure from Nebraska ultimately helped derail the project, out of concern that a pipeline leak would contaminate a massive state

groundwater supply.

The changes came in response to criticism of an earlier proposal that would allow the stalled state review to proceed. TransCanada had agreed to submit to the state analysis in November in the midst of a special session, but the process halted when President Barack Obama denied a federal project permit after congressional Republicans tried to force his hand.

"We have demonstrated our willingness to address these issues," Papillion Sen. Jim Smith, the bill's sponsor, said during floor debate. "Once again, we've demonstrated that we want to work with all of our colleagues to get them on board so we can advance this very, very important piece of legislation."

The Calgary-based company agreed to submit to a Nebraska state environmental review in November, in the midst of a special session aimed at the Canada-to-Texas oil pipeline. Environmentalists and landowners had protested the Keystone XL pipeline's original path through Nebraska's environmentally sensitive Sandhills region and the Ogallala Aquifer, a massive

groundwater supply.

But the state environmental review was halted in January, when Obama denied the permit after congressional Republicans tried to force his quick approval. TransCanada has said it will reapply.

Malcolm Sen. Ken Haar, who opposes the pipeline, said the state honored its obligation to the TransCanada that was reached during the special session late last year, and owed nothing more to the company.

The full 1,700-mile, \$7 billion pipeline would travel from Canada through Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. TransCanada Corp. wants to build the 36-inch pipeline to carry oil from tar sands in Alberta to refineries on the

Texas Gulf Coast.

The Keystone XL project gained international attention last year, when environmentalists and some landowners pushed the Obama administration to halt the pipeline. Environmentalists say the pipeline still threatens Nebraska's water and wildlife, and they dispute company claims that it will create tens of thousands of U.S. jobs and reduce the nation's dependence on oil from hostile foreign nations.

The review is expected to cost as much as \$2 million. The state has spent roughly \$153,000 since November, but halted its work after the permit was denied.

The bill requires one more vote in the Legislature before it goes to Gov. Dave Heineman.

## Cartel head gets life sentence

McALLEN (AP) — A top Juarez cartel figure suspected of ordering more than 1,500 killings, including the slaying of a U.S. consulate employee in Mexico, was sentenced to life in prison in a U.S. court Thursday.

Jose Antonio Acosta Hernandez pleaded guilty in El Paso to 11 counts that included conspiracy, racketeering and murder. U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone sentenced Acosta to seven concurrent life terms, three additional consecutive life terms and 20 years in federal prison. Acosta allegedly headed La Linea, the Juarez cartel's enforcement arm. Mexican authorities say the former police officer admitted to ordering more than 1,500 killings after being captured in July with his bodyguard in the northern Mexico city of Chihuahua.

"As the leader of La Linea's enforcement wing, Mr. Acosta-Hernandez directed a reign of terror," Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer said in a prepared statement. "Today's guilty plea and sentence are a significant step in our effort to bring to justice those responsible for the consulate murders, and it would not have been possible without the extraordinary assistance of our law enforcement partners in Mexico, including Attorney General Marisela Morales Ibañez."

Mexico extradited Acosta to the U.S. just three weeks ago.

A copy of the plea agreement signed by Acosta indicated he would plead guilty to counts that included racketeering, conspiracy to distribute and possess drugs, and murder. The document specified that the three

murder-related charges carried mandatory life sentences.

Acosta's attorney did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Acosta, nicknamed Diego, was one of 10 people named in the indictment as participating in the killings of Leslie Ann Enriquez, an employee at the U.S. consulate in Juarez; her husband, Arthur Redelfs; and Alberto Salcido Ceniceros, the husband of another consulate employee. On March 13, 2010, Enriquez and Redelfs left the same children's party as Salcido. Both were driving white SUVs that were pursued separately by gunmen and riddled with bullets.

When Mexican police arrested Acosta last year, President Felipe Calderon said through his Twitter account that it was "the biggest blow" to organized crime in the violence-plagued border city of Ciudad Juarez.

A factual summary attached to the plea explained that around 2008, Acosta became La Linea's leader and the cartel's plaza boss in Chihuahua and Juarez. He coordinated "armed enforcement actions" with the Barrio Azteca gang against their common enemies.

At the time, the cartel led by Vicente Carrillo Fuentes was waging a bloody war with the Sinaloa cartel. The Mexican government has counted more than 9,500 murders tied to drug violence in Ciudad Juarez between 2008 and 2011.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration chief Michele Leonhart called Acosta "a cold-blooded murderer with no respect for human life or the rule of law."

The plea document alleged Acosta was involved in some of the most gruesome acts of that period. In addition to the consulate slayings, which the document says Acosta would have known about, Acosta ordered hit men to kill alleged rivals at a birthday party at a Juarez home on Jan. 30, 2010.

"After the armed assault, 16 individuals were killed and 10 individuals were wounded at three different residences in Calle Villas del Portal, Colonia Villas de Salvarcar, Juarez, Mexico," the document said. Most of the victims of what became known as the Salvarcar massacre were teenagers.

On July 15, 2010, Acosta ordered the car bombing on Calle Bolivia in Juarez that killed four people, including two police officers, according to the document.

The violence was part of the cartel's efforts to secure a multimillion dollar drug-trafficking business that moved marijuana, cocaine and heroin through the area, prosecutors alleged.

## Art exhibit highlights weapons

MEXICO CITY (AP) — An art and photo show focusing on the trade in firearms and their deadly effects in Mexico may soon be going to the United States, the same place where many of the weapons come from.

The show, "A Farewell to Arms. Contraband on the Border," uses photos and artwork to illustrate how the illegal weapons trade has affected

Mexico, where more than 47,000 people have died in drug-related violence since late 2006.

The non-governmental groups Global Exchange and the Washington Office on Latin America plan to take the exhibit to the U.S. capital later this year. It closes in Mexico City on April 15.

Currently at the capital's Tolerance Museum, the show's juxtaposition

of images is disquieting, not just because of the violence but because weapons seem to have become ubiquitous.

In one photo, children in the border city of Tijuana are seen playing with a rifle at an Army Day exhibition, handling it almost like a stick used to break a pinata.

In another piece, the letters "USA" are spelled out with pistols.

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# Sports

## Lady Harvesters' bats, pitching down Lady Rebels

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampnews.com

On Wednesday, Pampa junior Bailey Beck hit a two-RBI triple to help seal a victory against Borger. Thursday, in the top of the second with the bases loaded, Beck connected on a pitch in the middle of the plate sending it over the fence for a grand slam and helped her team to an 11-1 victory over the Amarillo Tascosa Lady Rebels in Amarillo.

"This is Bailey's time of year," Gill said. "She starts to shine about this time of year. She is doing what Bailey does."

Beck said (hitting a grand slam) felt good.

"I've never done it before," Beck said. "There's a first for everything."

Beck recorded five RBI on four hits. The junior shortstop said she was pleased with how she played last game, but thought this one was better.

"(The triple) wasn't as hard as I could hit," Beck said. "I wasn't satisfied with it. I just came out and played a good game today and made up for it."

The inning started with senior McKinlee Stokes reaching on a single to third. Senior Heather Coffee followed with a single. Sophomore Bailey Wichert hit a single to left to drive in Stokes. Junior Martecia Alexander singled to short. Junior Claire Hopkins drove in sophomore Mattie Eldridge, who pinch ran for Coffee.

"We did what we needed to and played

our game," Stokes said. "So we came out successful."

The Lady Harvesters (16-7, 4-0) led 6-0 after the second. Pampa finished off the Lady Rebels in the top of the fifth. Alexander reached when Tascosa's second baseman couldn't come up with a ground ball. Eldridge and Wichert scored, giving Pampa a 10-0 lead.

Sophomore Alexa O'Brien (8-3) started after pitching a no-hitter in Wednesday's game and continued where she left off. The Lady Rebels only had one baserunner the first four innings and didn't get a hit until the bottom of the fifth. O'Brien didn't walk anyone and struck out eight.

"She is throwing well right now," Gill said. "I got to give her credit. She is working hard and hitting her spots. ... I'm glad to have her where she's at, at this time of year."

Gill said Tascosa is a good team and her team just executed.

"We executed well at the plate," Gill said. "We put pressure on them. Put the ball in play like we needed to. Good things happen."

The Lady Harvesters resume district play at 12 p.m. today hosting the Perryton Rangerettes. Pampa beat Perryton 10-2 on March 24 in Perryton. Gill said she is looking forward to seeing them again.

"It's nice to be back at home," Gill said. "Two-day stint on the road. Home for the third one. Then we will go into the long weekend and get some rest."

Stokes said the team has to play its game.

"We just need to work hard," Stokes said. "Play our game and we should be fine."



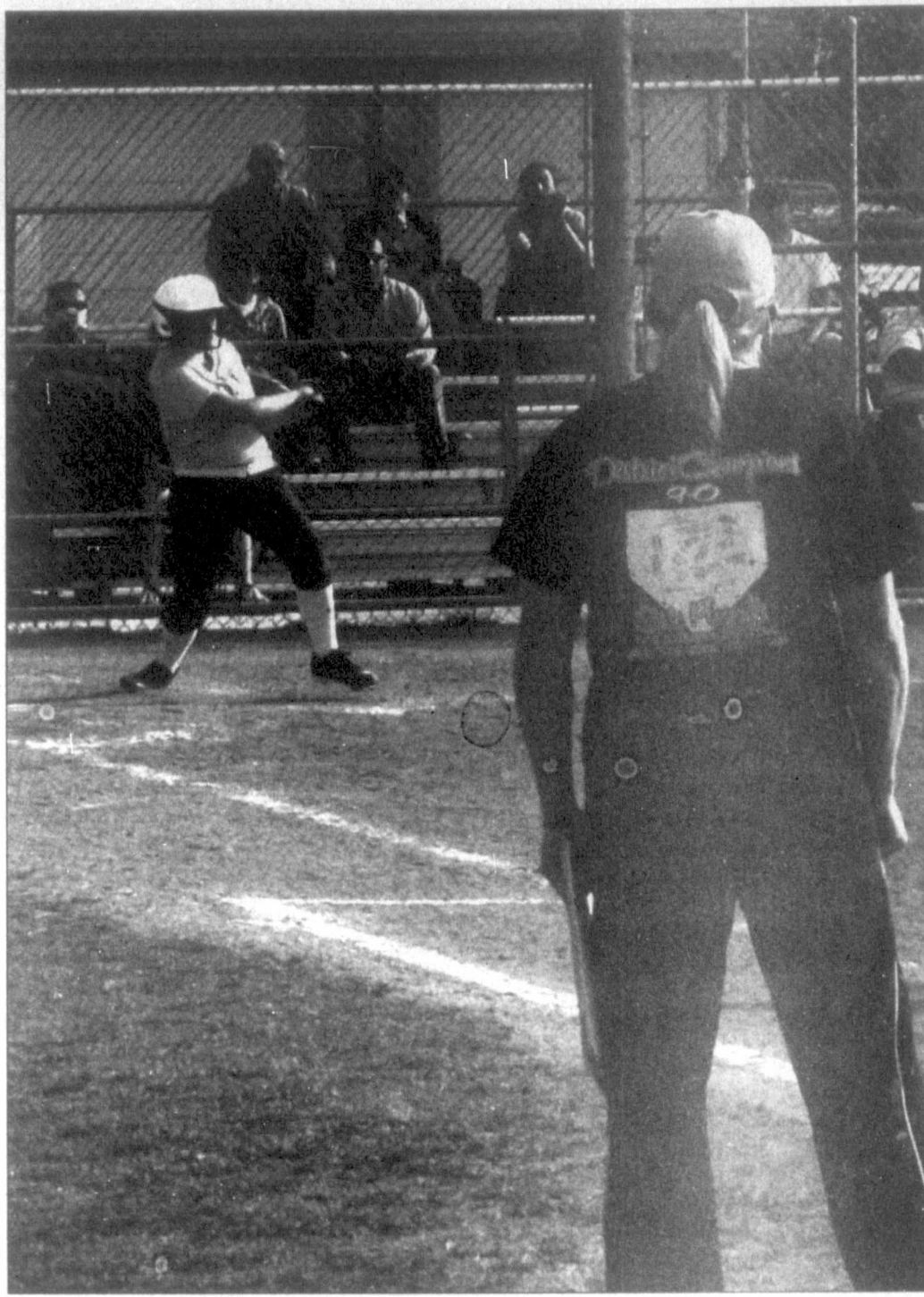
Stokes



Gill



Beck



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Junior Bailey Beck hits a grand slam in the top of the second Thursday. Beck recorded five RBI and helped Pampa to a 11-1 victory over Tascosa.

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# Sports

## Girls golf leads, boys fifth after first round of district

**ANDREW GLOVER**  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters golf team enter district hoping to defend its title. After Monday's first round, they are in good position as they lead by 25 strokes in Dumas.

The Lady Harvesters shot a 375. Borger shot 400, Borger B shot 452 and Perryton shot 539. Junior Alison Alexander leads all golfers with an 86. Senior Lindsey Brown is only

three strokes behind her with an 89. Sophomore Ashlee Kieth is third overall with a 93. Sophomores Savanna Mertz shot a 107 and Katy Velasquez shot a 126.

Pampa entered the district tournament off a second place finish in the Perryton Invitational on March 24. The Lady Harvesters shot 390 and was 12 strokes behind Gruver. Alexander finished with the second best score with an 88. Brown was the fourth place individual with a 92. Kieth shot 103, Mertz

shot 107 and Velasquez shot 113.

The Harvesters are in fifth place after the first round. Pampa shot a 369 and trails fourth place Perryton by 10 strokes. Borger leads the tournament with 304. Senior Logan Reagan shot an 82. Sophomore Tre Dildy shot a 94, sophomore Logan Turley shot a 96, sophomore Destry Baten shot a 97 and sophomore Kyler Payne shot 113.

In its previous two meets, Pampa finished 16th at the Amarillo Relays Tournament Saturday with a 733.

Reagan led the team with a 152. Dildy shot a 193, Payne shot a 196, Turley shot a 192 and Baten shot a 206. The Harvesters finished seventh at the Perryton Invitational on March 24 with a 374. Reagan finished with the third best score overall with a 78. Turley shot 93, Baten shot 98 and Dildy shot 105.

The Harvesters and Lady Harvesters conclude district this Monday in Dumas.

## More from the Lady Harvesters' victory over Borger

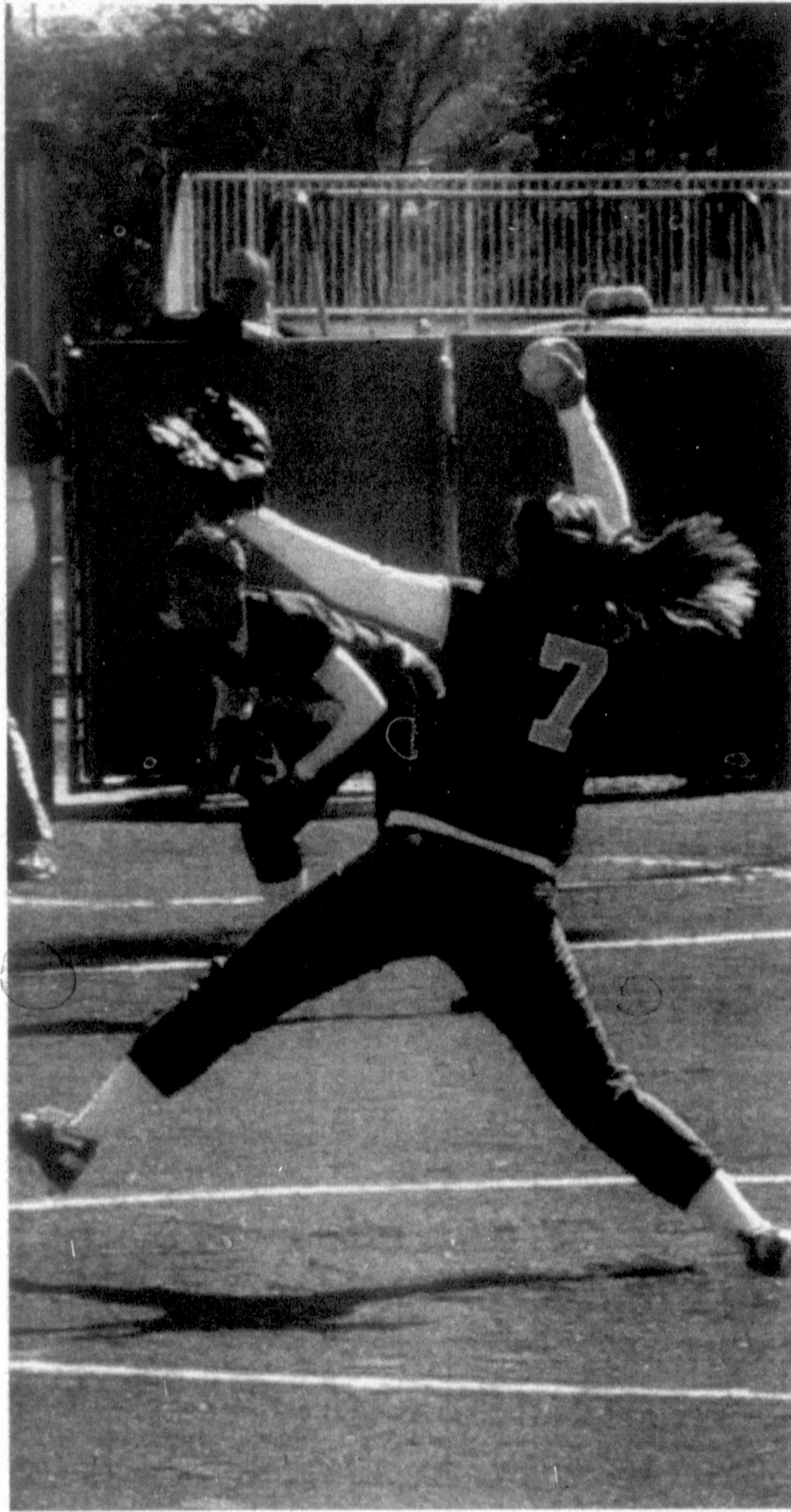


photo courtesy of **Christy Wyant**

Sophomore Alexa O'Brien throws a pitch against Borger Wednesday. O'Brien threw a no-hitter and struck out 12 in a 7-0 victory.



photo courtesy of **Christy Wyant**

Senior McKinlee Stokes slides in ahead of a throw for a run against Borger Wednesday. Stokes scored on an error.

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Dan," and I are in our early 30s and have been married five years. He's bright, sweet, outgoing and very good-looking. He is in excellent shape and works out at the gym daily.

Dan has become friendly with a group of men at the gym. Like him, they are all good-looking and in tip-top shape. They are also gay. One guy in particular, "Harry," has become quite close to my husband. He often jokes about "recruiting" Dan and comments on Dan's popularity with "the boys."

My work requires that I travel frequently, and Dan has been going out with Harry to gay bars where he gets "hit on" often. I can tell he likes the attention. I should also mention that Dan seems to be considerably less interested in sex lately.

I hate to think of my husband alone and lonely while I'm away, but his going to gay bars every night is beginning to worry me. If I say anything to him about it, he guilt-trips me about my travel.

Is it normal for a straight man to seek out the company of gay men? Any advice would be greatly appreciated. -- GAY-FRIENDLY IN N.Y.C.

DEAR GAY-FRIENDLY: It is unusual for a straight man to frequent gay bars. But would you feel better if Dan was going to straight bars every night and being hit on by women while you're away?

Your greater concern, in my opinion, should be his change in pattern of behavior. If Dan is less interested in sex with you than he has been, then you need to find out why. I have always favored the direct approach. The person you should be discussing this with is your husband. When you do, be frank but not accusatory, and do not allow him to divert the conversation

by making you feel guilty about your business travel.

DEAR ABBY: I'm moving soon from Florida to New York. I have a 16-year-old Chihuahua named Pedro who is not in good health. I'm torn about what to do. Should I take him with me, or have him put to sleep? I am an animal lover and have always had pets, but this is the first time I have ever had this problem.

I'm renting a truck and will be driving up to New York. Some say the stress will be too much for Pedro. He's a little fighter, but at his age, I don't know how he will handle cold weather. He has lived in Florida his whole life. What do you think? I'm asking everyone's opinion. -- LEAVING THE SUNSHINE STATE

DEAR LEAVING: You say Pedro is a fighter -- well, give him a fighting chance. He could surprise you and make it through next winter and several after that. However, although you are ask-

ing "everyone's" opinion, the one that should carry the most weight is Pedro's veterinarian.

DEAR ABBY: My family has been having a debate over the issue of how the name "Jeanne" is pronounced. They think it is pronounced "Jean-nee," while I am certain it's pronounced the same as "Jean." Could you please help us with the correct pronunciation? -- A DOVER, N.H., READER

DEAR READER: The name "Jeanne" can be pronounced either way, depending upon the Jeanne's preference. In my case, it has always been pronounced "Jean-nee."

However, if the name-caller is French, it might be pronounced "J'ahne," with a very soft "J" -- like Zsa-Zsa.

## BANANAGRAMS!

Each set of 12 tiles contains two common six-letter words. The letters of the first six-letter word are adjacent, but not in order. Find them and rearrange them to spell a word. Cross out those letters and rearrange the six remaining letters to spell the second word.

LEVEL

R R O A B E O G Z T A O

W M U M L A G O B P A R

E R C U A A M R T C A U

Yesterday's Answer: SEQUIN, QUASIN, WENDIAM, MEN

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Paddy crops
  - 6 Fire proof?
  - 11 Wading bird
  - 12 Low-priced
  - 13 Cunning
  - 14 Make fun of
  - 15 Zodiac animal
  - 16 Justice Fortas
  - 18 Checkers side
  - 19 Binary digit
  - 20 Ticked off
  - 21 Rickety boat
  - 22 Metal ring
  - 24 Culp/Cosby series
  - 25 Deluge
  - 27 Flue filth
  - 29 Ones with records
  - 32 Dadaist Jean
  - 33 Traffic caution
  - 34 Baby boxer
  - 35 Driver's aid
  - 36 Follower's suffix
  - 37 Hole number
  - 38 Bumbling

DEBRA	SCRAP	
ALLOT	HAITI	
SKULL	INDEX	
ELAINE		
CAN	STY	FAT
ABODES	MIRE	
ROSES	ARERED	
EVEN	LEGEND	
YES	BID	HAY
PRESTO		
CURIE	TOSCA	
OFUSE	AREAS	
GOBAD	RESTS	

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN
- 1 What mown lawns do
  - 2 Scaly pet
  - 3 Help-the-police program
  - 4 Sushi choice
  - 5 Trunk type
  - 6 Took steps
  - 7 That girl
  - 8 Frightening events
  - 9 Relent
  - 10 Passed quickly
  - 17 OPEC units
  - 23 All the rage
  - 24 Business abbr.
  - 26 Strange stuff
  - 27 Dr. Seuss character
  - 28 Grove fruit
  - 30 Subtlety
  - 31 Tears
  - 33 Places
  - 39 Soup sphere
  - 41 Tear

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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		5		6	7			9

Level: Advanced

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We are so sure we can sell your vehicle....

**We Guarantee It!**

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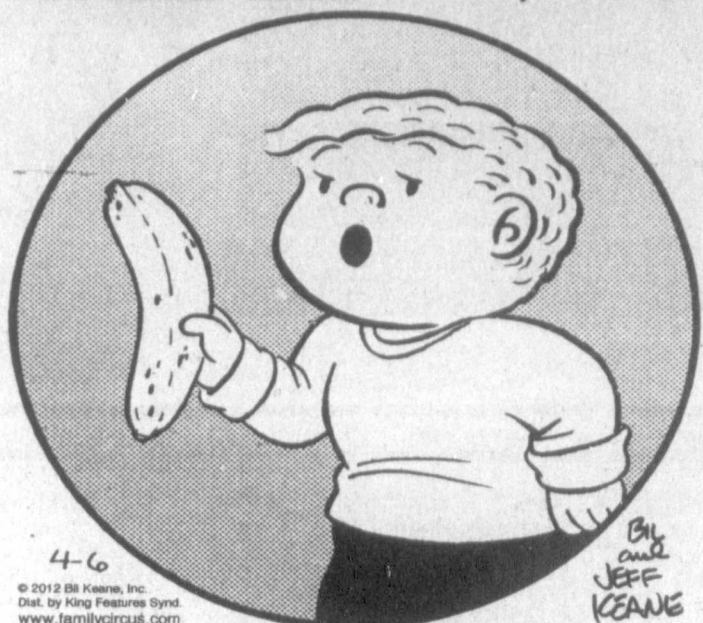
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# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-6

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BIL KEANE  
JEFF KEANE

"Mommy, is this banana underripe, overripe or just ripe?"

## Non Sequitur



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## Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Saturday, April 7, 2012:

This year, you often are very serious. Many thoughts come up from out of nowhere. You might want to reconsider many of them. Be careful if you are single — someone could lure you in with a certain act. Later on, you will find out that this person is very different. If you are attached, you will become a more cohesive unit if you both are willing to be more vulnerable with each other. **SCORPIO** likes intense conversations.

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

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

★★★★ Focus on a significant other. He or she will flourish with your attention. Invite this person to get involved with a project or game. Choose a physical activity, as both of you need to release a lot of stress. Tonight: Dinner at a favorite place.

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

★★★★ Defer to a friend or family member. You might be amazed at all the possible plans they come up with. The best selection involves being among a crowd. You might find yourself at a zoo, rodeo or circus. Tonight: Grab a pizza or burger.

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

★★★★ An even approach seems natural right now, but underneath it might lie a bit of depression. Choose to discuss what might be holding you back or creating this mood. You can ease this burden if you are willing to discuss your feelings. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

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

★★★★ Note that others will gravitate toward you when mischief is in your soul and a twinkle sparkles in your eye. Reach out for a loved one or friend at a distance. Make plans for a special-day escape. Tonight: Share your good energy.

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

★★★★ A conversation could leave you in deep thought. Though you are naturally optimistic, you seem to be more quiet or concerned now. Others might tap into your mood. Process the pros and cons. A very positive, creative approach will emerge. Tonight: Let go of your concerns.

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

★★★★ Great ideas do not necessarily need the equivalent in funds. Honor your budget when making plans with a favorite person. You could be unusually resourceful in a brainstorming session. Tonight: Listen to music. You could dance the night away.

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

★★★★ Be aware of what you offer, what you can afford and the cost of another person's scheme. Your realism might rain on someone's parade, but it is necessary. Curb your frustration. Find a quiet way of expressing your feelings, rather than acting out. Tonight: Your treat.

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

★★★★ Despite a feeling that trouble could lie ahead, you'll put your best foot forward. Others will respond in an open manner. Bask in the moment. A very assertive friend pushes to have you join his or her plans. Tonight: You call the shots.

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

★★★★ Pull back if you do not want to deal with someone's problems. By now, you have realized that you have no control over others. Choose to follow through on an idea that you have put on the back burner, which might involve a day of snoozing and/or TV-watching. Tonight: Not to be found. Let others wonder.

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

★★★★ Do not cancel your plans because a last-minute responsibility calls. Can you merge them together? Tap into your increasing creativity for a solution. News from someone at a distance could be a real eye-opener. Tonight: You are the party. Nearly everyone seeks you out.

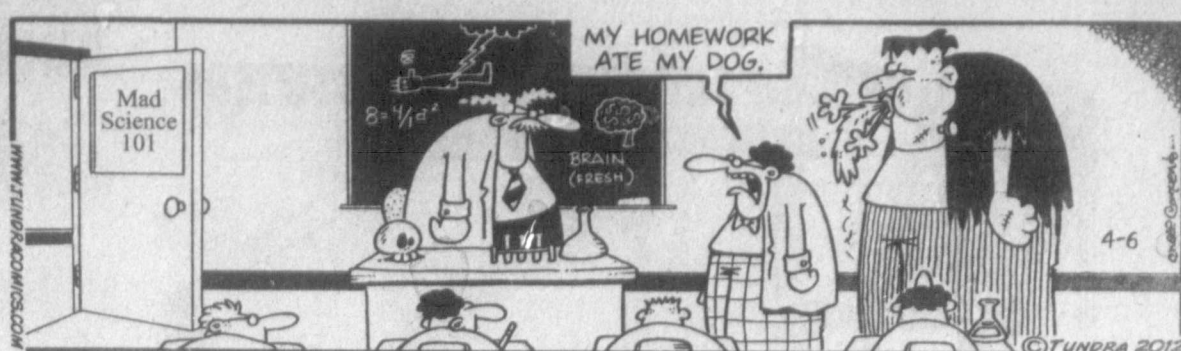
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Make it your pleasure to fill in for a key friend. Use care with funds, as money could fall right out of your hands. Take a hard look at someone who is pushing the line with his or her implicit demands. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

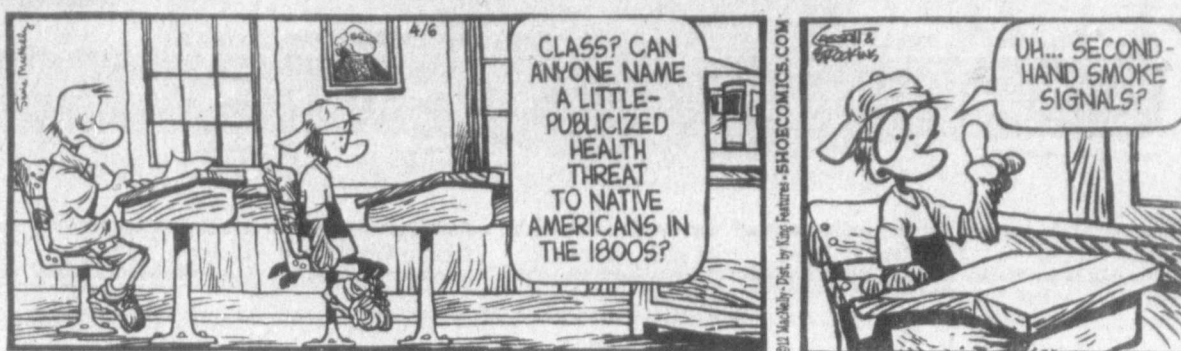
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for information that could present a different perspective. Let your imagination flow. You might be surprised by what comes out. A close friend or loved one could be on the warpath. Duck, and go on with your day. Tonight: Follow the music.

## Tundra



## Shoe



## Mother Goose and Grim



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Hagar The Horrible



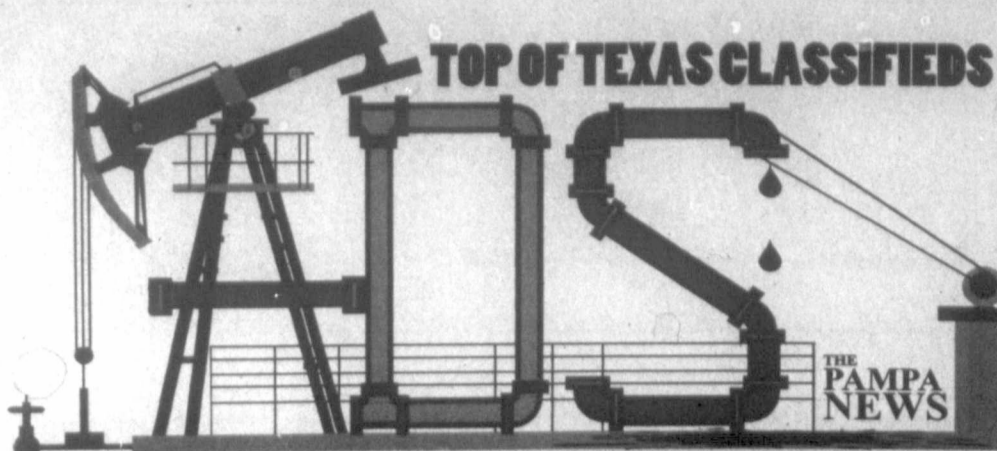
## Peanuts



## Blondie







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**10 Lost/Found**

FOUND male Bull Terrier dog, around Banks St. Call 662-2860 or 663-6526.

**13 Bus. Opp.**

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

**14d Carpentry**

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

CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. New or Additions. Shawn Deaver Const., 662-2977.

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**14h Gen. Serv.**

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MOWING: Commercial, Acreage or Vacant Lots. Call Shawn Deaver, 662-2977.

**14s Plumbing**

JACK'S Plumbing 715 W. Foster 665-7115

**14w Air Cond/Heat**

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**21 Help Wanted**

**EXCEL PRODUCTION CO.**

Looking for experienced **Pumper / Lease Operator**. 5 yrs. pumping exp. & clean driving required. Benefits include but not limited to:  
 \*Health Insurance  
 \*401K w/ Co Match  
 \*Company Vehicle

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

**PART-TIME** District Manager needed. Exp. with Word, Excel & Quicken. Call or come by Gray Co. SWCD office, 12125 E. Frederic, Pampa for application. 806-665-6561, Ext. 102

**PART TIME POSITION Circulation Dept.** About 25 hrs. per week. Hours vary including days and nights. **Must work every Sat.** be 18 yrs. old, have current driver's license with impeccable driving record & be able to drive a standard transmission. Job consists of hand inserting supplements into the newspaper, running the racks, etc.

**Apply in Person 8am-3pm Mon-Fri The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa No phone calls please**

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

**EXPERIENCED RIG Operator & Crew** needed. Apply at 1101 S. Price Rd., Pampa.

**21 Help Wanted**

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.

**GENESIS Clinic- F/T Clinic Nurse** Position. Exp. preferred. Competitive wages & benefits. Send resumes or questions to [ericagarcia@thegenesisclinic.org](mailto:ericagarcia@thegenesisclinic.org) or come by the office 107 W. 30th Ave.

**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.

**Curtis Companies LLC** Looking for experienced Administrative Assistant. 7 yrs. of professional administrative exp. required. Benefits include but not limited to:  
 \*Health Insurance  
 \*401K w/ Co Match  
 \*Paid Vacation  
 Send Resume to: **Curtis Well Service and Excel Production Po Box 1800 Pampa, TX 79066**

**Curtis Companies LLC** Looking for experienced Administrative Assistant. 7 yrs. of professional administrative exp. required. Benefits include but not limited to:  
 \*Health Insurance  
 \*401K w/ Co Match  
 \*Paid Vacation  
 Send Resume to: **Curtis Well Service and Excel Production Po Box 1800 Pampa, TX 79066**

**NEEDED for Full-Time Position.** Laundry / Housekeeping person, Tues thru Sat. Apply at St Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle, 537-3194

**LOOKING for** someone part-time, who is bi-lingual, for front desk, housekeeping & breakfast area. Exp a plus! Apply in person Holiday Inn Express.

**21 Help Wanted**

**Local Construction Co. looking to hire Single Hand Combo Welders**

**Must be able to pass weld test. Long term employment opportunity (\$18-24 / hr for qualified welders)**

**All Trades Exp necessary Must pass drug test**

**\*Benefits include: Health Ins. (aft. 90 days) Vacation (aft. 1 yr. of service)**

**Competitive Wages**

**Apply in person Conner Industries 118 Bunton Borger, Tx.**

**No phone calls please**

**Nursing Dept. Under New Director!** LYN's and CNA's come check out our benefits! We have immediate openings for Full-Time positions. Apply today at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle, TX 537-3194

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

**EXP. Cook (part-time)** needed. Apply only if you want to work. **NO PHONE CALLS.** 328 E. Frederic, Pampa.

**CASHIER & COOK** needed at Crossroads Market in Miami. Mileage paid. Apply in person.

**21 Help Wanted**

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

**Production Personnel (Herdsperson)**

The ideal candidates will have a steady work history, be reliable and have the desire to work in a progressive, quality oriented, modern agricultural production operation.

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

Qualified candidates can apply in person at:

**Smithfield Premium Genetics** 11 miles east of Pampa on Hwy 60 between the hours of 10am and 3pm. Monday thru Friday

**Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer m/f/d/v EO 13201**

**CDL Backhoe Operator** needed. Apply at 1101 S. Price. Rd., Pampa.

**WELDERS NEEDED** Must be able to pass ASME Code Test Apply in person only Crall Products 2930 Hwy. 152 West Pampa, TX

**Pampa Country Club** Golf Course Maintenance-Mower Operators needed Apply in person only. Drug-free work environment.

**21 Help Wanted**

**Hemphill County Hospital** Canadian, TX currently has job openings for a **Full Time 7p-7a and a 7a-7p RN.** Flexible days and nights. Exc benefits. Friendly work environment. Contact **Debbie** 806-323-6422 Ext. 231

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**60 Household** SIDE by side fridge, ice & water in door. Used 3 months. Like new. 806-662-5185.

**USED 21 c.f. white KitchenAide refrigerator** with bottom freezer for sale, \$160. Call 316-4664

**FOR Sale** Livingroom and Bedroom Quality Furniture. Call 806-665-0832 or 440-9100.

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**NEW Queen Mattress** Set \$246. Twin \$150. Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes. 665-2767.

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**3-Stainless steel open top stock tanks.** 20'x4'x3' 1 1/2" insulated. 2007 2-ton Trolley Hoist. 806-662-5185

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**1704 Holly Fri & Sat 8am-noon** Toys, girls clothes 3T & up, boys clothes 18 mo & up, men, womens clothes, furniture, Christmas decorations, bedding, lots of stuff!

**69a Garage Sales**

**SAT. 9am-3pm. 621 N. Wells Lots of Clothes!! & Lots of Misc!!** A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING!! **FRI. 9-3PM. 305 JEAN**

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**77 Livest./Equip.**

**8 yr. old Bay mule.** Saddles easily & has been ridden, \$700. Call 662-4128

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**7-8 mo. old female Border Collie/Lab mix** current shots and spayed. \$50. 806-669-1241

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

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

**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.

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

OTDMFU NMUZMTNYTD, WJYTD

CJEB OWERM, MZPEMU EC

BMJZH, GPYUVMJU EC FERM.

— COTTH L. ZJEUWH

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE JUDGE OTHERS BY THEIR BEHAVIOR. WE JUDGE OURSELVES BY OUR INTENTIONS. — IAN PERCY

**95 Furn. Apts.**

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

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

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

**ROOM For Rent,** \$100 week, all bills paid including cable. Private entrance. Call 806-661-8508

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

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

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

**2 ROOM MATES WANTED**

**Furnished house,** except for your bed. Call Rob at 806-663-2996

**1 bdr, 1 ba, 1 car garage.** Fenced yard. 1106 Duncan-rear unit. \$375 mo. Call 662-4316

**IN Lefors 2 bdr. trailer** house w/ cellar, \$300 mo., \$300 dep. Also 2 bdr. house-\$300 mo. \$300 dep. 835-1460

**CAPROCK APARTMENTS**

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

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**FULLY Furnished Executive Home,** previously rented by oil co in Pampa, 3 bdr., 2 ba., 2 car gar., 2 liv areas. C/h/a. Lots of amenities. \$1800 mo. + utilities. 972-468-6111.

**98 Unfurn. Houses**

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

**3 bdr., central h/a, single gar.** 1109 Crane. 2 bdr. central h/a, 426 N. Cuyler. Need References. Call 440-1969

**1 bdr, 1 ba, 1 car garage.** Fenced yard. 1106 Duncan-rear unit. \$375 mo. Call 662-4316

**2 ROOM MATES WANTED**

**Furnished house,** except for your bed. Call Rob at 806-663-2996

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**PRESTIGE** Autobody & Accessories

We feature name brand car and truck accessories and a state-of-the-art collision center. Whether it's repairing your vehicle back to it's factory look or adding automotive accessories, our professionally trained staff will take care of you.

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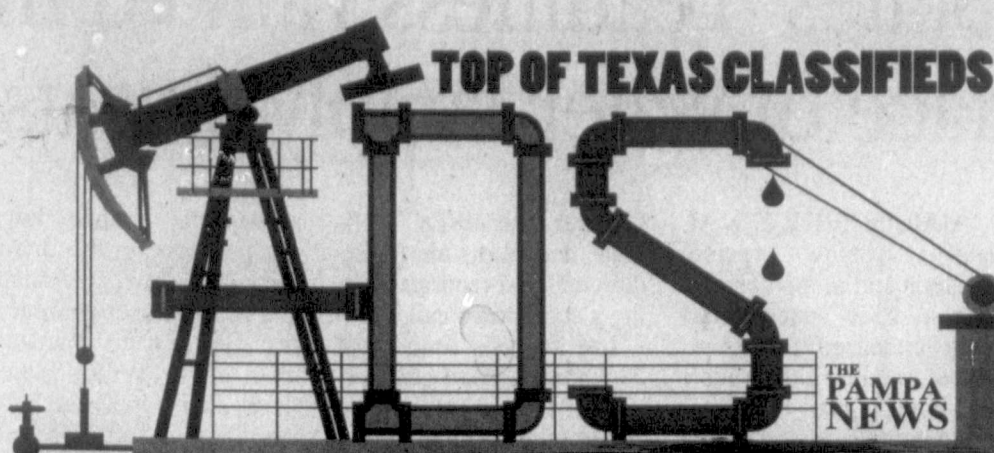
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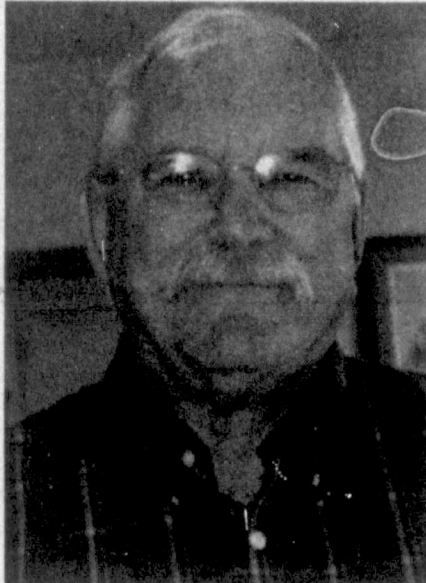
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9AM-5PM

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**Oil**

cont. from page 2

norm, say the old-timers, who recall sleeping in shacks, trucks or even empty tanks.

"The good-old days were the hard-old days. If you lived at the drilling rig, you lived in a little room with six or eight guys on top of you. You ate whatever you could bring out there, and you took a shower every three days," said Alan Roberts, 53, who has worked offshore from Norway to Africa.

And, he said, many find the cost is more than they care to pay.

"The money may sound astounding, but put on a pair of boots and come get you some of it. See if you like it. And you'd better hope that you have the same amount of people there when you get up as when you went to bed," he added.

The old stereotype of the heavy-drinking, drug-using, reckless roughneck with a shady record is also pretty much part of the colorful past.

Companies are now far more safety-conscious and less tolerant of misbehavior. Most do background checks, provide training and have zero tolerance for drug use or alcohol abuse.

Leo Lopez, 54, who began in the oil field as a teenager, doesn't miss the old days.

"When I started it was \$3.15 an hour for a roughneck. Now I'm making \$160,000 a year with no education. I can't complain," said Lopez, a tool pusher, or drill crew boss, from Mission.

"Back then, there was no safety, not even hard hats. Now we're treated much better and we don't work as hard. Now they give you the equipment you need," he said.

"I worked at this all my life. I like what I do," he added, while eating roast chicken with his crew at the tailgate of his gleaming 2012 Denali HD pickup.

But despite the good money and other improvements, some things don't change — like wearing fire-retardant overalls in 115-degree heat or going three days without proper sleep. And not everyone can take it.

"A lot of the new guys aren't ready for this kind of environment. Last summer, a good 10-15 guys quit," said Gabriel Villarreal, 23, of Alice, a safety officer for a hydraulic fracturing crew.

But, he said, if you can handle the isolation, the pressure and the hard work, it beats the alternative, hands down.

"Before this, I was selling shoes in Mall del Norte in Laredo. I think to myself, what would I be doing if I weren't doing this? Working at McDonald's? I'd be lost," he said.

"And once you get used to the money, it's hard to get out. My wife wouldn't have Coach or Louis Vuitton purses, and I've got to keep her happy," Villarreal said.

But for every guy buying designer duds for the woman in his life, there's another trying to feed the kids. For everyone eating a rib-eye at a comfortable man camp, others are living in old trailers and scratching out a living.

Juan Garcia, 34, and Jorge Castillo, 24, both from San Juan in the Rio Grande Valley, do the dirty work, including digging trenches, washing pits, building fences and moving rigs. They earn \$13 an hour and pay \$400 a month to live in a FEMA trailer.

But when there is no work, there is no money, and the bills and burdens continue to mount.

"Everyone thinks it's a good life, the oil field, but not until you get in do you find out it's not all gravy. I've been here three days. I haven't made any money," said Garcia, who before this drove a tow truck in the Valley town of Pharr.

Being away brings new problems, particularly if the money isn't flowing as expected.

"It creates marital stress. She calls and says, 'I need you to come help with the kids,' but I can't go," Garcia said. And even when he's with his family, he's never certain how long it will last.

"You give up all your rights. We're on call 24-7 even when we're home. If they call, you've got to come back," he said.

The two men talked two weeks ago while washing

stained work clothes at a laundry in Carrizo Springs, waiting for the call to go back to work.

On the bulletin board was an offer of a \$1,500 sign-on bonus plus \$22 an hour for truck drivers. But it was a false hope. The job required a commercial license and hazardous materials experience.

Castillo, who hoped to become a crew leader, echoed a now-familiar refrain.

"People see we make money, but they don't see the hard life. There's no time to do anything for yourself. It's work, sleep. Simple as that," Castillo said as he folded fire-retardant clothing he bought at a Valley flea market.

And getting one of those higher-paying jobs is a tricky proposition.

"I'm keeping my eyes open, but it's like a mafia. It's enclosed, like a family. If you don't know someone, you ain't gonna get in," he said.

A few days later, Garcia was laid off and Castillo was promoted to crew leader.

**States' readiness ranked in face of water supply threats**

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico, Arizona and more than two dozen other states could face increased threats to water supplies if they don't do more to plan for rising temperatures and changes in rain and snowfall patterns, according to an analysis released Thursday by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The nonprofit environmental group used the state-by-state analysis to highlight what it sees as a link between greenhouse gas emissions — the pollutants blamed for global warming — and weather changes that could ultimately affect water resources.

"If government officials have a greater appreciation of the impacts they're facing now and in the pipeline for the future, that will cause them to think again about more support for curbing the pollution and thus slowing the train that's rushing at them," David

Doniger, the NRDC's climate and clean air policy director, told reporters during a conference call.

The analysis found that 29 states — nearly 60 percent of the nation — have either done nothing or very little to prepare for water-related effects from climate change.

California, New York and Maryland are among the states ranked as most prepared. New Mexico, Arizona and Texas are among those that have done little, according to the report.

NRDC officials acknowledged that some low ranked states do have existing water policies and programs aimed at conservation and efficiency, but they were not framed around climate change.

Water has long been a source of contention, particularly in Western states where prolonged drought, growing populations, endangered species and

agricultural demands have put pressure on the dwindling resource. Interstate and international compacts that dictate water management of the West's major rivers also complicate matters.

California officials are considering a proposal to build two giant tunnels to boost water deliveries to farms and cities and improve habitat for fish. In New Mexico, cities have been developing more surface water resources and pushing residents to conserve to ease strains on underground aquifers.

In Nevada, green lawns are going by the way side, and Texas is trying to recover from the worst one-year drought in that state's history.

Texas has a water plan, but NRDC said it fails to address the impacts of climate change on water availability and it does not offer suggestions for adapting to climate change.

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**Play**

cont. from page 1

Victorian pieces, and they wanted to do something that was set a little bit to a different time period," Tonya Lewis, Pampa's UIL academic team coordinator, said. "This is what (Prather) chose. It's a comedy. It's more lighthearted."

"I just have a lot of students that their strengths are definitely comedic performances," Prather added. "Part of when you're choosing a show for one acts is, more than anything else, you want to pick a show that is going to spotlight what your actors and actresses do best. I think comedy is what one of my seniors do best, and I wanted to give them a chance to shine."

Shine they did, as several Pampa kids were lauded for their performances. Two, senior Iris Wheat and sophomore Bryce Herbert, were named to the round's All-Star Cast, and another pair, juniors Brittany Pascoe and Dathan Reeves, were chosen for Honorable Mention All-Star Cast. Senior Alexis Downen won Best Actress, while senior Sierra Taylor was named Outstanding Stage Manager for her backstage work.

Prather praised the students' on-stage chemistry and teamwork as keys to the performance.

"It was their ability to perform as an ensemble (that made the show work)," said Prather. "There was no one that stood head and shoulders above anyone else or stole the spotlight from anyone. They performed well as a company, and that's what we wanted to see."

The Pampa contingent included cast members Wheat, Herbert, Pascoe, Reeves, Downen, Cecilia Alonzo, Brandon Stokes and Tanner Logan; crew members Taylor, Brittany Oliver, Brittany McCallum, Ashlynn Jones and Jennifer Hendrick; and alternates Marcus Jernigan, Roy Nelson, Eddie Fernandez and Bryan Yates.

This was the second straight year that M.K. Brown Civic Center hosted the contest's district round. The venue drew a positive review from Prather, who is in his first year at the helm of the PHS theatre program.

"Things went really well," Prather said. "Things went spectacular for our show. I felt things for the other shows went extremely well. Everything went smooth. I think everything was a success."

**Weather**

cont. from page 1

Fenner added, however, that the benefits of a neutral La Niña will be less visible during the summer season.

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