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TODAY IN SPORTS

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 11

75¢ Viewpoints: Todd Staples
 \$1.50 weekend What's with the beef against BLBT? | p4A

Softball routs Perryton
 Lady Harvesters' bats too much for Rangerettes | p9A

WELCOME BACK



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Sara Velasco of McDonald's gives a tour of the rebuilt Pampa franchise's kitchen area.

Pampa gets first look at rebuilt McDonald's

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

Bill and Marietta Benda, the owners of Pampa's soon-to-reopen McDonald's franchise on the corner of Hobart and Somerville, beamed as curious Pampans took stock of their rebuilt restaurant.

As Bill shook hands with incoming patrons, Marietta stood by the checkout counter and offered tours of the redone kitchen area. After months of construction, she said, the two were looking forward to getting the city's McDonald's back up and running.

"How excited are we? Oh my God, beyond belief," said Benda. "It's been a dream come true. We have owned the

Pampa McDonald's since 1996, and we put on a playland and then we did some remodel. To make the decision to rebuild inconvenienced our customers for about three months, which isn't too bad, but we're so excited to be up and running in such a wonderful, updated facility."

The Bendas said that the restaurant is looking to open either today or tomorrow, depending on some last-minute adjustments. Good thing, too, as Marietta was eager to show off the facility's new, bistro-style look to Pampa diners.

"We had an opportunity to work with a vendor that I got to pick the look," she said. "In all of our restaurants, I went with somewhat of a subdued, exciting

but still relaxing type atmosphere, and I chose this for Pampa."

She motioned to the dining room, garnished in bright light green.

"It just looks like Pampa to me. It's the green. A little bit of Harvesters. I had to have the green in here, and I hope my customers love it."

The entire kitchen has been re-equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, the Bendas said.

"You get what you pay for," said Marietta. "Always get the best of everything, and that's what we have here. ... It is just, I believe, the ice machine that we saved. That is the only piece of equipment we have from the previous store."

MCDONALD'S cont. on page 10A

PISD's CTE department seeks input

■ Survey queries Pampa businesses on workforce needs

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District's Career and Technical Education Department is looking to improve itself, and it's looking to the community for input.

At Tuesday's Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Donna Crow, chair of the PISD's Career and Technical Education Department, spoke to Pampa's businesspeople about the goals of her department.

"Career and Technical is for kids that want further training but they don't want to go to a four-year university," Crow said. "They want to go into the workforce a lot sooner. There are great paying jobs that you just have to have the certifications for those jobs to be eligible for them. We're looking to improve things for the kids who are in that sector of the population of our high school."

To do so, Crow said, the department is distributing a survey to find out what Pampa businesses want and need out of their workforce.

"We look at these surveys to give us some positive direction and give us some things to do to meet the community need," Crow said. "That is kind of our purpose, to meet the needs in our immediate community."

"We're also going to look at what certifications the businesses out in our community require," Crow added. "Through our programs, some CTE cont. on page 10A

LIFESTAR speaks at Chamber

ANDREW GLOVER
 aglover@thepampanews.com

Christy Lovelace and Michael Wiggs from new Pampa Chamber of Commerce member LIFESTAR spoke at the chamber's luncheon on Tuesday, informing Pampans about membership benefits and other facts about LIFESTAR.

"If you had to be flown for any life threatening emergency, you can be flown by LIFESTAR," Lovelace said. "The cost would be between \$25,000 to \$30,000 dollars for the helicopter ride. In most cases, insurance companies don't pay half. If they do, you're stuck with \$3,000 to 4,000 dollars on that bill."

That cost could easily be mitigated by a LIFESTAR membership, Lovelace said.

Annual membership fees for a LIFESTAR one-year membership are \$50 for a one-member household, \$55 for a two-member household or \$60 for

a household of three or more (there are also three- and five-year memberships).

Lovelace said that what any member's benefit provider pays will be considered payment in full for their LIFESTAR flight, even if it spans multiple transports.

"If you are in the hospital, and doctor says 'You need to go by air,'" Lovelace said. "Then we would transfer you to whatever hospital they had designated for you. If for some reason at that point they can't fix your needs, and suggest another helicopter, we'll do that again."

Wiggs, a flight nurse and paramedic, said LIFESTAR — which has been in Pampa since 2008 — has worked on improving its response times.

"One of the ways we improve our services is going and talking to local law enforcement and encouraging them when they get up on these accident scenes to LIFESTAR cont. on page 10A

NERVES OF STEELE



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

Jane Steele (left) is joined by Chamber of Commerce board members John Curry and Christy Robinson in welcoming guests to Steele's first Chamber luncheon as the Chamber's new executive director.

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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High 82 Low 53	High 77 Low 47	High 70 Low 45

Today: Sunny, with a high near 82. Breezy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 53. Breezy, with a south southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47. North northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Breezy, with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. North northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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LAST MINUTE ADS

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

AARP DRIVER Safety Program Fri. Apr. 20 @ Senior Citizens Center from 9-2. \$12 AARP members, \$14 non-members. Call for reservation 669-7414.

LIGHTHOUSE COVENANT Fellowship is having Revival with Sandi Ballew and Marla Jackson, Sun. 10:30am & 6pm. Mon-Wed 7pm.

"BLACK POWDER Revival" looking for a bass player. Experienced only need to apply. Contact "R.F.S." Richard Spence 440-6874

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MEMBER 2011
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Obituaries

Joyce Cambern Scott Smith, 91

CARLSBAD, N.M.—Joyce Cambern Scott Smith, 91, died March 14, 2012, in Carlsbad, N.M.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 2012, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with Rev. Bob Banks, pastor of Straight Up Fellowship Church of Pampa, officiating. Cremation was under the direction of Denton-Wood Funeral Home in Carlsbad, N.M., and local arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Smith was born April 29, 1920, in Spearman. She married Dane Cambern on September 14, 1938, in Santa Fe, N.M. He preceded her in death in 1975. She later married Cliff Scott on May 31, 1981. He preceded her in death in 2001. Joyce had a truly kind spirit and loving heart. She loved her family, she lived to dance and she also loved to travel. We will miss her deeply.

Survivors include her husband, Al Smith of Carlsbad, N.M.; five children, Dane Cambern and wife Rhonda of Sour Lake, Grant Cambern and wife Pauline of Amarillo, Kenny Cambern and wife Judy of Pampa, Sharon Martindale and husband David of Houston, and Cindy Harris and husband Rick of Pampa; her sister, Marciel Barber of Oklahoma City; 13 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three brothers, Frank, Fred and A.J. Womble; and five grandchildren, Melissa Shannon Cambern, Cheryl Louise Cambern, Matthew Grant Cambern, Doug Auwen and Catherine Diann Cambern.

Memorials may be made to PAWS., P. O. Box 2095, Pampa, TX 79066-2095 or a favorite charity.

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



Smith

Tempi Kay Blanton Sewell, 56

Tempi Kay Blanton Sewell of Placitas, N.M. died April 6, 2012, in Las Vegas Nev. Born in Odesa, Dec. 31, 1955, to Bill and Ruth Blanton, Tempi never met a stranger and anyone in need, both two legged and four legged, she opened her home to. She was an avid hiker, taking her dogs all up and down the trails around Placitas.

Tempi was preceded in death by the love of her life, Kevin Michael Sewell in 2010. She is survived by her sister, Deborah Fowler; three nieces, Mechelle Coate, Jennifer Fowler, and Dallas Fowler; one great-nephew, Brady; two great-nieces, Aubree and Renee; and Kevin's daughter, Stephanie Mueller.

A celebration of life will be hosted by Sue Spencer, April 22, at 3 p.m. at 722 Hwy 165, Placitas NM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Diabetes Assoc., Watermelon Ranch, or a charity of your choice.

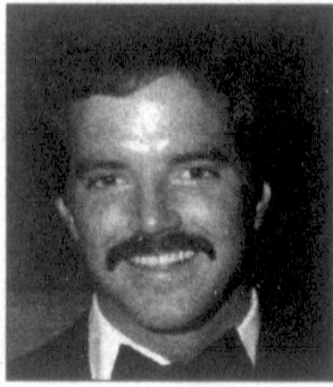


Sewell

Marty Reece Duniven, 53

Marty Reece Duniven passed away April 15, 2012 at the age of 53 in his home in Fort Worth.

He was born July 16, 1958, in Kermit, to Bob and Dorothy Duniven. Marty grew up in McLean, and was a varsity member of the Tiger football, basketball, track, and golf teams. He graduated from McLean in 1976 and attended Texas Tech University where he graduated in 1981. Marty possessed a fun-loving and out-going personality that endeared him to his family and many life-



Duniven

long friends who will miss him greatly.

Throughout his years of working with Fort Worth Pipe and Supply, Texas Cash Register, and Malloy's Cash Register Co., Marty made his home in Lubbock, Odessa, Abilene, Houston, Frisco, Carrollton, Plano, and Fort Worth.

Survivors include his loving and devoted wife, Kathy Raines (Carter) Duniven of the home; daughter, Kristina and husband Paul Luna and son Charlie and wife Leslie Carter, all of Shamrock; his mother, Dorothy Duniven of Lewisville; his siblings, Alan and Carol Duniven of Lantana, Dennis and Marsha Duniven of Dallas, Tommy and Diane Duniven of Wylie, Lana and Bruce Ward of Wellington, eight grandchildren, and twelve nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Bob Duniven in 1988.

A celebration of life service will be held at Prestonwood Baptist Church (6801 W. Park Blvd. Plano, TX 75093) on Thursday, April 19, at 2 p.m. Funeral services are under the direction of Greenwood Funeral Home 3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX. Marty's brother-in-law, the Reverend Thacker Haynes of First United Methodist Church, McLean, will officiate.

Gary Gene Herr, 73

Gary Gene Herr, 73, died April 13, 2012, in Amarillo. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 19, 2012, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, with Rev. Linda Kelly, rector, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Gary was born July 23, 1938 in Lawton, Okla. He moved to Pampa in 1989 to co-found Progressive Sales. He formed Hi Plains Measurement Co. in 2001. He married Ruth Robinson in 1957 and she preceded him in death in 2005. He was a longtime member of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church as well as the Moose Lodge #1385. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved his wife Marlene with all of his heart.

Survivors include his wife, Marlene Herr of the home; two sons, Patrick Herr and Lance Herr of Pampa; four grandchildren; Josh Herr and wife Kandice, Hannah Ball and Leslie Ball all of Pampa, and Kris Madrid of Austin; one sister, Donna Winborn of Midland; and daughter-in-law, Bhe Herr of Austin. Gary was preceded in death by his parents and two sons, Steven Herr and Michael Herr. Memorials may be made to St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School, 727 W. Browning, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Patsy Ann Pierson Moore, 83

FORT WORTH—Patsy Ann Pierson Moore, 83, passed away Friday, April 13, 2012, in Fort Worth.

Memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Chapel at 7301 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX; Vitas Hospice at 6100 Western Place, Suite 800, Fort Worth TX 76107; or to your favorite charity.

Patsy "Pat" Moore was born in Pampa on Jan. 18, 1929. Pat attended Pampa schools and graduated from Pampa High School in 1947. Pat attended Texas Tech and Oklahoma State University. Pat married Lee William Moore on March 5, 1949. Pat and Lee resided in Fort Worth the past 52 years.

Pat worked for the Fort Worth Independent School District for 20 years as an instructional aide. Pat was a member of Fort Worth Woman's Club (Club Bon Soir), Texas Retired Teachers Association, Southwest AARP, Morning Ridglea Rejebian Club and University Methodist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Lee William Moore; daughter, Melissa and Doug Wilson of Bridge City; son, Gary and Sherri Moore of Villa Park, Calif.; son, John and Michelle Moore of Jefferson, Ohio; sister, Sybil Dickey and husband, Richard of Lubbock; two nieces; one nephew; five grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



Moore

For the record

Continued from **TUESDAY** The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 72

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hour period ending Monday, April 16 at 7 a.m.

Keith Deshawn Stewart, 36, was arrested by deputies for no driver's license and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Teffeni Nicole Martinez, 32, was arrested by police on charges of driving while intoxicated and possession of a controlled substance.

Rebecca Hope Pate, 31, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated and an open alcoholic container.

Lacey Ann McClendon, 31, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger.

Sunday, April 15
 Michael Ray Waldrip, 22, was arrested by police on a blue warrant.

Jimmie Charles Johnson, 59, was arrested by police for possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less than one gram, resisting arrest, search or transport, and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.

Dawna Gay Herron, 45,

was arrested by police for failure to identify a fugitive from justice, possession of drug paraphernalia, theft by check and violation of probation for theft by check.

Rudy Angel Rodriguez, 17, was arrested by deputies for assault, failure to appear, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to attend school proceedings and failure to pay fines.

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72 hour period ending April 16 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 47 traffic related incidents. Animal Control agents and Pampa PD reported 21 animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Pampa PD responded to 12 medical calls.

Friday, April 13
 A burglary of a motor vehicle occurred at the 1100 block of South Faulkner.

Burglaries occurred at the 900 block of South Wells and the 1900 block of North

Continued on **THURSDAY**

MORNINGRUSH

Bodies found in border city

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Authorities say police found the mutilated bodies of 14 men in a minivan abandoned in the downtown area of the border city of Nuevo Laredo.

Tamaulipas state prosecutors say in a statement that the bodies were inside plastic bags.

Prosecutors say officers also found a message signed by a criminal group, but authorities wouldn't identify the group or release the content of the note.

Prosecutors say all the victims were between the ages of 30 and 35, but they gave no other details. The bodies were found on Tuesday.

Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas, is a stronghold of the Zetas drug cartel. It has been the scene of vicious turf battles between the Zetas its former ally, the Gulf cartel.

Pipeline spurs veto threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is threatening to veto transportation legislation that would extend money for highway construction projects through the end of September because it would mandate construction of a Canada-to-Texas oil pipeline that President Barack Obama earlier blocked.

Congress has been financing road projects through stopgap measures. This one would extend spending from July 1 to Sept. 30. But Republicans, who control the House, want to add the requirement to build the Keystone XL pipeline project.

The White House, in a statement Tuesday, said such a requirement would bypass long-standing practices on how to approve cross-border pipelines. The statement noted that a pipeline route has yet to be identified.

Disaster aid offered to North Texas

DALLAS (AP) — The federal government is offering low-interest disaster loans to residents and business owners in 13 North Texas counties damaged by April 3 tornadoes and other storms.

Small business Administration Administrator Karen Mills announced the disaster designation Tuesday. An SBA statement says the move came in response to an April 13 request from Gov. Rick Perry.

The disaster declaration makes the assistance available in Dallas, Tarrant, Kaufman, Collin, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hunt, Johnson, Parker, Rockwall, Van Zandt and Wise counties. The filing deadline for property damage is June 18, while the deadline to return economic injury applications is Jan. 17. Information is available from 800-659-2955, disastercustomerservice(at)sba.gov or <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance>. The deaf or hard-of-hearing may call 800-877-8339.

Mobile home fire kills three

LUBBOCK (AP) — Officials say three people died in a mobile home fire near Lubbock in West Texas after initially reporting that four were found dead.

Lubbock County Sheriff Kelly Rowe says the blaze late Monday destroyed a rural home southeast of Lubbock and killed a dog.

Lt. Bryan Taylor said Tuesday a passer-by reported the blaze just before midnight. He says investigators believe three adults died in the fire, and no other victims were expected to be found.

Taylor says authorities do not believe the fire involved foul play. The cause of the blaze, which also destroyed two nearby vehicles, has not been determined.

The National Weather Service says temperatures were in the upper 40s overnight in the Lubbock area.

Firefighter fired after arrest

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas firefighter has been fired a week after he was arrested for allegedly robbing a bank.

A statement Tuesday from Dallas-Fire Rescue says 37-year-old Jesus Ventura of Irving has been terminated following an internal investigation. The agency had no other comment about Ventura, who remains in federal custody.

Ventura had been on paid leave since March when he allegedly fired a gun inside a fire station.

Investigators say Ventura on April 10 walked into a Dallas bank, demanded cash and gave the teller \$20 from the stash before fleeing with the money.

The off-duty firefighter was arrested minutes later while allegedly trying to hold up a nearby business. The bank cash was recovered.

Ventura told a judge, during a court appearance last week, that he has bipolar disorder issues.

Swirl pottery turned on potter's wheel

Q: Please look at the photo of my Arkansas pottery and tell me if it is still being produced. The pottery is decorated with variegated colors with a matte finish. Can you tell me how they achieved the dripping process? Also, I would appreciate any other information on its age, maker and value.

A: Judging from your photo and information, your pottery vases are examples of Niloak Pottery Co. It was founded by Charles Dean Hyten and located in Benton, Ark., from 1909 to 1947. They began making crocks, jugs and churns. When demand for utilitarian ware waned, they introduced their art pottery line. Artificially coloring the clay and turning it on the potter's wheel made pieces with a marbled or swirled appearance. Niloak is the word kaolin spelled backwards. Kaolin is a type of high quality clay, and there was an abundance of clay in the Benton area. Hyten obtained a patent on his swirled technique in 1925. Your pottery is known as "Swirl" and "Missionware." Some pieces were marked and others had only a paper label. Camark Pottery and Ouachita Pottery were two other famous potteries located in Arkansas.

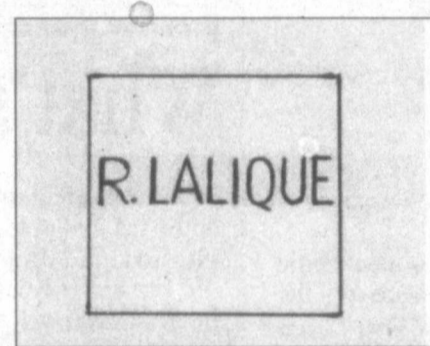
Your collection of pottery was made circa 1925. Prices vary from \$100 for small pieces to over \$500 for large pieces.

Q: I have sent a drawing of the mark that is on an antique glass vase. The vase has been in my family for several generations, and I would like to know more about it. My mother always told me it was valuable and should be passed down in the family to the next generation. The vase is frosted, stands 9 inches tall and has panels of



Niloak Pottery Co. was located in Benton, Ark.

women standing above masks. The panels of woman are all in different poses and they alternate with raised oval shapes. It is in mint condition. Also included with the mark is the word "France."



Rene Lalique created glassware in Paris, France, from the 1890s to 1945.

A: Your vase was made by Rene Lalique. He was an exceptional glassmaker in Paris, France, from the 1890s to 1945. His glasshouse made gorgeous pieces of art glass that included vases, figures, stemware, chandeliers, and inkwells. He also created perfume bottles for Guerlain, Coty and Worth. "France" was included with his marks from 1926 to 1945. The name of the design of your vase is "Six Figures et Masques."

Your circa 1926 vase would probably fetch \$7,000 and up in antiques shops.

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.

Lawmakers consider size of ed board

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers expressed skepticism Tuesday over whether 15 elected members on the State Board of Education are enough for a state the size of Texas, but board members testified they can handle the workload by using email and telephone calls to keep in touch with their districts.

Each board of education member represents more than 1.67 million people and two districts cover 35 or more counties. The board is responsible for establishing the state's public school curriculum, approving textbooks and managing the states \$26 billion permanent school fund.

"We're trying to determine if the population of those 15 districts has become too untenable for elected office holders," said Rep. Burt Solomons, chairman of the House Redistricting Committee.

The current 15-member, elected board was created by the Legislature in 1984, dissolving an appointed board of 27 people, one for every congressional

district at the time. The positions are unpaid and part-time, and some members represent as many 77 counties and more than 200 school districts. Texas will soon have 36 congressional districts, though past boards have been as few as three members.

Eight school board members testified Tuesday morning that they oppose adding more people to the board.

"I know it sounds overwhelming that we each have 1.7 million people, but I think you'll find you'll be satisfied with how we reach out to our constituents," said Barbara Cargill, chairwoman of the board.

Cargill said the board received 12,000 emails during the science textbook debate and more than 15,000 during the history textbook debate.

Her district spans 24 counties with 139 school districts. Cargill said she has gathered 4,500 emails address for her constituents over her eight years in office. Said she uses her email list to recruit subject

matter experts for textbooks and recently had 60 applicants to help develop math standards.

"I would encourage you to keep the board at the current 15 members, I think it works very, very well," Cargill said. She added that the budget for her re-election campaign

is \$35,000.

Several lawmakers expressed amazement that the board members could properly represent their districts.

"I'm not convinced this

AD cont. on page 7A

NEW Spring Styles Arriving Daily

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

The Hunger Games (PG-13)
Fri 7:00 10:00
Sat 2:00 7:00 10:00
Sun 2:00 7:00
Mon/Thur 7:00

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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 18, the 109th day of 2012. There are 257 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 18, 1942, an air squadron from the USS Hornet led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle raided Tokyo and other Japanese cities during World War II.

On this date:

In 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride from Charlestown to Lexington, Mass., warning American colonists that the British were coming.

In 1831, the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa was officially opened.

In 1906, a devastating earthquake struck San Francisco, followed by raging fires; estimates of the final death toll range between 3,000 and 6,000.

In 1910, suffragists showed up at the U.S. Capitol with half a million signatures demanding that women have the right to vote.

In 1912, the RMS Carpathia, carrying survivors of the Titanic disaster, arrived in New York.

In 1934, the first laundromat (called a "washateria") opened in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1942, the first World War II edition of The Stars and Stripes was published as a weekly newspaper.

In 1945, famed American war correspondent Ernie Pyle, 44, was killed by Japanese gunfire on the Pacific island of Ie Shima, off Okinawa.

In 1949, the Republic of Ireland was proclaimed.

In 1954, Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power, becoming prime minister of Egypt.

In 1978, the Senate approved the Panama Canal Treaty, providing for the complete turnover of control of the waterway to Panama on the last day of 1999.

In 1983, 63 people, including 17 Americans, were killed at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, by a suicide bomber.

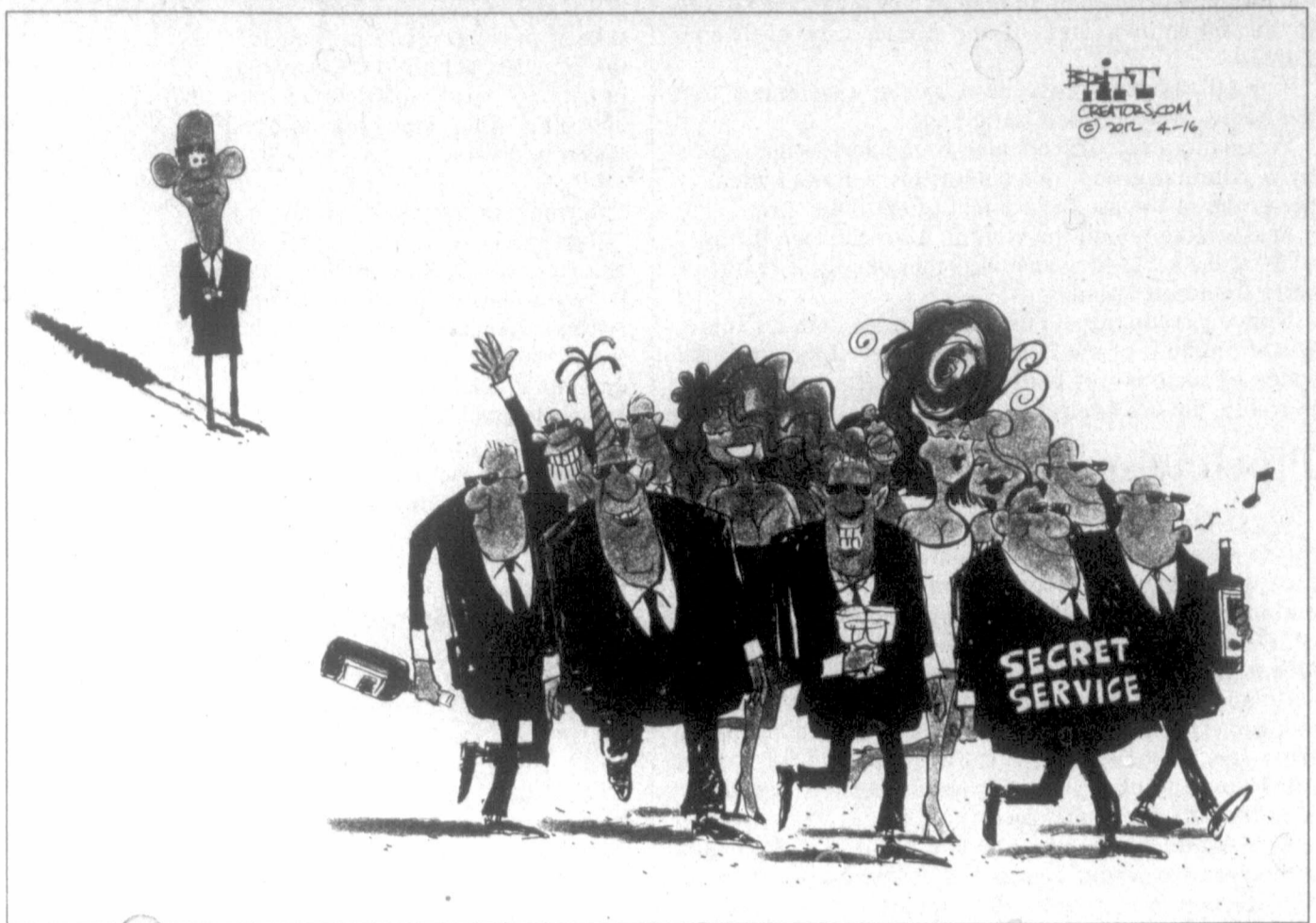
Ten years ago: Police arrested actor Robert Blake in the shooting death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, nearly a year earlier (Blake was acquitted at his criminal trial but found liable in a civil trial). Amtrak's Auto Train derailed near Crescent City, Fla., killing four passengers. Afghanistan's former king, Mohammad Zaher Shah, returned to his country after 29 years in exile. A small plane slammed into a skyscraper in Milan, Italy, killing the plane's sole occupant and two other people. Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl died near Colla Micheri, Italy, at age 87.

Five years ago: The Supreme Court, in a 5-4 ruling, upheld the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. Four large bombs exploded in mainly Shiite locations of Baghdad, killing at least 183 people. Mark Buehrle of the Chicago White Sox faced the minimum 27 batters in a 6-0 no-hit victory over the Texas Rangers. Curtis Strange and Hubert Green joined the World Golf Hall of Fame.

One year ago: Standard & Poor's lowered its long-term outlook for the U.S. government's fiscal health from "stable" to "negative." Crystal Mangum, who'd falsely accused three Duke lacrosse players of raping her, was charged with murdering her boyfriend, Reginald Dyer. Kenya's Geoffrey Mutai won the Boston Marathon in a record time of 2:03:02, while fellow Kenyan Caroline Kilel won the women's race in 2:22:36. The Los Angeles Times won a Pulitzer Prize for revealing that officials in Bell, Calif., were paying themselves exorbitant salaries; but for the first time in the Pulitzer's 95-year history, no award was given in the category of breaking news. Jennifer Egan's novel "A Visit From the Goon Squad" won the Pulitzer for fiction.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Hale is 91. Actor Clive Revill is 82. Actor James Drury is 78. Actor Robert Hooks is 75. Actress Hayley Mills is 66. Actor James Woods is 65. Actress-director Dorothy Lyman is 65. Actress Cindy Pickett is 65. Country musician Walt Richmond (The Tractors) is 65. Country musician Jim Scholten (Sawyer Brown) is 60. Actor Rick Moranis is 59. Actress Melody Thomas Scott is 56. Actor Eric Roberts is 56. Actor John James is 56. Rock musician Les Pattinson (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 54. Author-journalist Susan Faludi is 53. Actress Jane Leeves is 51. Talk show host Conan O'Brien is 49. Bluegrass singer-musician Terry Eldredge is 49. Actor Eric McCormack is 49. Actress Maria Bello is 45. Actress Mary Birdsong is 44. Rock musician Greg Eklund (The Oolahs) is 42. Actor David Tennant is 41. Rock musician Mark Tremonti is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Trina (Trina and Tamara) is 38. Actress Melissa Joan Hart is 36. Actor Sean Maguire is 36. Actor Bryce Johnson is 35. Reality TV star Kourtney Kardashian is 33. Actress America Ferrera is 28. Actress Alia Shawkat is 23. Actress Britt Robertson ("Life Unexpected") is 22. Actor Moises Arias ("Hannah Montana") is 18.

Thought for Today: "There is no shame in not knowing; the shame lies in not finding out." — Russian proverb.



What's with all the beef against BLBT?

The American tradition of a burger and fries just got unnecessarily complicated. Out of nowhere, a decades-old practice of putting boneless lean beef trimmings to good use has exploded as a hot news story, showing just how sensationalism collides with nutrition science -- and what is or is not, actually, news in the first place.

It's an easy trap to fall into, because no one likes to think about how a cow becomes a hamburger. But boneless lean beef trimmings, or BLBT as they're called, are nothing to be concerned about, and are by no means a foreign concept.

We're talking about USDA-certified 100-percent beef -- no more, no less.

Just beef. The same beef, in fact, we've been enjoying for more than 20 years.

Today's Generation X-ers have probably eaten hundreds of burgers, tacos and other meals that included BLBT in their lifetimes, safely enjoying a highly regulated food backed by at least four decades of research.

It's really no different from other food-production methods we don't think twice about.

Take milk, for example. With the growing demand for lower-fat foods, many families prefer skim or low-fat milk. That means separating out the



TODD STAPLES

In the old days, that meant wasting perfectly good meat in cases where using a knife to separate out the fat by hand would be painstaking and costly.

In 1990, however, the meat industry developed a USDA-approved method to automate this process, heating beef trimmings to about 100 degrees in a large, high-speed mixing bowl.

As it spins, the meat separates from the liquefied fat, leaving behind beef that's 95-plus percent lean and nutritious, packed with protein, iron, zinc and B vitamins.

The USDA keeps a close eye on ground beef production, regulating BLBT just as it does all beef products and sending inspectors to plants daily.

The agency's support has remained unchanged in the face of the recent

cream, which is essentially the same concept here.

Cows aren't neatly packaged for us in ready-to-eat pieces.

In fact, it's quite common for nutritious lean meat to be closely intertwined with fat.

emotional firestorm. Just this month the USDA undersecretary for food nutrition and consumer science issued this reminder about BLBT: "It's safe, it's leaner than other beef sources on the market, and it's less costly."

Therein lies another problem with letting misplaced fear guide our policies. We're not just losing sight of the science that shows it's safe we're forgetting the broader impact this unsubstantiated panic will have on our world -- on jobs, on our environment and on our ability to put food on the dinner table.

If we eliminate BLBT as a source for healthy meals for American families, we'll need to harvest 1.5 million more heads of cattle each year just to be able to continue feeding our growing population.

And that's not the best use of our natural resources or modern technology, which already has produced a safe, long-tested solution.

Ultimately, we'll all pay the price for getting carried away by the current hype.

I say it's time to move on -- there's nothing to be afraid of here.

Except, of course, a world where emotion dictates policies that are better left to science.

Todd Staples is the commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture

Mitt should consult Book of Santorum

Mitt Romney would be wise to take a good hard look at what Rick Santorum did right and what he did wrong during his campaign. In his quest to unseat President Obama, Romney will face some of the same challenges Santorum faced.

Back in the summer of 2011, nobody thought Santorum had a shot at the Republican nomination. Nationally, he was polling at about 3 percent. But through sheer hard work and persistence, he won the Iowa caucus and was catapulted into the big time.

There are many lessons to be learned from Santorum's political journey, beginning with having a dream and fighting like hell to make it happen. The senator did that, and it makes him a noble figure to those of us who admire achievement.

But Santorum also made some vivid mistakes in underestimating the secular culture and the intent of the media. And this is where the Romney tutorial begins.

The national press is generally biased toward the left and has the long knives out for anyone spouting spiritual beliefs. Once Santorum began answering questions about his theology, it began to damage his



BILL O'REILLY

toward Santorum in January during the New Hampshire debate. He zeroed in on the senator's moral view of contraception, and foolishly, Santorum engaged. He should have simply said: "Hey, George, I have seven kids. I don't know much about it." End of exposition.

But no. Santorum rambled on about the downside of birth control, something most Americans simply don't want to hear about. Although most citizens are believers, the USA has become a largely secular country, and voters do not want politicians telling them how to conduct their private lives.

Soon, Santorum was besieged by questions about his faith-based belief

political message. And when he criticized John F. Kennedy on the separation of church and state issue, the media went wild. You don't mess with JFK.

ABC's George Stephanopoulos defined the skeptical tone

in January during the New Hampshire debate. He zeroed in on the senator's moral view of contraception, and foolishly, Santorum engaged. He should have simply said: "Hey, George, I have seven kids. I don't know much about it." End of exposition.

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system and, again, entered into the conversation, answering questions about the morality of homosexuality and the like. In doing so, he walked into a swamp he couldn't get out of and was marginalized as a religious zealot.

Memo to Romney: If the media ask you about Adam and Eve, simply say they didn't have jobs and it's Obama's fault. Keep the conversation on issues that matter to the voters. The media don't really care what you think about Cain and Abel or what you believe spiritually. They simply want to make you look like Elmer Gantry.

In the end, Santorum's spirited challenge to Romney actually better defined the governor for the voters which could be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on your viewpoint. But going forward, Romney will face the same sand traps that bedeviled Santorum. Best to walk around them, Governor, because once you get in, you'll never get out.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinhead: and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

We welcome your letters

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- 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.

Worship

Why does jealousy annoy us? (Part 2)

"Jealousy just keeps building and building," says James, 10. "When it builds, it gets worse. One time, I was jealous of my sister because she had more candy. I asked her if I could have some, and she said, 'No.' I was so mad that I took some anyway."

Whether you're 10, 20, 30 or 60, the pressure exerted by harboring jealousy can explode into the most bizarre behavior. Motivating someone to steal is not the only way jealousy robs, says Marcus, 8: "Jealousy is like a robber, and it steals all your joy. It made me feel mad and scared of God."

God wants us to be content and joyful in his presence. Jealousy's focus fails to account for God's sovereignty, longsuffering and justice. Centuries ago, the prophet Jeremiah asked, "Why does the way of the wicked prosper?"

The prosperity of the wicked seems to goad us to jealousy. If God is in control, why doesn't he zap the wicked into oblivion? OK, maybe oblivion is a little harsh. I'll settle for poverty. Make the wicked poor, God. If some crooks weren't so rich, I'm sure I could be more content.

If God judged everyone's sins immediately, the apostle Paul would have died before his conversion. As an unbeliever, he became a Christian bounty hunter. He hunted Christians to persecute them! What could demonstrate the transforming power of God's grace more than to turn the bounty hunter into the chief apostle?

"Cain was so jealous of his brother, he killed him because God took Abel's sacrifice and not his," says Jennifer, 10. The Genesis account of Cain's murder says he was "very angry" when God respected Abel's sacrifice but not his.

Instead of humbling himself to change and present a sacrifice acceptable to God, Cain slit his brother's throat. God wants to bless us more than we want to be blessed.

His generosity knows no limits. We're never in competition with anyone for God's blessings or approval.

"Rejoice with those who rejoice," the apos-



CARY KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

le Paul wrote (Romans 12:15). "Body life" is a term some use to describe Paul's view of Christians as individual members of the figurative body of Christ, the church. Christians shouldn't compete with each other.

Rather, we should build up the fellow believers by affirming their roles as part of a team to glorify God.

"A new girl came to school, and my best friend started spending a lot of time with her," says Nicole, 11. "One day, when we could work as partners, they got together and out of nowhere, I started to cry. My friend came over and started hugging me. That's when I knew she didn't forget about me. Since then, the new girl is one of my best friends."

We can't help how we feel about a close friend, but we can control how we think and what we do. What if Nicole had resorted to a slander campaign about the new girl or an angry outburst toward her best friend? She might be looking for two new friends.

"Jealousy drives some people crazy because they don't think they're loved or feel important," says Anna, 9.

Think about this: When we're confident of God's love for us and his estimate of our importance, jealousy will take a holiday.

Memorize this truth: "But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Ask this question: Can you rejoice with your brothers and sisters in Christ when they enjoy success?

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

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

Lighthouse Covenant to hold revival services on Sunday

THE PAMPA NEWS

Revival begins this Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship. The special ministers for the meeting are Sandi Ballew and Marla Jackson.

"Sandi is a powerful anointed speaker," Ed Barker, pastor, said. "Sandi brings the Word of God alive through preaching, teaching, prayer and prophetic ministry."

Barker said Jackson is a gifted psalmist.

"Marla leads prophetic worship, teaches and ministers throughout the United States with Stonethrowers," Barker said. "As a psalmist inspired by scripture, Marla composes most of the songs she uses in ministry."

Nursery services will be provided for all services for ages infant through 3 years. Lighthouse Covenant is located on the 1700 block of N. Banks Street.

Pampa Church Directory

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500 E. Kingsmill Ave.
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669-7830 | First Pentecostal Holiness
1700 Alcock
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665-8192 | 404 Harlem
Pampa TX 79065
665-4044 |
| Briarwood Full Gospel Church
1800 W. Harvester Avenue
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665-7201 | First Presbyterian
525 N. Gray
Pampa TX 79065
665-1031 | New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
912 S. Gray St.
Pampa TX 79065
665-4044 |
| Calvary Assembly of God Church
1030 Love Street
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669-7207 | First United Methodist
Foster & Ballard
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669-7411 | New Life Assembly of God
1435 N. Sumner
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665-0804 |
| Calvary Baptist
900 E. 23rd Street
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665-0842 | Gateway of Grace Ministries
720 W. Francis
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806-336-4427 | Open Door Church of God in Christ
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665-6132 |
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669-2720 | Grace Baptist Church
824 S. Barnes
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669-7967 | Pampa Chapel of the Apostolic Faith
711 E. Harvester
Pampa TX 79065
669-9635 |
| Central Baptist Church
513 E. Francis
Pampa TX 79065
665-1631 | Harvest Fellowship Baptist Church
2700 W. Kentucky Ave.
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665-4922 | Priest Park Church of God
731 N. Faulkner
Pampa TX 79065
688-0174 |
| Church of Christ
1342 Mary Ellen
Pampa TX 79065
665-0031 | Harvest Bible Church
300 W. Browning Avenue
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669-2923 | Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana
541 Hamilton
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685-8347 |
| Church of Christ Somerville
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665-0004 | Hobart Baptist Church
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669-3212 | Redeemer Pampa
225 N. Cuyler
Pampa, TX 79065
665-7233 |
| Church of God
Gwendolen & Sumner
Pampa TX 79065
669-6372 | Hi-land Christian Church
1615 N. Banks
Pampa TX 79065
665-3300 | Salvation Army
701 S. Cuyler
Pampa TX 79065
665-2183 |
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411 East 29th Ave.
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669-2967 | Highland Baptist Church
1301 N. Banks
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665-3300 | Seventh Day Adventist Church
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665-4492 |
| Church of the Nazarene
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669-3144 | Iglesia Bautista Emanuel
1021 S. Barnes
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665-4330 | Southside Church of Christ
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665-2183 |
| Community Christian School
1801 W. Harvester
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662-3393 | Iglesia Casa Del Alfarero
500 N. Duncan
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665-5898 | St. Paul United Methodist Church
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665-8331 | St. Matthews Episcopal Church
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665-0703 |
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665-5976 | Lighthouse Baptist Church
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665-0262 | Trinity Fellowship Church
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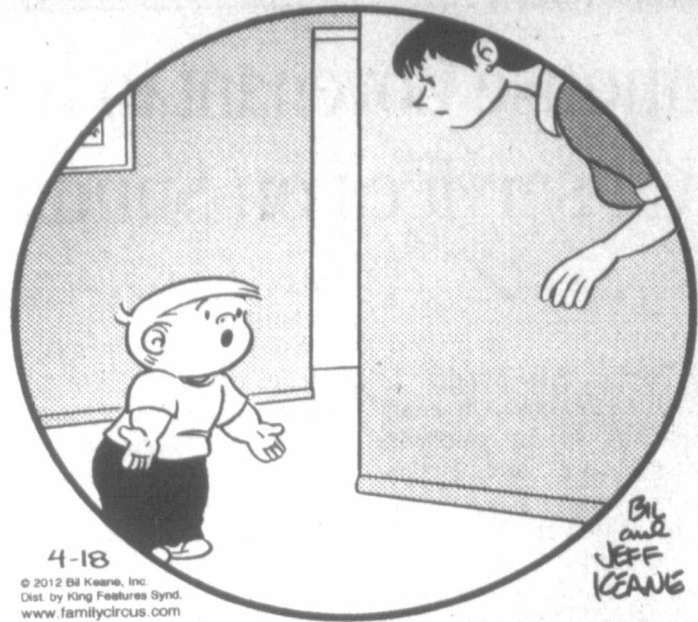
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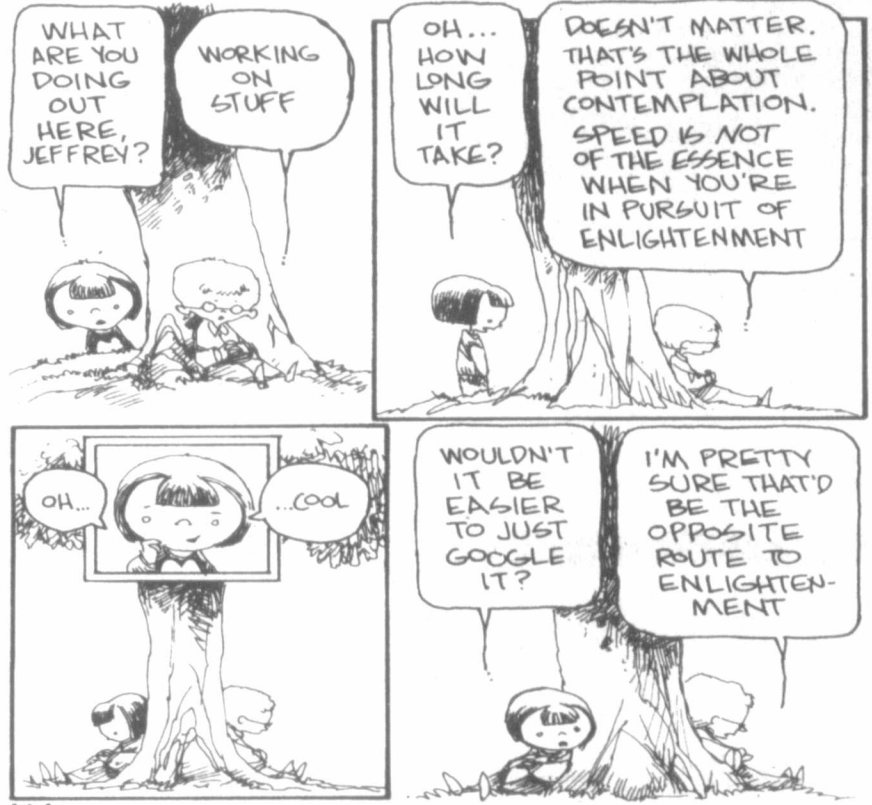
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"You cleaned my room and now I can't find anything!"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



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daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, April 19, 2012:
This year you discover that there is often a side benefit to whatever you do. Whether this asset existed before or it's the result of increased awareness makes no difference. Resist pondering this issue. If you are single, you could become unusually possessive. Your desirability will increase when you lose that trait. Learn how to become more confident in yourself. If you are attached, the two of you work together to achieve a goal. The warmth will intensify between you. TAURUS can help you spend your money well.
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)
★★★ Step back if you do not want to get involved in an argument or some sort of collision. You could be quite me-oriented in the morning. By the afternoon, you could look at the same situation differently. You are poised and direct. Tonight: Whatever works best for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Push comes to shove far too quickly in the morning. Be smart, and refuse to make a judgment just yet. By the afternoon, you'll feel better and probably will react differently. Pat yourself on the back for having left that option open. Tonight: Act with confidence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Use the morning for key matters. A partner might not agree on an important issue. After the fact, you will weigh the pros and cons. Your decision could be a lot different, given some space. Be willing to make a kind gesture if you're wrong. Tonight: Get some much-needed downtime.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Demands and responsibilities pour upon you. You could feel unusual pressure and wonder which way to go. Loosen up and recognize that you might need to delegate. By the afternoon, you'll focus and feel much better. Tonight: Where you can find fun people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ The quality of your preparation comes out in the afternoon. You might have a last-minute chance to do some research or quiet work in the morning. From the afternoon on, you are on stage no matter where you are, and all eyes look to you.

Don't worry. You are in your element. Tonight: Could go quite late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Someone you need to listen to gives you an earful. You might feel like it is this person's way or the highway. Detach some from that reaction. Be willing to take an important step forward on your own, after you are sure of your information and sources. Tonight: In your head.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You are used to being flexible, but today this ability will be tested. Pressure builds around a personal matter, but others need your attention now. Delegating or postponing decisions might work if you cannot flex as you might like. Tonight: A long-overdue talk.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You know better than anyone what must be accomplished and what might be holding you back. Having a fun reward for the completion of an errand or chore could make you more enthusiastic. You could be easily distracted by others from midday on. Tonight: In the whirlwind of networking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You'll proceed with a smile. For now, bypass a difficult financial matter with a creative idea. In the afternoon, you'll dedicate time to getting your job, errands or meetings done. Once more, your imagination will come into play. Tonight: Add dance to your exercise routine.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ If you feel you can handle important details or projects from home, do. You could be a little difficult or controlling at the moment. The less contact you have until this mood passes, the better. Tonight: Try loosening up a little.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You can come up with very unusual expressions to say what you think. Others delight in this ability, so much so that they could miss your message. Try to state your case boldly, and remain positive. Tonight: Ask for what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might have difficulty handling a friend who seems to have an impact on your spending. Use a little self-discipline and detach as much as you can. By the afternoon, your words will be heard, and you can clear up a problem. Tonight: Where friends are.

Tundra



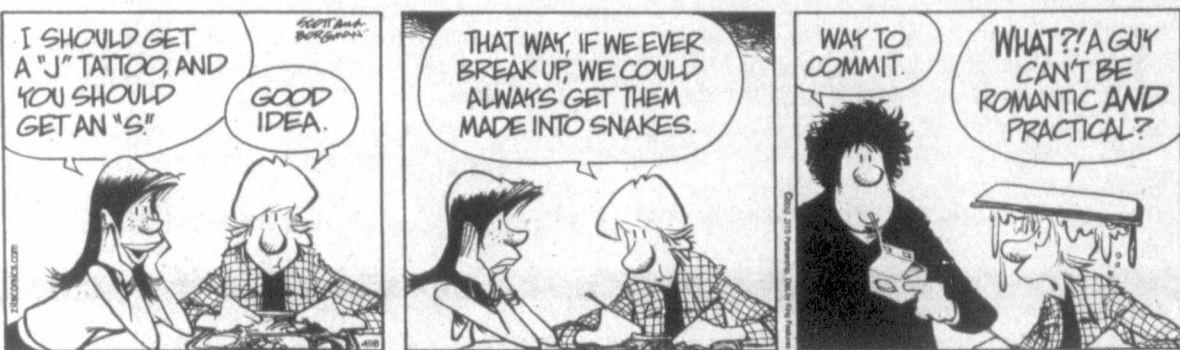
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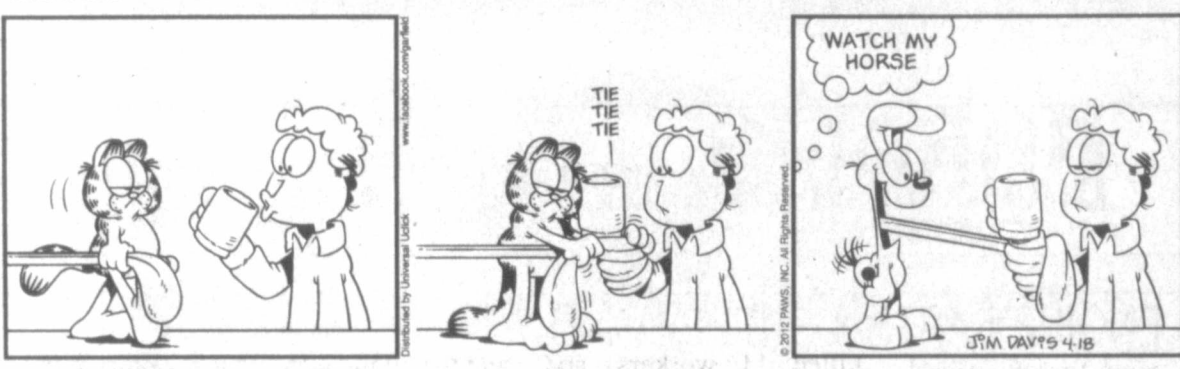
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Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Rubio's immigration push a potential lift for Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's push for a Republican version of immigration legislation looks like the answer to the election-year prayers of the GOP — and Mitt Romney.

Rubio — telegenic son of Cuban exiles and potential vice presidential pick — is pulling together a bill that would allow young illegal immigrants to remain in the United States but denies them citizenship, an initial step in the drawn-out, divisive fight over immigration policy and the fate of the 11 million people here illegally.

The freshman senator calls his evolving legislation a conservative alternative to the DREAM Act — the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors measure. That Democratic-backed bill, which is overwhelmingly popular with Hispanics, would provide a pathway to citizenship to children in the United States illegally if they attend college or join the military. The measure came close to passage in December 2010 but has languished since then.

"We have to come up with an immigration system that honors both our legacy as a nation of laws and also our legacy as a nation of immigrants," Rubio told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

An immigration plan from Rubio, the GOP's best-known Hispanic, could help Republicans make some headway with the fastest growing minority group and its 21 million eligible voters, many concentrated in the contested presidential battleground states of Florida, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Colorado.

Democrats maintain a significant political advantage with Hispanics, numbers that were only strengthened by the harsh rhetoric from Republican presidential candidates in this year's primary. Hispanics overwhelmingly backed Barack Obama over Republican presidential nominee John McCain, 67-31 percent, in the 2008 presidential race and they favored Democratic congressional candidates 60-38 percent in 2010, according to exit polling. A Pew Research Center survey out Tuesday showed Obama with a solid

edge over Romney among Hispanic registered voters, 67-27 percent.

It's a reality the likely Republican presidential nominee clearly recognizes.

"We have to get Hispanic voters to vote for our party," Romney told a private fundraiser in Florida on Sunday in which he insisted the GOP needs an alternative to the DREAM Act. He warned that a significant number of Hispanics backing Obama "spells doom for us," according to NBC News.

Rubio, who notably called on his party to tone down the anti-immigrant talk earlier this year, is working on a plan that would allow young illegal immigrants who came to the United States with their parents to apply for non-immigrant visas. They would be permitted to stay in the country to study or work, could obtain a driver's license but would not be able to vote. They later could apply for residency, but they would not have a special path to citizenship.

Rubio said he has not talked to the Romney campaign about his plan but definitely would. "He's our nominee and I think it's important for him to feel comfortable with and be supportive of whatever endeavor we pursue," the senator said.

The 40-year-old freshman lawmaker is looking at unveiling his bill in the coming weeks. The early outlines have drawn interest and skepticism from pro-immigration groups. Rubio's political motivation also has been questioned, especially since congressional Republicans and Democrats say legislation as ambitious as immigration is unlikely to be done seven months from the election.

"Is this really a legislative initiative or a political ploy?" asked Frank Sharry, executive director of America's Voice. "If it's about a political ploy, it's about



Rubio

throwing a lifeline to Romney, rather than throwing a lifeline to the dreamers."

Joaquin Castro, a Democratic member of the Texas legislature and a candidate for the U.S. House, said Rubio must be troubled by the GOP anti-immigrant talk.

"It must be difficult for a Hispanic Republican to sit there and listen to all of the harsh rhetoric coming from the Republican Party about his community," Castro said in an interview.

Rubio insists that Democrats, who controlled the White House, Senate and House for two years and never completed immigration legislation, are "just panicked about the prospects of losing this issue as a campaign tool."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., signaled Tuesday that Rubio's effort has little chance in the Democratic-controlled Senate, telling reporters that he won't accept an alternative that stops short of providing a path to citizenship.

Brent Wilkes, national executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens, said if it's Rubio's bill or nothing, "I think we would have to look pretty hard at the offer because the most important thing for these students, at least initially, is for them to get right with the law and get on with their lives." But Wilkes cautioned against creating an apartheid-like system in the United States with a permanent group of second-class individuals.

President Barack Obama challenged the GOP for opposing changes to immigration while Rubio works on an alternative.

"Somehow Republicans want to have it both ways. That looks like hypocrisy to me," the president said in an interview last week with Telemundo News.

Rubio faces a major obstacle in pushing his measure. The Republican Party and its allies remain fiercely divided over immigration policy, a split even more pronounced in an election year.

Moderates who favor a route to citizenship are pitted against lawmakers

who want tough laws cracking down on illegal immigrants. The agriculture industry, which relies heavily on illegal immigrants, and its GOP backers in Congress have challenged Republican legislation in the House requiring employers to use an electronic database to determine whether a new worker is legal, commonly known as e-verify. Businesses fear it will be an unnecessary regulation while tea partiers worry about government intrusion.

Opponents of Rubio's work-in-progress already have appealed to their rank-and-file members to contact the senator and express their opposition.

Numbers USA, which wants to reduce the number of legal and illegal immigrants, provided talking points to their nearly 1 million members.

"It is downright appalling that you are working on a DREAM Act amnesty. There is no difference between giving illegal aliens citizenship and giving them an amnesty. They would still be able to compete against unemployed Americans for jobs! You need to drop this plan presto!" the group said.

Roy Beck, president of Numbers USA, said the bill was "just a slower motion amnesty than the DREAM Act that was defeated in December 2010."

"For the pro-amnesty, open borders crowd, the DREAM (Act) is their most compelling case," Beck said in an interview. "So what you've got is some Republicans who feel like somehow they'd like to take that off the table. And frankly, if Rubio were to put one of these things other there, and then it's the Democrats that kill it, it could potentially hurt the Democrats."

Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, who has led the fight for the DREAM Act for the past decade, said Republicans once backed his measure.

"It's really sad," the Illinois senator said. "When I first offered the DREAM Act, we had more than a dozen Republicans support it. In fact, it was a bill I co-sponsored with Sen. (Orrin) Hatch, but it has become so political over the years."

Gulf oil spill panel slams Congress over inaction on safety

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential commission that investigated the Gulf oil spill blasted Congress for inaction Tuesday as it issued a report card on industry and government response to the massive BP oil spill. "Across the board, we are disappointed with Congress's lack of action."

Education

cont. from page 3A

is the best form of governing for a state this size," Rep. Carol Alvarado, D-Houston, said to the board members. "You are, in my opinion, spread very thin, I think you lack diversity and I think some of your responsibilities are pretty significant for a body your size."

Thomas Ratliff, a school board member representing District 9, said the size of the districts was not the problem, but public awareness.

"The vast majority of people have no idea who we are, what we do, or whether we even have a State Board of Education," he said. "With 31 counties and 180 school districts, I could go to a school board meeting every week and it would take me 3 1/2 years to get to them all."

Solomons also suggested that budgeting funds for the members to hire staff and maintain an office could help the members do a better job communicating with constituents. But he said Tuesday hearing was just the start of the conversation on the board's districts.

Two years have passed since the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon killed 11 workers, and Congress has yet to enact one piece of legislation to make drilling safer," said former Florida Sen. Bob Graham, a Democrat who co-chaired the presidential commission.

Congress earned a "D" from the seven former commissioners, who have reunited to press for action to improve drilling safety. The group said Congress has provided neither leadership nor financial support for safety improvement efforts.

Congress's failure to act stands in contrast to both the Obama administration and the oil industry, which have both made important safety advances, Graham and other commissioners said. The administration received a "B" grade while the oil industry received a "C-plus."

The Interior Department, which oversees offshore drilling, has taken a series of steps to improve safety and environmental protection, the group said, including separating leasing and environmental review functions from regulatory oversight.

Industry also has made improvements, including installation of capping stacks in the Gulf of Mexico that can be used if an underwater well experiences a blowout. When the Deepwater Horizon disaster occurred in April 2010, there were no capping stacks in place.

William K. Reilly, a former administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and a co-chair of the presidential commission, said he was encouraged by progress being made by the Interior Department and the oil industry, including BP.

"In every way they have significantly improved their game" since the spill, Reilly said in an interview, calling the London-based company "newly attentive to operational safety" under U.S.-born CEO Bob Dudley.

"They are a transforming company," Reilly said of BP.

He was less forgiving of Congress, calling their reaction to the spill "very partisan and negative."

Last year, the panel called for a series of steps to improve offshore drilling safety, from boosting budgets and training at the

agency that oversees drilling to increasing the liability cap for companies that drill offshore.

Only one proposal appears to have a chance in Congress: diverting 80 percent of the water pollution fines from the disaster to Gulf Coast states affected by the spill. Even that proposal has withered as inland states press to keep their share of the money.

With gasoline prices rising, the focus of Republicans and the White House in an election year has turned to boosting domestic oil and gas production.



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Fund extension sought for Texas women's health plan

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas officials have asked for more time to phase out federal funding for a women's health program after federal officials said it was illegal for the state to ban Planned Parenthood from participating in it, according to documents released Tuesday.

Until this year, federal funds covered 90 percent of the cost of the Women's Health Program, which provides routine exams, contraception and preventive health services to low-income women. But after Texas lawmakers banned groups affiliated with abortion providers from participating in the program, the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services said it would cut off funding because federal law guarantees

women the right to choose their health care providers.

Federal officials proposed phasing out funding for the program by September, but Texas' Medicaid director Billy Millwee said Tuesday the state needs more time to publish new rules for the program. He has proposed phasing out the funding by November.

Alper Ozinal, a spokesman for the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, said the agency is considering the request and "will be working with the state to reach a mutually agreeable transition plan that complies with the law while protecting beneficiaries."

Meanwhile, Attorney General Greg Abbott has sued the federal government to have funding restored, and nine clinics

affected by the rule have sued the state.

Gov. Rick Perry has ordered Texas to cover the lost federal funding. Allowing the \$35 million program to expire would have cost the state more in the long run because of additional unplanned pregnancies and health problems among poor women covered by Medicaid.

Millwee's proposal calls on the state to contact women enrolled in the program and help them find new providers. "If a provider cannot be identified for the client, call center staff will escalate to appropriate Medicaid and Provider Relations staff who will recruit additional providers," the plan said.

Women who earn income less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or roughly \$20,000 a year, are eligible for the program, and state officials say 292,000 are enrolled. More than 40 percent of women in the program visited one of the clinics that will be kicked out of the program under the new rules.

The state will use community outreach and face-to-face visits to recruit more doctors and clinics into the program, the plan said, and identify parts of the state where there may not be enough health care providers.

State law already bans clinics that perform abortions from receiving any kind of state funding and all clinics currently in the program are legally and financially separate from abortion providers. But the new rule goes a step further, excluding any clinic that shares a name, ownership or the same board of directors as a clinic that performs abortions.

The state said that it will take 143 days to fully implement the new rules governing the clinics, with a public comment period for the rules lasting from June 18 to July 30 and the rules not becoming effective until Sept. 1. The plan calls for Texas to fully take over the program on Nov. 1.

Detained immigrant children temporarily moving to air base

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Federal officials are making an Air Force base near San Antonio the temporary home of 100 unaccompanied children stopped by the U.S. Border Patrol because a network of contracted shelters is overwhelmed with more kids than it can accommodate.

The first of the children arrived at Lackland Air Force Base on Monday, the San Antonio Express-News reported. The children, apprehended at different times and locations, are under the charge of the Unaccompanied Children's Services division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Lackland spokesman Brent Boller tells the newspaper that the base is "simply providing the temporary housing" in an unused 1,000-student dorm with showers and a dining hall.

HHS has taken in 7,000 to 8,000 illegal immigrant children in each of the past three years, but sheltered more than 4,000 since October. It has seen a 77 percent jump in the number of children in the first quarter of 2012.

"All anyone can do is speculate about what's going on," Lavinia Limon, president of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, told the Express-News.

The children have been distributed among 10 states, where they receive government-provided housing, health care

and psychiatric treatment. Nearly 9 of every 10 immigrant children are reunited with their families.

Unaccompanied children are not housed in immigrant detention centers, Linda Brandmiller, immigration services director for Catholic Charities in San Antonio.

Two-thirds of the children are from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, while 12 percent are from Mexico. About 80 percent are boys, with 83 percent being older than 14.

Half of the children crossing the border are caught by the Border Patrol, Limon said. Most of those contacting her organization for help say they fled forced recruitment into gangs or prostitution, she said.

"The children are recruited quite early and it is very difficult for them to resist, and so the ones who don't want to be part of those kinds of activities take off," she said.

Organizations that receive government grants to care for the children at their own shelters will also oversee their care at Lackland, according to a statement from HHS.

"HHS appreciates the collaboration, cooperation and assistance of (the Department of Defense), (Department of Homeland Security) and state and local officials," the statement said.

Bond denied in smuggling case

MCALLEN (AP) — A U.S. judge denied bond Tuesday for one of six people facing federal charges for their alleged involvement in an immigrant smuggling operation that left nine Mexican citizens dead.

Gloria Solis was ordered held on charges of harboring illegal immigrants by U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter Ormsby, who noted the seriousness of the case and the suspect's tenuous ties to the area. Solis is a U.S. citizen but moved to South Texas recently.

Border Patrol agents pulled over a van April 10 about 10 miles west of McAllen. As it stopped, one person jumped from the vehicle and ran. When agents pursued him, the van sped off. It crashed just a few blocks away scattering a parking lot with bodies, backpacks and water bottles. The 15-year-old driver escaped but was arrested two days later at his home. He faces nine state murder charges.

Solis' mother, Maria Fuentes, arrived from New York Monday and was in court Tuesday morning. She owns the Mission house but said she had no idea what was going on there. She said her daughter had moved there just a couple of months earlier.

Fuentes said as a migrant farmworker she had been dividing her time between South Texas and Kendall, New York, near Rochester for about 18 years.

requested a continuance.

Assistant U.S. attorney Linda Requenez said "this wasn't your typical alien harboring case," noting that in addition to the nine killed, one remained in a coma. She said that besides the 16 people who were packed into the minivan for the fated trip from Solis' house, 12 others were still there when agents arrived. Someone with common sense would have questioned loading so many people into a small van, she said.

Carlos A. Garcia, Solis' attorney, pointed out to Ormsby that his client was a U.S. citizen with no prior criminal record. He said the tragic accident was not "reasonably foreseeable" for her.

Later, Garcia said there was almost a presumption that anyone involved in the chain could have foreseen the result.

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Fuentes said as a migrant farmworker she had been dividing her time between South Texas and Kendall, New York, near Rochester for about 18 years.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My youngest daughter, "Lizzy," the sweetest and most conscientious of my children, has been cut off yet again by her mother, "Ruth." Ruth pressured Lizzy to graduate from high school a year early because she couldn't date with a child still at home. (Her words.) After graduation, Lizzy was shipped off to another state for college, then abandoned to find her own funding for continued education.

Lizzy feels unwanted by her mother and desperately wants to know why. The truth is, Ruth didn't want that pregnancy in the first place and has held it against Lizzy. The deeper truth is I wanted another child and deliberately got Ruth pregnant. I never told anyone, even after Ruth divorced me several years later. As far as I know, she has always accepted it as accidental.

What I did was wrong, yet I can't imagine a world without my daughter in it. Lizzy is the only one of my children who has become close to me since the divorce. The others all believe their mother's lies about me — that I cheated on her, which is the opposite of what really happened.

Should I share the truth about her birth with my daughter? I'm not sure because I have always believed it is a major mistake to admit to a child of any age that their pregnancy was a surprise, let alone that it was unwanted. Two of my siblings weren't

planned, and one of them has become a bitter and distant adult. I want to help my daughter understand and accept her mother's insane actions and get on with her own life. What should I do? — GUILT-RIDDEN DAD

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN: Lizzy already has a pretty good idea that she wasn't wanted, and I wouldn't be surprised if her mother hasn't told her she was a "surprise" baby. Do not try to expiate your feelings of guilt by telling your daughter what you have told me. That is a discussion you should have with your confessor, not your child.

It may take a therapist to help Lizzy forgive her mother and get on with her life. What you should do is pay for at least half of her therapy and contribute toward her education.

DEAR ABBY: My son was recently diagnosed with bone cancer and is currently receiving treatment. We heard about a fundraiser for pediatric cancer being held in our community. We joined the event and have received many donations from family and friends.

As much as I want to hand-write thank-you cards, between his treatments, my work schedule and my other kids I can't find the time. Is

an email thank you OK? The donations have all been made online. — WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING

DEAR WANTS TO DO THE RIGHT THING: I know you are under a lot of pressure right now. However, please refrain from expressing your gratitude by email. Send short, handwritten, personal notes — a few at a time — to those who gave money, as your schedule permits. It is the proper thing to do, and they will be appreciated.

DEAR ABBY: For decades I have been told I look like my mother. The problem is, my mother is ugly! I no longer respond to the comment, preferring to remain silent and just stare at the person instead.

Abby, please remind people that unless the comparison is to an attractive model, opinions should be kept to oneself. — BEAUTIFUL IN MY OWN WAY, RICHMOND, KY.

DEAR BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR OWN WAY: I'll remind them, but it's possible that you're overly sensitive. The person could be referring to a family resemblance, your coloring or a mannerism. A diplomatic response would be, "Thank you. Isn't she a dear?"

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- *the cancellation of an agricultural exemption
- *the taxable status of your property
- *the local governments which should be taxing your property
- *any action taken by the appraisal district that adversely affects you

Informal Review

The first option a taxpayer may use to protest a value is to visit with the chief appraiser or a staff member. Records on individual properties are available for review by every taxpayer. This informal review is to the benefit of the taxpayer, as many protests are resolved at this level.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you cannot resolve your problem with the appraisal district staff, you may have your case heard by the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You will receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. The hearing will be informal. You and the appraisal district representative will be asked to present evidence about your case. The ARB will make a decision based on the presented evidence. NOTE: You should not try to contact ARB members prior to the meeting. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they have not discussed your case prior to the ARB meeting.

Review by District Court

After the ARB decides your case you will be sent a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If the appraisal district has appraised your property at \$1,000,000 or more you must file a notice of appeal with the chief appraiser within 15 days of the date you receive the ARB's decision.

Additional information

You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district. You may obtain more information by contacting the appraisal district at the address or phone number below or by contacting the State Comptroller at the following address:

State Comptroller's Property Tax Division
PO Box 13528
Austin, TX 78711-3528

Appraisal District Address & Phone Number:
Gray County Appraisal District
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815 N. Sumner
Pampa, TX 79066-0826
(806) 665-0791

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Sports

Lady Harvesters' hitting leads to rout of Rangerettes

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Saturday, softball head coach Bobbi Gill had to wait until the fourth inning for the Pampa Lady Harvesters to record a hit. Tuesday in Perryton, the fifth inning was the only inning Pampa didn't get a hit as it recorded 23 in a 18-2 rout of the Perryton Rangerettes at Rangerette Field.

"I was extremely proud of how our girls offensively performed," Gill said. "They just waited for the good pitches and drove them. I could not have asked for more."

The Lady Harvesters' first six batters got at least one at-bat in each of the first four innings.

Pampa scored two runs in the first and followed with four runs in the second. The third inning was the Lady Harvesters' biggest inning as 15 batters hit, scoring nine runs on 12 hits, mostly coming with two outs. Perryton got two quick outs as senior Heather Coffee flied out and sophomore Alexa O'Brien was thrown out at second trying to stretch a single into a double. Junior Martecia Alexander started the rally with a RBI single to center. Unfortunately, Alexander's day ended shortly after. Alexander was stealing third when the throw went into the outfield. She raced home and collided with the catcher, knocking the ball out to score, but injured her hand on the play.

"Martecia has stitches in her right hand," Gill said. "She will be good to go in a few days. She's a trooper."

Senior Kaylene Wyant replaced

Alexander at third and got an RBI single in her first at-bat. Junior Tiffany Britton and senior Alanna Stephens provided Pampa's key hits in the third as Britton hit a three-run home run and Stephens followed with a solo shot. The Lady Harvesters led 15-0 after three innings.

Britton had a strong performance at the plate as she was 4 for 4, only a triple shy of the cycle, driving in six runs. Senior McKinlee Stokes and O'Brien were also 4 for 4, with Stokes driving in one run and O'Brien three. Seven of the nine Lady Harvesters' starters recorded at least two hits and one RBI.

Defensively, Coffee started in the circle for the first time since March 24, also against Perryton. Coffee limited the Rangerettes to two runs on six hits, walked two and struck out three. Gill said it was a great day for her pitcher.

"Coffee did a great job working the corners and keeping the ball around the zone," Gill said. The defense had a solid outing behind its pitcher, only committing one error.

The Lady Harvesters (20-7, 8-0) close district 4:30 p.m. Friday vs. Dalhart at Lady Harvester Field. The game is also Senior Day. Seniors Stephens, Stokes, Coffee, Wyant, Nakayla Hardman and Harley Mayfield will be honored.



Alexander



Coffee

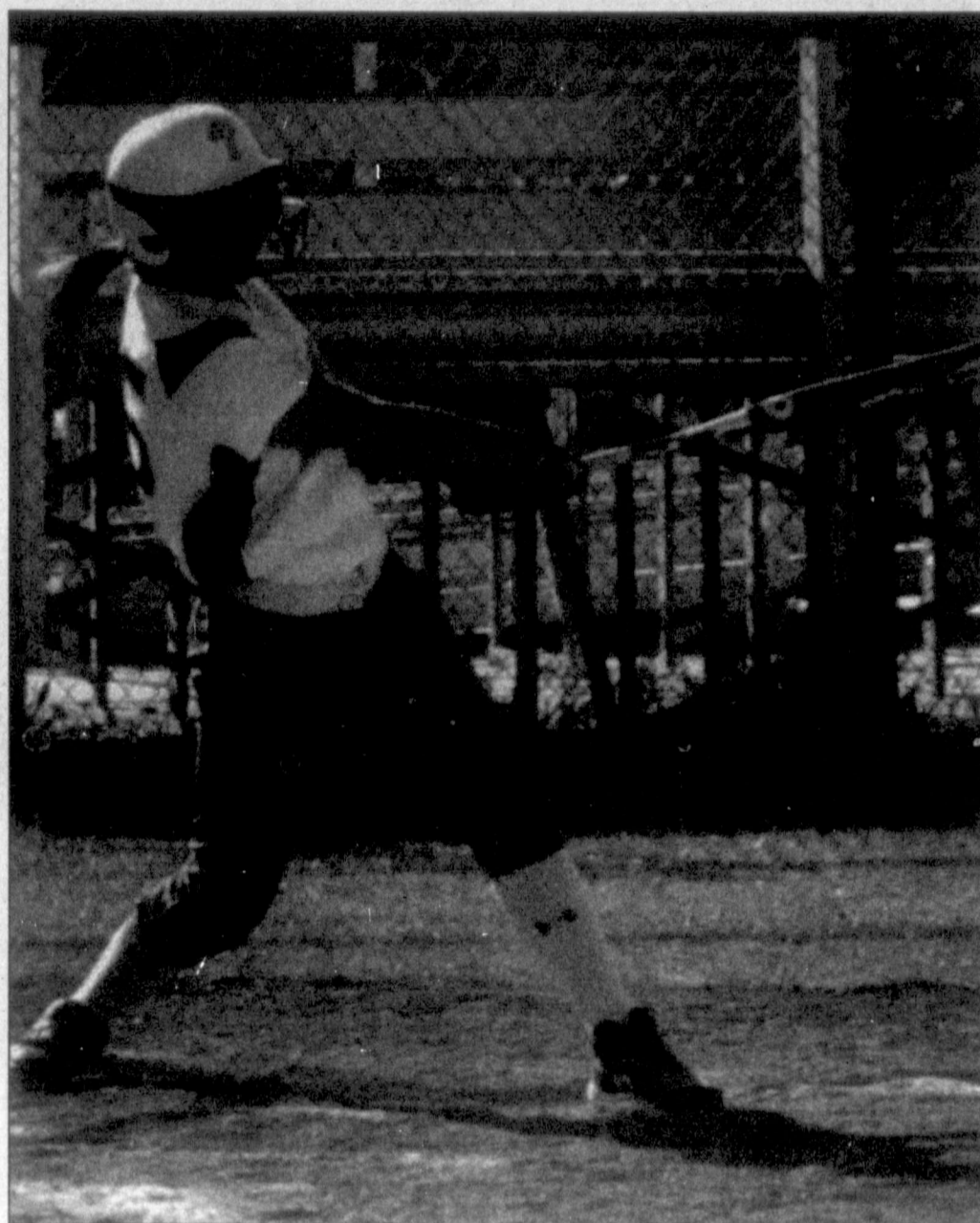


photo courtesy of Christy Wyant

Junior Tiffany Britton hits a three-run home run against Perryton Tuesday. Britton recorded four hits and drove in six runs in a 18-2 victory.

Walk-off single downs Harvesters, knocked to third place

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The District 1-3A baseball race is coming down to the wire. Tuesday's game in Perryton came down to the final inning. Unfortunately the Pampa Harvesters had to watch the Perryton Rangers celebrate scoring the game-winning run in a 6-5 loss Tuesday at Mike Hargrove Field.

"This game could have gone either way," head coach Caleb Snelgrooes said. "We had a guy on second with one out in the seventh inning and couldn't drive him in. We had some chances. We dove after a ball in left field and just missed it by inches."



Snelgrooes

It's a game of inches and it went their way tonight. "Couldn't be more proud of our kids, we just fought and fought."

The Rangers jumped out to a 3-1 lead. Blake Turner scored on an error by senior Trace Carter in the first. Garrett Good hit a RBI single in the second to score Heath Dorman. Turner scored on a passed ball. The Harvesters' bats got going in the fourth inning. Senior Jared Lusk led off with a single, senior Collin Killgo followed with a double. Senior Devin Coleman followed with a two-RBI double, tying the game. Coleman gave Pampa the lead, scoring on an error by the catcher. Junior Taylor Woods hit a sacrifice fly scoring senior Zach



Coleman



Killgo

Graves. "We hit the ball well and put some runs up," Snelgrooes said. "Their pitcher kept us off balance but we scattered the ball across the field." Perryton came back in the bottom half. The Harvesters looked like they were going get out of the inning quickly as junior James Thompson struck out the first two batters. Thompson walked the next two and Ivan Villagran made Pampa pay with a triple to right, tying the game at five. Pampa had a runner reach second in the fifth but Coleman struck out swinging to end the inning. In the seventh, Thompson doubled with one out but was stranded after Lusk struck out and junior Jordan Lemons

lined out. The Harvesters got the leadoff batter out in the bottom of the seventh but that was it. Keven Becerril singled to right, Kade Keeth reached on an error. Snelgrooes had Thompson intentionally walk the next batter to set up a force at every base. The strategy backfired as Keagan Willeford singled to left to end the game.

The loss knocks Pampa into third place and gives Perryton the head-to-head tiebreaker. The Harvesters need to beat Dalhart on Saturday and hope for Borger to beat Perryton, to still have a chance at a district title. Snelgrooes said Dalhart is the more important game.

"It's kind of like last year," Snelgrooes said. "It's nice to be in the playoffs. We are fighting for seeding and we want to be district champs. We got to beat Dalhart first."

T-shirt design in College Station botches SEC teams' locations

A Texas-based apparel company, Aggieland Outfitters, recalled a handful of T-shirts on Tuesday after they were ridiculed online for having some geographic mistakes.

The maroon shirt has an "SEC" logo emblazoned on a mapped section of U.S. states, ostensibly representing members of the league. But North Carolina, which does not have a team in the conference, is included and

Missouri is not. Missouri and Texas A&M are both leaving the Big 12 for the SEC this year.

Texas is on the back of the shirt, not the front.

The shirt was produced by Aggieland Outfitters, which has three outlets in College Station. A&M spokesman Jason Cook said the company is a private business and not affiliated with the school. Aggieland Outfitters marketing director Dallas

Shipp said only "a few dozen" shirts were printed and they've been taken off the shelves and the company's website. He said the original shirt design did not include North Carolina, but when the artist drew the map, it was added by mistake.

"We would like to apologize for a T-shirt that has come under fire for its inaccuracies," the company said. "Many members of the media, especially those connected to other schools in Texas, have insinuated that Texas A&M made these shirts,

and that Texas A&M doesn't know geography. That's simply not

true. Aggieland Outfitters designed the shirt and simply made a mistake."

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Senate race turns ugly with Dewhurst ad

WEDDING BELLS

AUSTIN (AP) — The Republican campaign for Texas' U.S. Senate seat took a new negative turn Tuesday, as Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst released a statewide television ad attacking attorney Ted Cruz for representing a Chinese tire company in a dispute with an American businessman.

The 60-second ad criticizes Cruz for representing Shandong Linglong Rubber Co., in its appeal of a \$26 million jury award to American inventor Jordan Fishman.

The ad — to be aired on broadcast and cable outlets — is Dewhurst's first negative TV ad and zeroes in on Cruz, a former Texas solicitor general who is a tea party favorite. Also running for the Senate seat

in the May 29 Republican primary are former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert and former college and NFL football player and television analyst Craig James.

Cruz also released a new statewide television ad Tuesday touting his defense of a desert cross honoring World War I veterans as constitutional.

Fishman accused Shandong Linglong of stealing blueprints for a tire he developed and sued in federal court for patent infringement. He won in 2010, but the company appealed and the case is still pending.

The Dewhurst ad features Fishman criticizing Cruz for defending the Chinese company against an American inventor. Cruz has represented cor-

porate clients for the past four years as an attorney for the national firm of Morgan, Lewis and Bockius.

"He's putting profit over principle," Dewhurst campaign spokesman Matt Hirsch said. "Ted Cruz is running on his record. If he wants to talk about his record, we're going to talk about it too."

Hirsch refused to say how long the ad will run or how much it cost the Dewhurst campaign.

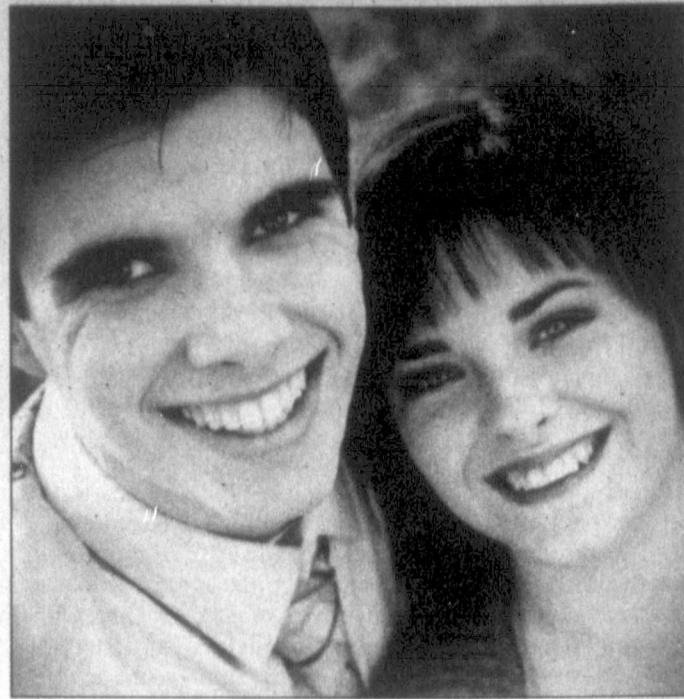
In a statement, the Cruz campaign downplayed the lawsuit and appeal as a "dispute between two private parties."

"Ted works in the private sector as an appellate lawyer at a major law firm that represents clients on different sides of litiga-

tion," his campaign said. "One of the clients of the firm is a tire company based in China."

Cruz's ad touts his legal work to defend a cross placed on Sunrise Rock in California's Mojave National Preserve in 1934 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. A retired National Park Service employee had sued for its removal, complaining it was a religious symbol on public land.

The Cruz ad says he worked closely with Kelly Shackelford of the conservative Liberty Institute to win a 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2010 to let the cross stay. The Cruz campaign did not immediately release how long the ad would run or how much it cost.



Morgan Simpson and Ashley Hainer

Simpson, Hainer to wed

Rev. Errol and Dena Hainer of Amarillo announce the upcoming wedding of their daughter, Ashley Hainer, to Morgan Simpson of Dumas. Morgan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Simpson, also of Dumas. The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Bob and Patsy Bright, of Pampa

and great-granddaughter of the late Floyd and Mabel Adams of Pampa.

The wedding will take place on Saturday, April 21, at 3 p.m. at Redeemer Christian Church (formerly West Amarillo Christian Church), 3701 Sony Road, Amarillo, TX.

cont. from page 1A

LIFESTAR

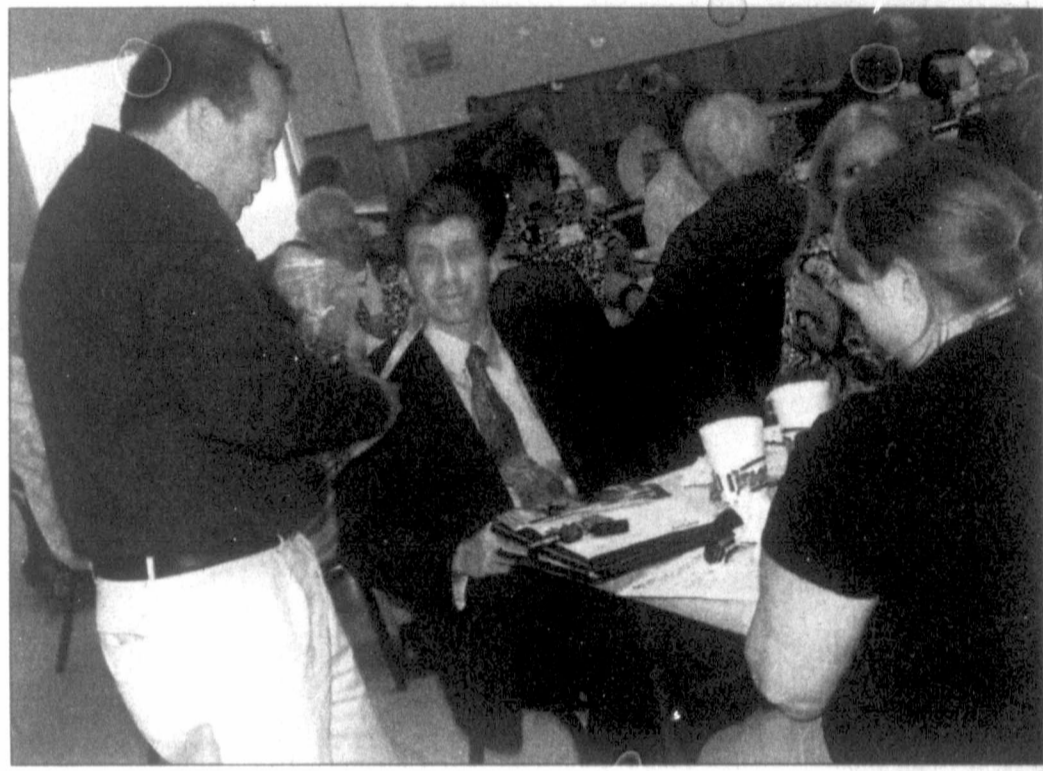
wait for a medical trained person be there."

Wiggs added that LIFESTAR are working on getting together a high risk OB team.

"It will consist of a flight crew and an OB nurse from Northwest," Riggs said. "We already have a neonatal flight team, which consists of a neonatal respiratory unit and neonatal nurse."

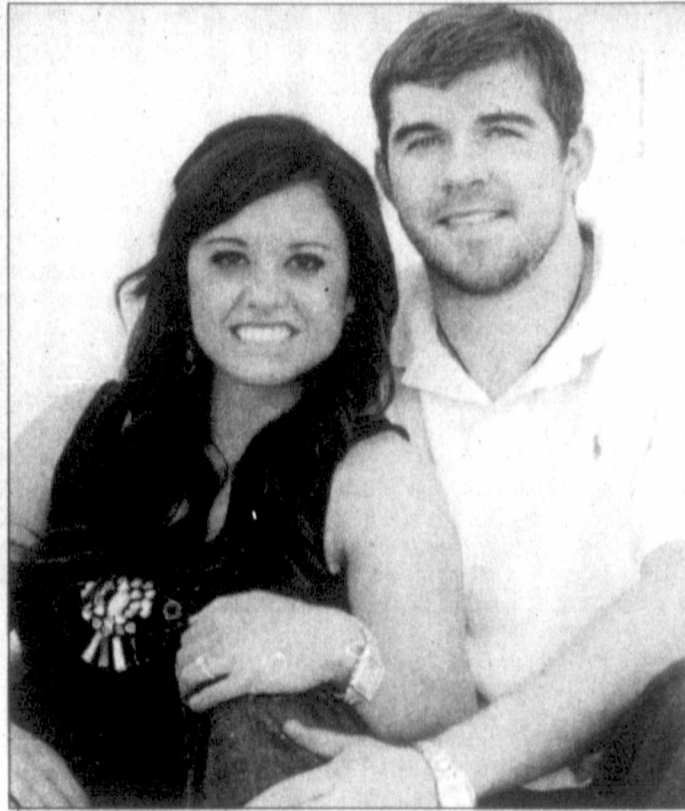
Lovelace used LIFESTAR will use as many of its resources as it can if multiple helicopters are needed or there isn't one in the area.

"If there is an accident that require multiple aircraft, (LIFESTAR) will get as many as it needs," Lovelace said. "There was an accident in the Wheeler-area that had three helicopters and one fixed wing and four people got flown out."



staff photo by **Amie Aurellano**

LIFESTAR's Michael Wiggs hands out LIFESTAR brochures to Chamber of Commerce luncheon attendees Jason Ferguson and Holly Neill of the District Attorney's Office.



Nicole Clark and James Coffee

Clark, Coffee to wed

Layne and Mary Clark of Pampa, announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter Nicole, of Lubbock to James Coffee, also of Lubbock. The wedding is planned for June 23, 2012, at the First Baptist Church, in Pampa.

Nicole will graduate from Texas Tech University in May 2012 with a BA degree in History and a minor in Secondary Education. James is the son of Clyde and Marsha Coffee of Pampa. He will graduate from Texas Tech University in May 2012 with a BLA degree in Landscape Architecture and a minor in Geology.

Nicole will graduate from Texas Tech University

cont. from page 1A

CTE

of them we can meet the certification needs. When (students) exit our program, they can be certified in that area. Some of them will be at the entry level and they can go on to Clarendon College and then finish the certification there, because some of them have age limits of them. ... We're trying to make them mesh, where we're either meeting the needs in the community or they can go into continuing education here to finish their certification."

The PISD conducted a similar survey last year.

"Last year, we surveyed the business community," said Crow. "We surveyed the teachers of the high school and junior high and the elementary, and we surveyed the students. This year, we're surveying the business community again, and we will do the students within

each of the courses there at Pampa High School. We're going to take the data and look at it and see what changes we need to make."

That data will be considered by the Career and Technical Education advisory board later in the year, according to Crow.

"Our next advisory board meeting is in May, and we'll look at the results of the survey and see what we can do in the immediate and what will take some time to implement. If they need a new course (for example), that would take us some

time to implement."

The survey helps fulfill a requirement for a \$44,000 federal Carl D. Perkins grant for the district, Crow said. Perhaps more importantly, though, Crow said that the survey helps both the district and the community: The district by helping it provide the best education for the kids, and Pampa itself by providing a more prepared local workforce.

"(The survey) is very important," Crow said. "That determines what we can do to help (Pampa employers). I do the work-based learn-

ing program and I have 25 kids that work out in the community, so I'm always looking to see if I can meet those needs with the employers. We want the students to be trained in to be able to make that transition easier from school to work. It's very important to the success of the (CTE) program."

The survey was handed out to luncheon guests, and more copies are available at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, 200 N. Ballard, if other Pampa employers want to give feedback.

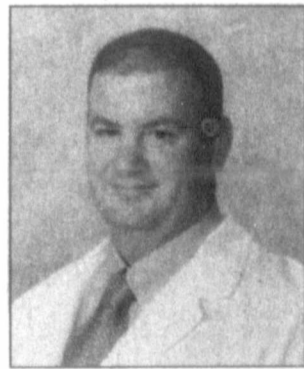
McDonald's

cont. from page 1A

Everything else is all brand new."

The Pampa McDonald's will be the last of the Bendas' four franchises (they also own the McDonald's restaurants in Borger, where they live, as well as Perryton and Guymon, Okla.) to reopen, and Marietta said that the couple was excited to have the restaurant reconnect with the Pampa community.

"We've lived in the Panhandle for 17 years," Marietta said. "We believe in Pampa. We love Pampa, even though we don't live here. We're very proud of our employees. We're very proud of our business, and we want to be the best."



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Texas wheat better than anyone dared hope in some areas

ROBERT BURNS
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

COLLEGE STATION — Much of Texas wheat looks better than anyone expected a few months ago, said a Texas AgriLife Extension Service agronomist.

"It's been a very interesting year," said David Drake, San Angelo. "It started out dry everywhere. Farmers had to plant wheat with faith that it would actually come up."

Last winter, climatologists were forecasting the winter and early spring would be drier and warmer than average because of a strong La Niña, Drake noted.

The year did turn out to be warmer. Lubbock, for example, recorded the second-warmest March on record.

But despite the forecasts, many areas received substantial rains. In some cases, such as North Central Texas, the spring was much wetter than average. The moisture, in combination with the above-average temperatures, resulted in excellent growing conditions for wheat, Drake said.

Not everyone benefited, he noted. Some farmers, expecting unfavorable weather, cut back on fertilization and other inputs, and may have even seeded at lower rates.

"It put us in a situation where farmers who did not cut back on inputs are going to be able to capitalize on those potential yields," Drake said. "Those farmers who applied enough fertilizer, used a decent seeding rate and didn't cut corners — they're going to do alright. They're going to get a bumper crop in some areas."

In other areas, cutting back on inputs may have been the right plan. Drake noted large parts of the Panhandle and Far West Texas are still moisture-deficit.

Overall, Drake said his best guess at this time was that total yield for the state was likely to be average, though it was far from being an average year weather-wise. He noted, however, that even on an average year, it's hard to predict statewide



grain yield as wheat is a multi-use crop. This year, more farmers than usual may be baling wheat for hay to rebuild stocks.

Wheat planting was up in 2012 to 5.8 million acres with 4.4 million intended for grain harvest as of March 30, Drake said.

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

AgriLife Extension district reporters compiled the following summaries for April 2-8:

PANHANDLE: Dry, windy conditions and above-average temperatures continued in most of the region. A few isolated areas reported receiving scattered showers. Soil moisture was mostly very short to short. Wheat was mostly in poor condition. Farmers continued field preparations for spring planting. Rangeland and pastures were in mostly very poor to poor condition. Ranchers were still providing supplemental feed to cattle.

ROLLING PLAINS: Some counties received really heavy rain and high winds, with small hail falling in some areas. Some wheat was knocked down, but due more to rain and wind than hail. Other counties remained dry. Many pastures were in good condition and producing quality grazing for livestock. More rain will be needed with-

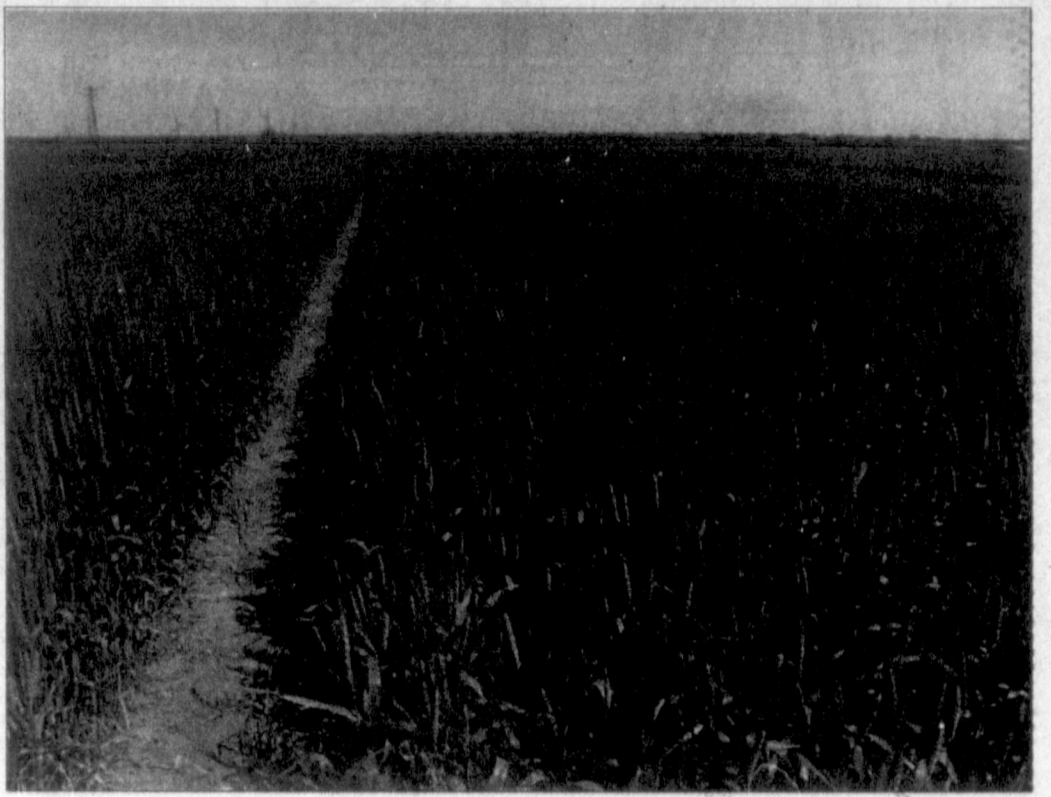


photo courtesy of Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Some farmers who challenged the odds this year and didn't cut corners on wheat inputs may be rewarded with a potential bumper crop this year — if they received rain, such as this field in Concho County did.

in the next few weeks for grasses to continue to grow. Most winter wheat producers were baling to replenish depleted hay supplies. A lot of wheat was cut and waiting to be baled when the rain came and will probably have to be raked again to allow it to dry and cure. Cattle on wheat pastures were in good condition, as were those that were moved to rye pastures. Ponds and livestock tanks remained low, but with a few more good rains, levels should increase back to normal. Cotton farmers have begun listing fields in hope of planting soon. They have booked seed for this year's crop and have a positive outlook as soil moisture was good. Soil temperatures were nearly high enough

for planting.

SOUTH PLAINS: The region remained dry, with above-average wind and temperatures, and below-average rainfall. More producers were drilling wells in order to be able to pre-water fields in preparation for spring planting. In some counties, insurance adjusters were evaluating failed winter wheat. Pasture and rangeland improved for awhile thanks to earlier light rains, but that green up was mostly gone. Supplemental feeding continued.

Drought sparks water supply dispute between Texas, Mexico

McALLEN (AP) — Melted snow providing water for irrigation had barely begun bubbling down a bone-dry Rio Grande toward a thin 4-mile-wide strip of farmland straddling the U.S.-Mexico border when a war of words erupted.

Mexico wanted a traditional early release from reservoirs so spring planting wouldn't be delayed. Texas farmers, fearing a historic drought could tighten its grip again this summer, wanted to delay the release for a couple of months to ensure enough water was left to help crops survive the hottest, driest part of the year.

Dividing the Rio Grande's waters is a complicated annual undertaking governed by arcane agreements and imperfect calculations. When there's plenty of water it flows smoothly, but with farmers on both sides of the border confronting severe drought — officials expect to have about one-third of the water of a normal year — Texas officials quickly lashed out an international commission's decision to release the water, accusing it of putting Mexico's water needs ahead of drought-stricken Texas farmers in the El Paso Valley.

Mexico is guaranteed a fraction of the water from Rocky Mountain snows that drain into two New Mexico reservoirs. Once released, the water flows down the Rio Grande toward Texas, where it's diverted to Texas and Mexican farmers by dams. Local irrigation districts move the water through canals to farmers' fields.

With water expected to be scarce this year, two irrigation districts in New Mexico and Texas — which received most of the water — decided in February to take their first deliveries in May rather than in March as they typically do. The idea was to delay the irrigation season in an effort to stretch what little water would be available to the end of the growing season.

But this posed a problem for Mexican farmers who

need water to get their cotton started in late March and April. Mexico asked the International Boundary and Water Commission, a binational body charged with applying the treaties governing the river and boundary, to take its share in March.

The IBWC ordered the water released, and Texas farmers accepted it, although under protest.

It's more efficient to move a lot of water than a little, especially when the riverbed has been a sandy sponge for months. Irrigation dis-

tricts estimate twice as much water will be lost to seepage than delivered to Mexico in this release, and those losses come out of the U.S. share, not Mexico's.

"The March delivery request is very normal for Mexico," IBWC spokeswoman Sally Spener said. "What caused the concern was that in an ideal world everybody would take the deliveries at the same time because that's a more efficient way of moving water."

Farmers in West Texas are trying to make the best of the

situation, planting more now to take advantage of the early release but knowing it might mean they run out of water before the end of the growing season.

"It's a mixed blessing," said Kevin Ivey, who grows cotton, pecans and other crops near El Paso. "I'm getting water on the alfalfa where I need it. However it's going to affect our total allotment by the end of the year."

The IBWC's U.S. commissioner said he followed a 1906 agreement when siding with Mexico in March. But a letter issued this month by Texas agriculture and environmental officials said the decision violates terms of the deal and "results in the protection of Mexico's citizens at the expense of U.S. citizens."

Jesus Armando Reta Mar, delegate for Mexico's agri-

culture secretariat in the Juarez Valley, just across the border from El Paso, was aware of Texas' unhappiness with the IBWC's recent decision, but said his farmers had no choice as they face the country's worst drought since the government began tracking rainfall in 1941.

Mexico requires its farmers to have their cotton established by May 15, so they must plant earlier, he said.

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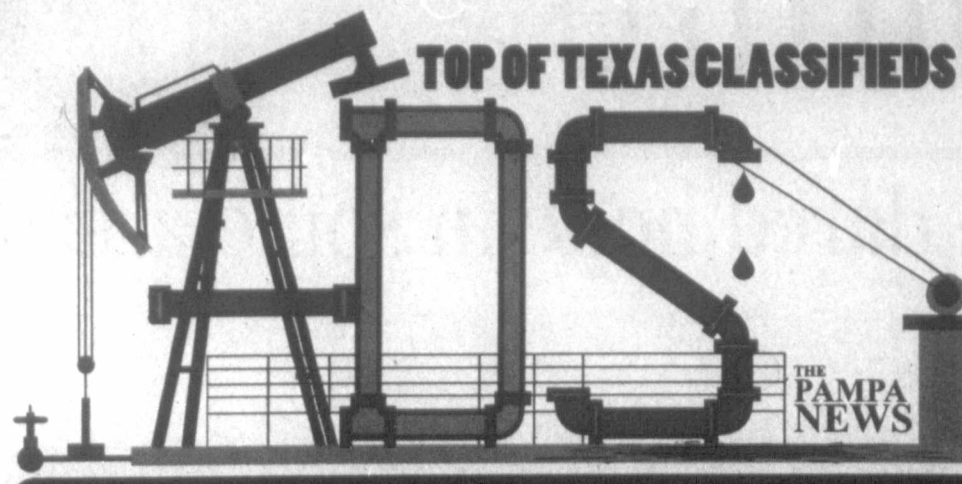
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114 Recre. Veh.

07 Montana Mountaineer 5th Wheel, 36', 3 slides, a/c, heater, gas/elec 10 gal. H2O heater. Qu. bed, encl shower, awning, A/C, ceiling fan, tv w/ dvd, pwr front jacks, lrg fridge, sleeper sofa bed. Very Clean! \$29,900. 806-662-1056

115 Trailer Parks

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

120 Autos

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

FOR Sale 97 Saturn SW (White), good on fuel. Clean, runs great, asking \$2,988 OBO. Call 665-0832, 440-9100 cell.


IDEAL FOR COLLECTORS! 1979 Pontiac TransAm. White / blue, lrg bird on hood. One owner! 24,500 actual miles, 6.6 L, 403 Eng. Auto. transmission. All original. Good price. \$21,900. Call 806-665-4836

1996 Honda Accord V6

\$2000 obo 580-641-6385

2007 Suburban *Fully Loaded* DVD Remote Start Leather 4 Wheel Drive 119,000 Miles *\$20,000* 580-641-6385

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-Ed Barker, Pampa

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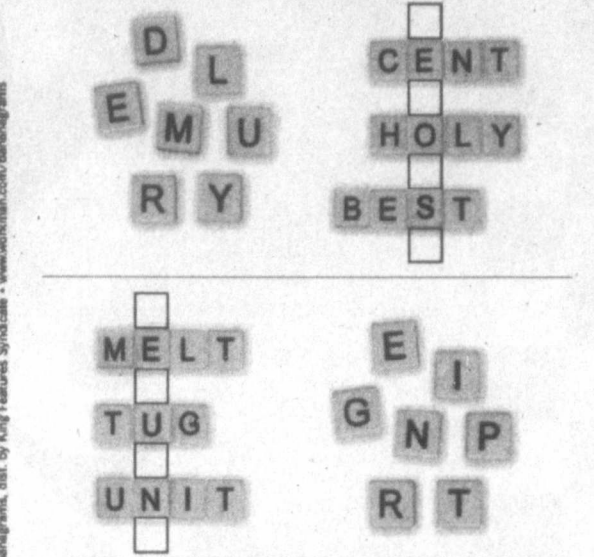
Call Beverly Today! **669-2525**

The Best Stuff Sale 

BANANAGRAMS!

In each puzzle, use four of the tiles from the bunch to fill in the blanks and make a seven-letter word that connects the grid.

LEVEL



Yesterday's Answer: PANDA/MADAM, PRICE/FOUND, NIECE/CLEFT

4-18

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

96 Unfurn. Apts.

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

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

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

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

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

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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

98 Unfurn. Houses

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

99 Stor. Bldgs.

UGLY scratch & dent Morgan buildings. 12'x20' Morgan barn. Must see-Make Offer! 806-358-4559.

102 Bus. Rental

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

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

121 Trucks

2008 F150 FORD SUPERCAB 4 new tires. Toolbox, & headache rack. CD player. Interior in good shape! ONE OWNER. \$13,000 or best offer. 806-835-2469

FOR Sale 1998 White Dodge Dakota Sport, good condition, 5 speed, extended cab, power locks & windows, low mileage, \$4,500. Call 663-6244.

122 Motorcycles

For Sale, 2000 Harley Custom Softtail 13,000 miles, black with blue flames, 88 cubic inch with Big Bore Kit, custom wheels. Raked out, tons of chrome. \$13,000 or best offer. Always kept in garage. Call (806) 663-3057.

2007 HARLEY SPORSTER 1200

4900 Miles White Gold Pearl Excellent Shape!! \$7500 Call 663-6317

126 Boats & Access.

1984 Larson 16 ft. V-Hull Inboard-Outboard \$4000 Call 669-9245

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SAT. Only 8am-?? 1201 S. Tulip. Lots of baby clothes, children's toys, camping gear! **for only \$7 Good** it lines for 7 days and get a FREE Garage Sale Sign!

SAT ONLY! 8am-?? 1201 S. Tulip Lots of baby clothes, children's toys, camping gear & misc. **for only \$12 Better** 1 x 1.5 Classified Display Ad for 7 days and get a FREE Garage Sale Kit!

It's Yard Sale Season!

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SAT. ONLY 8am-?? 1201 S. Tulip LOTS OF BABY CLOTHES TOYS CAMPING GEAR MISC. **for only \$21 Best** 1 x 3 Classified Display Ad for 7 days and get a FREE Garage Sale Kit!

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

39 "Okla-homa!"
1 Seaside setting
5 Boot part
9 Warning sound
11 Act the waiter
12 Blasting stuff
13 Packing feat
14 Tennis of certain machines
17 Bank business
19 Once called
20 Girder material
21 Tie the knot
22 Stage comment
24 Blue
26 Heart part
29 Fix seams
30 Dis-patching
32 Un-decided
34 Put away
35 Stellar hunter
36 Stellar scales
38 Signs a lease

DOWN

1 Venice sight
2 "— Res-taurant"
3 Gadget protector
4 Screw up of re-ferm
5 Grazing charging
6 Kingly fur way
7 Made loosely
8 Pigeon's perch
10 Multiplex offering
11 Warbled
16 Pep up
18 In need of re-ferm
21 Join, in a way
23 Hang loosely
24 Become furious
25 Storefront sight
27 Practical
28 Main dish
29 Future fern
30 Confes-sion list
31 Bike parts
33 Be too fond
37 Suffering

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		11		
12					13		
14			15	16			
17		18				19	
20					21		
	22			23			
24	25			26		27	28
29			30				31
32		33				34	
35					36	37	
38					39		
40							41

4-18

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