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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Wednesday, March 6, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 254

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 \$1.50 weekend Day 2 of Severe Weather Awareness Week | p3 PHS golf, JV track and soccer results | p9-10
 38¢ subscription

Old middle school to be redeveloped



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

The old Pampa Middle School will be torn down and redeveloped as a location for town homes, restaurants and other businesses.

Public will see Open Range's residential, commercial development plan on March 23.

By **TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE**
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

Observant drivers have probably seen the row of "Commercial Tract Available" signs on the property of the old Pampa Middle School on Perryton Parkway.

If you call the phone number on those signs, you reach Open Range Development, the company that bought the old school and its property in 2012 from the Pampa Independent School District.

The sale was approved by the PISD

school board on Aug. 28.

Pampa Middle School closed in spring of 2010 and classes began at the new Pampa Junior High School in the fall of that year.

The middle school was built in 1958 and several additions were added over the years, with the last in 1998. The building is now about 129,000 square feet and sits on 18.3 acres of property.

"It has served us well for 52 years," said David Young, PISD superintendent.

The district sold the old school and

property to Open Range for \$75,000, which is a bargain, but there are a couple of strings attached.

The Pampa-based development company must abate, or remove, all of the asbestos and then demolish the old building within three years of the closing date.

"We've already begun the asbestos abatement in both of the gyms," said Stephen Nelson, a partner with Open Range Development.

Nelson said Open Range has hired a company that specializes in asbestos abatement and the process will work in stages.

As the asbestos is removed, a demolition will ensue in that par-
SCHOOL cont. on page 3

HARD AT WORK



Photo by Zachary Green

Jacob Crippen is hard at work as he hands Jon Cox his No. 44 jersey from the equipment locker room. Crippen was the Pampa Hustlin' Harvesters equipment manager for the past two seasons.

PHS student Crippen helps basketball team in many ways

By **ZACHARY GREEN**
 zgreen@thepampanews.com

Jacob Crippen is a senior at Pampa High School. What you may not know is that he is also the basketball equipment manager for the Hustlin' Harvesters and a firefighter for the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department.

Crippen has been the equipment manager for the past two years. It is his job to make sure balls get put up after practice or on the bus for away games. Another part of his job is to make sure all the players have their jerseys in the locker

room before a game and after the game taking them to the laundry room.

Head Coach Matt Embry even has let Crippen give post-game speeches.

"The team looks forward to his post-game speeches after a win. He gets the players jacked up," Embry said.

Crippen said his favorite part of his job is just getting to be around the team.

"We had eight seniors and when we went to the first round of the playoffs, we brought home a gold ball," Crippen said. "My favorite

memory has to be just how close I got to the team this year."

After he graduates in the spring, he plans to attend Amarillo College.

Crippen hopes to become a basketball coach, whether it is as an assistant or head coach.

He also plans to continue his duty as a volunteer firefighter while attending school.

"This team didn't function as well when Jacob wasn't here," Embry said. "The team respects him. The younger guys have said they will miss him and I will miss

CRIPPEN cont. on page 3

Reach out and touch someone

Pampa's newest firefighter gets job after making a call from Colo., then driving 7 hours for interview.

By **TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE**
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

There's nothing wrong with emailing and posting your resume on websites, but sometimes it's just better to pick up the phone and tell whoever answers that you want the job.

Jason Balmos, the Pampa Fire Department's newest firefighter, might not be here in Pampa if the the PFD didn't list its phone number on its job posting.

When he completed his fire training in August, Balmos said he applied to more than 60 departments. Most of them were in Texas because that's where his certification and training carry the most weight.

"Pampa actually had a phone number, the others just had email addresses," he said.

Balmos dialed the number and got a real person, who told him they were giving tests the very next day to a group of finalists competing for one job. If Balmos could make here in time, he could take the tests, too.

BALMOS cont. on page 3



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

Jason Balmos, center, Pampa's newest firefighter, at the station with equipment operators Jason Roberts, left, and Rick Littlefield.

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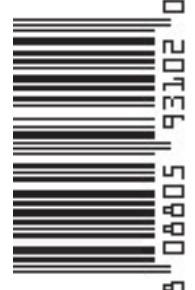
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High 48 Low 22	High 70 Low 43	High 69 Low 46

Today: Sunny with a high of 48. No chance of rain. Winds north northwest at 17 mph. Sunrise at 7:08 a.m.

Tonight: Clear with a low of 22. No chance of rain. Winds south southeast at 13 mph. Sunset at 6:43 p.m.

Thursday: Sunny and windy with a high of 70. No chance of rain. Winds south at 21 mph. Sunrise at 7:05 a.m.

Thursday night: Mostly clear with a low of 43. No chance of rain. Winds south at 15 mph. Sunset at 6:45 p.m.

Friday: Partly cloudy with a high of 69. No chance of rain. Winds south at 19 mph. Sunrise at 7:04 a.m.

Friday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 46. No chance of rain. Winds south southeast at 17 mph. Sunset at 6:46 p.m.

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Obituaries

Delilah Carlene "Grumpe" Reed Hendon Headly Long Flippin

Delilah Carlene "Grumpe" Reed Hendon Headly Long Flippin, 74, died March 5, 2013 in Pampa. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 7, 2013, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Pastor Jimmie Cole of First Church of the Nazarene, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. According to her wishes, Mrs. Flippin's body was donated to the Texas Tech School of Medicine.



Delilah Flippin



Delilah Flippin

Mrs. Flippin was born May 4, 1938 in Artesia, N.M. She attended schools in Pampa and later attended Draughton's Business School in Fort Worth. She was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 13 years, was a truck driver, a waitress and a cashier at Walmart. She enjoyed sewing, embroidery and ceramics. She was married to Thomas Leroy Hendon of Gordo, Ala. He preceded her in death in 1962. She later married Rance Ray "Shorty" Long of Pauls Valley, Okla. He preceded her in death in 1989. She then married Carl Leonard "Happy Waters" Flippin of Bullhead City, Nev. He preceded her in death in 2008. She was a very loving wife, mother and grandmother, and particularly enjoyed helping others in need. Delilah will be fondly remembered in Pampa as "Grumpe." Above all, her first priority was her family, both immediate and extended. Her life ended too soon but the imprint she made will last a lifetime. She was preceded in death by her parents, Oda and Edith Reed; two sons, Jimmy Dale "Tyky" Hendon and Carl Wade Hendon; a daughter, Donalita Aileen "Tiny" Hendon; a brother, Truman Weldon Reed; and a nephew, Julian Winfred Long.

Survivors include two daughters, Chrystal Varley and husband Patrick of Keller, and Sherylene Freudenrich and husband Randy, all of Pampa; a son: Clarence "Buddy" Hendon of Azle; two sisters, Dolores Chrystene Reed-Coffey and husband Donald of Chester, Va., and Mary Odean Reed-Harrison of Pampa; a brother: Danny Ray Reed, Sr., of Pottsboro; 12 grandchildren, Shannon Powers and husband Chris Hawkins of Fort Worth, Thomas Varley and Michael Varley, both of Keller, Jason Thomas Hendon of Spring, Shawnee Nichole Radford of Flower Mound, Simona Smith and husband Johnny, Solomon Cruz and wife Kandice, Amanda Harkins, Senecia Becker, and Ryan Freudenrich and wife Elizabeth, all of Pampa, Amber Dawson and Nicole Dawson, both of Muskogee, Okla.; a great-granddaughter, Adalynn Dawson of Muskogee, Okla.; nieces and nephews, Tabitha Villarreal and husband Roger, Danny Ray "Doc" Reed, Rita Jo Kimbrell and husband Gene, Roy Dean Reed and wife Kathy, Susan Michelle "Shelley" Campbell and husband Don, all of Pampa, Odath Ray Reed of Miss., Clayton Lewis Reed and Anthony Christopher Reed, both of Florida, Beverly Jane Chinnery of Glenpool, Okla., Laura Williams and Martha Reed, both of Fort Worth, and Randall Reed of Keller, and a wealth of grand nieces and grand nephews.

Memorials may be made to Shepard's Crook Home Health Care, 916 N. Crest Road, Pampa, Texas 79065,

or City Church Outreach Ministry, 205 S. Polk St., Amarillo, Texas 79101.

Sign the on-line register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

Nancy Fletcher Ryan

Nancy Fletcher Ryan, 61, died March 4, 2013 in Pampa.

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

Mrs. Ryan was born Sept. 17, 1951 in Robert Lee, Texas. She married Rufus Ryan on Feb. 15, 1995. Nancy had been a resident of Pampa for the past 22 years. She was a Methodist and a caring and loving wife.

Survivors include her husband, Rufus Ryan of the home; a daughter, Alicia Morgan of Shamrock; a brother, Claude Fletcher, Jr., of San Angelo; two sisters, Donnie Jackson and husband Jerry and Fran Fletcher, all of San Angelo; two grandchildren, Paris Smith and Curtissa White, both of Shamrock; and a special cousin, Raymond Powdrill of San Angelo.

Sign the on-line register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

Bonnie Lea Rose Ward

Bonnie Lea Rose Ward, 89, died March 4, 2013 in Pampa.

Memorial graveside services will be held at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Ward was born Oct. 20, 1923 in Pampa to Bonnie and Agnes Rose. She was a lifelong resident of Pampa and was a graduate of Pampa High School. Bonnie was a member of First Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by a son, William H. Ward of Fort Worth; a grandson, Joseph Brown and wife Melissa of Denham Springs, Louisiana; a granddaughter, Tiffany Cleveland of Houston; two great-grandsons, Russell Brown of Denham Springs, La., and Lee Cleveland of Houston; two cousins, Mary Jane Johnson and husband David and Tom Rose and wife Jan, all of Amarillo.

Memorials may be made to the High Plains Food Bank, 815 Ross Street, Amarillo, Texas 79102.

Sign the on-line register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

Carol Jean Brown

Carol Jean Brown, 73, died Feb. 28, 2013 in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7, 2013, at First Baptist Church, with the Rev. Trey Wells, youth minister of First Baptist Church, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Brown was born Aug. 14, 1939 in Wichita, Kan. She had been a California resident most of her life where she worked for the State of California for more than 20 years. She had been a resident of Pampa for the past five months.

Survivors include two sons, David Schuck and Douglas Brown, both of Pampa; two brothers, Phillip Cook of Fla., and Larry Cook of Calif.; a sister, Lou Ann Holmes of Canby, Ore.; three grandchildren, Christopher Schuck, Brittney Schuck and Andrew Schuck, all of Pampa; and a daughter-in-law, Robin Schuck of Pampa.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, Texas 79066-0621.

Sign the on-line register at Carmichael-whatley.com.

For the record

Pampa woman arrested for theft of property

• Krayla Schroeder, 41, Pampa, was arrested Tuesday by the Pampa Police Department on theft of property charges.

• Carl Hinds, 29, Pampa, was arrested Monday by the Gray County Sheriff's

Office on a violation of protective order charge.

• Theodore Whittle, 38, Pampa, was arrested Monday by GCSO on two bond surrender charges. One for possession of a controlled substance and one for the manufacturing and delivery of a controlled substance.

• Randy Matthews, 37, Amarillo, was arrested Tuesday by GCSO on probation charge for the a violation of probation abandonment/endangerment of a child — criminal controlled substance — en-

DPS meth busts net nearly 12 pounds

SUBMITTED BY DPS

AMARILLO — The Texas Department of Public Safety made two meth busts on Interstate 40, one Sunday morning and another Saturday night, that combined yielded nearly 12 pounds of methamphetamine with a value of \$472,700.

The larger bust was for 7.5 pounds of meth valued at \$309,855.

At approximately 10:19 a.m. Sunday, a DPS trooper conducted a traffic stop on a 2012 Mazda 3, traveling eastbound on I-40 on a traffic violation. The traffic stop was conducted one mile west of Conway in Carson County.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Joy L. Romero, 56, and her

passenger Esmeralda Farias, 47, both residents of Oklahoma City. During the traffic stop, the trooper conducted a search of the vehicle and 7.5 pounds of meth were discovered. The six bundles of meth were located inside the firewall of the vehicle.

The driver and passenger were placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance, a first-degree felony, and booked into the Carson County Jail. The drugs were allegedly being transported from Phoenix to Oklahoma City.

A Carson County K-9 unit was utilized of this search and had a positive alert to the vehicle.

The smaller bust occurred around 6:20 p.m. Saturday.

A DPS trooper conducted a traf-

fic stop on a 1999 Volkswagen Jetta traveling eastbound on Interstate 40 on a traffic violation. The traffic stop was conducted seven miles east of Conway in Carson County.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Lizeth G. Soto-Duarte, 28, of Goodyear, Ariz. During the traffic stop, the trooper conducted a search of the vehicle and 4.2 pounds of meth valued at \$162,810 were discovered. The two bundles of meth were located inside the liner of suitcase located in the vehicle.

The driver was placed under arrest for possession of a controlled substance, a first-degree felony, and booked into the Carson County Jail. The drugs were allegedly being transported from Phoenix to Oklahoma City.

Supporters of TX Medicaid expansion: Perry's 'playing politics'

BY JOHN MICHAELSON
Texas News Service

AUSTIN — More than a thousand people have converged on the State Capitol in Austin today, calling for the expansion of Medicaid in Texas. Each state has the option to do so under the Affordable Care Act, with the federal government covering almost all the additional cost.

However, Governor Rick Perry has been adamantly opposed, saying the system is broken.

Ann Williams Cass, executive director of Proyecto Azteca, and with the Equal Voice Network, said Perry

is playing politics at the expense of Texans' health.

"I think he has aspirations to run for president again in four years, and he wants to make sure that he's the most conservative candidate out there," she declared.

If Texas went ahead with Medicaid expansion, the estimated cost to the state over the next 10 years would be about \$15 billion, but it would pull in more than \$100 billion in federal funding.

It's also estimated, according to Cass, that under the expansion, at least 1.5 million poor people now without health insurance could get coverage.

She added that the need is great, especially in the Rio Grande Valley.

SEVERE WEATHER Awareness Week

Weather Awareness Week day two: lightning safety

STAFF REPORT

Severe weather awareness week continues today with a look at lightning safety.

Here are some lightning safety rules:

- Any lightning safety plan should incorporate the 30/30 rule. The 30/30 rule states that people should seek shelter if the flash to bang delay, that is, the length of time in seconds between a lightning flash and the subsequent thunder is 30 seconds or less.
- Once the thunderstorm is over, remain under cover until 30 minutes have passed since the final clap of thunder was heard.
- Move inside a well constructed house, a large building or an all metal vehicle.
- Stay away from electrical appliances and do not use the telephone.
- If you are in a boat, get off the water and into a substantial building or at least into an enclosed and all-metal vehicle with the windows closed.
- If you are caught in an open metal boat lie down in the boat with cushions between you and the metal

sides and bottom.

• If you are caught outdoors, get down to avoid being the highest nearby point.

• If you are caught in a flat open field or if you feel your hair standing on end, crouch down and cover your head with your hands. That way, only the balls of your feet will touch the ground.

• Move away from motorcycles, scooters, golf carts, bicycles, tractors and other metal farm equipment.

• Avoid wire fences, clothes lines, metal pipes, drains, railroad tracks and other metallic objects.

• Avoid solitary trees and the tallest trees.

• Avoid standing in a small isolated shed or in any small ungrounded structure.

• If you are within a group of people in an open area everyone should spread out before kneeling down.

Thursday's paper will discuss the topic of tornado safety. Friday's paper will discuss the topic of flash floods. Saturday's paper will discuss NOAA weather radios.

Balmos

Continued From Page 1

Balmos had called from Beuna Vista, Colo., a town two hours south of Denver, where he was finishing up his physical training.

"I had to drive seven hours right away to get here," he said.

Balmos said out of the six or seven who took the written test, he was one of only two that passed.

Balmos knew his odds were 50/50 going into the physical test, but things worked out in his favor.

"I made it and the other guy didn't," he said.

Balmos, who turns 31 next week, started his job at PFD in mid September

last year.

He had never worked as a firefighter before, but was inspired by a soccer buddy in New Braunfels, where Balmos also was living before he relocated to Pampa. He is a native of San Antonio.

"The guy was on my soccer team and would play together in games in San Antonio," Balmos said. "He was a firefighter and got me interested. I wanted to do something worthwhile with my life."

Asked if actually being a firefighter meets whatever expectations he had while in training, Balmos answered, "It's everything I wanted it to be plus a lot more."

While some fire departments may talk about working together as a team, he said at Pampa

that really happens.

"Brotherhood is loosely used in a lot of places, but a lot of times it's dog eat dog," he said. "But people here work together as a team. They help you succeed."

Along with the serious tasks of keeping the public safe, Balmos said he and he coworkers like to have a little fun sometimes.

"We do pranks, we tease each other, but it's all in good fun," he said.

Asked what he thought about the department's newest recruit, equipment operator Jason Roberts quipped, "He's a good cook." Then Roberts got serious and added, "He's a great guy with a good head on his shoulders. He's been through some tough stuff here lately and

hung in there. He should do all right."

On Roberts' comment about his cooking, Balmos said he is just one of several PFD firefighters who like to rustle up dinner. He said there is a kitchen at the department, and its rare when they go out to a restaurant because they prefer to prepare their own meals.

"I love to cook," he said. "That's how I made my living for several years."

In his six months at PFD, Balmos said he has responded to two fully involved fires and went out on a variety of medical calls.

He wants to keep doing what he's doing for a long time.

"I want to stay in this as a career."

School

Continued From Page 1

ticular section of the school. He could not say when the last wall of the old school will be knocked down, because that depends on how long it takes to remove the asbestos, but did say the demolition will be finished well within the three-year window.

Young said when the district had looked into the cost of abatement it was around \$1.2 million.

After the building is demolished, a large-scale development is in the works that includes both residential and commercial entities.

Nelson said they will build both one-story and two-story town homes. The two-story homes will be quads, or four family dwellings in one building. The one-story homes will be in pairs.

He said the town homes



Stephen Nelson

will look like something you might see in Dallas or Houston.

The commercial lots advertised along the highway are to attract mainly new restaurants and other types of businesses, he said.

Between the commercial properties and the residential area there will be an aesthetically pleasing privacy fence, he added.

Anyone interested in purchasing one of the new homes doesn't have to wait until after they are built.

Open Range Development is holding what they are calling a garage sale at the old school from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 23.

"We will be showing the concept of the town homes and people will have the ability to purchase the homes," he said. "Every 30 minutes there will be a new presentation showing what the new development is going to look like."

Also during the garage sale, people will be able to buy some of the stuff in the old school — like furniture, lockers, books and even vinyl records. There will be spaces available for retail vendors, and already several vendors have signed up, Nelson said.

Concurrent with Open Range's garage sale will be another one held by the Pampa High School choir department.

Food will be provided by Desperado's Catering from Amarillo. A groundbreaking for the development will immediately follow the garage sale.

Nelson said the development will be a plus for Pampa.

"Our goal is to do this for the betterment of Pampa," he said. "We want to provide something that hasn't been done before and something that will be nice for the city."

For more information about the garage sale or the town homes, call Open Range Development at 806-665-1115, Ext. 20.



Photo Courtesy of the NOAA Photo Library
Lightning from a storm chase on June 19, 1980 in Norman, Okla. This picture also appeared in a National Geographic Magazine edition.

Crippen

Continued From Page 1

him."

Embry said he was lucky to have Crippen as a student and equipment manager and will miss him in both facets.

"He's got a lot of heart. If every kid took their job as serious as he does this team, this school, this town, this country and this world would be a better place."

"Whether it is carrying balls or jerseys to and from the buses and laundry, Jacob wants to know hours in advance when he should do his job so that he doesn't miss a beat," Embry said.

Hoover Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Joe Millican, had great things to say about Crippen. "Jacob has been a part of our department for a couple of years now. He helps out with grass fires

as part of the junior program. The junior program is for high school kids and they are only allowed to go out on grass fire calls."

Millican added that Crippen started working for the HVFD after he started riding on the trucks in the parades and coming to meetings and awards nights.

"We put him on our department after he took all of his training," Millican said. "He has his own firegear like all of the other firefighters and has mastered quite a bit."

"He is a great person that has never met a stranger. He is a real firecracker when he is around and we are thrilled to have him."

Crippen wants to thank the players, Embry, the Hoover FD, his grandparents, his mom and his step-dad for being there for him and allowing him the chance to be the equipment manager and a volunteer firefighter.

Rescheduled annual agriculture conference set March 21 in Pampa

SUBMITTED

Blizzard conditions forced the postponement of the annual agriculture conference conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Gray County. It will now be held March 21 at the Clyde Carruth Livestock Pavilion in the concession area of the bull barns.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m., and the program will start at 9:30 a.m., according to Brandon McGinty, AgriLife Extension agriculture and natural resources agent for Gray County. There is a \$10 fee for this conference and lunch will be provided by Gray/Roberts Farm Bureau.

Speakers and topics will include:

- Efficient Irrigation Systems, McGinty.

- "Strategic Irrigation Management Using AquaSpy Probes," David Sloane, AquaSpy agronomist, St. Louis, Mo.

- Sorghum Production and Limited Irrigation, Rick Kochenower, Oklahoma State University Extension agronomist, Goodwell, Okla.

- Texas Department of Transportation - Farm Truck Compliance, Chad Brooks, Texas Department of Public Safety, Pampa.

- Commodity Markets and Outlook, Dr. Steve Amosson, AgriLife Extension economist, Amarillo.

- Laws and Regulations, Casey Summers, Texas Department of Agriculture representative, Amarillo.

Five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing

education units will be offered — one in laws and regulations and four general.

Preregistration is requested. Please contact McGinty by March 18 at 806-669-8033 to reserve a seat.

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.

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10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

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Viewpoints

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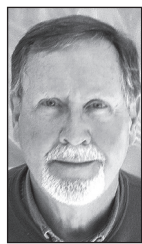
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Prairie Plains Perspective What's happened to Pampa's downtown?

"Now main streets whitewashed windows and vacant stores. Seems like there ain't nobody wants to come down here no more."
"My Hometown" — lyrics by Bruce Springsteen.

Imagine, if you will, the red brick streets of downtown Pampa — Cuyler, Francis, Kingsmill, Foster, Russell and Ballard. Every building occupied with some sort of retail business. Imagine, again, those buildings with cars parked in front, where local citizens, visitors and tourists are inside shopping, dining or outside walking the sidewalks from one business to another. Hard to imagine



DENNIS PALMITIER

you say? Not for me it isn't.

I and others of my generation, along with the remaining Greatest Generation, experienced the reality of such when growing up in this fair burg. There were retail establishments of all sorts, theaters and variety stores — everything our parents and my generation as teenagers needed we could find downtown.

Then came Coronado Center, the Pampa Mall, the energy business decline, the national real estate market collapse, business mergers and closings, rural flight to major metropolitan areas. And the you can give or take 50 years or so of it not being a village in the traditional sense of the word. Carrying on business in downtown Pampa is now nothing but a figment of the good old days. How many empty, boarded up and derelict buildings has downtown Pampa? Save for a few establishments like a pharmacy, office supply, a coffee shop, jewelry store and florist — I'm talking main

street — Cuyler Street — in particular, what comes to mind is darned near that of a ghost town.

There is something just flat wrong about our downtown!

A downtown is for commerce, always has been, it's not for thrift stores or churches. I understand real estate holdings and the need for occupancy, but in the Pampa that I grew up in, churches were placed around and outside downtown. The same for thrift stores like the Salvation Army.

In both Bailey, N.C. and Russellville, Ala., the city councils have banned store-front churches.

Nowadays, downtown buildings that have a place in Pampa's history are nothing but pigeon roosts. Never fails me, while driving into town as my parents and grandparents before me, the first thing that pops into my mind when I see the huge cloud of pigeons flying the downtown sky is Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds." Pardon the digression (or transgression), but I know I am not the only citizen harboring these thoughts — a pigeon shoot? Aside from the angst created by the loss of those Norman Rockwell days of yore, my problem with downtown Pampa comes from my professional career where I traveled to many a same-sized Texas city suffering central blight conditions similar to what we see here. The difference with those cities compared to Pampa today is citizens realized their loss, sought answers and took action. There are 1,400 incorporated communities nationwide, 67 Texas cities in particular, that have overcome downtown slum conditions and brought back their centers of commerce.

Huntsville, Jefferson, Llano and Seguin to name a few, over the past years have taken on historic preservation of their downtown commercial districts. For many

years a central city revitalization program called Mainstreet USA has been the savior to those cities I just mentioned. This program is a joint effort using funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, state, and local resources to rebuild once stagnant and decaying downtowns with the core mission, the return of a sense of pride to a community. If you've been to the beautiful East Texas town of Jefferson or historic Seguin down around San Antonio, you will note active downtowns with restored buildings occupied with all sorts of businesses. In short, traditional downtown commerce taking place, all thanks to Mainstreet USA or similar initiatives. Pampa's sense of pride over its appearance left many moons ago. It is so evident every direction of the community's compass. Sad, quite frankly, once malaise grabs hold... I mentioned my thoughts to a friend over coffee and his answer was "that's what suburbs are for." This is Pampa, at the most three lawns wide. Suburbs... It doesn't have to be Mainstreet USA for revitalization to occur. There are, I'm quite sure, other avenues a community can take to rebuild it's downtown, but to accomplish revitalization of Pampa's downtown and once again bring back commerce where it's meant to occur, has to start with the citizens themselves. I don't see it happening, what I do see is the status quo and Pampa's new main street, Hobart/Perryton Parkway.

Pampa resident Dennis Palmitier is a regular contributor to the opinion page on issues that affect Pampa and Gray County. He can be reached at denpalm1949@yahoo.com. Anyone wishing to respond to Palmitier's viewpoints in the form of a letter to the editor can email thowsare@thepampanews.com.

The politics of sequestration

Inside the Beltway, everybody's talking about sequestration — and not only about whether it will happen (various supposed "high-level" sources say they are not optimistic that it will be avoided) and what it will mean, but also — it being the Beltway — which side of the aisle will pay the price.

The president is running a campaign to convince people that the results will be dire, that they should be avoided in favor of a sensible mix of spending cuts and revenue increases, and that the Republicans' insistence that all of the savings come from cuts will lead to fiscal havoc, if not take us over a cliff. Republicans are saying that because Democrats control the Senate, they and the president should put a specific plan on the table.

The White House obviously believes that upping the temperature on the issue will increase support for their position — and solidify blame of the Republicans. So that's what they are trying to do.

There's some reason to think that will work from the polls, which find that the more carefully people pay attention to the debate the more likely they are to want Congress to do something to avoid sequestration. On the other hand, nearly four out of 10 people polled tell Gallup they aren't paying much attention, and 40 percent tell Pew Research/USA Today pollsters that if there's no deal, the cuts should go into effect. Two in 10 have no opinion at all about the cuts and whether they're for them or for a deal, much less what kind of deal.

Almost everyone is drawing an analogy to the way House Republicans were blamed for closing down the government during the Clinton years, although the reality of that — the government is closed, you can't call Social Security, you can't get your passport — was easier to grasp. If I went to the corner where my office is located and stopped people on the street, I'm

not sure that most of them could actually define "sequestration," much less identify specific program cuts. And I have a lot of respect for the people in the neighborhood.

In fundamental ways, this does seem like a Washington game. At some point, sooner or later, some kind of deal will be made that some of the politicians and talking heads will praise and others will condemn. But that will only happen after the various elected and appointed officials involved play the usual blame games, up the ante with the old-fashioned "chicken" face-off and wait for the other side to blink. One side will claim some kind of victory, while others will denounce the "deserters" and condemn the results, and we'll move to the next fiscal cliff. There will be polls that show us divided, as we usually are.

I can't predict who will "win," but I can tell you who will lose: anybody who really cares about respect for government, for Congress and the presidency, and for the value of politics.

Years ago, political theoreticians clustered around the idea that pluralism was the means by which democracy operated best, that the public interest was served when different groups with different interests interacted in the process of deciding who got what, when, where and how — the classic definition of politics. But those were the days when the opposing sides acted like people who disagree rather than like people on opposite sides of a war, when everybody still had a drink after work, when forging compromise was an act of strength and not a sign of weakness.

None of that is the case anymore, which is why we seem to lurch from crisis to crisis and why many folks who dreamed of serving in Congress are disappointed with how it's turned out. It's why running for office doesn't even appear on the list of what my talented students want to do.

One way or another, we'll survive the sequestration debate, the way we did the fiscal cliff — or perhaps more likely, we'll find a way to put it off to another time.



SUSAN ESTRICH



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Can this political marriage be saved?

From Maine comes this dispatch from a historian friend of mine, Alan Ginsberg, who, like many of us, has become discouraged by the wall-to-wall squabbling that has dominated Washington: "The rhetoric daily seems



MARK SHIELDS

to grow more bitter, even destructive. The incessant arguing over money, money, money sounds like a bad marriage that is coming totally apart."

Of course, he is right. The Great Public Squabble of 2013 may not be helping the nation. But it is manifestly hurting the Republican Party. In the most recent Wall Street Journal-NBC News national poll, one original question captured that fact: "Based on what you have seen, heard or

read recently, do you feel that (fill in the blank) is emphasizing unifying the country in a bipartisan way or emphasizing a partisan approach in a way that does not unify the country?"

A plurality of Americans, 48 percent, believes that President Barack Obama is "emphasizing unifying the country in a bipartisan way," while 43 percent see the president "emphasizing a partisan approach." Not spectacular marks, but impressive when compared to the failing grades these same voters on the same question give to the Republican Party.

Consider these two numbers: More than one out of three (34 percent) of those polled self-identified as Republicans, but barely one out of five of the total (22 percent) feel that Republicans are acting in a bipartisan fashion to unify the country. That's right, not even two-thirds of Republicans give their

own party positive grades. By an almost 3-1 margin instead, some 64 percent of respondents see the GOP as following a partisan course "that does not unify the country."

Republicans also trailed Democrats on a whole series of questions about which party could better help the middle class or handle Medicare to which could better deal with the economy, immigration and taxes. (Out of 12 issues asked, Republicans were given the edge on just three — reducing the federal deficit, controlling government spending and ensuring a strong national defense.)

Democratic pollster Fred Yang, who collaborated on the Journal-NBC News poll with Republican pollster Bill McInturff, referring to the Oscar-nominated movie, observed that "Republicans don't need a silver lining. They need a whole new playbook."

This marks the end of good news for the

Democrats. Compared to Republicans who currently suffer from the political equivalent of terminal halitosis, the D's may not look that bad. But compared to themselves from four or even 12 years earlier, today's Democrats look really bad.

In a 2001 Pew Research survey, the Democratic Party had a 60 percent favorable rating from voters. Eight years later, some 62 percent of those asked rated Democrats favorably. Yes, today only 33 percent rate the Republican Party favorably, which is awful. But in the most recent Pew poll, the Democratic Party gets favorable remarks from only 47 percent of voters, a significant 15 percent drop from 2009.

Disappointment and discouragement with Washington is followed by continued loss of confidence in the national government and its ability to be wise in policy, practical in action and prudent with the public purse.

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MEMBER 2012

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Pampa Faith

Parental trust — hard even when deserved

Very late one night in 1990 (I think) I was sorting through a bunch of baseball cards when the phone rang. Now everyone who knew me knew that if there was a call after 10 p.m., then there had better be some blood somewhere. I angrily jumped to answer the phone, but no second ring. That meant that someone had picked up the phone downstairs; most likely my daughter, Christina, a junior in high school.

I went back to sorting cards, but deep down couldn't get my mind off of the call; wondering who it could have been and what they could have wanted with my little girl.

Rather than rush downstairs and find out what in tarnation was going on, I bit my lip and my tongue and sat there and prayed. I didn't have long to wait. About that time I heard creaks from the stairway.

Christina made her way to the front door and paused. "So who was that and where in the world do you think you are going at this time of night?" I can still remember my baby's reply that night. "I'd really rather not tell you, dad. Please, don't make me tell you." Every overbearing bone in my body wanted to explode in Technicolor. But God was gracious to my prayers and blessed me with discernment that certainly wasn't my normal nature.

"Do I need to be worried about you?" Christina replied, "No, sir, honest." I paused to pray and then commented, "One of these days your child is going to ask you for this same degree of complete trust. On that day I hope you will remember just how much trust and faith that it took for your dad to let you walk out of this house with no explanation. Go on ahead and please be careful."

Those of you who know me re-

ally well are probably scratching your head, wondering if I made this story up. Why? Because we both know that my normal manner was completely opposite. But God was indeed marvelous that night. He helped me be what I all too often wasn't.

That night was repeated several times over the next 18 months. Not often, but all too often for a protecting father, the phone would ring again late at night and Christina would leave. We didn't really talk much when she would walk out the door. About all I ever said was, "Remember, one of these days you are going to know. Please be careful." And then I would just pray and pray.

During the Spring of Christina's senior year she walked in one day and asked me, "So dad, would you like to know where I went and what I was doing after all of those late night calls?" I wanted to thump her; OF COURSE I WANTED TO KNOW!

"Well you see, I made a deal with all my friends. I made them promise me that when they had too much to drink or were wasted that they would call me and let me drive them home. The reason why I was gone longer sometimes was that I had to clean them up first before I could take them home." Christina was teary and I was a mixture of wanting to pinch her head off for leaving me hanging all those months and wanting to throw a party because I was so proud of the dynamite young woman my daughter had become.

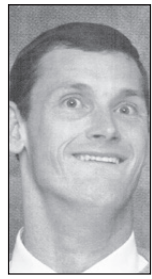
Christina wrapped things up with, "I didn't want you to make me tell you because I just wanted you to trust me. Thanks for trusting me, dad." Those are some of the best words I ever heard. "Thank You, Father God, for constraining my normal nature on those late nights."

God bless. Mike

Mike Sublett is a pastor at Hi-Land Christian Church, 1615 N. Banks St., Pampa, Texas 79065. Email him at pawdad@nts-online.net.

Christian soldiers need armor of God

This is war. We are in a spiritual conflict. It can be described as a warfare of faith that we, as Christians, must fight our entire lives. Our enemy is Satan, and he is out to destroy us any way he can. We fight against the powers and authorities of this world, and God has given us the weapons we need to win the battle.



CHRIS ELY

Ephesians 6:11 tells us to "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." When we come to Christ, we think our battle against sin is over and that we never have to struggle with sin again. The real fight is just beginning, though. Our old sinful nature remains within us even after we are saved, and we must resist that nature. Satan is our deadly enemy, and he's waiting to trip us up.

We must choose every day whether we will follow our sin nature or turn from it and obey God. The Bible warns that those who follow the sin nature cannot inherit God's kingdom. The sinful nature must be resisted and put to death

through daily warfare.

We wage war against sin and temptation, not in our own power, but with spiritual weapons. The apostle Paul gives the call to arms and lists the weapons of our warfare in Ephesians 6:14-17.

It says, "Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

By putting on all of God's armor, we can be assured of withstanding our enemy's attacks.

Our victory has been won by Jesus himself through His death on the cross. Jesus won the battle against Satan, disarmed the evil powers and redeemed us so we can be free from sin. If we use the weapons we have in God, we will win.

Chris Ely is a Pampa resident and author of the book Through Eyes of Faith. He can be contacted at Eyeofaith.webs.com.

22nd Annual Czech Sausage Dinner

St. Ann's Catholic Church in Canyon will be hosting the 22nd Annual Czech Sausage Dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 3. Czech Sausage, Sauerkraut, bread, parsley potatoes, cole slaw, cobbler and all the trimmings will be served. Drive thru and take out are available. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5 for children. Children age 5 and under eat free. The event will be held at the Parish

Family Center at 605 38th Street in Canyon.

For more information call 806-655-3302.

Editor's note: Email submissions to thowsare@thepampanews.com. Submissions should be 100 words or less and written in the third person. Please include the name of the church, the dates and times of worship services and community events, physical address, and a contact number and/or email address for the public.

Church Calendar

Southside Church of Christ

Southside Church of Christ is located at 11923 W. McCullough Ave, Pampa. The church extends an open invitation to you to come and worship where the gospel, "God's Word," is always taught and preached. The church offers an annual Songfest, set for Sept. 21-

22 this year. On Saturday, the Songfest will begin at 4 p.m. and end at around 9 p.m.

Dinner will be served immediately following. On Sunday, the church will follow its regular schedule and dinner will be served immediately following morning services. The Songfest is not a competition — it is a gathering

of the churches of Christ to come together to praise the Lord through preaching, praying and singing praises unto our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Regular worship services are: Sunday morning Bible study, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; morning worship begins at 10:45 a.m. to noon; Wednesday night Bible study is from 5-6 p.m.

Pampa Church Directory

Bible Baptist Church
500 E. Kingsmill Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-7830

Briarwood Full Gospel Church
1800 W. Harvester Avenue
Pampa TX 79065
665-7201

Calvary Assembly of God Church
1030 Love Street
Pampa TX 79065
669-7207

Calvary Baptist
900 E. 23rd Street
Pampa TX 79065
665-0842

Carpenter's Church
639 S. Barnes
Pampa TX 79065
669-2720

Central Baptist Church
513 E. Francis
Pampa TX 79065
665-1631

Church of Christ
1342 Mary Ellen
Pampa TX 79065
665-0031

Church of Christ Somerville
500 N. Somerville
Pampa TX 79065
665-0004

Church of God
Gwendolen & Sumner
Pampa TX 79065
669-6372

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints
411 East 29th Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-2967

Church of the Nazarene
500 N. West
Pampa TX 79065
669-3144

Community Christian School
409 N. Frost
Pampa, TX 79065
665-3393

Cornerstone Baptist Church
2410 W. 23rd Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
669-6509

Crosspointe
711 E. Harvester
Pampa TX 79065
665-2480

Faith Bible Church
110 W. Kingsmill
Pampa TX 79065
688-9266

Faith Tabernacle UPC
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665-3676

Fellowship Baptist Church
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Pampa TX 79065
665-2747

Fellowship Baptist Church
622 E. Francis
Pampa TX 79065
665-5976

First Assembly of God
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Pampa TX 79065
665-5941

First Baptist Church
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Pampa TX 79065
669-1155

First Christian Church
1633 N. Nelson

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669-3225

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665-2545

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First Presbyterian
525 N. Gray
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665-1031

First United Methodist
Foster & Ballard
Pampa TX 79065
669-7411

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806-336-4427

Grace Baptist Church
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Pampa TX 79065
669-7967

Harvest Fellowship Baptist Church
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Pampa TX 79065
665-4922

Harvest Bible Church
300 W. Browning Avenue
Pampa TX 79065
669-2923

Hobart Baptist Church
1100 W. Crawford
Pampa TX 79065
669-3212

Hi-land Christian Church
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669-6700

Highland Baptist Church
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665-3300

Iglesia Bautista Emanuel
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Pampa TX 79065
665-4330

Iglesia Casa Del Alfarero
500 N. Duncan
Pampa TX 79065
665-5898

Iglesia Cristiana Canaan
905 E. Beryl St.
Pampa TX 79065
669-3330

Iglesia Nueva Vida
New Life Church
1200 S. Sumner
Pampa, TX 79065
665-8331

Jehovah's Witnesses
1701 Coffee
Pampa TX 79065
669-9355

Kentucky Ave. Church of Christ
1612 W. Kentucky
Pampa TX 79065
665-2572

Lighthouse Baptist Church
725 W. Brown
Pampa TX 79065
665-0262

Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship
1733 N. Banks St.
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669-6915

Macedonia Baptist Church
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665-4926

New Hope Baptist Church
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665-4044

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665-4044

New Life Assembly of God
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Pampa TX 79065
665-0804

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402 Oklahoma
Pampa TX 79065
665-6132

Priest Park Church of God
731 N. Faulkner
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688-0174

Primeria Iglesia Bautista Mexicana
541 Hamilton
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665-8347

Redeemer Pampa
225 N. Cuyler
Pampa, TX 79065
Salvation Army

701 S. Cuyler
Pampa TX 79065
665-7233

Seventh Day Adventist Church
421 N. Ward
Pampa TX 79065
665-4492

Southside Church of Christ
11927 McCullough
Pampa TX 79065
665-2183

St. Paul United Methodist Church
511 N. Hobart
Pampa TX 79065
665-8951

St. Mark CME Church
406 Elm Ave
Pampa TX 79065
665-6743

St. Matthews Episcopal Church
727 W. Browning
Pampa TX 79065
665-0701

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
810 W. 23rd Ave.
Pampa TX 79065
665-8933

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Pampa TX 79065
664-0096

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Pampa TX 79065
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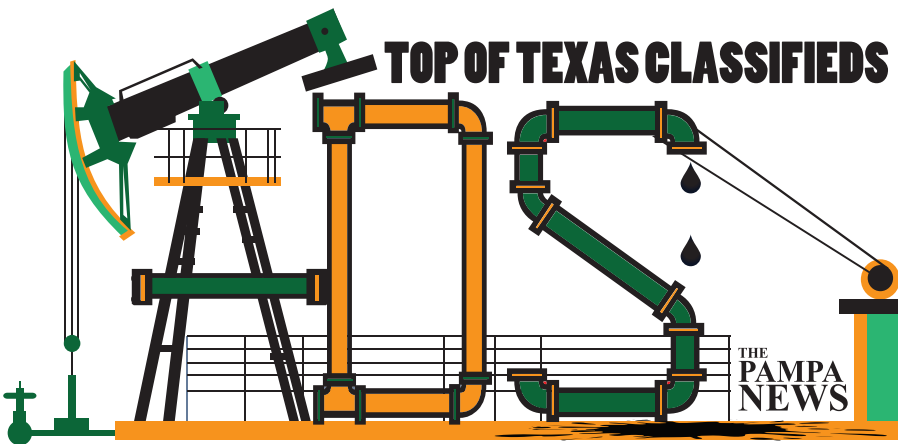
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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-6 CRYPTOQUOTE
R Z A X V X W S O G U Q Y W Y G
E N B O J X O S J X O U B R , W Y G
W N S N X C Z Y G O M U B S J W S
M U B J W T X U Y X . — O S X R R W
W G R X N
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST. WHAT YOU PLANT NOW, YOU WILL HARVEST LATER. — OG MANDINO

21 Help Wanted

BOOKKEEPER needed. MUST have experience in Quickbooks. Must be trustworthy, have good references. Must be able to multi task, answer phones, file, pay bills, payroll, payroll taxes, sales tax, invoices, reconcile checkbook, and know how to use the internet well. Please bring resume to **101 Santa Fe**, email resume to **owpsi2005@gmail.com** or mail resume to **PO Box 115, Mobetie, TX 79061.** Pay based on experience, dental and medical insurance provided.

EXPERIENCED Roustabouts needed. MUST pass drug test and have valid drivers license. Competitive pay and medical and dental insurance provided. **Come by 101 Santa Fe in Mobetie for application or call 806-845-1088.**

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21 Help Wanted

Chiropractic office is expanding our team. You can make the difference. Direct patient care position. On the job training. FAX resume to **806-665-0537.**

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GENERAL Staff & Optical Tech: FT and PT position available M-F with every Friday PM off. Previous eye-care/ optical experience not necessary, but background in customer service or retail management is helpful. VISION SOURCE 1324 N. Banks Fax: 806-665-3511 email vision-source@sbcglobal.net

EARN \$75.00 Marketing Group seeks participants for 3.5 hour meeting to discuss views on relevant topics. Call 1-800-284-7785

CHICKEN EXPRESS is now hiring for all shifts. Please come in to apply, 2201 Perryton Parkway, 669-2442.

****CDL Drivers** needed. \$75K-\$85K/yr! Hazmat and Tanker endorsements required. Please call Joe @ Gunner Mac, LLC 806-316-8026***

NEW King size mattress 3 pc. set. Sale \$496. Queen set \$246. Country Red Barn. 1424 S. Barnes. 665-2767

DELUXE 3-WHEELED SCOOTER with electric lift. \$1,000 Call 806-669-9979

GYMBOREE brand clothes, Infant & Toddler sizes, \$30 or less at Cottage Collections, 922 W. 23rd. Booth 737

CLOSING Business clothing racks and fixtures for sale. Building is also for Sale! VJ's Fashions & Gifts, downtown Pampa, 669-6323

21 Help Wanted

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS needed! Earn \$140 for the day! Sat., March 23rd, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Meals included. Sign up at **www.recruitingfocusgroups.com**

EARN \$75.00 Marketing Group seeks participants for 3.5 hour meeting to discuss views on relevant topics. Call 1-800-284-7785

CHICKEN EXPRESS is now hiring for all shifts. Please come in to apply, 2201 Perryton Parkway, 669-2442.

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AUCTION

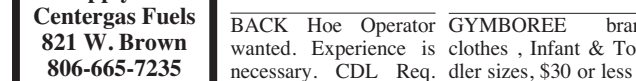
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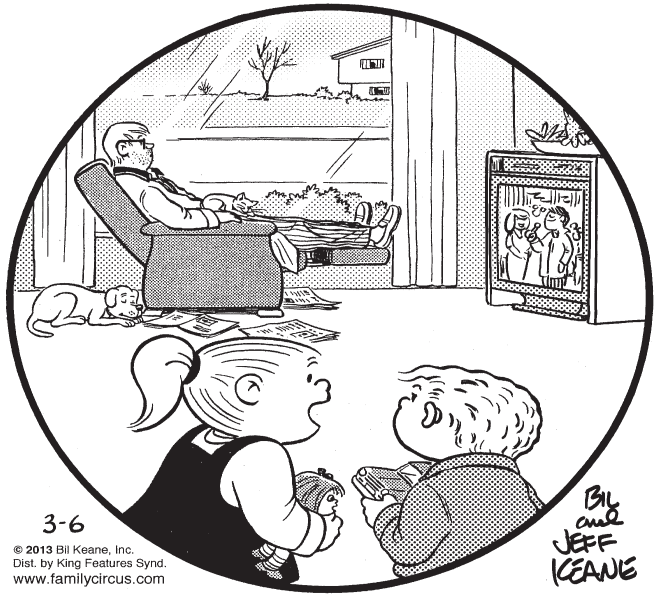
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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



3-6

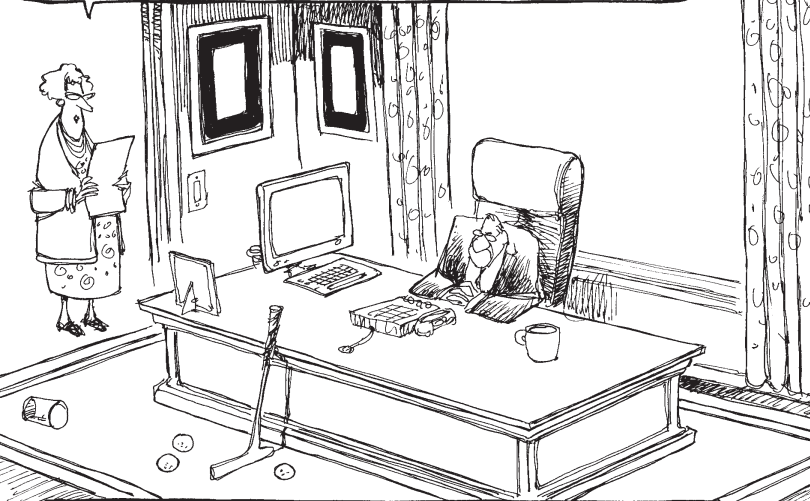
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Bil and Jeff Keane

"It's like Saturday every day havin' Daddy home."

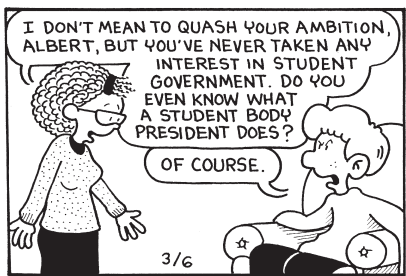
Non Sequitur

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE... HIS ASSISTANT SAYS HE AGREES YOUR TITLE SOUNDS MORE IMPRESSIVE, BUT HIS OFFICE IS BIGGER, SO HE THINKS YOU SHOULD GET ON THE LINE FIRST...

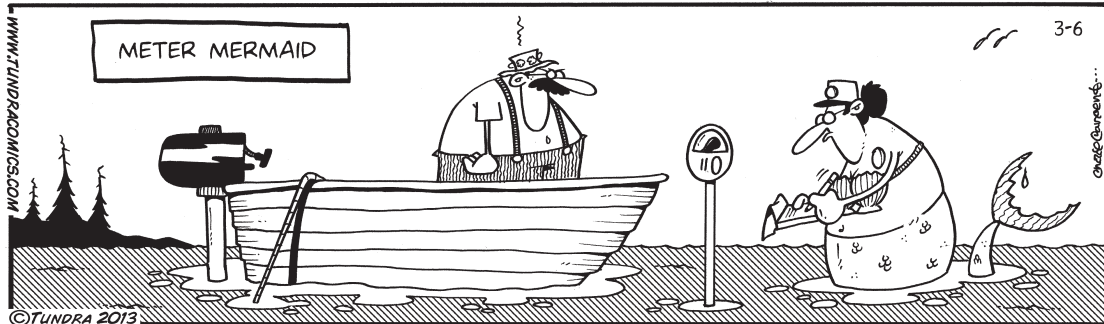


EXECUTIVE EGO GRIDLOCK

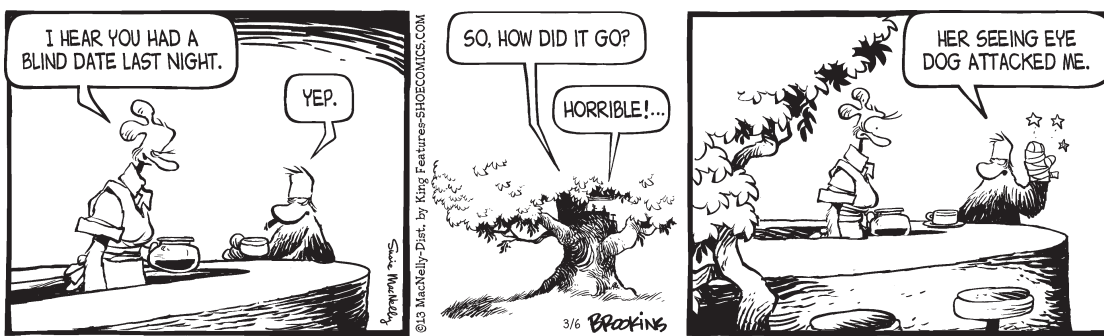
Nest Heads



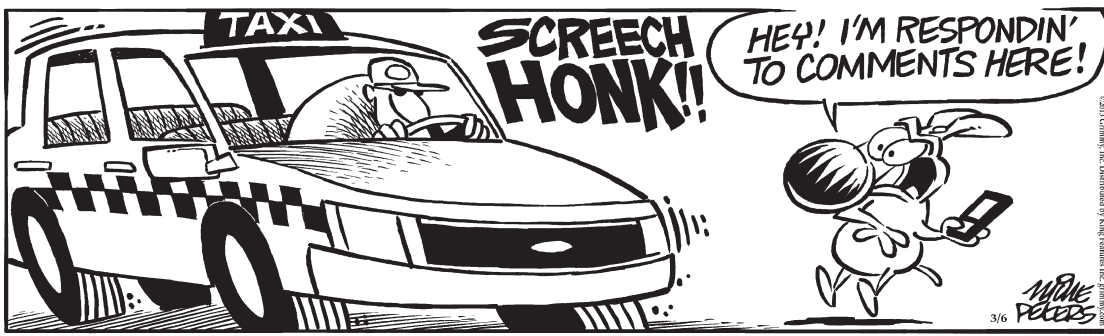
Tundra



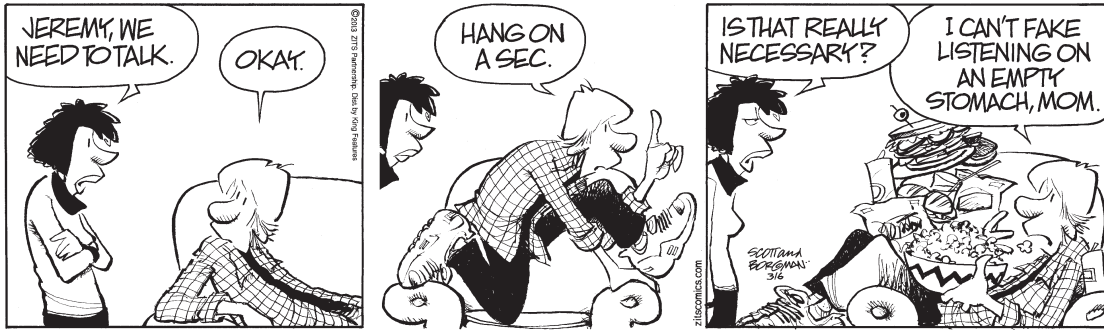
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



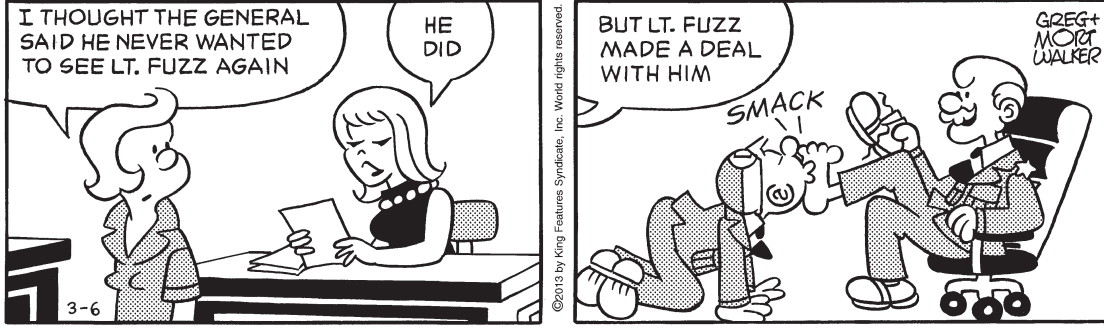
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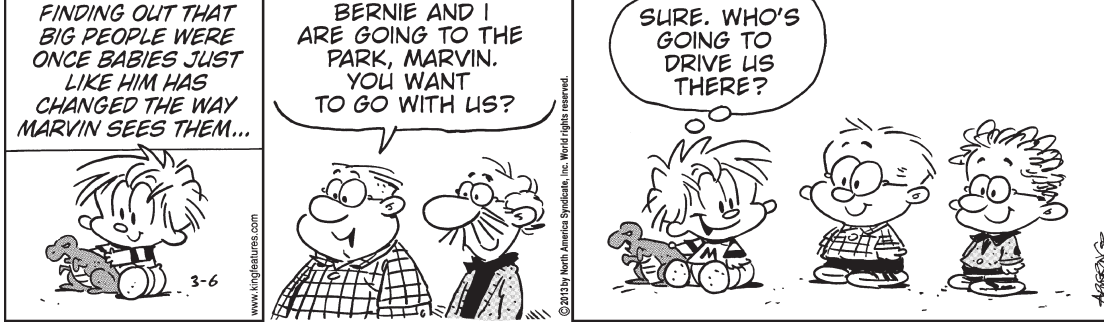
Garfield



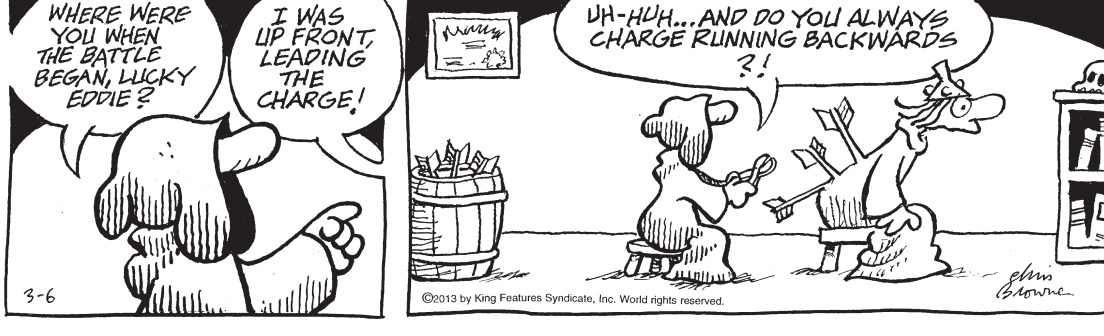
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



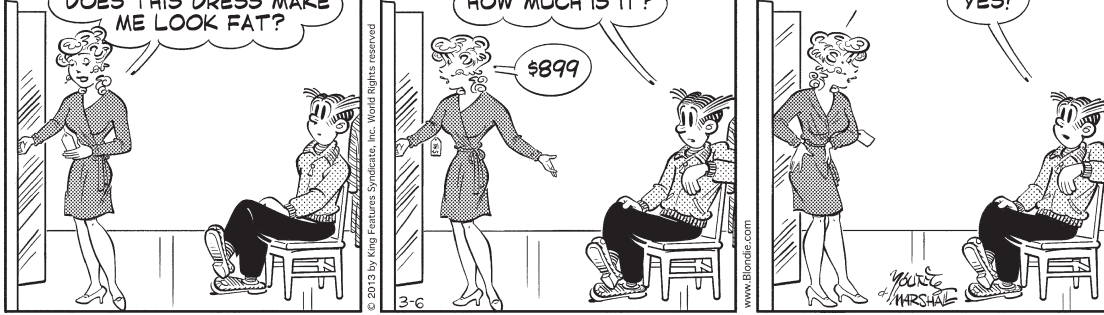
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 7, 2013:

This year you alternate between being practical and being a dreamer. Balancing these strong, opposing qualities takes talent. One is just as important as the other. Your circle of friends also reflects these qualities. If you are single, you could confuse someone you're dating, as this person never knows which side of your personality to expect. Take your time committing. Summer 2013 could usher in a very exciting individual. If you are attached, your sweetie is used to your changeability. Do more together as a couple. AQUARIUS naturally is a risk-taker. You like this quality.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Too much pressure would make anyone feel glum. Look at the source of the problem. Could the tension be a result of your high expectations or perhaps someone else's? Regroup and center yourself in order to reduce your level of stress. Tonight: Find a reason to celebrate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Detach, and take a step back in order to gain a new perspective. Let go of automatic judgments. Be direct and forthright with a friend who might be unusually pushy. Yes, this person's behavior will change, but not as fast as you would like. Tonight: In the limelight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your ability to convey information might be more important than you realize. Laughter easily might surround a sarcastic comment after the fact. Remain light with a difficult parent or higher-up. Have a talk in the evening to clear the air. Tonight: Reach out to a friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might have less say than you think. Others seem to be pushing forward without giving it any thought. Just wait until everything has settled down before you discuss what's happening. Schedule any individual talks for this afternoon. Tonight: Allow more playfulness into your day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Get as much done as possible, as you are determined to get out of work promptly. Return all calls and emails. Lighten up about the possibilities that surround you and a special friendship. A co-worker seems destined to follow the same path. Tonight: A surprise could happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Use the daylight hours to finish off a project. Be careful, as a partner could be unusually fiery right now. Take this person's tough stance and sharp words with a grain of salt. Focus on being more nurturing to yourself as well as others. Tonight: Put your feet up and relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might feel as if there is no going back with a family member who pushes you beyond your limits. Words that were said cannot be taken back. Think carefully about a choice that might force you to work more closely with one particular individual. Tonight: Get into weekend mode.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Your playfulness emerges when dealing with a partner or a dear loved one. This person does a great job at creating a distraction. Understand that you could be looking at an excessive amount of work. Try working from home, if you can, as you might get more done. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Remain sensitive to financial changes. You could be surprised at how someone responds to a money issue. Curb a tendency to snap at a particular person. He or she doesn't deserve that type of behavior from you -- or from anyone else for that matter. Tonight: Meet up with a friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might not take enough time to listen to what someone has to say. Refrain from minimizing this person's importance. You might not intend to come off as harsh, but that's what keeps happening. This habit could prevent you from connecting with others. Tonight: Pick up the tab.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Lie low, and opt for a change of pace. You might want to follow your instincts with a financial matter. Weigh the pros and cons of this situation before making a decision. How flexible can you be? You'll feel energized by sunset. Tonight: Be a wild thing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Zero in on your priorities. You will succeed if you can let go of a strong reaction. Make lunch plans with a friend you have not seen in a while. Don't stand on ceremony with someone who is not returning your calls or emails. Tonight: Make it an early bedtime.

PampaSports

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



Photos by Janet Abbe

Pampa's two Special Olympics teams scrimmaged each other to prepare for the regional tournament in Amarillo March 22-23. The teams are the Golden Warriors and Storms. Kyle Parnell, John Hervery and David Swires coach the Golden Warriors. Janet Abbe, Gary Turley and Jim Bob Nall coach the Storms. Above, Eric Knott, Liberty Bloxum, Randy Swires, Ashley Abbe, Elijah Palma, Patrick Twork and Tina Hinson. Below, Swires, Palma, Ameer Street, Bloxum, Cole Nall, Knott and Hinson.



Above, Bloxum, Twork, Swires, Abbe and Knott. Below, Abbe, Nall, Bloxum, Knott, Swires, Palma, Street and Twork.



Harvesters in Sweetwater Woodbat Classic

By ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvester baseball team traveled to Sweetwater this weekend for a Wooden Bat Tournament. Pampa went 0-4 in the tournament, most of which could be due to the snowfall earlier last week, the team was not able to practice before heading for Sweetwater.

In game one, Pampa lost 6-0 to San Angelo. In game two, Pampa lost to Clyde 4-3. Brodie Gaines struck out five batters in his seven innings pitched. Tyler Powell and Riley Douglas each had one RBI a piece. Ethan Hunt, Jordan Lemons and Chris Howard scored one run a piece. In game three, Pampa fell to the Ranger Junior College JV team 2-0. Tyler Powell struck out two batters in four innings pitched. In game four, Pampa fell to Sweetwater 6-2. Tyler Powell struck out two batters in his lone inning pitched. Ryan Powell and Cade Engle scored one run

a piece for Pampa. James Thompson and Lemons had one RBI each.

"We got beat for times but we were in close games every game of the tournament. It is what it is when our practices are called games due to the weather," said Pampa coach Kaleb Snelgrooves. "We have three basketball players that are doing a great job even with limited practices due to basketball games and the weather."

Snelgrooves added that overall the team competed well. "The pitchers did a great job throwing strikes and keeping us in the games. We had some errors here and there but the mistakes will get ironed out and we will do just fine."

The coach also talked about how much different hitting with a wooden bat compared to an aluminum bat and that took a few games for the players to get used to. Pampa falls to 2-6 on the season.

They will be back in action this weekend at a tournament in Altus, Okla. The tournament guarantees Pampa with three games, with the first being on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

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Send them to us!
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If you don't see it after a week, call us!
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PampaSports

PAMPA ROCKETS



Submitted photo

The Pampa Rockets indoor soccer team participated in a U-8 co-ed competitive league out of Amarillo. Back row from left, Anna Rios, coach, Yamilia Rodriguez, Kennedy Abshire, Ariel Lacher, Dallas Vaughn, Maribelle Gamez and Marisol Lacher, coach. Front row, Adian Tinajero, Isabella Cabrales, Kaitlyn Steen, Kadyn Tinajero and Amanda Rios. Not pictured are players Kynleigh Kirby and Juan Gamez. The Rockets would like to thank their sponsors Anytime Fitness and E.C. Fashion.

Lady Harvesters soccer team loses a pair

BY ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvester soccer team lost to Palo Duro 3-0 on Friday. They played Borger and lost 2-0 on Saturday.

“Both games represent a little bit of a turnaround for us. We implemented a new formation, and we dominated the possession game. Our downfall for both games has been not capitalizing on scoring opportunities,” said Pampa coach David Willis. “We need to take shots when we have them. That is really the only missing piece for our team.”

Willis listed some key players for the weekend’s games, and they are Karoley Villareal, Tristen Morgan, Viante Ellison, Olga Garcia and Denisse

Morales.

The team will be back in action Friday at Caprock.

Boys soccer

The PHS boys soccer team played Palo Duro on Friday as well. This game was unintentionally left out of the write up in Tuesday’s paper from the Borger game. Pampa lost the game 2-0, with Palo Duro scoring in the 25th and 50th minutes.

“Last time we played Palo Duro, they scored two goals in 25 minutes against the blowing snow. This time, they were only able to score the same in 80 minutes in perfect weather conditions,” said Pampa coach Byron May. “I don’t know if there’s a better way to demonstrate the improvement this young team has made. We

played this one the right way by sitting back defensively, and counter when the opportunity presents itself.”

Coach May added, “We had two separate instances of a Pampa goal taken off the board after an offsides call. I’m not arguing the calls — they were absolutely correct — but that sort of stuff doesn’t show up on the stat sheet, or the scoreboard. This is a proud team. The boys have kept their noses to the grindstone, and hopefully they will enjoy the fruits of their labor.”

May credited junior goalkeeper Cesar Garcia with a good game. “Garcia was fantastic for us. He was all over the box tonight, and was very impressive.”

The team was back in action Tuesday v. River Road.

Girls golf in Lubbock

BY ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

Pampa’s girls golf team traveled to Lubbock for a tournament this past weekend. Ashlee Keith shot a 109 on day one and a 91 on day two. Savanna Mertz shot a 102 on day one and a 92 on day two. Katy Velasquez shot a 104 on day one and a 98 on day two. McKinley Hancox shot a 104 on day one and a 106 on day two. Gracie Little shot a 114 on day one and a 110 on day two. Pampa’s team total was 801.

“For not having much practice in the past month, our girls did a fine job. We, coach Sanford and myself, were very proud of their efforts and the way they competed. We were able to see what we need to work on in order to get better and be more competitive with the teams in our district and region,” said Pampa coach Alan Segura. “Savanna and Ashley both shot career best scores, but feel that they had plenty of room for improvement. With the weather looking better, we should be able to get out and put in plenty of time to improve before district.”

Segura added that Pampa has two major problems facing them that the top teams don’t. “No. 1, weather. We are at a big disadvantage living in the Panhandle. Borger and us are the only teams in the region that have been sidelined due to snow. Everyone else has been practicing and playing,” said Segura. “No. 2, we do not have a junior high program. All of the schools in the top six have some sort of junior high program which is a huge part of their success.”

Segura said he visited with several coaches and they all praised their junior high for their success. “We feel that it is a huge advantage to get an extra two years and that is one of the reasons we are behind the teams in our region. Hopefully soon we can get something going so that we can have a chance to be more competitive and possibly advance to the state tournament.”

The golf teams will be in action again this Friday and Saturday in Pampa.

Friday’s action will be at The Pampa Country Club and Saturday’s will be at Hidden Hills Golf Course.

JV women’s track at WT Classic

BY ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

Pampa’s JV women’s track team traveled to Canyon for the West Texas A&M Classic last Friday.

The team finished ninth overall with eight team points.

Gracie Brown placed 17th in the shotput with a throw of 22 feet. She also took fourth in the discus with a throw of 80 feet, two inches.

Angel Brumfield placed fourth in the pole vault with a vault of 6 foot, 6 inches.

Autumn Bridwell took 13th in the 100 meter with a time of 14.31 and Kristen Duree took 16th with a time of 14.7.

Duree placed 28th in the 400 meter with a time of 1:21.8.

Rilee Didway took 20th in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 1:03.3.

Bridwell ran a 30.76 time in the 200 meter for 18th place and Didway ran a 32.9 for 29th place.

Pampa Recreation softball signups

STAFF REPORT

Pampa Recreation wants to inform everyone of the signup period for the men’s, women’s, mixed, men’s church and mixed church slowpitch softball leagues.

The registration week will be March 18-22. Rosters must be turned in with all fees paid by March 22 at 5 p.m., or the team will not be scheduled. The cost per team is \$375, this includes the player’s fees.

Rosters, fact sheets and waiver forms are available for download in the documents section at the city’s website Cityofpampa.org.

Schedules will be available after 1 p.m. on March 27 at the Recreation Center located at the old Armory building on highway 60 by the rodeo grounds. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Play will begin the week of April 8.

The top two teams in each division will receive awards. Individual awards are also given for the top two teams in each division. A maximum of 15 individual awards is allowed per team.

For more information contact Autumn Schaub at 669-1044 or via email at pamparecreation@gmail.com.

Pampa Recreation kickball signups

STAFF REPORT

Pampa Recreation wants to inform everyone of the signup period for the men’s, women’s, mixed, men’s church and mixed church kickball leagues.

The registration week will be March 18-22. Rosters must be turned in with all fees paid by March 22 at 5 p.m., or the team will not be scheduled. The cost per team is \$275, this includes the player’s fees.

Rosters, fact sheets and waiver forms are available for download in the documents section at the city’s website Cityofpampa.org.

Schedules will be available after 1 p.m. on March 27 at the Recreation Center located at the old Armory building on highway 60 by the rodeo grounds. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Play will begin the week of April 8.

Individual awards are given for the top two teams in each division. A maximum of 15 individual awards is allowed per team. Sponsor plaques will be given for the top two teams in each division.

For more information contact Autumn Schaub at 669-1044 or via email at pamparecreation@gmail.com.

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Kevin Davis 664-2542