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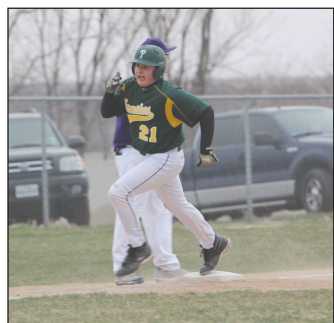
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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, March 22, 2013 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 266

75¢ Radical survivor | p4
 \$1.50 weekend 38¢ subscription Lent devotionals through Tuesday | p7
 JV softball wins 6-2
 JV baseball wins 5-1 | p10

Campaign launched for more road safety in oil, gas regions

■ TxDOT's effort includes educating public with increased DPS enforcement.

BY TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE
 thowsare@thepampanews.com

While the increase in oil and gas activity has created new economic opportunities in the Panhandle, it has also resulted in more vehicles on the region's roadways.

That, in turn, has created new hazards for drivers who might not be accustomed to the additional traffic, said Paul Braun, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Transportation's Amarillo District.

On Thursday, TxDOT, in partner-

ship with the Texas Department of Public Safety and representatives from the oil and gas industry, kicked off a statewide campaign, called "Be Safe. Drive Smart," that will provide motorists with tips for driving in high-traffic oil and gas production areas.

"This is more for state highways, county roads and the FM roads," Braun said. "These roads weren't designed for this kind of heavy truck traffic and we really need to ask drivers in the energy sectors and drivers in the general public to be on

the lookout."

Braun said preliminary TxDOT crash reports show 3,383 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in Texas in 2012 — a 10 percent increase over the previous year. In the Granite Wash Shale area, which includes Gray County, there were 186 fatal and serious injury crashes and 36 traffic fatalities last year, an increase of 13 percent over 2011.

And while not all of those crashes

SAFETY cont. on page 3



Photo courtesy of TxDOT

An oil truck in transit on a Texas highway.

ALL TOGETHER NOW



Photo by Zachary Green

Pampa and River Road's JV softball teams display true sportsmanship as they gather together on the pitching circle to pray after the game in Amarillo Tuesday night. For complete game coverage, see page 10.

PISD board to meet Tuesday

■ Will consider final construction documents for new admin facility.

BY SASHA HELLER
 sheller@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District Board (PISD) will meet at 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, at the Pampa Junior High School library to consider and potentially approve the final construction documents for the district's new central administration building.

According to district records, PISD officials on Thursday held a construction documents meeting with SHW Architects at the firm's office in Plano.

The district has contracted with SHW Architects to perform architectural services on the new facility.

Representing PISD at the meeting were superintendent Dr. David Young and district construction manager Randy Stephenson.

SHW group principal architect Monte Za-
PISD cont. on page 3

United Way raises \$297k for 2012

STAFF REPORT

The Pampa United Way concluded its 2012 campaign on March 6 with a total of \$297,049 raised, which is 94.3 percent of its goal of \$315,000.

Executive Director Jana Gregory said she is now preparing for the 2013 season that will kickoff Sept. 10.

Gregory said on April 23 she will be meeting with the 18 agencies who will receive funding for 2013 for their input on the upcoming goal.

The deadline to apply for United Way funding, March 15, has already passed.

The 18 organizations that will receive United Way funds for 2013 are same as in 2012. They are: The Bridge, CASA of the High Plains, CREATE a Beat!, Community Day Care Center, Eastern Texas Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross, Epilepsy Foundation — West Texas, Samaritan Pastoral Counseling, Southside Senior Citizens Center, Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, Inc., Gray County Child Protective Service, Gray County Latch Key, Lefors Senior Citizens Center, Pampa Meals On Wheels, The Salvation Army, Texas Panhandle Centers, Tralee Crisis Center and Boy Scouts Golden Spread Council.

Gains on state exams don't translate to national tests

BY MORGAN SMITH
 The Texas Tribune

When Texas administers the last round of TAKS exams to 11th graders in April, it will mark the end of a 10-year period that saw the state's public school students' scores on the standardized tests soar.

In 2012, students nailed their 11th grade state exit exams in math and English — more than 90 percent of them passed both subjects. That was true for only about 70 percent when the state first transitioned to the new assessment system in 2003. Widely praised by state education officials, the progress appears in advances on measures closely connected to the state scores, like high school graduation rates and the percentage of students who meet the state's college ready

standards.

But the success students have found on state standardized tests in the last decade did not translate to similar improvement on national measures. Performance on the ACT and SAT, the college admissions exams administered to most high school students in the state, has either flatlined or dropped. Modest gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, which evaluates samples of fourth- and eighth-grade students across the country to provide side-by-side comparisons among states, have not matched their skyrocketing scores on the state standardized tests.

State and national exams are designed to measure different kinds of student achievement, so some variation in scores should be expected, said Timothy Jones, an education professor

at Sam Houston State University. But from a policy standpoint, he said, the conflicting reports on student achievement offered by state and national exams posed the "\$64,000 dollar question."

The TAKS exams gauge mastery of Texas curriculum standards; the national assessments focus on higher order thinking skills like problem solving and reading comprehension.

"If our state curriculum is what it should be, and students are doing better on it during this course of 10 years, then why is it that they aren't also doing better on these national measures?" he said.

Contrast performance on the 11th grade state exams with that on the college admissions exams. Last year, Texas students' SAT scores decreased
EXAMS cont. on page 3

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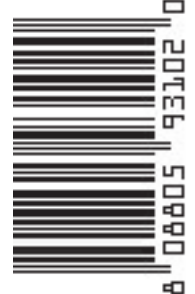
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PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
High 58 Low 36	High 55 Low 24	High 40 Low 22

Friday: Partly cloudy with a high of 58. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind east northeast at 12 mph. Sunrise at 7:44 a.m.

Friday night: Cloudy with a low of 36. Twenty percent chance of rain. Wind southeast at 15 mph. Sunset at 7:58 p.m.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high of 55. Twenty percent chance of rain. Wind west northwest at 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:43 a.m.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 24. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind north northwest at 21 mph. Sunset at 7:58 p.m.

Sunday: Partly cloudy with a high of 40. Twenty percent chance of rain. Wind north at 20 mph. Sunrise at 7:42 a.m.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 22. Ten percent chance of rain. Wind northeast at 12 mph. Sunset at 7:59 a.m.

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LEVEL

Yesterday's Answer: HUTCHORN CHORD ANGLER LEAD

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Obituaries

Carroll Dean Russell

Carroll Dean Russell, 86, died on Thursday March 14, 2013 in Fort Worth.

He was born on Nov. 17, 1944, to Wesley and Irene Russell. Carroll resided in Keller at the time of his death. He was a loving and supportive husband, father, brother and grandfather.

He leaves behind his loving wife of 11 years, Donna Heckman of Keller; sons, Dean Russell and wife, Sher-

rie of Carthage and Eugene Dotson and wife, Ericka of Abilene; daughters, Jennifer Dotson of Keller and Megan Choate and husband, Reagan of Roanoke; grandchildren: Dustin Russell, Dayton Russell, Braden Russell, Jordan Russell, Katy Russell, Eleanor Wolf, Caleb Gats and Sydney Gats; and a sister, La Donna Ramming of Amarillo.

Memorial services will be 3 p.m., March 23 at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, Texas.

Services are under the direction of Gailbreath Pickard Funeral Chapel in Weatherford, Texas.

For the record

Pampa man arrested for DWI — multiple offenses

- Paul Edward Kindle, 57, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by the Pampa Police Department for driving while intoxicated — third offense or more.
- James Ronald Lang-

ford, 48, Lafayette, Colo., was arrested Wednesday by the Gray County Sheriff's Office for assault by threat.

- Alton Glenn Cook, 30, Pampa, was arrested

Wednesday by the GCSO for driving while license invalid.

- Robert Earl Franz, 64, Pampa, was arrested Wednesday by the PPD for violation of protective

order.

- Francisco Pancho Stallings, 37, Amarillo, was arrested Wednesday by the GCSO for probation violation — Potter County.

Budget talks shift to Texas House

AUSTIN (AP) — Budget writers in the Texas House are set to unveil their own state spending plan after the Senate overwhelmingly approved a \$195.5 billion two-year budget proposal.

The House Appropriations Committee on Thursday is expected to deliver a state budget for 2014-15 to the full chamber.

Republican Tommy Williams, the chief budget writer in the Senate, says he expects the House bud-

get to have more similarities than differences to the Senate version.

The Senate on Wednesday approved a new state budget by a 29-2 vote. The budget calls for adding another \$1.5 billion to public education, which remains well short of the \$5.4 billion that lawmakers cut from classrooms in 2011.

Williams says the Senate spent all but \$410 million available to under the revenue forecast delivered by the state comptroller.

Divorces filed from Feb. 19 to March 19

STAFF REPORT

- Plaintiff, Ricardo Rodriguez; defendant, Jennifer Rodriguez.
- Plaintiff, Jerrod Imel; defendant, Tammie Lynn Imel.
- Plaintiff, Gerardo Frias; defendant, Jennifer Frias.
- Plaintiff, Matthew James Woodruff; defendant, Vanessa Portillo.
- Plaintiff, Gailand Louis Hiser; defendant, Crystal Lynn Wilson.
- Plaintiff, Misty Walker; defendant, Trinity Abigail Land.
- Plaintiff, Lauren Defever; defendant, Spencer D. Defever.

Vatican's communications site runs Batman story

VATICAN CITY (AP) — One of the Vatican's main Twitter accounts and the website of its communications office were running stories about Batman on Thursday with the headline "Holy Switcheroo!" — raising concerns they might have been hacked.

But two Vatican officials said the site hadn't been hacked, and that the reason for the unusual posting was an "internal system failure" due to a non-native English speaker posting the story on the website.

The story was from the Catholic News Service. It has as its headline: "Holy Switcheroo! Batman has grown bitter, more vengeful with the years" and details the evolution of the Batman comic franchise.

"Admittedly some people might have been thrown off by the headline," said Greg Burke, a Vatican communications adviser.

Monsignor Paul Tighe, the No. 2 in the Vatican's

social communications office, said the office's website, www.pccs.va runs stories about communications issues and regularly takes copy from Catholic News Service, the news agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Once a story is posted, he explained, it generates an automatic tweet on the office's Twitter handle (at)pccs_va.

"I thought we had been hacked to be honest," he said. But further investigation yielded a simpler explanation. The story was later lowered down from the lead story on the site.

The other stories on the website are much more church-oriented in nature. On Thursday, they included Pope Francis' explanation of how he decided on calling himself Francis, the address to the media by the head of the social communications office about coverage of the papal conclave, and a story about registration being open for a congress

on the role of the media in promoting peace.

Earlier this week, the Twitter account of a senior Vatican official was hacked.

24 charged in meth case in Ark., TX

MAGNOLIA, Ark. (AP) — Federal and state prosecutors say 24 people have been charged with distributing methamphetamine in southwestern Arkansas and in Texas.

U.S. Attorney Conner Eldridge and 13th District Prosecuting Attorney Ian Vickery announced the charges at a news conference Thursday afternoon in Magnolia.

The two say authorities executed five search warrants in Waldo and Magnolia, Ark., and Dallas and Desoto, Texas. Investigators seized an estimated three pounds of methamphetamine, five weapons and approximately \$150,000 in cash.

Eldridge says the investigation known as "Operation Crystal Clear" began in early 2012 and included controlled purchases of methamphetamine.

The prosecutors say 16 of the 24 charged are in custody and the remaining eight are being

sought.

Those arrested are from Magnolia, Waldo, Dallas and Texarkana, Texas.

State Rep. Oliveira hospitalized

AUSTIN (AP) — State Rep. Rene Oliveira was hospitalized Thursday following a car accident near the Capitol, but aides said he was not seriously hurt.

The Brownsville Democrat was taken to the hospital mostly as a precaution, Oliveira spokesman J.J. Garza said. Authorities said the accident happened in downtown Austin just before 11 a.m. and that no one else was seriously hurt.

"He just said his neck hurt, his shoulder hurt, the typical things you would think of in a car wreck," Garza said.

Word of the accident first came on the floor of the Texas House. The news quickly hushed an escalating debate in the chamber surrounding fees on cell phone bills, and lawmakers held a moment of silent prayer.

Oliveira, 58, has represented his Rio Grande Valley district since 1991 and chairs the House Committee on Business and Industry.

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Clarendon College Pampa Center will be hosting a college preparation session pertaining to admissions, registration, advising, financial assistance, and general questions on Wednesday, March 27th and Thursday, March 28th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The location will be the Lovett Memorial Library Auditorium. The auditorium is located on the north side of the building. If you are interested in starting a new career, a technical program, learning a trade, or just want to take a few classes, please come out and see the new programs Clarendon College has to offer. Refreshments will be provided.

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Exams

Continued From Page 1

by about 5 points across the board from 2011 in reading, math and writing, continuing a downward trend of the past five years. ACT scores showed an incremental improvement from 20.1 in 2004 to 20.5.

On the SAT, last year's high school seniors lagged behind the national average on each of the math, verbal and writing portions of the test — in the latter two subjects by almost 20 points. With average scores of 470 in reading, 496 in math and 456 in writing, most Texas students also failed to meet the state's "college-ready" standards on the exam, which the Texas Education Agency sets at

a score of 500 or above in each section.

On the ACT, 24 percent of the class of 2012 met the College Board's "college ready" benchmarks in English, reading, math and science, according to a report released in August. That figure, just below the national average of 25 percent, has remained the same since 2010.

A similar pattern holds true on the NAEP, where Texas students' scores remain below the national average in all subjects except fourth- and eighth-grade math. On state tests, however, students' passing rates climbed to 89 and 86 percent in fourth-grade math and reading and 80 and 89 percent, respectively, in those subjects in eighth grade.

State education officials attribute the sluggish improvement on national exams to a larger number

of students opting to take them, in the case of the college admissions tests, and to the state's increasing percentage of economically disadvantaged and minority students.

"We are clearly building a college-going culture in Texas. The increased minority participation is important to the health of this state because of our changing demographics," Texas Education Commissioner Michael Williams said in a statement announcing the SAT scores in September.

The participation rates of black and Hispanic students, both groups that on average tend to underperform on the exams compared with their peers, have both increased in Texas by about 15 percentage points on college entrance exams since 2004.

In that period, the overall

percentage of students taking the exams has grown from 61 to 76 percent.

Jones said that while the idea that scores hadn't improved because more students were taking the exam had "some validity," it did not fully explain the stagnation.

"That's all good data to process," he said, "but the truth of the matter is, it's a crutch when we start talking about that's the reason we aren't improving."

Until students spend more time in the classroom learning how to understand and find information on their own rather than memorizing straight facts, he said, that improvement was unlikely to occur.

"We are probably not cracking that nut as well as we are the nut of teach-

ing the state curriculum. We are still teaching too much stuff as opposed to teaching kids how to think and process. That's what those national measures test," he said.

The STAAR exams, the next generation of state standardized tests that students in third through ninth grade began taking last spring, are intended to encourage the teaching of those higher order skills while still aligning with the Texas curriculum.

A debate is currently raging at the Legislature about how those exams should factor into graduation requirements — and how many of them students should take — but

nearly all sides agree that the new regime is better at measuring classroom success than the TAKS.

While student performance almost always drops when the state rolls out a new assessment system, scores on the first round of STAAR exams indicate challenges ahead.

If the state hadn't delayed implementation of passing standards for the first year, 46 percent of ninth grade students would have passed their reading exams — the year before, on the TAKS, 89 percent did.

In Algebra I, 39 percent would have — the year before, on the TAKS, 72 percent did.

Safety

Continued From Page 1

and fatalities can be attributed to an escalation in oil and gas production, Braun said it shows a trend.

"That is the reason for the campaign," he said.

Braun said oil and gas companies operating in the state have as much concern for public safety as TxDOT and DPS.

"They are concerned for their drivers, equipment and general public as well," he said.

In addition to educating the public, Braun said TxDOT has requested \$37 million in additional funding to improve roads in areas of Texas with heavy truck traffic from the energy sector.

"Last year we did spend

\$3 million to beef up roads — which includes strengthening foundations and widening some roads," he said.

Driving tips and other important safety information will be appearing on oil and gas trucks and in high-traffic energy production areas. Additionally, in areas of increased traffic, DPS will step up enforcement of the state's traffic laws.

"DPS has a responsibility to protect travelers on our roadways, and we urge all drivers — commercial and passenger — to do their part to keep our roads safe," said Texas Highway Patrol Major Richard Diegelman. "Drivers will continue to see periodic DPS special enforcement operations in areas with increased truck traffic, which are designed to enforce commercial

vehicle regulatory requirements and discourage dangerous driving by passenger vehicles."

The new "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign urges all drivers to take the following basic safety precautions:

- Always buckle up.
- Don't drive when you're drowsy.
- Drive a safe speed that takes traffic, road conditions and weather into account.
- Stop for all stop signs and red lights.
- Pass carefully.
- Pay attention, which means no talking or texting on cell phones or engaging in any other distracting behaviors.
- Never drink and drive.
- For more information on the campaign, visit Sherrymatthews.com/pr/energy-granite-wash.

PISD

Continued From Page 1

Jicek on Tuesday will present a summary of what was discussed at the meeting. Zajicek will also present the site plan, floor plan, exterior and interior sketches, project schedule and final estimated cost.

The following is a tentative project schedule, including bid deadlines and construction timeline:

- Documents out for bids — April 1
- PISD advertisement for bid — April 5 to April 12
- Receive bids — April 18
- Board approval of GMP (guaranteed maximum price) — May 16

- Notice to proceed to general contractor — May 17
- Start construction — May 27
- Construction complete — Nov. 21
- Move-in date — Nov. 30.

The total cost of the new admin facility is nearly \$6 million.

The current estimated total construction cost is around \$4.9 million; also included is around \$1.1 million in other costs, such as furniture and contingency funds.

The Board will also consider a \$278,500 budget amendment to cover a series of expenses, including the purchase of new heating, ventilation and air conditioning units at Austin, Lamar and Travis elemen-

tary schools, resurfacing of the Pampa High School track, high school clocks and an intercom system.

Also on Tuesday's agenda is consideration of the district's fall sports bids, including: PHS football — \$39,320; PJHS football — \$29,008; PHS volleyball — \$26,377; PHS cross country — \$5,054; and PJHS volleyball — \$1,019.

The Board will discuss, in executive session, issuance of an invitation to bid on either a portion or all of the Baker Elementary property, located at 300 E. Tuke St. According to PISD records, the district received an inquiry from an individual who may have interest in purchasing the property.

Pampa Junior High is located at 4000 Bad Cattle Company Road.

Correction

An article published Thursday about a housing development in Pampa had the incorrect square footage for the first house under construction. The correct size of the house, which is being built by Pampa Realty on East Harvester Avenue, is 1,750 square feet. The Pampa News apologizes for the error and wishes to set the record straight.

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IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE A DRAWING FOR A \$250 SCHOLARSHIP FOR A NEW STUDENT AND A \$250 SCHOLARSHIP FOR A CURRENT STUDENT.

Where: Clarendon College
 Pampa Center

When: Thursday, March 28th

Time: 4:30 pm

Viewpoints

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Tax Day prep: Here's what you need

Dear Carrie, I always put off doing my taxes until the last minute and then I'm never sure if I'm doing them right. How can I make this process less painful? —A Reader



CARRIE SCHWAB-POMERANTZ

Dear Reader, Doing your taxes can seem like a huge chore, but for many people, it's really a simple process.

The key is a little upfront organization. That way, whether you're using an online tax prep program or old-fashioned paper and pencil, you'll have the information you need handy and can plug in the numbers.

Even if your financial situation is more complex and you need the help of an accountant, being prepared can save you time and money.

- **Have identification numbers handy**

While this may seem obvious, not having all the necessary Social Security or other tax ID numbers handy can be the first frustration when sitting down to do your taxes. If you're single, no problem.

But if you're married and have dependents, make sure you have all of their Social Security numbers in front of you before you get started. You'll also need their birthdays.

- **Collect documents that show your earnings**

There are different forms to designate different types of income. If you're an employee and your regular job is your only source of income, the only form you'll need is your W-2 from your employer. This will show what you've earned and the taxes you've already paid through withholding.

- **Gather documents that reduce your income**

What you've earned is only one side of the equation.

Equally important is documentation for what are called "adjustments to income." These include things like IRA contributions, contributions to health savings accounts, alimony paid, qualified student loan interest, higher education expenses, moving expenses if you moved for a new job and more.

Add up these adjustments and subtract them from your gross income to get your "adjusted gross income" or AGI.

Once you have a handle on this year's taxes, set up some simple files to keep on top of earnings, deduction and credits for the coming year.

While doing taxes may never be your favorite pastime, with a little organization you can look forward to getting it done sooner rather than later.

Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz is president of Charles Schwab Foundation and author of "It Pays to Talk."

Radical survivor

It was September 1995 when my friend and colleague Rob Saltzman told me what had happened to his sister's family. Tennis nuts. Her husband and their two boys died in a small plane crash on the way home from watching a tennis tournament. Did I mention that she had fought back breast cancer? That she was the principal at the elementary school both of her boys had attended?

I am "good" at dealing with loss. A lot of people run away from even the mention of it, thinking it is somehow contagious. And sadness might be, but not loss. Loss just is. You face it. You say you're sorry. You give a hug, make a cup of tea, arrange some flowers, cry. As with so much of life, 90 percent is just about being there.

But to lose your husband and young children... My own were 2 and 5 at the time. I could not bear to think about it. I searched my office for some book, some collection of something that could offer comfort, if not to Rob's sister, Nancy, then to Rob.

I lived through rape and wrote about it. Not to compare suffering, but it seemed like nothing. How do you survive the worst thing in the world? I looked for my books about the Holocaust.

Eighteen years later, Dr. Nancy Saltzman has written the book I did not have on my shelves, the one you would wish on no one (and having read it, recommend to everyone), a book that — remarkably, truly remarkably — is as much about life as it is about death.

On the cover, there is a picture of a beautiful, smiling woman, alive. She looks, in that moment, happy.

On the back, there is a picture of the same woman, younger, beautiful, smiling, surrounded by her handsome husband and two boys.

ed by her handsome husband and two boys.

Inside is the story of how one woman survived a nightmare. It is also a celebration of the lives of the three men she so loved, her husband and two sons.

I did not want to read that part, I must admit. Knowing she was going to lose them, why did I have to live the joy? Why did I have to come to love them with her?

I have suffered from depression and anxiety my entire life. So did my mother. I know there are so many folks who have it so much tougher than I do.

I try to remember that, but it doesn't really work. Depression is not a rational choice, much less a branch of game theory.

Realizing how much more miserable things could be, things are, makes it worse, not better. Who am I to deserve to stay in bed if Nancy Saltzman can get up?

I was afraid to read this book for the usual reasons: that it would be the kind of book that makes you feel like a sinner in the company of a saint, the kind of book in which a writer's courage in the face of tragedy only leaves me with nightmares of catastrophe and shame at my own cowardice.

But I felt like I owed it to Rob to try.

He is so proud of his sister. She signed it: "In comes love..."

In comes love.

Dr. Nancy Saltzman has written a moving tribute to her husband and sons and to the family and friends who helped her survive.

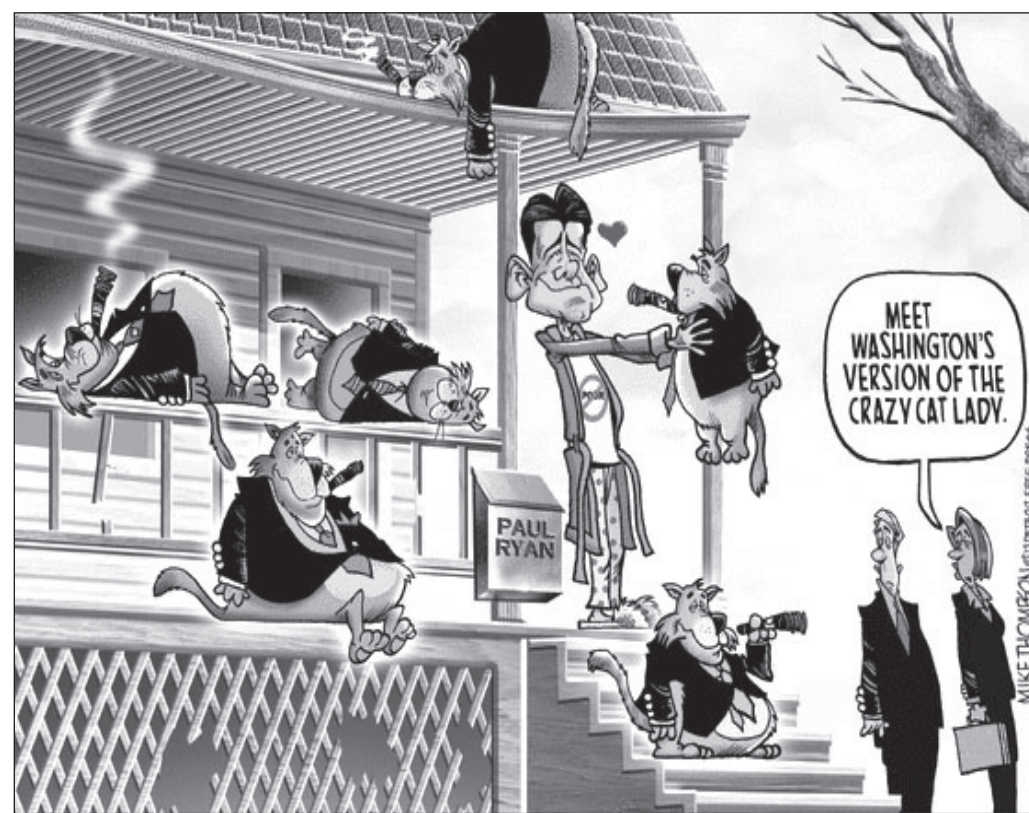
She has written a painful and personal tale of death and grieving and acceptance and the small steps to a different kind of happiness.

But more than anything, she has written a book that is a celebration — at every level — of the power of love.

To find out more about Susan Estrich and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.



SUSAN ESTRICH



How To Write Us

The Pampa News welcomes letters to the editor. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and signatures.

We reserve the right to edit letters or not to publish certain letters.

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New pope's name stirs pride, admiration

In December 1970, when I was a 10-year-old boy traveling with my family in the Holy Land, we took a short drive from Israel into Jordan, and my grandmother incautiously fell into a conversation with the Arab driver about religion.



TOM ROSSHIRT

"Pope Paul is good," the driver said, referring to the pope at the time. "But when Pope John talked, the whole world listened!" I recall that my grandmother was somewhat offended because she perceived a slight against the sitting pope. But my mother told me: "The driver was right. Everyone loved Pope John."

If the whole world listened to Pope John XXIII, it was in part because he spoke to the whole world — as a gentle, humble, holy man who radiated love.

He once said to a diplomat: "I know you are an atheist, but won't you accept an old man's blessing?" He addressed his encyclical "Pacem in Terris" ("Peace on Earth") to not just the customary audience of Catholic faithful but also "all men of good will." When some in the Vatican complained to Pope John that people could see him on his daily walks in the gardens —

objecting, apparently, because it diminished the awe of the papacy — he responded: "Why should people not see me? I don't misbehave, do I?"

There was something of that image on Wednesday as former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica — an older man, dressed only in the simple white cassock, standing silently, appealing for a blessing, offering a blessing "to the whole world, to all men and women of good will," and taking the name Francis.

Francis. That's one step below taking the name Jesus. Francis is the most beloved Catholic saint, in and outside the Roman Catholic Church. When Pope John Paul II invited representatives of the world's religions to gather together to pray in 1986 and again in 2002, he invited them to Assisi.

Francis shunned money and property. He had no thought for tomorrow. He embraced lepers because, for him, they embodied Christ in his last tortured moments. G.K. Chesterton wrote of Francis, "He seems to have liked everybody, but especially those whom everybody disliked him for liking."

How much this pope will resemble his predecessor John or his namesake, Francis, will be seen. This is the season of scandal, so the world's press will be turned loose on his past, exploring every aspect of his con-

duct during Argentina's military dictatorship. It would be disastrous for the church if the cardinals come to regret their choice.

Yet one can see why they chose Cardinal Bergoglio. He is a man of prayer who lived in an apartment instead of a palace, took the bus instead of a car, prepared his own meals instead of hiring a cook, and took up the cause of the poor and forgotten. But before they can speak their truth with impact, they have to connect emotionally, socially and spiritually with the people they hope to teach. That connection has frayed.

The faithful see the flaws and sins of church leaders in a way they didn't before. When so much unflattering information is known, the sense of mystery that served the church for so long to keep the faithful in awe will not work. Mystery must be replaced by authenticity. The connection has frayed also because we live in an age of many options. The Roman Catholic Church no longer has a captive audience. It no longer has a monopoly on the social and religious lives of the faithful in the way it did in this country as recently as the 1960s.

In this climate, it is not the flock that needs to meet the demands of the shepherd. It is first the shepherd who needs to earn the trust of the flock.

The more the sins of

church leaders are known and the more options people have to seek spiritual fulfillment elsewhere the more essential it is to place in prominent church positions men and women of courageous virtue.

It's hard for the church to make a case for the faith unless it also can show us the transformative effect of that faith — clear evidence of goodness. It is not enough for church leaders to achieve holiness that is visible only to God. To attract a distracted world, faith needs to manifest itself in virtues we can see — compassion for others, love for the poor, passion for justice, indifference to power, deep humility and a forgiving nature. Only if church leaders embody those qualities are they likely to get the people of this age to emerge from their electronic trance and pay attention to the purpose of their lives.

Perhaps that was some of what the cardinals were thinking when they chose Jorge Mario Bergoglio as pope. Perhaps that was some of what Cardinal Bergoglio was thinking when he chose the name Francis. A pope who stirs the pride of Catholics and invites the admiration of the world is what the church needs now.

Tom Rosshirt was a national security speechwriter for President Bill Clinton and a foreign affairs spokesman for Vice President Al Gore.

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MEMBER 2012
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

The PAMPA NEWS Community Calendar

City Commission meetings

The Pampa City Commission meets at 4 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held on the third floor of City Hall.

School board meetings

The Pampa Independent School District board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Check The Pampa News for meeting locations.

County Commission meetings

The Gray County Commission meets at 9 a.m. on the first and 15th of each month. If the date falls on a Saturday, the meeting will be held on Friday. If the date falls on a Sunday, the meeting will be held on Monday. The meetings are held on the second floor of the Gray County Courthouse.

Immunization clinic 3 times a month

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) hosts an immunization clinic in Pampa three times a month. The clinics are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays of each month. The first 10 people in line for the morning and first 10 in the afternoon will always receive shots.

However, if there are more than 10, they still may be able to accommodate the patients, or ask them to come back at another time. For more information, call 665-4752 or 806-874-3211. The clinic is located at 736 S. Cuyler St.

PAWS meets second Tuesdays
Pampa Animal Welfare Society meets the first Tuesday of each month in the north meeting room at the Lovett Memorial Library. The meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and are open to the public. There is a desperate need for more members, especially when the new shelter opens. PAWS members are needed to work at the shelter from 3 to 5:30 p.m. each day and to work adoption days or take animals to the vets when needed, but mostly people are needed to love and work with the animals where they will be more adoptable. For more information, call the shelter after 3 p.m. at 669-5775 and ask for the PAWS volunteer.

Jam sessions every Friday night

The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center has a jam session every Friday night starting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to play or listen. The center is located at 320 S. Cuyler St. For more information, call 806-664-0824.

Meredith House presents live music

Meredith House, an assisted-living facility at 812 W. 25th Ave., has a band performing at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Saturday night. Join them

for Western music, gospel and the classics. For more information, call 806-665-5668.

Monday night dance club

The Monday night dance club meets from 7 to 9 p.m., each Monday, in the Pampa Chamber of Commerce building on the corner of Ballard and Kingsmill. Admission is \$3. Cold drinks and coffee are offered. The club plays Country music from the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s. For more information, call Della at 806-665-2858.

Carver School alumni, former teachers

Did you attend the Carver School before Pampa School District integrated? Or did you ever teach at Carver School?

The Pampa News is working on an ongoing series that documents the Carver School and would like to share your stories, your memories of the school and your experiences there. Contact reporter Sasha Heller at sheller@thepampanews.com or call the news office at 669-2525.

Garage and Trade Show Saturday

Open Range Engineering is hosting the "Welcome Home" Garage & Trade Show. The event is designed to showcase the new development of The Edwin Park Subdivision at 2401 Charles (the old middle school). The Garage &

Trade Show will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday with the groundbreaking following immediately after.

There is still plenty of booth space available for vendors, crafters, homemade items and even the service industry. This is also wonderful opportunity to advertise your business, to showcase items, or discuss the services your businesses offer. For information, contact Stephanie Nelson with Open Range Engineering at 806-665-1115, Ext. 20.

PHS Choir garage sale Saturday

The Pampa High School Choir is holding a garage sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 23.

The sale will be held in the music rooms and outdoors at the old Pampa Junior High School off the Perryton Highway.

The sale is concurrent with the Garage & Trade Show that is being sponsored by Open Range Engineering.

All proceeds from the choir garage sale will go to the choir students' Italy trip.

The Choir Booster Club will be selling hamburgers, chips and water.

No choir performances are scheduled at this time, since several students will not be present because of other extracurricular events.

Hidden Hills 3-Person Scramble Saturday

Hidden Hills Golf Course is hosting a 3-person scramble at 9 a.m., March 23.

The entry fee is \$45 per person.

Only one player with a 8 handicap or less is allowed.

Extra money will benefit the Course Improvement fund. Free lunch will be provided to tournament players.

For more information, contact David Teichmann at 806-669-5866.

Genealogical Society to meet Monday

The Gray County Genealogical Society will hold its monthly meeting 7 p.m., Monday at the north entrance of the Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston. The public is invited. Anyone interested in genealogy should attend.

Financial Peace University at Briarwood

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, an eight-week financial planning course, will be offered at Briarwood Church, beginning at 7 p.m., March 28. Lessons include budgeting, relationships and money, getting out of debt, saving for emergencies and investing.

Briarwood Church is located at 1800 W. Harvester Ave. Contact the church office 806-665-7201 for more information or to register.

Food manager training course

A professional food manager certification training course will be

offered March 27-28 at the Gray County Annex, located at 12125 E. Frederic Ave. in Pampa by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Gray County.

For more information about the Professional Food Manager Certification training course, call Gray-Soria at 806-669-8033.

Voting applications available at City Hall

Applications for ballot by mail for the May 11 City of Pampa and Pampa ISD elections are available by request.

To receive an application for both City of Pampa and Pampa ISD elections, please call the City Secretary's office at 806-669-5750.

Reasons for voting by mail are: 65 years of age or older; disability; absence from the city/county and confinement in jail.

The last day to request an application for ballot by mail is May 3. Early voting by personal appearance begins April 29 and ends May 7.

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 title of the event, the date and time, physical address, the admission cost or whether it is a free event and a contact number and/or email address for the public.

6 suspected illegal immigrants dead in Texas crash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KINGSVILLE (AP) — Officials say six suspected illegal immigrants were killed and nine were injured when a truck being pursued by Kingsville police crashed into a security barrier at Naval Air Station Kingsville.

Jon Gagne, Naval Air Station Kingsville spokesman, says the gate guard tried to greet the vehicle as it approached Wednesday night but the driver sped through without stopping. Senior Cpl. Charlie Ramirez says popup barriers were activated beyond the gate and the vehicle crashed into them.

No victims have been identified. The conditions of the injured were not immediately available.

Kingsville is about 40 miles southwest of Corpus Christi.

Man gets life term for shooting at Texas officers

ORANGE (AP) — A Southeast Texas man has been sentenced to life in prison for shooting at some Orange police officers trying to serve a drug warrant.

An Orange County jury convicted 36-year-old David Glen Mays of two counts of attempted capital murder. He was sentenced Wednesday to life behind bars.

Prosecutors say nobody was injured in the March 2011 incident in which Mays opened fire. A bullet ended up lodged in the door frame as police forced their way into the home.

Investigators say cocaine, marijuana and guns were recovered from the residence. Mays was arrested on charges of attempted capital murder, possession of a controlled substance and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Texas growers hopeful for upcoming peach crop

FREDERICKSBURG (AP) — Some peach growers in Texas have high hopes for a splendid crop despite a cold blast in early March.

Dan Rohrer with the Hill Country Fruit Council says the late-winter drop of temperatures into the 20s thinned some

early blooming varieties of peaches. But Rohrer says farmers would have had to thin their crops anyway.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Thursday that Russ Studebaker with the Studebaker Farm says for the most part it's a pretty hearty crop. Studebaker on Tuesday split a few blossoms on his 30-acre grove to check for budding fruit.

Rohrer says he keeps in contact with regular customers about when certain varieties are ready. He says those individuals travel from Houston and East Texas to get their Fredericksburg peaches.

Dallas-area woman calls 911 before ex-spouse kills both

DESOTO (AP) — A Dallas-area woman can be heard pleading for help in a 911 call as her ex-husband breaks into the house before killing her and then himself.

DeSoto police released the 911 recording in Tuesday's night's fatal shooting of 37-year-old Catina Lareese Murphy. Her former husband used to be a police officer in Arlington and with the Cedar Hill Independent School District.

Police have said they believed the shootings happened on the day the couple's divorce became final.

The woman is heard saying "send somebody right now" to a dispatcher as 40-year-old Andre Murphy arrives at her mother's home and the call disconnects. DeSoto police arrived minutes later and found the bodies.

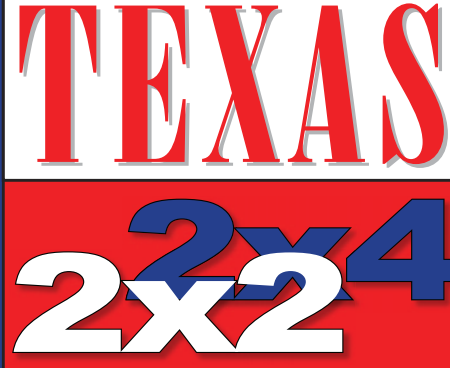
The couple's 7-year-old daughter wasn't at the residence at the time of the gunfire.

VA contractor charged in Texas with fraud

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Department of Veterans Affairs contractor has been charged with fraud over a \$2 million agreement for work at a Texas hospital.

The San Antonio Express-News reports Navy veteran Jonathan Patrick Saunders faces six counts of wire fraud and two counts of aggravated identity theft.

Saunders appeared in federal court in San Antonio on Wednesday and was freed on \$50,000 bail. He's president of Saunders MEP Inc.



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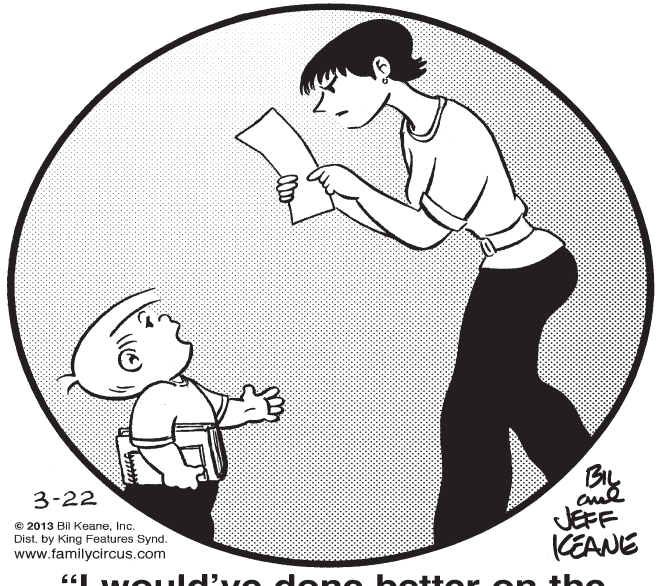
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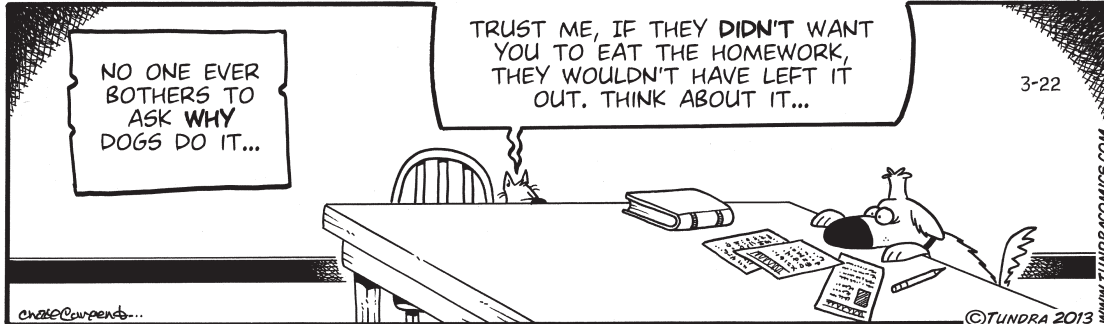
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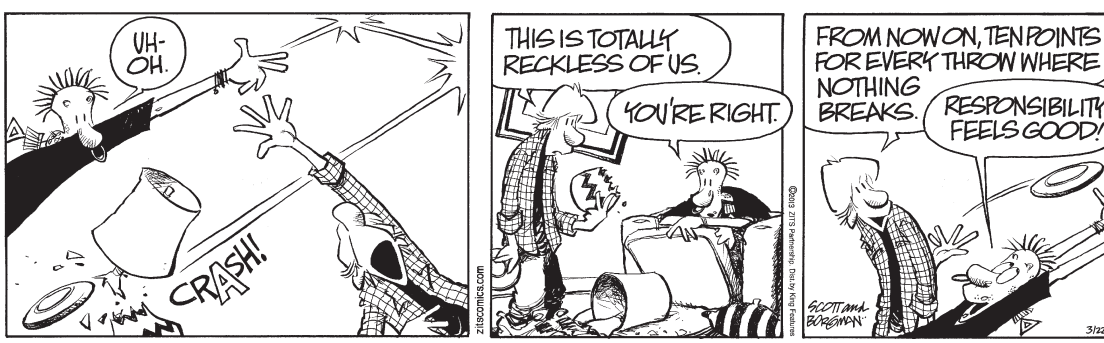
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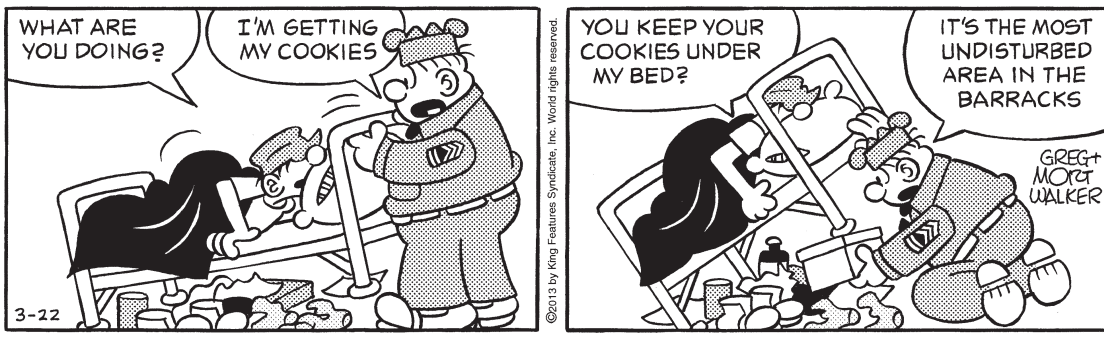
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Garfield



Beetle Bailey



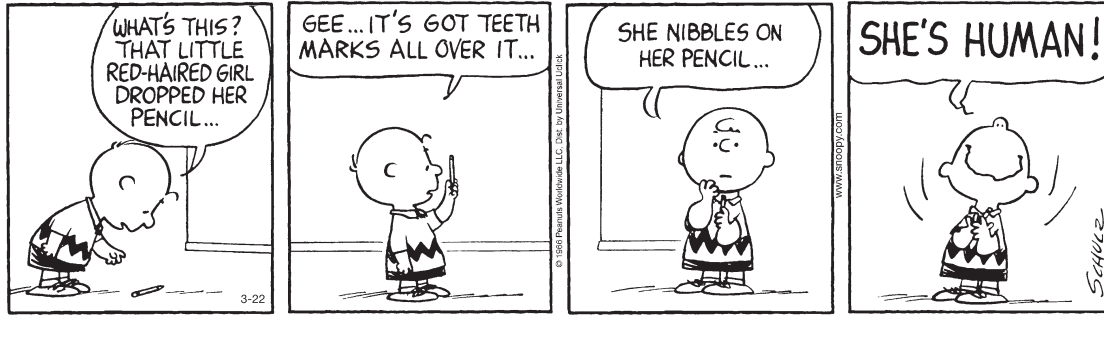
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Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



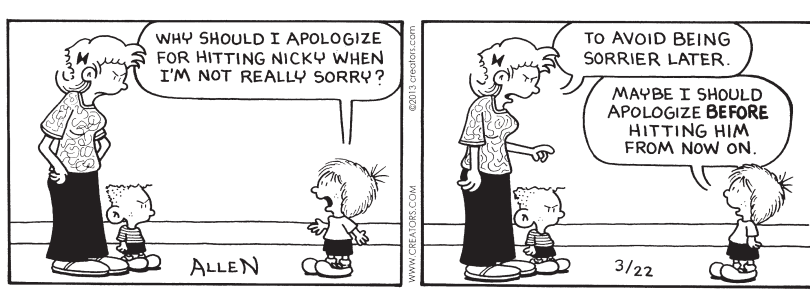
Blondie



Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 23, 2013:
 This year you are energized and full of fun. You also have a strong sense of what your destiny is. You know what you want, and you will meet your goals by tapping into your assertiveness. No one can get in your way. If you are single, many potential suitors will come forward. Understand that you don't need to choose any of them -- just enjoy the process. If you are attached, you will have fun together when out and about. Be sure to maintain a sense of humor. LEO loves to challenge you.
 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)
 ★★★★★ Others count on you to make a difference. You'll come up with plans that will allow people to express themselves. Your sense of humor comes across, which helps others clear up their issues. You know your priorities and goals. Tonight: Expect to be in demand.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ You love to relax at home. Your sense of how things should be done comes through when throwing a party or other type of social event. You smile, and others do as well. A loved one could be testy, but you'll help him or her get past a problem. Tonight: You don't have to go far.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★★★ Partake in the old art of swapping jokes. Start sharing more, and others will respond in kind. Keep asking a shy person questions about his or her life. Conversations will flow more easily with this type of communication. Your efforts count. Tonight: Factor in some flirtation.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★ You indulge others with your generous nature, but you don't have to offer others' affection. You have a lot to offer. Vary your expressions of caring. Don't forget to indulge yourself a little and buy a spring outfit or two for your wardrobe. Tonight: Let go, and paint the town red.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You draw many people toward you. Listen to news more openly. Someone you care about knows how to get your attention. Let this person infuse more excitement into your plans. Squeeze in some thinking time, and know full well which way you want to

go. Tonight: Frolic.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ You'll relate to a partner directly in order to understand his or her bottom line. In this conversation, a mutual understanding will develop that will allow you to grow. A questionable option comes forward; trust that you will make the correct decision. Tonight: Togetherness.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Zero in on your priorities, and you could gain a better sense of your immediate circle. Where you believed there was a mutual understanding, you might discover the opposite is true. You will experience the excitement of a new beginning. Tonight: Go to a spontaneous gathering.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★ Toss yourself into a fun project, but understand when you have had enough. Someone quite close to you might express intense compassion through his or her actions. You could be tempted to let go of prior plans. Know when to follow through. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Your file cabinet of possibilities needs some updating. The status quo is subject to change, and you would rather have it occur randomly than be the one who has to decide what area of your life needs modernizing. Gain control by accepting responsibility. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★ You will enjoy spending the day with a special person in your life. The more you do this, the stronger your bond will be. Together, you will feed off each other's energy and share ideas in order to help each other in any way possible. Tonight: Add some spice to the night.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ You will enjoy the cast of characters in your life. Feel free to ask for a break, or try to do something by yourself. You will have a lot to reflect on. One person appeals to you much more than others do. Make your decision accordingly. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ You know how to spice up the moment, and you will do just that. Someone comes forward who wants your advice. You might recognize that there could be much more of a relationship than what exists between you. Open up a discussion. Tonight: Dinner for two.

Lent devotionals through Tuesday, March 26

Day 33 — Friday

Scripture: Mt 27:32-44; Mk 15:21-32; Lk 23:26-43; Jn 19:17-27



Mike Sublett

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining.

This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." They cast lots.

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. (The Gospels Interwoven,)

Devotional:

They were the ancient equivalent of modern dice. For some reason military men have always been drawn to gambling with dice. There was nothing special about these dice. They were the ordinary ones that the soldiers used every day when they wanted to "cast lots" over some wager.

The only strange thing about this day was that the lots were being cast over a criminal's undergarment. To them the only thing special about the garment was that it would give the winner a little something extra over what the other soldiers got and bragging rights back in the barracks. I wonder what one of His followers would have paid the winning soldier for their Lord's garment?

The dice make me remember how differently people view Jesus. What a strange scene there at Calvary. Some women and John were gathered at the cross weeping and heartbroken. At the same moment soldiers were there gambling with dice over clothing they didn't even care about, wishing that He would just hurry up and die so they could all go home. How different could feelings be?

In my heart I want to always be like those women and John. I don't ever want to be like the dice-throwing soldiers. But since part of what Lent is about is reflection, I would have to admit that there have been times in my life when I wished the preacher would just hurry up and finish his lesson so that I could get on with what I had planned that Sunday afternoon. There have even been times when I wished the prayers were shorter and the songs fewer so that I wouldn't miss the kick-off of my favorite NFL team. I even remember canceling a Sunday evening service one time because a game was just too "important" to miss. I remember sitting in a church service once with my mind totally wrapped up in a little league baseball game that I had just left so that I could prove to everyone just how great of a Christian I was. That sure sounds more like the soldiers than the women and John. That has to stop. That has to change.

When their pressure to get the sign removed failed, the Jewish leaders began to mock and belittle Jesus. It was the adult rendition of "nanner, nanner, nanner". How did Jesus handle it all? Like the King of the Jews that He was. He could have called down fire from heaven like in the days of Elijah and turned them all into charcoal briquettes. But He didn't. Since He is my Lord, I have to consider how I respond to similar treatment. Do I follow in His footsteps? Are my footsteps even close to His? Are they even headed in the same direction? I do try to fol-

low in His steps, but too often I'm not very successful. And even when I am successful, it doesn't last for long. Someone cuts me off in traffic and instead of interceding in prayer for them like Jesus did, I scream at them either out loud or in my head. (like just doing it in my head makes it OK) I discover that a co-worker gossiped about me and I can't wait to return the favor. Not much like Him. Another thing that needs to change during Lent.

worshiping You. On those days You knew what I didn't realize at the time, that I was acting more like the dice-throwing soldiers than the women and John. It didn't even register to me how hurt You were that day. But I see now, Lord, at least I see a little. Help me always to bring my heart to every time of worship. Help me keep my focus off of my outside and keep it on my inside. And by the way, I'm sorry for that day in Oregon and that day in Louisiana; I really am. Amen.

Day 34 — Saturday

Scripture: Mt 27:32-44; Mk 15:21-32; Lk 23:26-43; Jn 19:17-27

Pilate had a written notice of the charge against him prepared and fastened to the cross above his head. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. It read: Jesus Of Nazareth, The King Of The Jews The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself, if you are the Son of God!" The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself." "Let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." "He's the King of Israel! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe in him." "He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Devotional:

It was just a plain piece of wood, so what was all the stink about it? And the words written on it were absolutely true, no exaggeration at all. So why were so many people so ticked off about it? The scene made no sense. And on top of that, the sign was a direct order from Governor Pilate. He had just given the Jews what they demanded, the head of Jesus on a silver platter. Were they content with nothing? The sign simply stated the charges for which Jesus was being crucified. What was the problem with those rabble-rousing, loud mouthed, grumbling Jews? The problem was that they despised the truth of the sign, they believed it to be a sign of heresy.

When their pressure to get the sign removed failed, the Jewish leaders began to mock and belittle Jesus. It was the adult rendition of "nanner, nanner, nanner". How did Jesus handle it all? Like the King of the Jews that He was. He could have called down fire from heaven like in the days of Elijah and turned them all into charcoal briquettes. But He didn't. Since He is my Lord, I have to consider how I respond to similar treatment. Do I follow in His footsteps? Are my footsteps even close to His? Are they even headed in the same direction? I do try to fol-

low in His steps, but too often I'm not very successful. And even when I am successful, it doesn't last for long. Someone cuts me off in traffic and instead of interceding in prayer for them like Jesus did, I scream at them either out loud or in my head. (like just doing it in my head makes it OK) I discover that a co-worker gossiped about me and I can't wait to return the favor. Not much like Him. Another thing that needs to change during Lent.

Prayer:

Lord, I know that You know that I love You. But I want You to be prouder of how I live. I want You to be more pleased when You watch my daily life. And more often I want You to be downright happy. But that won't happen without Your help, without the Holy Spirit's leading. Unfortunately it won't happen unless You love me enough to thump me from time to time. And if it's OK, I'll thank You right now, in advance, for the upcoming thumps. I'm so glad that You love me that much. Amen.

5th Sunday - Praise The Lord!

Get your celebratory devotional at church. And if you weren't planning on going, then there is still time to repent and GO! God bless.

Day 35 — Monday

Scripture: Mt 27:45-56; Mk 15:33-41; Lk 23:44-49; Jn 19:28-34, 36-37

From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land, for the sun stopped shining. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" - which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there. Immediately one man ran and got a sponge. He soaked it with wine vinegar, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop

plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. The rest said, "Leave him alone now. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him, to take him down." When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last; he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Devotional:

It was just a common sponge, part of the gear used by the Roman crucifixion detail more for cleaning up than anything else. But that day it served a different purpose. That day that sponge would touch the lips of God's only Son only seconds before He died. We don't really know who attached the sponge to the hyssop branch, doused it in the cheap drinking wine the soldiers had on hand and then raised it to touch the lips of God. We do know that the action was prompted by Jesus crying out that He was thirsty. Some commentators believe that it was an act of compassion either by a supporter in the audience or by a soldier who had been order to do so by the Roman Centurion in charge of the detail. Others believe that it was just more of the mockery. We just don't know for sure. Whichever is true the sponge played its part that day in the greatest drama ever. It played the role that it had been assigned in prophecy 1,000 years before. Ps. 69:21 This was no last minute accident; it was God's scheme of redemption unfolding for all to see.

There are quite a few lessons in that sponge. 1- The obvious one is that it couldn't touch Jesus until it was close enough. Lying with the other equipment in a box was too far a way to touch Him. How often do I forget to begin my day by drawing near to my Savior so that I can touch Him; more importantly so that He can touch me? 2- The sponge was of little use until it was filled. Dunk a sponge into a liquid and it will begin to soak it up immediately. When I report for duty each day, do I let Jesus fill me up?

3- The sponge couldn't lift itself up to the lips of

Jesus; it had to have help. The same is true with me. Without God's help I will never be close to the Savior. 4- The sponge was not discerning regarding what it soaked up. Dunk it into poison, it soaks up poison; into pure water, pure water. Sponges have to be careful. I need to be careful too. There may be people I need to stay away from so that I won't soak up any of their ways.

Prayer:

Father God, I don't ever want to be far away from Jesus. I want to be close, close enough to touch Him. And I want to be full of Him; not a little bit, but a lot. So I'm definitely going to need Your help. Lift me up to Him. Keep me near Him and far away from His enemies. I need to be more careful who and what I soak up. So bless me with discernment. Amen.

Day 36 - Tuesday

Scripture: Mt 27:45-56; Mk 15:33-41; Lk 23:44-49; Jn 19:28-34, 36-37

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

Devotional:

"Make a curtain of blue, purple and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim worked into it by skilled hands. 32 Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold and standing on four silver bases. 33 Hang the curtain from the clasps and place the ark of the covenant law behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. Ex 26:31-33

It was the curtain that separated the Holiest of Holies, the residence of Jehovah, from the worship in the Holy Place. It was the heavenly Kevlar that shielded the priests who worked in the Holy Place from certain death. Only the High Priest could enter Jehovah's habitation and live; and

even then only on the great Day of Atonement.

But that day on Mount Calvary Jesus cried out, "It is finished." And lest anyone miss His point, Jehovah reached to the top of the veil and ripped it in half from top to bottom. No one would dream that a human had torn it because then the rip would have been bottom to top. All would now know that Father God had spoken.

God's message was clear: the old is finished, the new has just begun. No longer would God be hidden from people in a small room and primarily for His Jewish children. All would now be NEW. God had walked this earth to tell mankind of His love and instead of a warm reception He was murdered. And He allowed it to happen so that I could see Him face to face and walk with Him hand in hand.

Prayer:

Father God, I wasn't literally standing there that day at Calvary and my sins hadn't even happened yet. But as surely as the sins of His murderers put Him on that cross, mine did too. I confess to You the wickedness of all my sin. I feel like Mel Gibson did when it came time to shoot the crucifixion scene in The Passion of the Christ. It was a shot of his hand holding the hammer, proclaiming that his sins put Jesus on that cross too. My sins did too. I'm sorry. Thank You for tearing the veil, for removing any separation between You and me. Amen.

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

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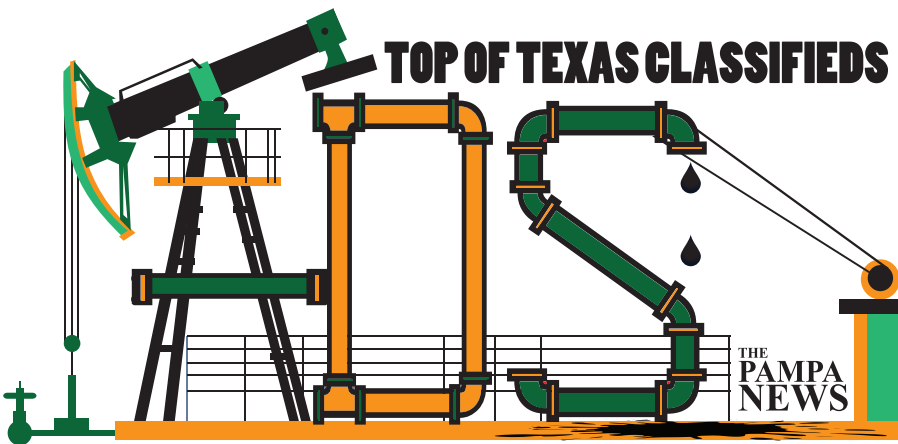
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122 Motorcycles

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Public Notice

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2013 for Band Equipment & Supplies. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806) 669-4700. D-74 March 22, 23, 2013



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- Clear sky
- Radio station sign
- Radiated
- Eccentric
- Short time
- Relatives
- One, for Juan
- Lanka
- Terminate
- Washed out
- Michener book
- One of Jo's sisters
- Part of RSVP
- Milking seat
- Fancy flower
- Pollen collector
- Empty talk
- Crumb carrier
- New enlistee
- Courtroom oath
- Theater worker
- Moved carefully
- Brief job
- Getting on

45 Aspirations

- "The Full —"

DOWN

- Come clean
- Goddess of wisdom
- Cookie choice
- Poet's contraction
- Hard journeys
- Sticks
- Burden
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- Tempresses

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R	O	O	T		B	L	O	W	I
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G	R	A	M	M	Y		T	E	N
T	I	R	E	S			S	O	A

Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 10 Pollster's find | 31 Start a new paragraph |
| 17 NYC subway | 32 Primly pompous |
| 22 Punk rock offshoot | 33 Salon tool |
| 24 Noon, on a clock | 35 Calliope need |
| 26 Dairy case buys | 38 Painter Magritte |
| 28 Handles | 42 In the past |

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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				
					29		30		31	32
33				34		35		36		
37			38					39		
40						41	42			
43							44			
45							46			

3-22

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

However, they still call me "gay." I have told them repeatedly that "transgender" and "gay" are not the same, but they won't listen. They accept and love me "as I am," and I'm grateful for that. But I need them to accept me — the REAL me — as I am in my heart.

I am biologically male and there are people in my life who don't care about that; they care about me as a human being and want to spend their lives with me. It hurts when my parents keep calling me "gay" and their "son." Please help me, Abby. My heart is hurting. — GIRL NEEDING ADVICE

DEAR GIRL: Believe it or not, your parents may need as much or more help than you do. Although you have told them you are transgender, they do not appear to fully grasp that gender identity and sexual orientation are two different things.

A terrific educational resource for them would be PFLAG. It's an organization made up of parents, families, friends and straight allies united with gay, bisexual and transgender people. Part of their mission is education, and there are chapters in all 50 states. Contact them at www.pflag.org. Their literature will help your parents understand.

DEAR ABBY: I am a man in my 40s. My girlfriend and I have known each other for four years, but have grown much closer over the past few months. She's divorced

with no kids. I have asked her to stop going to a gym that she regularly visits. In the past, she had sex with a guy from there. He no longer goes there, but she craves that environment. She says she goes to keep in shape. I say she made a name for herself there, and requested she go to another gym. What do you think? — JEFF IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR JEFF: "Made a name for herself"? That's an antiquated phrase I haven't heard in a while. Because you asked, I will offer a few thoughts:

The individual this lady had the fling with is long gone. I doubt at this point whether anyone at that gym cares or remembers. If the "atmosphere" has you worried, go with her, and I'm sure you will quickly realize that the members go there to tone up rather than hook up.

A word of advice: The harder you try to control your girlfriend the further you'll drive her away, so stop acting like a dumbbell.

SUDOKU

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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		3		1	8			6
	7	5						3

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PampaSports

JV softball beats River Road 6-2



Photos by Zachary Green

Left, Sarah Dennis has the ball and is waiting to tag out a Lady Wildcat runner. Center, Shelby Langley fields the ball, steps on second and looks to throw to first base. Right, Cheyenne Lockhart comes sliding into home plate. Pampa's JV softball team won the game 6-2. They play Borger today at 6:30 p.m.

By ZACHARY GREEN
zgreen@thepampanews.com

Pampa's JV softball team traveled to Amarillo on Tuesday night for a game against River Road.

Pampa started the scoring off in the top of the first when Kendra McIntyre, Tori Robles and Ally Roberson all came around to score, giving Pampa a 3-0 lead.

River Road scored a run in the bottom of the first to make it 3-1.

Sarah Dennis reached base and scored

in the top of the second for Pampa. Cheyenne Lockhart reached base and scored in the top of the third.

Cameron Schaub reached base and scored in the top of the fourth.

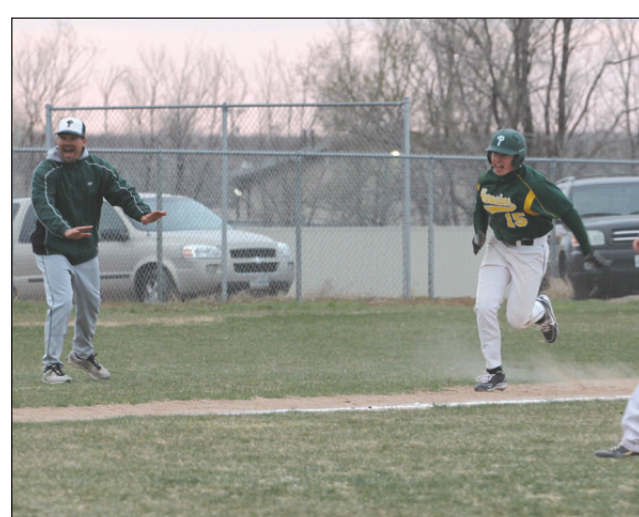
River Road added one more run of their own in the bottom of the third, but

it wasn't enough as Pampa defeated the Lady Wildcats 6-2.

The game was called after four innings due to the 75-minute time limit.

JV softball will be back in action at 6:30 p.m. today when they host Borger.

JV baseball team takes 5-1 victory over Wildcats



Photos by Charla Shults

Left, Nathan Furgason slides back into second base. Furgason and his River Road opponent both look up to get the safe or out call from the umpire. Center, Colton Thompson rounds third and is on his way to score. Right, Ty Hooper carefully takes a lead off first base as he watches the pitcher.

Amarillo Venom sign Childress native

SUBMITTED

AMARILLO — The Amarillo Venom have signed Texas Tech University graduate, and native of Childress, Sawyer Vest.

This will be Vest's first year in the Lone Star Football League and he will be playing wide receiver and defensive back.

Vest played in 12 games for the Texas Tech Red Raiders. During that time span, he had 13 tackles, 11 of which were solo tackles, while

playing corner and special teams for the Red Raiders.

According to his profile page on Texas Tech's website, Vest had a very decorated high school career playing quarterback for the Childress Bobcats.

He was a three-year letterman, district MVP, named district Newcomer of the Year in both football and basketball and was named honorable mention in the race for all-state quarterback.

"Watching him from his Childress High School days to his Texas Tech

days has been a lot of fun," Venom owner Stephanie Tucker said. "We are very excited to have him and our Childress fans are going to be excited to see a familiar face."

For more information on the Amarillo Venom please visit Govenom.com or "Like" our Facebook page at Facebook.com/AmarilloVenom.

The Amarillo Venom office is located at 901 S. Buchanan or call the office at 806-350-7277.

The Amarillo Venom is a proud member of the Lone Star Football League.

Hidden Hills scramble results March 20

SUBMITTED

Hidden Hills seniors four-man scramble results from March 20.

First place with a score of 64, the team of W. White, L. Heard, C. Bynum and J. South.

Second place with a score of 64, the team of K. Everson, D. Dunham, F. Snow and J. Jensen.

Third place with a score of 64, the team of E. Maxwell, B. Robben, H. Knutson and B.M. Millican.

Fourth place with a score of 65, the team of D.D. Lofton, J. Stavenhagen, C. Johnson and A. Bolton.

Fifth place with a score of 65, the team of R. Porter, C. Ritthaler, H. Wells and G. Hall.

The closest to the hole winner for hole No. 6 was K. Everson. The closest to the hole winner for hole No. 15 was J. Hervey.

Wheel Times Saturday at PHS

SUBMITTED

Wheel Times Inc. is having an event at 5 p.m., Saturday. The event is being sponsored by the Pampa Lions Club.

It will be in the Dennis Cavalier Activity Center.

Refreshments and snacks will follow after the game.



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