

Bereavement and Healing | p4

Tennis and golf going to regionals | p11

# **AimBank to build on Perryton Parkway**



\$1.50 weekend

38¢ subscription

An illustration of what the AimBank to be built on Perryton Parkway will look like. Construction is slated to start this summer.

Fomer FSB of Miami branch at Combs-Worley Building will be relocated.

#### BY JOHN LEE

jclee@thepampanews.com

Ever since the groundbreaking of the Bennigan's in May 2013, Pampa residents have wondered when they will see the five commercial lots along Perryton Parkway flourish with new business. The lots are on what were formerly the grounds of the old Pampa Middle School.

Though nearly a year has past, Bennigan's said the restaurant will still be built where Perryton Parkway and 25th Street intersect.

owner of the commercial lots, Open Range Development, announced Tuesday on its Facebook page it had sold the lot at 23rd Avenue and Perryton Parkway to AimBank, which was founded in Littlefield in 1925.

Pampa residents can expect to see construction on the AimBank branch as early as this summer.

"We had consulted with the FSB staff and they have spoken about this being a central hub in Pampa and are very pleased with the traf-

Some good news came when the fic count at that location," said Scott Wade, CEO of AimBank. "AimBank has been looking at opportunities to expand into the Panhandle. Roberts and Gray counties are very vibrant right now with their crop, cattle, oil and wind industries and the timing just seems right."

> Not only will AimBank be bringing a \$9-million loan limit which Cody Bivens, market president for AimBank, says will be "beneficial to the economic development of

BANK cont. on page 2

## **First Baptist** to present musical drama on life of Jesus

#### STAFF REPORT

First Baptist Church of Pampa is presenting this weekend "Jesus ... The One and Only," a dramatic portrayal of the life of Jesus Christ.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Minister of Music Barry Owens said the musical drama will include choral selections, soloists and instrumentalists. There are about 50 cast members and about 50 people singing in the choir, along with instrumentalists and a technical crew.

Jesus will be played by Mark Mertz. "This presentation is our gift to the

# **TOO MANY BLUE T-SHIRTS**



community of Pampa every three years, Owens said. "The public is very cordially invited to come and worship, and to celebrate this season of the year with us."

First Baptist is located at 203 N. West St. For more information, call 806-669-1155

## CREATE a Beat! to hold Spring Fling

#### SUBMITTED

CREATE a Beat! is holding a Spring Fling on Saturday, April 12. The schedule for the day's events is as follows.

**9 a.m.** — 5K/10K \$20 **10 a.m.** — Kid's Fun Run \$10

Register online at createabeat.org (click on Spring Fling link), or CREATE a Beat 1615 N. Banks on Race day

9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Craft show and car show

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. — lunch: hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, homemade ice cream and sodas.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. — kids' activities (weather permitting): face painting, bouncers, Maxx game trailer and more.

There will also be a silent auction at the event with such prizes as PY&CC memberships, Anytime Fitness memberships, Jump n Jive passes and much more.

All proceeds from the day will go to help CREATE a Beat! continue to serve the Pampa community. For more information about the event visit www. createabeat.org or call Angi Woelfle at 806-674-8465 or CREATE a Beat! at 806-665-7474.

Photo by Lindsey Tomaschik

CASA of the High Plains and the Pampa High School group Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD) have been teaming up for five years now for their child abuse awareness T-shirt campaign. The blue T-shirts, each one representing an abused child from the area, rotate every week to a new business in town that supports CASA. The campaign started out in front of Happy State Bank last week, and this week they are at CVS Pharmacy. From there, they will be going to United Supermarkets, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, and Pampa Dental Associates. April is child abuse awareness month, and this campaign serves as a visual for the community to see how many children are affected by abuse in the area each year. It's through efforts like this that the number is down this year from last year. CASA of the High Plains Executive Director Janet Watts is pictured with this year's banner. Anyone interested in volunteering with CASA should call 806-669-7638.

## **Takedown Club produces state champs** two straight years



Submitted photo State champion Boston Botello at El Paso.

Larry Hadley

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In only second year of existence, HTC continues to grow. Club wants to thank community for help.

#### BY JOHN LEE jclee@thepampanews.com

The Harvester Takedown Club of Pampa's season recently came to an end with their banquet a couple weeks ago, but the sense of accomplishment is still felt for not just the athletes, but for the parents and coaches as well. Last year they had one state champion, Derrick Addington, while this year they had two state champions, Boston Botello and Joseph Coronado.

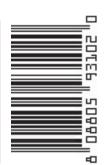
The Harvester Takedown Club, which was founded by John Cambern and Rick Addington, is in its second year of existence and is currently being coached by Bo Botello.

These kids motivated me to take over the head coach position," Botello said. "Kids had such a look of disappointment in their eyes and that made the decision for me. It's important for the club to instill the values of self-

CLUB cont. on page 7

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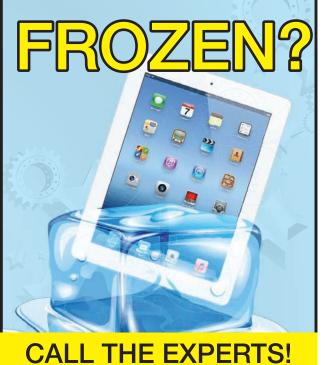


200 N. Ballard www.pampachamber.com

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce will be hosting it's monthly luncheon on Tuesday, April 15th, 2014 at Noon. Please RSVP by Monday, April 14th, 2014.

Cost is \$10.00

Marshall Jefferus (TAB) will be the Program. Guess Insurance will be sponsoring. The Plaza will be catering.





#### APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



Pampa Mayor Brad Pingel has proclaimed April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The proclamation is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every citizen of Pampa. The City of Pampa strongly supports the efforts of national, state, our local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence. Witnesses of domestic violence are strongly encouraged to speak out when they see acts of violence. The community is urged to work together to prevent sexual assault and support survivors. Pictured with Pingel are Ann Braxton and Karen McGahen with Tralee Crisis Center.

## Bank

#### **Continued From Page 1**

Pampa and the surrounding area," but the branch will also employ 10 to 12 people in Pampa and four in Miami.

The AimBank branch, which will be accessible from Perryton Parkway Street and West 23rd Avenue, will have four drivethru lanes and one driveup ATM. It will be the company's one centralized location in Pampa as it relocates the branch in the Combs-Worley Building to the new site on Perryton Parkway.

Bivens also said that AimBank will expand the product offering compared to what was being offered by First State Bank of Miami. This will be great in better allowing us to serve the local community with all of its financal needs.

Aimbank expects to have the branch finished by the end of the year.

For more information on AimBank, visit www. aimbankonline.com.

# Lent devotional for Friday

Day 33 – Friday - dice Scripture: 19:17-27

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

This garment was seamfrom top to bottom.

it." They cast lots.

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled

him there. (The Gospels In-

reason military men have less, woven in one piece always been drawn to gambling with dice. There was "Let's not tear it," they nothing special about these said to one another. "Let's dice. They were the ordidecide by lot who will get nary ones that the soldiers and John. I don't ever want when my heart was a milused 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 there have been times in throwing soldiers than the criminal's undergarment. my life when I wished the To them the only thing special about the garment up and finish his lesson so was that it would give the that I could get on with what I see now, Lord, at least I winner a little something I had planned that Sunday see a little. Help me always extra over what the other afternoon. There have even to bring my heart to every soldiers got and bragging been times when I wished time of worship. Help me rights back in the barracks. the prayers were shorter keep my focus off my out-I wonder what one of His and the songs fewer so that side events and keep it on followers would have paid I wouldn't miss the kickoff the Spirit inside. And by the the winning soldier for of my favorite NFL team. I way, I'm sorry for all those their Lord's garment? The dice make me re- a Sunday evening service earthly thing ahead of You; member how differently one time because a game I really am. Amen.

y - dice which said, "They divided people view Jesus. What a was just too "important" to Matthew my garments among them strange scene it was there miss. I remember sitting in 27:32-44; Mark 15:21- and cast lots for my cloth- at Calvary. Some women a church service once with 32; Luke 23:26-43; John. ing." So this is what the and John were gathered my mind totally wrapped soldiers did. And sitting at the cross weeping and up in a little league basedown, they kept watch over heartbroken. At the same ball game which I had just moment soldiers were there left so I could prove to evgambling with dice over eryone just how great of a Devotional: They were clothing they didn't even Christian I was. That sure the ancient equivalent of care about, wishing that He sounds more like the solmodern dice. For some would just hurry up and die diers than the women and so they could all go home. How different could feel-

> ings be? In my heart I want to always be like those women You remember those times to be like the dice-throwing soldiers. But since reflection and confession is a part of what Lent is about, I would have to admit that preacher would just hurry even remember canceling times when I put some

John. That has to stop. That has to change.

Prayer: Jesus, I know that lion miles away from worshiping You. On those days You knew what I didn't realize at the time, that I was acting more like the dicewomen and John. It didn't even register to me how hurt You were that day. But

## IN THE NEXT **American Profile**



#### Inside this issue

- America's wonderful waterfalls
- Fairy godmother gifts prom princesses with dream dresses
- Caring for your Easter lily
- Our Picks: DVDs, books
- Roasted chicken breast recipe

# AmericanProfile

Brought to you by Pampa Regional Medical Center







PRESENTED BY WORSHIP CHOIR, CHILDREN'S CHOIRS, AND DRAMA MINISTRY



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | 203 N. WEST ST. | PAMPA, TX. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 669-1155

### PAMPA FORECAST



Today: Mostly sunny with a high of 81. Winds east-northeast at 13 mph. Sunrise at 7:17 a.m.

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low of 52. Winds south-southeast at 14 mph. Sunset at 8:14 p.m.

Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high of 90. Winds southwest at 17 mph. Sunrise at 7:15 a.m.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 52. Winds southwest at 15 mph. Sunset at 8:14 p.m.

Sunday: Partly cloudy and windy with a high of 71. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds northnorthwest at 26 mph. Sunrise at 7:14 a.m.

Sunday night: Partly cloudy and windy with a low of 32. Chance of rain: 10 percent. Winds north at 22 mph. Sunset at 8:15 p.m.

## CITY BRIEFS

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

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY Association will be removing all ground decorations not in a permanent vase or on the marker, for the 2014 mowing season beginning April 15, 2014. This includes flowers, solar lights, banners, statuary, etc. This rule will extend until October 31, 2014.

GOSPEL SINGING will be held at the Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, from 2-4 Sunday afternoon. Everyone welcome.

PRIDE PHOTO Contest Winners-may pick up your prize money Mon.-Fri. 8-5pm. Thanks to all who entered the Pampa News Pride Photo Contest, and Congratulations to the winners.

TILE- BACKSPLASHES, Counter-Tops, Tub Surrounds, Showers & Floors. Ceramic or Tumbled Stone. Call Keith Taylor, 874-1779 leave message.

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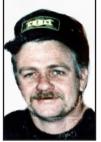


# Obituaries

#### **Richard Allen Stroud**

Richard Allen Stroud, 61, of Pampa, died Wednesday, April 9, 2014, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April



Richard

Stroud

12, 2014, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Monty Joiner with Somerville Church of Christ, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Stroud was born Feb. 5, 1953 in Pampa where he was a lifelong resident and attended Pampa schools. He married Jayne McCausland in Pampa. She preceded him in death in 2010. He worked as a machinist for several years for PeeWee Romines,

Panhandle Industrial, 3-J Machine Shop. After his career as a machinist, he worked for UPS for the last 10 years. In his spare time, he liked to play golf, bowl, and play softball. He will be remembered as a devoted brother and husband, who spent the last years of his life caring for his wife.

Survivors include three brothers, Larry Stroud and wife Debbie, Jerry Stroud and wife Brenda, and Jim Stroud and wife Jan, all of Pampa; and a host of nieces and nephews. Richard was also preceded in death by his parents, W.D. "Dee" Stroud and Florence Stroud.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Pampa Meals on Wheels, P.O. Box 939, Pampa, TX 79066-0939 or Good Samaritan Christian Services, 309 N. Ward, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

#### Laquita Belflower

Laquita Belflower, 60, of Skellytown, died April 9, 2014 in Amarillo.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Laquita Belflower

working on several missionary trips, including Mexico and Jamaica, and she especially enjoyed working with the youth. One of her greatest joys was spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who was the backbone of the family. Laquita was preceded in death by her parents, Lloyde and Pat Plemons.

Survivors include her husband, James Belflower of the home; two daughters, Jamie Munn and husband Johnathan of Skellytown, and Christy Terry and husband Roger of Pampa; a son, Joshua Belflower and wife Betty of Pampa; three sisters, Trudy Wells of White Deer, Verna Schroeder and husband Bill of Pampa, and Sharon King



and husband Calvin of

Jazmyn Munn, Shaleigh Terry, Shyanne Terry, Ciara Belflower, and Autumn Belflower; five grandsons, Matt Terry, Dalton Terry, Christopher Terry, Lukas Terry, and Isaiah "Buck" Belflower; and five great-grandchildren, Kizzie Belflower, Jeremiah Belflower, Ocean Sanders, Nick Cardenas and Araya Terry.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Center, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, Source Code:C1204D

Sign the online guest register at www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

#### Jane Arrington

Celebration of Life Services for Jane Arrington, 80, of Canadian will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 12, 2014 at the First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Travis Allen



Jane Arrington and Rev. Sydne Allen, co-officiating. Interment will be in Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Hughs Funeral Home of Canadian. Jane passed away Tuesday, April 8,

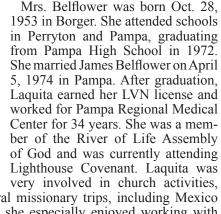
2014 in Canadian.

Jane was born on Aug. 12, 1933, in Norman, Okla. to Judith Virgin Coker and Charles B. "Chick" Coker. She attended public school in Plainview, Texas and Edmond, Okla. She attended Monticello Girls School in Alton, Illinois and the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. She was

a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. On August 7, 1953 she married George W. Arrington in Edmond, OK. In 1967 their family moved to Canadian, Hemphill County, TX. She was involved in all aspects of the family businesses and was a homemaker. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. She served as an elder and participated in Women's Association and other church activities. Jane was Chair of the Coffee Memorial Blood Drive in Canadian for over 40 years. George and Jane were honored by Coffee Memorial Blood Center with a Lifetime of Giving Award. She was Chair of Friends of Southwestern Art Committee at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, a member of the Circle of Friends and member of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center Board. She was a member of the Canadian Women's Service League and was named Canadian-Hemphill County Chamber of Commerce Woman of the year in 1979. Jane served as Dining Room Chair for the very popular Hemphill County Library Annual Bazaar Lunch and Dinner for many years. Jane was a very caring wife, mother and grandmother and always enjoyed events in which they were involved. She enjoyed traveling, bridge and entertaining. The family wishes to express their gratitude for all the prayers and kindness extended. She is preceded in death by her parents, Charles B. "Chick" and Judith Coker; a brother, Bob Coker.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, George W. Arrington of Canadian; a daughter, Cathy Stephens and husband Jeff of Edmond, Okla.; a daughter, Julie Culver and husband Ed of Canadian; a son, Mike Arrington and wife Debbie of Canadian; seven grandsons, Justin Dutton, Tyler Dutton, Capp Culver, Cade Culver and wife Danielle, Wade Arrington, Daggett Arrington and Clay Arrington and wife Taylor; a granddaughter, Carlee Culver and husband Randy; great-grandchildren, Cara Dutton, Camilla Cate Culver, Hunt Arrington, Callaway Arrington, a brother, Joe R. Coker of Norman, Okla.; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be



www.integracarehh.com

Jessalvn

Robert

# Viewpoints



#### 403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065 806-669-2525 • Fax: 806-669-2520 www.thepampanews.com

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# Anti-liberal liberals

"Lib-er-al adj. 1. a. Not limited to or by ... authoritarian attitudes, views, or

dogmas ...

ant of the

ideas and

behaviors

of others;

broadmin-

May I

amend that

ded ... "

defini-

b. toler-



WILLIAM MURCHISON

tion from "The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language"?

' ... c. except where necessary to show non-liberals their proper place. See 'Mozilla.' See also: 'Eich, Brenda, ex-Mozilla CEO."

A certain amount of satisfaction — I'd hate to say pleasure — accrues to non-liberals watching liberals fall all over themselves trying to explain why certain beliefs and convictions just can't be expressed in Today's Society. The reason (in Liberalspeak) that Mozilla forced out Brendan Eich, the inventor of JavaScript, last week is that no good

paign, a California voter initiative — it passed by a healthy majority --- defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. It was hardly an eccentric claim, representing as it did a viewpoint held everywhere, always, and by all: until the movement for same-sex marriage got going a few years ago. This transformed — in liberal eyes — the marital terrain. Suddenly, everything we used to believe about marriage was Wrong and Evil and Homophobic.

And Brendan Eich didn't get it. Throw him out!

Feach the bum a lesson! Whatever Eich himself may have learned from this sleazy episode, the same-sex marriage movement learned more. It understands, for instance, its immense leverage in Silicon Valley, where the whole issue is proclaimed, settled and finished. A letter on OKCupid's Firefox site liberally, shall we say, gave Eich what-for. OKCupid is a dating site, with an interest in particular outcomes. It insisted

# This Land is Our Land Democracy in 21st century America: An endangered species

Did you hear a pitiful gasp last week? If you did, well, that was the agonizing sound of our dying democracy.



BALTODANO

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down "aggregate contribution limits" to political campaigns because such limits 'intrude without justification on a citizen's ability to exercise the most fundamental First

Amendment activities." That means that, if a donor wanted to give the maximum allowed in every congressional race in the nation he or she would give a total of \$3.5 million in direct support for political candidates.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, fewer than 600 donors were handcuffed by these limits. That is 0.0000019% all of Americans.

In his majority opinion on Mc-Cutcheon v. Federal Election Commission, Chief Justice John Roberts stated that, "spending large sums of money in connection with elections does not give rise to corruption. Nor does the possibility that an individual who spends large sums may 'garner influence over or access to' elected officials.'

In other words, Roberts wants us to know that it is impossible, impossible, to use money in order to influence a candidate or an elected official in America.

The savvy reader of The Pampa News is already asking him or herself the obvious question: Well, if it ain't possible to "garner influence over or access to elected officials," then what in God's good earth is the point?

Because of partisan gridlock in Washington, the Supreme Court has become the most powerful and outspoken branch of government in the 21st century.

The problem with this is that this court is overt in its support for the power and influence of a minority of wealthy special interests. Rulings like Citizens United, the Affordable Care Act and McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission are slowly turning democracy into an endangered species and turning America into a Plutocracy - a government ruled by the rich, for the rich.

Donors with access to lawmakers want to shape public policy and, regardless of what Roberts thinks, they wield considerable influence.

Federal limits on campaign contributions were always rooted on the need to minimize political influence and to protect the "one-person, one-vote" nature of our democratic institutions.

Well, that last part is dead and done. Political influence just became magnified, to the benefit of rich plutocrats in Washington, D.C.

Justice Stephen Brewer, in his dissenting opinion, points out that "this is a decision that fails to recognize the difference between influence resting

upon public opinion and influence bought by money alone; that overturns key precedent: that creates huge loopholes in the law; and that undermines, perhaps devastates, what remains of campaign finance reform."

The consequence to an already fragile American democracy is that political influence will now be controlled by a smaller and smaller control group as billionaires - like Sheldon Adelson and George Soros, that 0.0000019 percent — while the only option available for common Americans will now be at the voting booth. We all know how well that works.

Call me jaded but American politics is a world where career politicians care less about protecting the system of Checks and Balances and more about protecting their checkbooks. A world where fundraising is more important than legislating, where words like "patronage," "pork-barrel legislation" and "gerrymandering" are synonyms with "business as usual."

Don't take my word for it. In a now infamous PowerPoint presentation given to incoming members of the 113th Congress, and made public by The Huffington Post, America was able to see how members of Congress "should" spend their day. Out of an eight-hour work day, four hours are spent on "call Time," one hour on "strategic outreach," one hour on "constituents visits," one hour on "floor access" and one hour

SPECIES cont. on page 5

#### 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

By Fax: 806-669-2520

By U.S. mail: L etters The Pampa News



liberal is going to put up with non-liberal thinking! Non-liberal thinking isn't thinking! It's bigotry!

Come to think of it, Eich probably should give thanks that Mozilla, besides canning him for once supporting a California campaign to affirm traditional marriage norms, didn't organize a tar-andfeather party in his honor.

Out he went anyway, as we all must have heard by now, to the disgust of the bedraggled few who believe what liberals used to pride themselves on believing; to wit, the right to speak your piece with relatively few societal constraints is a good thing rather than a crime against the social order.

But, then, I'm in the media. Many of us in the media share with John Milton, a liberal in his time, the odd idea that free speech bolsters rather than hinders civilization. I was once fond of assigning to my university's journalism students Milton's "Areopagitica" — his attack on government licensing of the press. Discussion was a good thing, Milton contended. Tell what you think, let critics reply surely that was the ticket. 'And though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licensing and prohibiting (italics mine) to misdoubt her strength."

In Liberal America they don't much care for my friend John. Eich's offense was to donate \$1000 to the Proposition 8 cam-

that "those who seek to deny love and instead enforce misery, shame and frustration" — meaning Eich — "are our enemies, and we wish them nothing but failure."

Talk things out with love-deniers? No, no, no! That would be to acknowledge the possible validity of their position. Shut up, OKCupid explained to them, before its letter was taken down. Beat it! Get outtahere!

The Left — a more accurate name for liberalism — has a gift for this kind of intimidation. In the 60s. its contentions with The Establishment over drugs, free sex and Vietnam led to the conviction that people who are wrong are just wrong and need to get out of the way. There ensued campus speech codes and indoctrination classes on racism and women's rights - favorite causes of the anti-free speech faction.

Now it's same-sex marriage and the burgeoning movement to make bakers and photographers, whatever their convictions, provide services to seekers of same-sex unions.

Get ready, America. On the count of three, click your heels together. Yes, we believe! Yes, we believe! And, please ... don't hit us any more!

William Murchison's latest book is "The Cost of Liberty: The Life of John Dickinson. To find out more about William Murchison, and to see features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.Creators. com.

#### 403 W. Atchison Pampa, Texas 79065

By E-mail: thowsare@ thepampanews.com

# Bereavement and Healing **Choose recovery**

I visited with a mother last week, who had suffered financially and emotion-



anger toward her son and her disappointment in

LEE herself for these feel-

ings. Upon further discussion, I discovered that her son had suffered a severe drug addiction and had involved himself in activities that were quite dangerous. His exploitation of his mother has left her nearly destitute, and she is suffering financial consequences as well as the intense grief that follows the loss of a child (even when the child is an adult at death).

Where does she go from here? Her grief is overwhelming. Her son is now deceased. She feels as though her sacrifices for him were for naught. The financial crisis in which she now finds herself only acerbates her grief. What then is she to do, to rectify this situation and

move forward in her grief recovery? Her goal is to be able to mourn the loss of her son with fond memories and love, rather than pain and resentment. She is in a tough situation indeed. The financial pressure of making ends meet is interfering with her ability to move from resentment into grief recovery. Unfortunately, her son committed suicide shortly after a realistic conversation between the two of them, addressing the severe consequences of his situation. This conversation and his self-infliction of death compound her sadness, regret and confusion.

How then do we help this heartbroken mother recover from this tragic situation? How do we help her mend her feelings of guilt, resentment, anger, panic and embarrassment? Fortunately, she is willing to discuss her feelings. This indicates that she is desirous of resolution. She is hopeful yet lost; confused on what to do or where to go for help in her recovery journey.

The first step toward recovery is to choose to recover. She has made that decision. The second step is to move forward with

recovery. How does one accomplish this? The easiest way to recover from a tragedy is to have someone support you and help keep you focused. This mother has a second adult child, who is mourning the loss of her sibling, yet is willing and actively involved in supporting her mother through this journey. After meeting with the both of them, I am confident that they are moving toward resolution and that together, although their road will be bumpy and filled with potholes of despair, they will eventually arrive at their destination of peace.

The mother will suffer through the financial stress of debt recovery, but she will realize that her sacrifices were out of unconditional love for her son. Although she will have internal regrets that her financial support may have enabled him to continue his destructive behavior and eventual fatal demise, she will realize that her funds were merely a way of keeping him close, allowing her to affect his choices in a more positive direction. She will eventually understand that her last conversation

with him was not abandonment; it was encouragement to reach his potential by letting go of a life that was filled with danger and evil.

I visited with a mother last week, who had suffered greatly at the hands of her deceased son. I discovered that she was a great mother who loved her son deeply, a mother who had sacrificed all that she had to save her son, and now was left with the unimaginable sorrow of losing her son to drug induced suicide. A desperate and tragic situation at best. More importantly though, I discovered that this tragic loss was serving to bring a mother and daughter closer together. I witnessed two women in tragedy bond together. Each helping the other overcome the great sorrows that come with extreme tragedy. I saw them choose to embark on recovery rather than tragedy.

I saw the moment their recovery began.

My name is Tracy Renee Lee. I am a funeral director, author and freelance writer. I write books, weekly articles and brief tips on understanding and coping with grief. It is my life's work to comfort the bereaved and help them live on



# **Species**

#### Continued From Page 4

on "campaigning." What in heavens is "call time" and "strategic outreach" you ask? Well, let's hear it directly from the horse's mouth.

"Call Time is not time spent calling your family, or think tank experts, or ordinary constituents. It's time spent calling donors. Strategic Outreach is, of course, also time you can spend with donors. If your Constituent Visits include constituents who are donors then, all the better!"

Money from donors doesn't buy votes, that would just be illegal quid pro quo is how it's known. But it does buy access and influence — it gets donors in the door to make their case in front of the lawmaker, face to face. And that can make all the difference. Political influence helps

explain why oil companies get big subsidies even as business is booming and why corn syrup that goes in soft drinks gets federal subsidies while fruits and vegetables do not.

Democracy in America is under attack by a pack of rabid and now unrestrained dogs and she is losing the battle.

One of my daughter's favorite songs asks: "Who let the dogs out?"

Well, it was the Supreme Court, that's who.

Bruno Baltodano, a resident of Pampa, is a faculty adjunct at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho and at Clarendon College in Pampa and the host of "Revolutionary Hour," a radio show about political songs on High Plains Public Radio. He teaches college courses on Global Politics, Government and Terrorism.

# FCC-Pampa to host 'Christ In The Passover' Seder dinner

#### SUBMITTED

The congregation of First Christian Church of Pam-Nelson St.,



"Christ in the Passover" featuring Deb Dubin of

to

"Jews for Jesus" at 6 p.m., Monday, April 14.

served at 6 p.m., followed gan what turned out to be band Larry Dubin, also a 669-3225.

The Seder, pronounced Jewish slaves from Egypt.

pants through the Seder while explaining how it not only commemorates the exodus, but also points to the coming of Jesus of their Shabbat (Sabbath) Christ.

ish family, Dubin went that Jesus is the Jewish The free dinner of bris- to church with one of her Messiah. Three years later, ket, green beans, tossed gentile friends when she she joined the Jews for Jesalad and dessert will be was 7 years old. This be- sus staff and met her hus- call First Christian Church,

by the Seder observance. a 30-year search to find out Jewish believer in Jesus. why there was, as she then The Dubins have served "say-der," is a Jewish home thought, "one God for the in the New York and Los or community service in- gentiles and another God cluding a ceremonial din- for the Jews." It was not currently serving in Washinvites the ner held on the first or first until the summer of 1996 and second evenings of the when she received a tract Passover in commemora- from one of the Jews for tion of the exodus of the Jesus New York City sum- members and pastor Dr. mer witnessing campaign- Jeff Knighton welcome the Dubin will take partici- ers that the search finally community to come join ended.

She began attending the New York Jews for Jesus Bible study and visited one services, which ultimately Born and raised in a Jew- led her to the knowledge

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Angeles branches and are ington, D.C., where Dubin is the branch director.

First Christian Church them in this special event on April 14, the first day of Passover, and in anticipation of the upcoming Easter celebrations. The dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the south side of the church at 1633 N. Nelson.

For more information,



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#### **821 Jordon, White Deer - #14-10032** Great home in nice, smaller community between

Pampa and Amarillo. This 3 bedroom home, has an open floor plan, 2.75 baths and a fireplace insert in the den. Patio for outdoor evenings. 2,062 sq. ft.





#### 2526 Christine - #14-10035

This 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, 2 car attached garage home is feady for YOU. Open floor plan from kitchen to den. Back yard is complete with (2) storage buildings, play set and garden area. Please come look and make yourself a home. 1,806 sq. ft.



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# PampaSports



Submitted photos

Above, the award winners from the Harvester Takedown Club banquet. From left, Outstanding Attitude Award Avry'n Ramirez, Outstanding Attitude Award Dayton Adams, Most Improved Award Austin Guthrie, Outstanding Leadership and Best Takedown Awards Brock Ferguson, Outstanding Leadership Award Tacoma Matthews and Wrestler of the Year Boston Botello. Right, Rookie State Champion Joseph Coronado. Below, Rookie Silver Medalist Dayton Adams.

## Club

#### **Continued From Page 1**

confidence, integrity and hard work into the youth of Pampa. What better way to showcase Pampa than with our youth?'

Even though Cambern and Addington stepped away from the organization, Botello and other parents continue to coach roughly 20 kids, including the eight which travel to tournaments across the Panhandle.

"Our games that we made this year, while the caliber of wrestler was the same, we had a larger number of kids actually competing in the tournament," Botello said. "We came out and made improvements, we took seven boys to and competed in state.'

Harvester Takedown Club, which is a chartered member of Texas USA Wrestling, has age groups ranging from four years old to 15 years old. They are a non-profit organization and are not affiliated with The club teaches students the basic fundamentals of the sport and aims to breed flamingo fundraiser proa winning attitude in Pam-"We would love to make Pampa a wrestling town," Botello said. "In my opinion wrestling is one of the core sports that kids can be involved with. It builds physical strength, it builds self-confidence, it prepares them for baseball and football with their stance and it really helps them get acquainted with their bodies. But what I would really like to see for Pampa is not limited to wrestling but really have a winning attitude. Build this tradition of hard work and dedication and town pride." The HTC travels across the Texas Panhandle, taking place in tournaments in sions we had Coach (Clint) Borger, each of the Amarillo High Schools, Bushland and others, eventually hoping to qualify for the Coach Wood was heading regional tournament. For to state with his wrestlers



athletes have to place in the them a pep talk and emphathe top-three.

There are even occasional national tournaments, such as the Panhandle National Tournament which facilities." featured competitors from Oklahoma and Texas. Boston Botello won that tournament while Dayton Adams placed third.

#### The road to state

After qualifying for the PISD with the exception state tournament, it was that wrestling coaches at time for the HTC to raise Pampa junior high and high the funds to compete. One second. school offer tips and advice of the fundraisers they did to Botello and the parents. was the Green and Gold Flamingo Flocking. "We had a green-and-gold

top-four. For state tourna- size how gigantic of an acment, they have to place in complishment it is to go to state in such a huge state. I was really grateful for him and Coach (Heath) Parker for allowing us to use the

After being sent off by among other states, like the Pampa Fire Department, New Mexico, Colorado, their caravan took roughly eight hours to get to El Paso where the state tournament was held. Friday night, their rookie wrestlers, Joseph Coronado, Rylee Stegman and Dayton Adams, competed with Coronado winning and Adams finishing

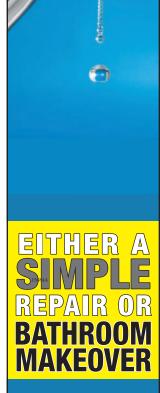
> Saturday, starting at 9 a.m. it was time for the others to compete. Austin Guthrie,







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gram here in town," Botello said. "We had a huge turnout from the community. Awesome support, our whole trip and then some was paid for by this fundraising effort. We did it for three weeks in January, with the girl scout troop donating the flamingos to us. We participated in the flamingo fundraiser and also did a Clint and Son's fundraiser. Really we want to recognize the community of Pampa. They were pivotal in our success and would like to thank them for the club for their support."

The club practiced three times a week with two-anda-half-hour sessions.

"In each one of those ses-Wood come and give pointers to the wrestlers," Botello said. "Our last practice, the regional tournament, and he stopped by and gave

Tacoma Matthews, Bryston Stegman and Boston Botelcompeted. Matthews lo didn't place, Guthrie was injured, Stegman got sixth and Botello won by points (7-2).

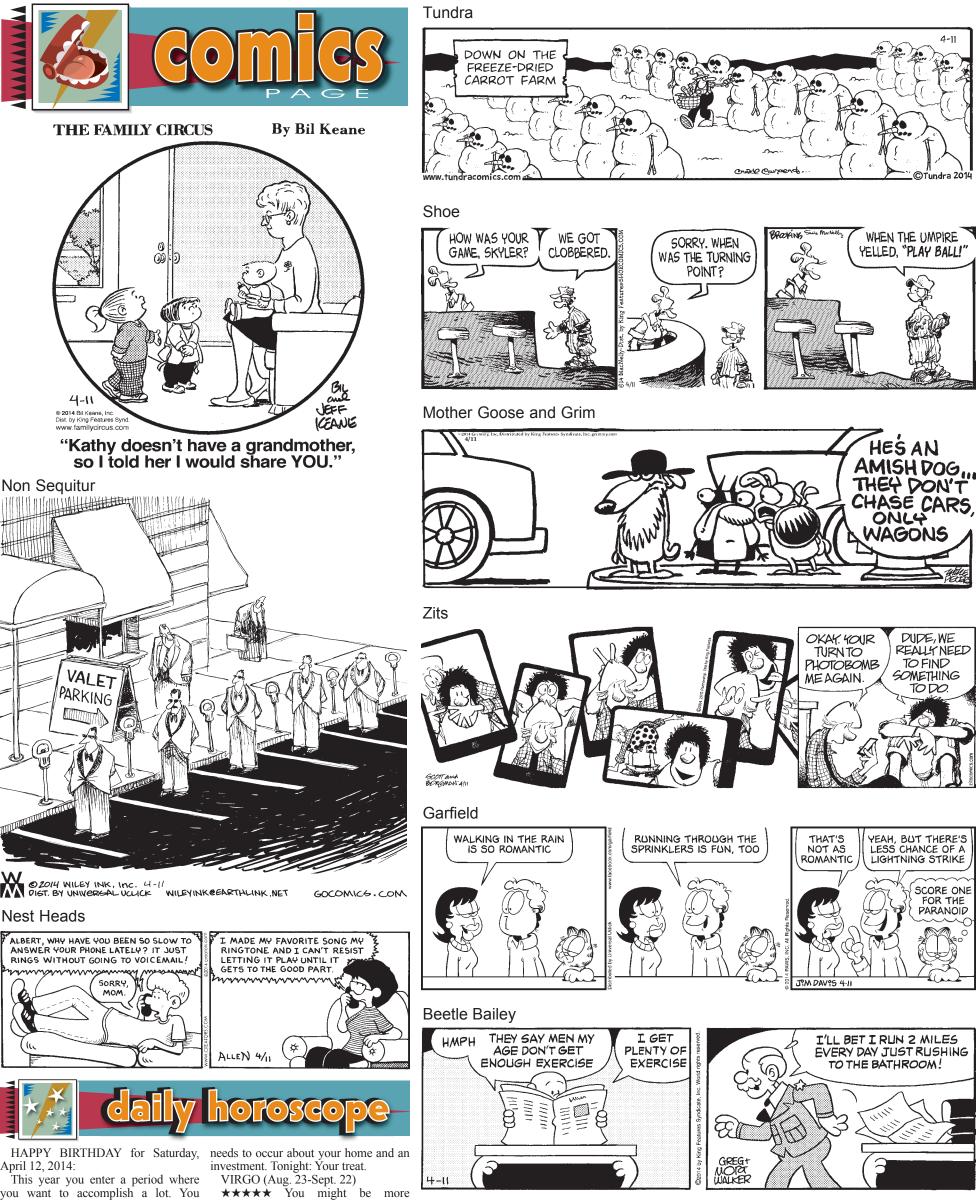
The Harvester Takedown Club wanted to thank all of those who contributed to their success.

Included on their list are Pampa High School wrestling coach Clint Wood, Pampa Independent School District athletic director Heath Parker, the community of Pampa, Clint and Son's and the parents of the wrestlers. Bo Botello wanted to send a special thanks to Mark Whitebread who helped him throughout the season.

Sign-ups for next season start in September and practice starts the first week of October. For more information on the club, contact Bo Botello at 806-440-1244 or e-mail the club at harvestertakedown@hotmail. com.







you want to accomplish a lot. You often could be challenged or distracted determined than you realize, and that by those in your daily life. Keep in mind that they enjoy their time with you. If you are single, it is impossible for a relationship to blossom when you are focused on other matters. Come summertime, you might want to become less focused on your goals and a little more aware of what is going on around you. Someone quite special could meander into your life during this period. If you are attached, the two of you need to make fun plans for the summer. You might want go to the beach often or choose a different pastime you both enjoy. VIRGO sometimes irritates you with details.

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)

 $\star \star \star \star$  Your intuition does not match up with what you are seeing. You could go back and forth when deciding which view to follow. A partner will offer several options that could change your perspective, but you still might be uneasy. Tonight: Do not push too hard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  Your ingenuity will take you down an interesting path, if you decide to go. A partner or loved one might present a different view -- perhaps one that is not as bold as yours. You could be at a standstill because of the disparity between both of your views. Tonight: Aren't we playful?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

 $\star \star \star$  You will want to make a decision regarding a domestic or personal issue. You might realize that the timing is not right for a discussion at this point. More information will be coming forward. How you see a situation could change as a result. Tonight: Order in.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Wherever you go, you could end up in a lengthy conversation. You even might irritate a child or loved one with your socializing. This person will want to have your attention, so make that a high priority. Tonight: A special evening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

 $\star\star\star$  You could feel pushed by a money matter. You know your limits, and vou understand what needs to happen. Unfortunately, a family member might not see eye to eye with you. A discussion plans.

attitude could be pushing others away. Try to loosen up and be more open to others' suggestions. Not everything needs to happen your way. You could be delighted by what someone offers. Tonight: Go along with plans.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

 $\star \star \star$  You still could be overreacting to someone you care about. Be aware of what another person needs, and be willing to respond appropriately. Still, you might need to take a personal day far away from the daily grind as soon as you can. Tonight: Not to be found.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star$  A loved one is so charming that you might feel inclined to bend to his or her will. Though you might have other plans, you probably should cancel them. Sometimes a person needs to follow his or her heart; you are no different. Tonight: Where the party is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You might feel pressured once more to visit with a family member. Consider what would happen if you were to do what you wanted. You can't keep giving without having some "you" time. Someone will let you know how much he or she cares. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

 $\star \star \star \star$  What might seem like an excellent plan could have its faults. Pull back and look at the pros and cons of having someone from a distance visit you. Make a choice that you feel comfortable with, and it will work out for the best. Tonight: Go to the movies. Be entertained.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  You'll have a chance to really enjoy a close friend. Screen your calls, and make this day just for the two of you. Catch up on news, and enjoy a favorite mutual pastime. This person is very important to you; time together means a lot to both of you. Tonight: Keep it a duo.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$  Be more forthright in sharing what you feel. A friend might feel as if he or she is in control. An offer could take you away from your normal life. Take a lot of time to think through a decision that could have implications. Tonight: Go along with someone else's

#### Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



#### Peanuts



#### Blondie





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and I were discussing our and wife are one unit. overnight stays, etc. often. sons-in-law, and young This is the mindset you The problem is, their men in their 20s and adopted when you and houses are cluttered and 30s in general. We were your wife were married. the wondering where attitude of "any money I among young couples, caked with grime and years earn is mine" in a marriage not only because of the of stains on upholstery. or live-in situation got started. For the first few years of my daughter and her husband "Joe's" marriage, Joe resented giving her any of the money he earned. My other daughter's husband thinks nothing of spending money on himself and his friends without consulting her. We have seen this attitude reflected in their friends as well. They don't seem to discuss with each other how each is spending their what my readers' — "joint" income. seems to be an element of readers' - views are nearby hotel or motel selfishness, too. My wife and I have been the link "Write to Dear served, fortify yoursel married 40 years and from Abby" at www.DearAbby. beforehand and eat as the beginning I have always com or write to P.O. Box little as possible without considered what each of 69440, Los Angeles, CA being rude. If you're us earned was OURS, 90069. not mine or hers (when she worked). We always discuss any significant purchases, and I have invite us to their homes home. always believed it was my responsibility to support my family. I realize the current economic situation has made that difficult, but the attitude should still be there. — WONDERING IN WASHINGTON **DEAR WONDERING:** You have raised an interesting subject. There is a difference between living together and being married because of our legal system. Because people who cohabit without benefit of marriage are considered individuals in the eyes of the law, it is probably prudent to keep their financial affairs separate. However, each person should contribute to the expenses they share. In a marriage, the situation is different: The

DEAR ABBY: My wife law assumes that the man for parties, celebrations,

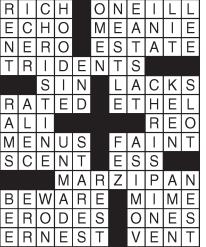
dirty. We see spilled food There is a tendency in the refrigerator, showers

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12 Entertain

1 Yank's foe 2 According 3 "Keep this secret" 4 Sonora



also what they have been issues for these folks. If this exposed to in the media was a hotel or restaurant, w from the time they were would leave immediately born, to view marriage as My husband and I have something that might not been unnerved by the last. There is also a sense conditions in these houses of entitlement among We would like to spend many — NOT ALL — time with these people and that makes them centered don't wish to offend. Subtle on themselves. We have hints don't help. We try our **become a society in which** best to enjoy their company disposability has spread and ignore the rest, but i from material possessions can be difficult. What can to relationships.

I would LOVE to hear NEW YORK There particularly my younger you go to visit, stay in a regarding this. Click on If you know food will be

> fortunate to have great furniture, leave anything friends and relatives who that isn't washable a

BANANAGRAMS! For each of the three words below, change one letter to an M, and then rearrange the letters to LEVEL spell a word often used in chemistry.



high divorce rate, but Money and time are no we do, Abby? — NEAT IN

**DEAR NEAT: When** afraid you might soil your DEAR ABBY: We are clothing sitting on their

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# PampaSports

## From the Press Box

#### Pitching duels are still my favorite types of baseball games.

This last Tuesday I was watching the Pampa Harvesters' baseball game at River Road.

It was, in my opinion, one of the Harvesters best defensive efforts that ultimately ended on a couple errors.

While

of the best

baseball



JOHN LEE

games I have had the privilege of watching.

I am personally a casual fan of baseball. Í don't know the strategic ins and outs and I sometimes flub when there is a questionable call.

But that being said, I enjoy pitching duels far more than I do high-scoring affairs.

This is a bit off the norm for me, as in football and basketball I enjoy highscoring games with no defense.

But baseball, it's a little different. Sometimes when it seems a team has a pitchers number, the game looks more like batting practice than it does a baseball game.

How can someone enjoy a game where each halfinning there are three-tofour runs scored.

It is a better game when the pitcher is playing well and then if there is a hit the team behind him does a great job pitching

On top of that, let's say he does give up a hit, make the team work for the runs scored.

That is something that annoys me about my favorite MLB team the Colorado Rockies. I love

our batting lineup. Charlie Blackmon, Michael Cuddyer, Carlos Gonzalez and Troy Tulowitzki could put one or two runs on the board immediately in the first inning.

But the Rockies lack pitching badly. Their best pitcher statistically for now, Juan Nicasio pitched Thursday and had an ERA of 1.29 over seven innings, but their other pitchers haven't fared so well.

Brett Anderson, who was recently acquired, has an ERA of 4.5 over 12 innings. Jordan Lyles, 3.86 over 11.2 innings.

The veteran Jorge De La Rosa has an ERA of 8.31 over 8.2 innings. He is supposed to be their ace.

For whatever reason, the last two seasons it has cost the Rockies dearly and they have not addressed it legitimately.

If they had just two ace pitchers they would contend for the NL West, but instead, they have to pray the other team doesn't pitch well and they can hang with them.

This is another reason I enjoy pitchers' duels. It is easier to appreciate the work of a pitcher when a team has horrible pitching.

Mike Greenberg of ESPN's "Mike and Mike" actually made an interesting point about the topic, however.

He said during last year's World Series that he enjoys pitching duels in the playoffs when everything is on the line. But during the summer while at the ball park with a cold one in your lap, hanging out with your friends and/or family, that may be the best time to enjoy a slugfest.

Which do you prefer and why?

John Lee is the sports editor of The Pampa News. He can be reached at jclee@thepampanews.com.

### **IV BASEBALL DOWNS RIVER ROAD IN 3 INNINGS**



## **Several tennis** players qualify for regionals

STAFF REPORT

ers and Lady Harvesters boys doubles Jett Richards played in the district tennis and Dannon Rickles. tournament Monday and qualified several players. medals, girls' singles Cop-Ashton Robison won first place in the boys singles. Emily Terry and Lane and Allison. 3rd place Terry placed first in mixed doubles. Blake Chisum and Chase Boys placed second in doubles.

Ajay Mitchell and Jor- Bolch. don Moore placed third. Kaycee Sellers and Harley Elliott placed third place.

Chantelle Tidwell and Kaitlyn Hart won fourth place. Genevieve Zavala won fourth in girls' singles. 1st and 2nd qualify with 3rd place being the alternates.

In JV, there were several first places winners.

In girls' singles Kami Ware, girls' doubles Summer Tatarevich and

Avery Malone, Chris Bar-Several Pampa Harvest- ris for boys singles and for

> They had two silver per Horton and mixed doubles Christian Ulrey girls doubles went to Jaycee Devoll and Cheyenne Williams and girls' singles fourth place was Madison

#### Photos by John Lee

The Pampa Harvesters' junior varsity team downed River Road 3-0 in three innings Tuesday due to lack of sunlight to keep playing. Left, Derek Norris hits a single to get on base. Below, Zach Hill pitched in the game. The Harvesters return to action on Saturday. The Lady Harvesters' junior varsity team won their game 19-0.

Watch the Pros
Baseball
Houston Astros at Texas RangersFSSW 7:05 p.m.
College Lacrosse
Duke at VirginiaESPNU 5 p.m.
College Softball
Tennessee at Texas A&MESPNU 7 p.m.
*
Auto Racing
Nationwide Series from DarlingtonESPN2 7 p.m.
<b>Hockey</b> Carolina Hurricanes at Detroit Red WingsNBCSN 6:30 p.m. Colorado Avalanche at San Jose SharksNBCSN 9 p.m.
Fighting/MMA/Boxing
Boxing:Lorenzo-RamirezESPNU 9 p.m.
Golf
The Masters: Second-round playESPN 2 p.m.
Basketball
Indiana Pacers at Miami HeatNBATV 6:30 p.m.
1
Golden State Warriors at L.A. LakersNBATV 9:30 p.m.
Detroit Pistons at Chicago BullsWGName 7 p.m.

\*\*Check your local listings for channel number\*\* \*\*\*Times may vary and blackouts may apply\*\*\*





Proceeds to Ochiltree County/Community Projects

Adults \$5, Children under 12 free

**Concessions Available** 

## Pampa golf qualifies for district

#### STAFF REPORT

The Pampa Harvesters and Lady Harvesters recently competed in the district golf tournament in Dumas.

The Lady Harvesters finished second at the tournament, with their score of 812, which was

only 11 strokes behind Borger's first place score of 801.

Savanna Mertz (216), Gracie Little (210), 213, as did Bryce Parker Ashlee Kieth (199), Katy Velasquez (220) and will be making the trip to April 14-15.

Lubbock next week for the regional meet.

Brittney Green medaled because of her score of with his score of 175.

The regional meet is McKinley Hancox (194) next week in Lubbock on



Featuring David Allen and Kay Shannon, Elvis and Priscilla Presley impersonators. Performances on April 12 1pm and 3pm



# More than just a potty stop

Safety rest areas on I-40 reflect history, geography of West Texas while providing travelers fun place to visit and refuge from threatening storms.

The westbound safety rest area along Interstate 40 in Gray County has the dubious honor of being the windiest rest stop along any interstate in Texas.

So windy that the Texas Department of Transportation, who built the stop in 2003 with assistance from federal highway funds, had to build glass wind breaks around the entrance ways.

The north entrance to the building, which overlooks a stunning vista of open range and shallow canyons, was the worst.

"People couldn't even open the doors," said Paul Braun, public information officer for TxDOT's Amarillo District.

The southern end of the building, which faces the highway, also has windbreakers, but the biggest problem there was dust and debris blowing in when someone opened the doors, Braun said.

You mean it gets windy in the Panhandle? Go figure.

Strong winds aside, the rest stop near Alanreed, along with its eastbound partner two miles west in Donley County, would probably make a top-20 list of best designed, most beautifully decorated and most safety-focused interstate rest stops in America. That is, if AAA keeps such a list.

a list. The earth-sheltered design of the facility on the Gray County side echoes the early housing type in the area called the "dugout or half dugout."



wrong answer, an ornery donkey scolds the player with a "hee haw" laugh.

Outside the art deco structure are paved walking trails and a children's play area. Braun said his 5 1/2-yearold son loves the playground and both his wife and son like to picnic while the three are traveling.

The storm shelters are not the only assets with the safety and comfort of travelers in mind.

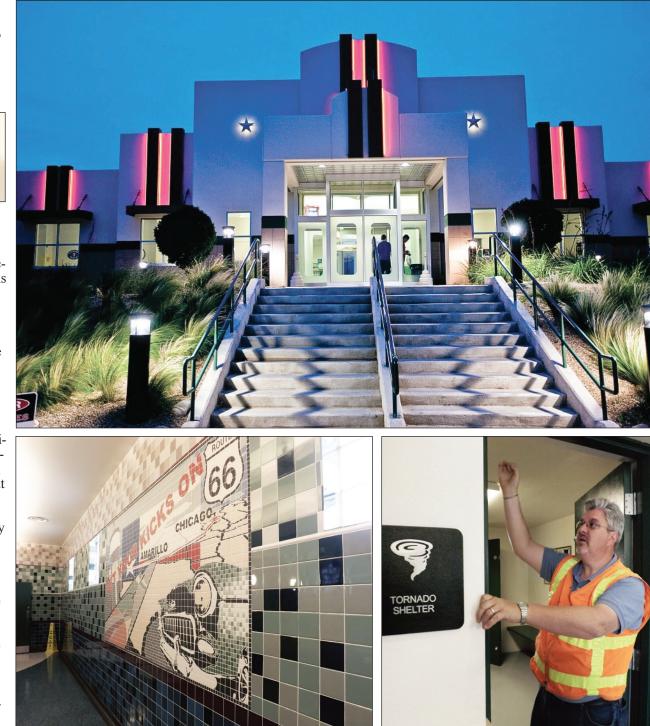
There is at least one facilities maintenance person onduty 24 hours a day at each stop. The Texas Department of Public Safety maintains an office on the Donley County side, while the Gray County Sheriff's Office operates a similar office at the Gray County stop.

Braun said TxDOT and the contracted maintenance staff take pride in keeping the restrooms clean.

While the eastbound stop celebrates the history of Route 66, the westbound stop imbues the history of wind energy in the Panhandle since the 1880s, when the landscape was first dotted with windmills that pumped well water.

To stay in step with the times, a wind turbine on the west side of the stop produces some of the electricity for that stop.

There are historical displays not only on wind



Daytime photos by Timothy P. Howsare/night photos courtesy of TxDOT

Top left, the eastbound safety rest area in Donley County is located on the original roadbed of Route 66. Top, the eastbound rest stop at night in all of its art-deco splendor. Above left, a tile mural in a men's bathroom celebrates America's most famous highway. Above right, Paul Braun, public information officer for TxDOT's Amarillo District, explains some of the features of the tornado shelter at the eastbound rest area. Below, Braun and Jerry Farris, facilities maintenance supervisor at the westbound rest area in Gray County, discuss some of the day's work details. Displays at the rest stop provide a brief history of wind energy and agriculture in the Panhandle. Bottom left, at night the westbound stop is illuminated to resemble the Texas flag. Bottom right, from the high elevation of the Gray County rest area, a visitor can see for a few miles more than a "country mile."

Even early settler Charles Goodnight, who went on to fortune and fame, lived in a humble dugout before he built his stunning Victorian-style homestead just north of Palo Duro Canyon.

The semi-subterranean construction of the shelter also makes it a safe place to hang out when a tornado starts to brew. The four restrooms double as storm shelters with heavyduty steel doors with triple locks.

The rest stop on the Donley County side has a distinct art deco theme to pay homage to the golden age of Route 66. That rest stop also has storm shelters, but they are in rooms separate from the bathrooms. Since that structure is above ground and free-standing, the storm shelter walls are thick, rebar-reinforced concrete.

The "Get your kicks on Route 66" theme is carried throughout the site with six picnic arbors and one large multi-group arbor, which are inspired by regional art deco service stations. The walls are adorned with replicas of signs one would have seen at gas stations, restaurants and stores back in the days when Packards and Studebakers shared the road with Fords and Chevys.

After using the facilities and getting a snack or drink from a vending machine, travelers and their kiddos can spend time playing an interactive video game that mixes questions about traffic safety with trivia about West Texas. For every energy, but also ranching, barbed wire, buffalo and Quanah Parker, the Comanche chief who became a dominate figure in the Panhandle.

Braun, a Minnesota native who has worked for TxDOT since 2005, said both rest stops are a spectacular sight at night.

The westside stop in Gray County is lit up in red, white and blue to resemble the Texas state flag, while the neon lighting on the artdeco themed eastbound stop makes it appear as a giant, roadside diner from a James Dean movie.

Braun said there is an important reason why TxDOT spared no expense building these rest stops, which are the only two on I-40 in Texas.

There is a visitors' center off Exit 76 in Amarillo and TxDOT recently opened rest areas near Hillsborough and Pecos.

"We are very proud of these safety rest areas," he said. "They are designed to get people to come off the road, rest and relax. A rested driver is a safe driver."

Along with providing a place to pull off and stretch your legs, Braun said the displays are there to educate travelers on both highway safety and the history of West Texas.

"We want to make them attractive enough to get motorists to stop and use them," he said. "This is why we have invested federal money."

For more information on TxDOT safety rest areas, visit www.txdot. gov/driver/travel/rest-areas.html.



