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**TODAY IN SPORTS**



Friday, October 5, 2012 [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com) Volume 108 • No. 149

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**Viewpoints: National Night Out**  
Pampa off to good start with 1st event | p4

**Harvesters host Canadian**  
4th ranked Canadian Wildcats roar into town Friday | p11

## GETTING DADS INVOLVED



## WATCH D.O.G.S. takes its 1st bite

**By GAYDEN HAYS**  
[ghays@thepampanews.com](mailto:ghays@thepampanews.com)

The WATCH D.O.G.S./Heroes of the Hallways kick off event Tuesday at Pampa Junior High School was a success with more than 40 people in attendance.

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is a father-involvement program created by the National Center for Fathering. The program's goal is to organize not only fathers but also community members to act as father figures and provide positive male role models for junior high students. Across the country there are currently 2,276 schools participating in 41 states.

**D.O.G.S. cont. on page 9**



Photos courtesy of PJH

**MENTORING MEN.** Top photo. WATCH D.O.G.S.' mentor Chris Phillips with, from left, Amber Zamora, Elijah Phillips, Mary Zamora, Isabelle Zamora, Rihana Phillips, Geneva Zamora and Alexandria Zamora. Above photo. PJH Principal Zach Greer explains the WATCH D.O.G.S. program to Donovan Sexton and his grandfather Kirk Douglas Tuesday night at Pampa Junior High School.

## Manhunt leads to arrest of Calif. man

**By GAYDEN HAYS**  
[ghays@thepampanews.com](mailto:ghays@thepampanews.com)

A manhunt in Pampa by the U.S. Marshals Service led to the arrest of a man who was wanted for breaking his federal supervised release.

Rosendo Perez, 31, of California, was arrested in a home in the 2500 block of Aspen Street that he was apparently renting from a private individual in town.

Perez was originally arrested in 2010 on charges of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and cocaine.

Perez had been in town, and a lead sent to the U.S. Marshals began the manhunt late last week.

The Gray County Sheriff's Office confirmed the fugitive was apprehended Wednesday morning at the residence by the Marshals. He was then transported to a federal holding facility located in Potter County.



**Rosendo Perez**

## Romney barrels out of debate on the offense

**By KASIE HUNT  
AND NANCY BENAC**  
Associated Press

DENVER — Little more than a month from Election Day, Republican Mitt Romney is barreling out of the first presidential debate energized by a solid performance that telegraphed his determination to take it to President Barack Obama with gusto. The president, intent on keeping his momentum from stalling, is warning that his GOP rival's policy prescriptions for a fragile economy are more fantasy than reality.

Standing toe-to-toe with the president for the first time in the campaign, Romney held his own and more at a time when there already were signs that the race is tightening in some of the battleground states where Obama has enjoyed an advantage. Obama kept his cool and signaled that he won't let up on his message that Romney's plans on taxes, health care, the deficit and more just don't add up.

"It's fun," Romney declared well into Wednesday night's 90-minute faceoff, clearly relishing the back-and-forth.

"It's arithmetic," said Obama, hammering at Romney's conspicuous lack of details with far less enthusiasm.

After a few days of relative calm as the candidates prepared for the first of their three debates, the campaign now

**DEBATE cont. on page 12**

## Making the old look new

■ Travis Elementary gets extensive upgrades.

**By TIMOTHY P. HOWSARE**  
[thowsare@thepampanews.com](mailto:thowsare@thepampanews.com)

Sometimes a flood can be a good thing. Travis Elementary School, built in the 1950s, had broken bathroom tiles and holes in the drywall in the cafeteria.

Along with those more obvious problems, many walls required new paint and the school needed a general sprucing up.

The school board realized that Travis and the other elementary schools in the Pampa Independent School District needed some upgrades and picked Travis first for renovations, said Principal Jill Faubion.

The renovations began at the beginning of the summer break, and as the work progressed it became apparent that more needed to be done in the bathrooms than just replacing the tiles. The sinks and toilets needed to be replaced, too.

When the toilets were taken out for replacement in one of the

**TRAVIS cont. on page 9**



Photo by Timothy P. Howsare

**SHINY AND NEW.** Jill Faubion, center, principal of Travis Elementary, with cafeteria employees Audiene Bilgri, left, and Denise Dodson. The replacement of the wall tiles in the kitchen was just one of many renovations and upgrades that took place at the school over the summer.

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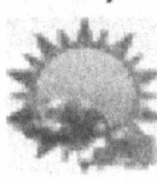

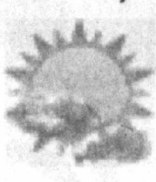
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### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Saturday	Sunday
		
High 61 Low 37	High 46 Low 29	High 55 Low 35

**Friday:** Partly sunny, with no rain. Winds east at 15 miles per hour. High of 61.

**Friday night:** Cloudy, with a low of 37. Winds east northeast at 15 miles per hour.

**Saturday:** 30 percent chance of showers, with a high of 46 and winds east northeast at 14 miles per hour.

**Saturday night:** Low of 29 with a 10 percent chance of rain. Winds northeast at 8 miles per hour.

**Sunday:** Partly sunny, with a high of 55. Winds west northwest at 7 miles per hour.

**Sunday night:** Clear with a low of 35. Winds south southwest at 8 miles per hour.

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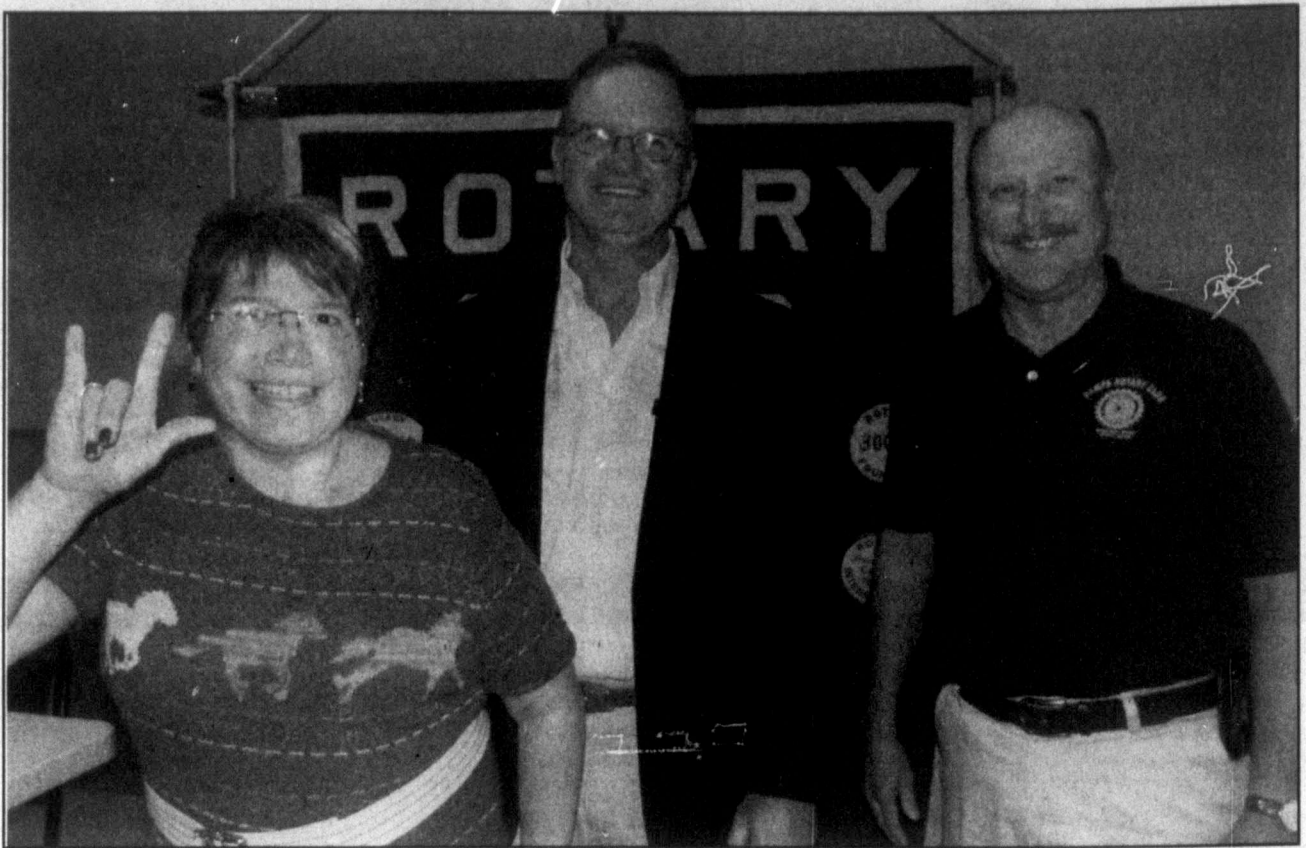
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**SPECIAL GUEST.** Jeff Haley, center, Gray County commissioner, was guest speaker at the Pampa Rotary Club on Wednesday. He talked to the club about the county's budget. Pictured with Haley is club President Gladys Vanderpool, showing the American Sign Language symbol for "I love you," and Wes Hukill, club member.

## For the record

### One drug arrest, two others for bad checks

**BY GAYDEN HAYS**  
ghays@thepampanews.com

between Wednesday and Thursday:

- Rosendo Perez, 31, California, for a Federal Warrant of conspiracy to Posses with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and Cocaine.
- Elizabeth Anne Murrell, 25, Pampa, for theft by check in Potter County.
- Timothy Wayne Christenson, 57, Pampa, for theft by check.
- Rachel Anne Annis, 47, for no drivers license, and possession of a controlled substance.

### Chicago police find 1,500 pot plants in city

**CHICAGO (AP)** — In Chicago, a bustling urban metropolis where skyscrapers are as likely to sprout up as anything a farmer might plant, someone decided there was just enough room to grow something a little more organic: Marijuana.

The plants grew even taller than the tallest Chicago Bulls. However, just days before the crop on a chunk of land the size of two football fields would have been ready to harvest, a police officer and county sheriff's deputy in a helicopter spotted it as they headed back to their hangar about three miles away.

On Wednesday, a day after the discovery of the largest marijuana farm anyone at the police department can remember, officers became farmers for a day as they began to chop down about 1,500 marijuana plants that police said could have earned the growers as much as \$10 million.

No arrests had been made as of Wednesday, and police were still trying to determine who owns the property that housed the grow site on the city's far South Side. But police said they were hopeful that because of the size of the operation, informants or others might provide tips about those involved, including a man seen running from the area as the helicopter swooped low.

James O'Grady, the commander of the department's narcotics division, said they've never seen anything like it before, in part because Chicago's harsh winters mean growers have a lot less time to plant, grow and harvest marijuana than their counterparts in less inclement places such as California and Mexico. The bumper crop was likely planted in spring, O'Grady said.

Add to that the urban sprawl: there are few spots in Chicago where such an operation could go unnoticed because of all the buildings, roads and residents. The growers took pains to ensure their crop was largely hidden by a canopy of trees and surrounding vegetation.

"Somebody put a lot of thought into it," O'Grady said. "But they probably didn't anticipate the helicopter."

Chicago Police Officer

### ODDITIES

Stan Kuprianczyk, a pilot, said police helicopters flew "over it all the time," to and from their hangar, without spying the grow site. Yet somehow, a number of factors came together to allow Cook County Sheriff's Deputy Edward Graney to spot the plants.

"We had the right altitude, the right angle, the right sunlight, and I happened to be glancing down," said Graney. He said he initially spotted five plants or so through the trees before he asked Kuprianczyk to circle around for a closer look.

"We just happened to be right over a small hole in the trees and we looked down," Kuprianczyk said.

They also happened to have the right training, Graney said, explaining that just a few weeks earlier a much smaller operation in suburban Chicago prompted them to fly over and videotape the scene so they might be able to recognize marijuana if they ever saw it from the air again.

So, by the time Graney spotted the marijuana plants, which are a much brighter shade of green than the surrounding vegetation, he had a pretty good idea what he was looking at.

Superintendent Garry McCarthy, whose officers are more used to intercepting shipments of marijuana grown elsewhere or discovering hydroponic growing operations inside buildings, said the discovery of the marijuana is significant in a larger fight against street violence.

### Police make arrest in theft of tree burls

**BOSTON (AP)** — Police have made an arrest in the mysterious disappearance of burls from trees in Boston parks.

Burls are the giant knots on the trunks of most tree species prized by woodworkers for their intricate grain.

Police went to a Dorchester apartment on Wednesday after a witness reported seeing the man shaving scrap pieces off a burl in a park, then leaving with a chainsaw and entering an apartment building.

The Boston Globe reports that 44-year-old Michael Scanlan is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday

### on a charge of willful and malicious destruction of property.

Greg Mosman, Boston's arborist, noticed burls cut from trees at city parks last spring. Removing them can cut a tree's lifespan.

Woodworkers say a burl can fetch from \$50 to \$500 depending on size and quality.

**'Batman' charged with obstructing police**

**PETOSKEY, Mich. (AP)** — The search for a driver who fled an accident scene in northern Michigan over the weekend was apparently a job for a dog, not a bat.

State troopers arrested 33-year-old Mark Wayne Williams because they say he refused to leave them alone after he showed up Saturday night wearing a Batman outfit.

"He wouldn't clear the scene, and we had a canine out there and he kept screwing up the scent," State Police Sgt. Jeff Gorno told the Petoskey News-Review. "He said he wanted to help us look for the driver."

"We didn't want the dog to track Batman instead of the accident scene, and he was getting in the way of officers who had a job to do," the sergeant said.

Williams wasn't carrying any dangerous weapons, but his costume and gear were confiscated, Gorno said. He was charged with resisting and obstructing police in an investigation, and he posted bond and was released from the county jail. He is due back in court Oct. 18.

A call to a number listed as Williams' Petoskey home rang unanswered Wednesday.

It's not Williams' first brush with the law as the caped crusader.

He was arrested last year after police received a report of a man dressed as Batman on the roof of a Petoskey business. When officers arrived, they found Williams, dressed as Batman and carrying a baton-type striking weapon, a can of chemical irritant spray and a pair of sand-filled gloves.

He pleaded guilty to one count of attempted resisting and obstructing a police officer and was sentenced to six months of probation during which he

### was forbidden to wear costumes, including his Batman get-up.

Williams said at the time that he never intended to harm anyone.

**Town crafts compromise over parade chairs**

**CANONSBURG, Pa. (AP)** — A western Pennsylvania borough council has crafted a compromise to a long-sitting problem.

Canonburg borough's Fourth of July Committee wants to limit how soon residents can put chairs along the borough's Independence Day parade route because some folks have begun putting up chairs to save their seats nearly two weeks in advance.

Council says that's unsafe and, earlier this year, proposed to ban the chairs until 6 a.m. each July 4.

But now council plans to vote two weeks from now on a rule that will let residents put the chairs out two days earlier.

They're doing that because the chair-placing has become an event unto itself, with a local civic group giving out cash prizes for the most flamboyantly decorated seats.

Officials hope the compromise will reduce safety problems but not dampen the pre-parade tradition.

**JetBlue: Free flights for disgruntled voters**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In a marketing gimmick that piggybacks on next month's presidential election, JetBlue is offering a way for Americans to make good on threats to leave the country if "the other guy" wins.

The New York airline said Wednesday that it will give away 2012 seats, or 1,006 round-trip flights, for customers that come out on the losing end of the battle between President Barack Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

Travelers who visit jetblue.com/electionprotection and pick their choice for President will be entered into the contest to win a (temporary) escape outside the U.S. JetBlue's international routes include Mexico and the Caribbean.

The free flight would not include taxes, fees or a hotel.

# Cancer center donates \$607 to 'Race for the Cure'

Harrington Breast Center Race for the Cure Team The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center donated \$607 to the Susan G. Komen Greater Amarillo Race for the Cure for each new "Like" the Harrington Breast Center received on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HarringtonBreastCenter](http://www.facebook.com/HarringtonBreastCenter) between Sept. 1-28.

Approximately 5,500 participants attended the annual event on Saturday morning in Amarillo. Area fundraising set a record raising \$83,000 for the cause, 75 percent of the funds raised stays in the Texas Panhandle.

The Harrington Cancer Center is a Komen grant recipient and provides breast cancer detection and treatment for low-income women throughout the region.

## Jewelry stolen from Moore's NYC home

NEW YORK (AP) — Approximately \$127,000 worth of jewelry has been stolen from actress Julianne Moore's New York City brownstone.



Julianne Moore

Police say a complaint was filed with the NYPD on Oct. 1. They said Thursday that a necklace, bracelets and watches, some by Cartier, were reported missing.

They say the robbery occurred at the home in Manhattan's West Village sometime between June 6 and Aug. 28.

Police say the brownstone was under renovation and about 15-25 construction workers had access to the house during that time.

There have been no arrests and the jewelry has not been recovered. Police are investigation it as a grand larceny.

## Turkey authorizes Syrian military operations

AKCAKALE, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's Parliament authorized military operations against Syria on Thursday and its military fired on targets there for a second day after deadly shelling from Syria killed five civilians in a Turkish border town.

For its part, Syria admitted it was responsible for the shelling that killed five people in Turkey and formally apologized for the deaths, a top Turkish official said.

Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay said Syria has reassured the U.N. that "such an incident will not occur again."

The border violence has added a dangerous new dimension to Syria's civil

war, dragging Syria's neighbors deeper into a conflict that activists say has already killed 30,000 people since an uprising against President Bashar Assad's regime began in March 2011.

Atalay said Parliament's authorization was not declaration of war on Syria but gives Turkey the right to respond to any future attacks from Syria.

"The bill is not for war," Atalay said. "It has deterrent qualities."

Cross-border tensions escalated Wednesday after a shell fired from inside Syria landed on a home in the Turkish village of Akcakale, killing two women and three of their daughters and wounding at least 10 others, according to Turkish media.

The bill Thursday opens the way for unilateral action by Turkey's armed forces inside Syria without the involvement of Turkey's Western or Arab allies. Turkey has used a similar provision to repeatedly attack suspected Kurdish rebel positions in northern Iraq.

Still, Atalay said Turkey's "main priority" was to "act together with the international community."

"That is why we called on NATO and the United Nations to take up the issue," Atalay said.

The NATO military alliance, of which Turkey is a member, met at an emergency session in Brussels and condemned the attack on Turkey. NATO demanded "the immediate cessation of such aggressive acts against an ally" and urged the Syrian regime to "put an end to flagrant violations of international law."

The Turkish response to the shelling was prompt — it fired salvos of artillery rounds deep inside Syria.

Mustafa Guclu, a witness in Akcakale, said the Turkish military fired five rounds of artillery "after midnight" toward Syria and another round around 5 a.m. on Thursday.

"I have not heard any more shelling since then," he told the Associated Press.

The Syrian mortar shell damaged the door and walls of a house in Akcakale, while shrapnel poked holes and shattered windows of neighboring houses and shops.

Some residents of Akcakale abandoned their homes close to the border and spent the night on the streets. Others gathered outside the mayor's office, afraid to return to their homes as the dull thud of distant artillery fire rumbled.

## BRIEFLY

Turks have grown weary of the burden of involvement in the Syrian conflict, which includes the hosting of 90,000 Syrian refugees in camps along the border.

Yet Turkey is still loath to go it alone in Syria, and is anxious for any intervention to have the legitimacy conferred by a U.N. resolution or the involvement of a broad group of allies. Turkey is mindful in part of inconclusive ground missions, mostly in the 1990s, against Kurdish guerrillas based in northern Iraq, as well as the bitter lessons of being seen as an occupying power that are associated with the U.S.-led invasion in Iraq.

Reaching deeper into history, Turkey is aware of Mideast sensibilities over Ottoman rule over much of the region.

On a visit to Pakistan on Thursday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed his government's concern over the escalation of tensions.

Lavrov, speaking at a press conference in Islamabad, said Syria has assured Russia, an ally, that such an incident as the shelling that killed the Turks will not happen again.

"It is of great concern for us," Lavrov said. "This situation is deteriorating with every coming day."

Germany's foreign minister, Guido Westerwelle, said NATO members agree on the need for solidarity but also on prudence in reacting to events on the Turkish-Syrian border.

The Turkish retaliatory shelling and steps to authorize possible military intervention against Syria were the latest events to sharply escalate tensions between the two former allies.

In June, Turkey reinforced its border with anti-aircraft missiles and threatened to target any approaching Syrian military elements after Syrian forces brought down a Turkish jet, killing its two pilots. Turkey said the plane was in international airspace, countering Syrian claims that it was in Syrian airspace.

## Rush among Rock Hall of Fame nominations

Rush, Deep Purple, Public Enemy and N.W.A. are among the group of first-time nominees for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

They join returnees Heart, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Randy Newman, Donna Summer and

Kraftwerk among the 15 artists vying for entry.

Even in the iPod age, the list of nominees up for induction in 2013 is as eclectic as they come. Nominees differ wildly in sound, origin and influence, ranging from the enduring prog rock of Canadian trio Rush and Procul Harum to German proto-electronica act Kraftwerk, the disco of Chic and Summer to the New Orleans funk of The Meters and the blues of Albert King and the Paul Butterfield Blues Band.

Motown also is represented by first-ballot entries The Mavelettes.

Joel Peresman, President and CEO of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation, acknowledged the extreme variety of this year's nominee class in a Thursday news release.

"The definition of 'rock and roll' means different things to different people, but as broad as the classifications may be, they all share a common love of the music," Peresman said. "This year we again proudly put forth a fantastic array of groups and artists that span the entire genre that is 'rock and roll.'"

A group of 600 artists, music historians and members of the industry will choose 2013's inductees. They will be honored April 18 in Los Angeles.

It's the sixth time on the ballot for Summer, but the first since her death in May at age 63.

Chic is on the ballot for the seventh time since 2003.

## Google, publishers settle scanning dispute

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — Google and U.S. publishers have settled a longstanding dispute over Google's book-

scanning project.

A lawsuit filed by authors remains, though, leaving the project in question.

The Association of American Publishers and Google Inc. announced their settlement on Thursday to end a lawsuit filed by five publishers in October 2005.

Google already has scanned more than 20 million books. Publishers and authors sued, saying the project violated their copyrights.

Authors' and publishers' groups had settled with Google before, but a federal judge tossed the deal following objections. One point of contention was the fact that books were included unless Google was informed that an author or publisher objected.

## Cinema 4

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## PAMPA OPTIMIST YOUTH CLUB 5TH & 6TH GRADE 2012 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

10/6/12	9:00 am	Packers vs Cowboys	10:30 am	Chargers vs Niners
10/13/12	9:00 am	Niners vs Packers	10:30 am	Cowboys vs Chargers
10/20/12	9:00 am	Packers vs Chargers	10:30 am	Cowboys vs Niners
10/27/12	9:00 am	Niners vs Chargers	10:30 am	Cowboys vs Packers
11/3/12	9:00 am	Chargers vs Cowboys	10:30 am	Packers vs Niners

The first team denotes the Home Team. The Visiting Team will need to provide a chain crew. We will need everyone's help cleaning the stands after games.



# Viewpoints

## The PAMPA NEWS

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## Obama came off with no 'pop'

WASHINGTON — Republican Mitt Romney was fiery and having fun. President Barack Obama came off as the professor without much pop.

And while Democrats grudgingly conceded that Romney did well in Wednesday's debate, what matters is whether he changed the dynamic of a race that he appeared to be losing.

The best answers will come over the next few days: Did the debate help Romney close his polling deficit in a must-win state such as Ohio? Or take a



**Ben Feller**

polling lead in Florida, Virginia or the other toss-up states? Or deliver the kind of performance that translates into noticeable energy on the trail, a crisper message, more likelihood that the undecided voters out there will go with him?

In terms of instant conclusions, the judging is best done in view of what Obama and Romney set out to do.

By that measure, Romney may not have changed the game, but he sure played it well. Obama avoided any gaffes but looked surprisingly lackluster at times.

And he kept in his pocket one of the strongest weapons of his political arsenal, Romney's videotaped view that half the nation sees itself as a bunch of entitled victims. The president never mentioned it over 90 minutes even though he talks about it daily in his campaigning.

In the midst of a dense debate that lacked much discipline, something important appeared — answers on how the two men would run the country differently.

But good luck to the undecided voter who had to sort that out.

The debate often got bogged down with complicated and contradictory versions of the candidates' plans and of the truth, with a distracting dose of insider Washington references. Even voters clamoring for specific differences may have found themselves wondering why all the talk about "Bowles-Simpson" (a debt commission) and "Dodd-Frank" (a Wall Street reform law).

The night's mystery was why Obama did not bring up Romney's embarrassing caught-on-tape moment from a ritzy fundraiser, in which he said "47 percent" of the people out there pay no income taxes, see themselves as victims and do not think they should "take personal responsibility and care for their lives."

The video has undermined Romney's bid for the presidency and gone to the heart of Obama's case of how differently the two men see the role of government and the people it serves.

It got at best an indirect nod during talk about Medicare and Social Security, both known as entitlements.

"You know, the name itself implies some sense of dependency on the part of these folks," Obama said. "These are folks who've worked hard, like my grandmother, and there are millions of people out there who are counting on this."

Obama's campaign disputed the notion that the president missed an opportunity. They argue Romney's own words, which the Obama campaign is using in television ads, are more effective.

The president's biggest trouble seemed to be that he got caught up in exactly what he wanted to avoid — engaging Romney time and again on the challenger's accusations instead of turning each answer into a clear, coherent argument about how he would help people over the next four years.

It did not help that moderator Jim Lehrer lost control of the debate to the point that six segments got reduced to five, a sign of how long both men took to answer questions.

"Excuse me. Excuse me. Just so everybody understands, we're way over our first 15 minutes," Lehrer said at one point.

"It's fun, isn't it?" Romney said.

Following tradition, Romney stood to gain simply

**DEBATE** cont. on page 9

## A good start

Pampa's first National Night Out was a grand success

The organizer's of Pampa's first National Night Out should be commended for their efforts.

Began in 1984, National Night Out is a program where communities across the country unite with local law enforcement to heighten crime and drug abuse prevention.

National Night Out elsewhere in the nation is held on Aug. 7, but cities and towns in Texas hold theirs on Oct. 2.

However, although the program has existed for nearly 30 years, Pampa had never held a National Night Out until this week.

The owner of the Hampton living community, Ronnie Hodges of Austin, has participated in the crime prevention event for many

### Our View

This editorial reflects the views of The Pampa News' editorial board. Other opinions on this page may not reflect this view.

years in her hometown. Knowing that this event was not celebrated in Pampa, she decided to institute and organize the event in Pampa.

Hodges asked her community coordinator, Lindie Willey, to make this a signature event in Pampa. Willey contacted Stormy McClure with the Pampa Police Department, and, with help from the chamber of commerce, organized the event.

It didn't take long for the PPD, the Gray County Sheriff's Office, EMS, the Red Cross and other local organizations come on board.

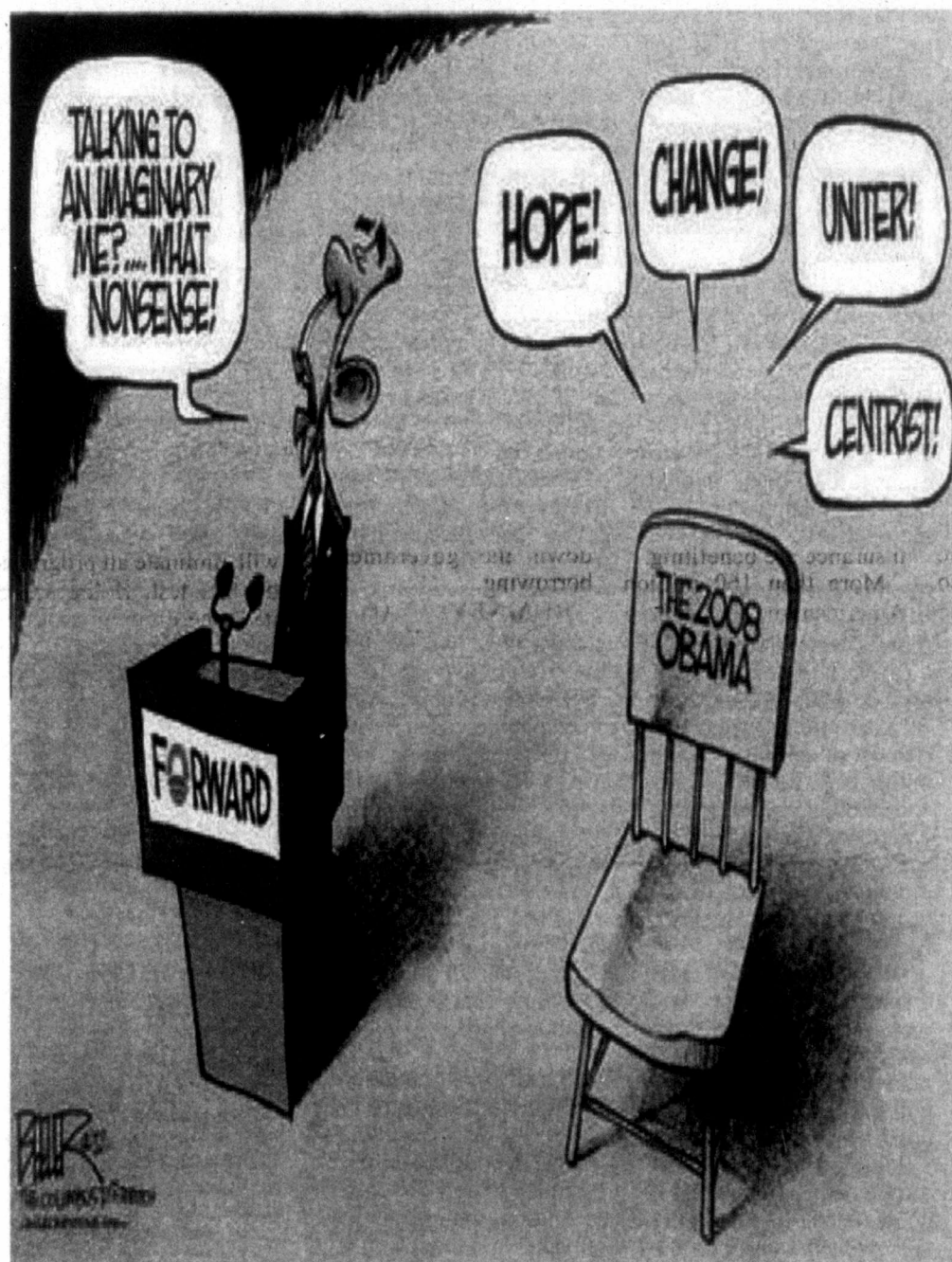
Food was provided by the First Baptist Church Youth Ministry.

Activities for kids included sticker tating, bounce houses and tours of an ambulance.

Being in inaugural event that was quickly organized, not all of the participating groups were able to properly market their booths. But that shouldn't be a concern as the event gets bigger and better in upcoming years.

"We hope to make this a yearly family event and will host it for the community of Pampa, and with greater notice it can't do anything but grow," Willey said.

We agree with Willey and hats off to all the organizers and participants.



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## Why it matters: Income inequality in the U.S.

**By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

### The issue:

The income gap between the rich and everyone else is large and getting larger, while middle-class incomes stagnate. That's raised concerns that the nation's middle class isn't sharing in economic growth as it has in the past. And it sparked the Wall Street protests that spread to other cities in the country.

### Where they stand:

President Barack Obama would raise taxes on households earning more than \$250,000 a year, plus set a minimum tax rate of 30 percent for those who earn \$1 million or more. He also wants to spend more on education, "a gateway to the middle class."

Republican Mitt Romney blames Obama's economic policies for failing to create enough jobs so that middle- and lower-income Americans can earn more. He wants to cut taxes more broadly and says

that will generate enough growth to raise incomes for all Americans.

### Why it matters:

Income inequality has risen for three decades and worsened since the recession ended. A report in mid-September from the Census Bureau found that the highest-earning 20 percent of households earned 51.1 percent of all income last year. That was the biggest share on records dating to 1967. The share earned by households in the middle 20 percent fell to 14.3 percent, a record low.

Other studies have pointed to huge gains among the top 1 percent, fueling protests by Occupy Wall Street. Last fall, the Congressional Budget Office found that incomes for the richest 1 percent soared 275 percent between 1979 and 2007. For the middle 60 percent of Americans, average incomes grew just under 40 percent.

Two academics, Emmanuel Saez and Thomas Piketty, have used IRS data to construct longer-run assessments of income inequality. They found that in 2007 the richest 1

percent earned 23.5 percent of income. That was the biggest share since 1928, just before the Great Depression.

Some economists argue that these figures overstate inequality. They point out that Saez and Piketty exclude income from Social Security and other government benefits from their calculations. Most studies also don't count the value of health insurance and other employer benefits, which have risen sharply in recent decades.

But the CBO's study does include the impact of taxes and government benefits. Few economists dispute that income inequality has worsened in the past three decades.

Poverty has deepened. Fifteen percent of Americans were below the poverty line in 2011, the Census Bureau says, slightly lower than the 15.1 percent in 2010. That was the first drop after four straight years of increases.

But the recession has pushed up the poverty rate sharply since it stood at 11.3 percent in 2000. About 46.2 million people were poor last year, 46

percent more than in 2000.

Government programs such as unemployment benefits and Social Security have lifted millions of Americans above the poverty line. That raises the stakes surrounding future proposals to limit such benefits.

Some economists argue that income inequality contributed to the financial crisis. As middle-class incomes stagnated in the 2000s, Americans borrowed to fuel more consumption and buy larger homes. That caused an explosion in household debt that couldn't be sustained when the housing bubble burst.

At stake, says Obama, is "the basic bargain at the heart of America's story, the promise that hard work will pay off." Romney says Obama's policies have made the middle class poorer. He says he will remove barriers to opportunity, such as excessive regulation of small business, so that more Americans can succeed. "We're not the party of the rich," he said. "We're the party of the people who want to get rich."

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# Fact check: Presidential debate missteps

By CALVIN WOODWARD  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney spun one-sided stories in their first presidential debate, not necessarily bogus, but not the whole truth.

They made some flat-out flubs, too. The rise in health insurance premiums has not been the slowest in 50 years, as Obama stated. Far from it. And there are not 23 million unemployed, as Romney asserted.

Here's a look at some of their claims and how they stack up with the facts:

**OBAMA:** "I've proposed a specific \$4 trillion deficit reduction plan. ... The way we do it is \$2.50 for every cut, we ask for \$1 in additional revenue."

**THE FACTS:** In promising \$4 trillion, Obama is already banking more than \$2 trillion from legislation enacted along with Republicans last year that cut agency operating budgets and capped them for 10 years. He also claims more than \$800 billion in war savings that would occur anyway. And he uses creative bookkeeping to hide spending on Medicare reimbursements to doctors. Take those "cuts" away and Obama's \$2.50/\$1 ratio of spending cuts to tax increases shifts significantly more in the direction of tax increases.

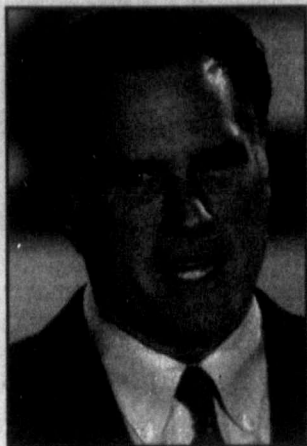
Obama's February budget offered proposals that would cut deficits over the coming decade by \$2 trillion instead of \$4 trillion. Of that deficit reduction, tax increases accounted for \$1.6 trillion. He promises relatively small spending cuts of \$597 billion from big federal benefit programs like Medicare and Medicaid. He also proposed higher spending on infrastructure projects.

**ROMNEY:** Obama's health care plan "puts in place an unelected board that's going to tell people ultimately what kind of treatments they can have. I don't like that idea."

**THE FACTS:** Romney is referring to the Independent Payment Advisory Board, a panel of experts that would have the power to force Medicare cuts if costs rise beyond certain levels and Congress fails to act. But Obama's health care law explicitly prohibits the board from rationing care, shifting costs to retirees, restricting benefits or raising the Medicare eligibility age. So the board doesn't have the power to dictate to doctors what treatments they can prescribe.

Romney seems to be resurrecting the assertion that Obama's law would lead to rationing, made famous by former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's widely debunked allegation that it would create "death panels."

The board has yet to be named, and its members would ultimately have to be confirmed by the Senate. Health care inflation has been modest in



Mitt Romney



Barack Obama

the last few years, so cuts would be unlikely for most of the rest of this decade.

**OBAMA:** "Over the last two years, health care premiums have gone up — it's true — but they've gone up slower than any time in the last 50 years. So we're already beginning to see progress. In the meantime, folks out there with insurance, you're already getting a rebate."

**THE FACTS:** Not so, concerning premiums. Obama is mixing overall health care spending, which has been growing at historically low levels, and health insurance premiums, which have continued to rise faster than wages and overall economic growth. Premiums for job-based family coverage have risen by nearly \$2,400 since 2009 when Obama took office, according to the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation. In 2011, premiums jumped by 9 percent. This year's 4 percent increase was more manageable, but the price tag for family coverage stands at \$15,745, with employees paying more than \$4,300 of that.

When it comes to insurance rebates under Obama's health care law, less than 10 percent of people with private health insurance are benefiting.

More than 160 million Americans under 65 have private insurance through their jobs and by buying their own policies. According to the administration, about 13 million people will benefit from rebates. And nearly two-thirds of that number will only be entitled to a share of it, since they are covered under job-based plans where their employer pays most of the premium and will get most of the rebate.

**ROMNEY:** "On the failure of Obama's economic policy: 'And the proof of that is 23 million people out of work. The proof of that is 1 out of 6 people in poverty. The proof of that is we've gone from 32 million on food stamps to 47 million on food stamps. The proof of that is that 50 percent of college graduates this year can't find work.'"

**THE FACTS:** The number of unemployed is 12.5 million, not 23 million. Romney was also counting 8 million people who are working part time but would like a full-time job and 2.6 million who have stopped looking for work, either because they are discouraged or because they are going back to school or for other reasons.

He got the figure closer to right earlier in the debate, leaving out only the part-timers when he said the U.S. has "23 million people out of work or stopped looking for work." But he was wrong in asserting that Obama came into office "facing 23 million people out of work." At the start of Obama's presidency, 12 million were out of work.

His claim that half of college graduates can't find work now also was problematic. A Northeastern University analysis for The Associated Press found that a quarter of graduates were probably unemployed and another quarter were underemployed, which means working in jobs that didn't make full use of their skills or experience.

**OBAMA:** "It's important that we take some of the money that we're saving as we wind down two wars to rebuild America."

**THE FACTS:** This oft-repeated claim is based on a fiscal fiction. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were paid for mostly with borrowed money, so stopping them doesn't create a new pool of available cash that can be used for something else, like rebuilding America. It just slows down the government's borrowing.

**ROMNEY:** "At the same time, gasoline prices have doubled under the president. Electric rates are up."

**THE FACTS:** He's right that the average price has doubled, and a little more, since Obama was sworn in. But presidents have almost no influence on gasoline prices, and certainly not in the near term. Gasoline prices are set on financial exchanges around the world and are based on a host of factors, most importantly the price of crude oil used to make gasoline, the amount of finished gasoline ready to be shipped and the capacity of refiners to make enough to meet market demand.

Retail electricity prices have risen since Obama took office — barely. They've grown by an average of less than 1 percent per year, less than the rate of inflation and slower than the historical growth in electricity prices. The unexpectedly modest rise in electricity prices is because of the plummeting cost of natural gas, which is used to generate electricity.

**OBAMA:** "Gov. Romney's central economic plan calls for a \$5 trillion tax cut — on top of the extension of the Bush tax cuts, that's another trillion dollars — and \$2 trillion in additional military spending that the military hasn't asked for. That's \$8 trillion. How we pay for that, reduce the deficit, and make the investments that we need to make, without dumping those costs onto middle-class Americans, I think is one of the central questions of this campaign."

**THE FACTS:** Obama's claim that Romney wants to cut taxes by \$5 trillion doesn't add up. Presumably, Obama was talking about the effect of Romney's tax plan over 10 years, which is common in Washington. But Obama's math doesn't take into account Romney's entire plan.

Romney proposes to reduce income tax rates by 20 percent and eliminate the estate tax and the alternative minimum tax. The Tax Policy Center, a Washington research group, says that would reduce federal tax revenues by \$465 billion in 2015, which would add up to about \$5 trillion over 10 years.

However, Romney says he wants to pay for the tax cuts by reducing or eliminating tax credits, deductions and exemptions. The goal is a simpler tax code that raises the same amount of money as the current system but does it in a more efficient manner.

The knock on Romney's plan, which Obama accurately cited, is that Romney has refused to say which tax breaks he would eliminate to pay for the lower rates.

**ROMNEY:** "What would I cut from spending? Well, first of all, I will eliminate all programs by this test, if they pass it: Is the program so critical it's worth borrowing money from China to pay for it?"

**THE FACTS:** China continues to be portrayed by Romney and many other Republicans as the poster child for runaway federal deficits. It's true that China is the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt, but it only represents about an 8 percent stake. And China has recently been decreasing its holdings, according to the Treasury Department. Some two-thirds of the \$16 trillion national debt is owed to the federal government, with the largest single stake the Federal Reserve, as well as American investors and the Social Security Trust Fund.

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor, Stephen Ohlemacher, Jonathan Fahey, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Tom Raum and Christopher S. Rugaber contributed to this report.

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# comics PAGE

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

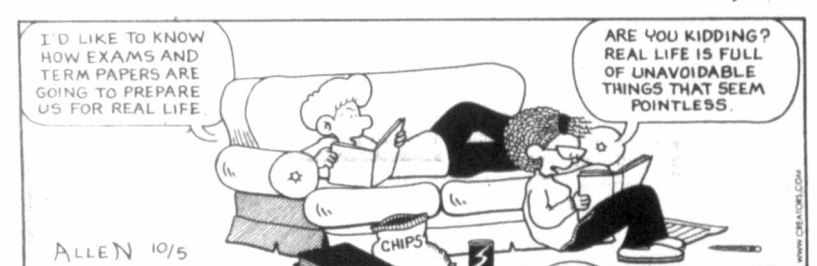


Guest cartoonist Billy (age 7) continues his week of observations.

### Non Sequitur



### Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Saturday, Oct. 6, 2012:

This year you will have an unusual amount of energy, which you will express in your day-to-day life. You might decide to take up a new exercise program or try a new hobby. If you rely on your physical energy, there is little you can't accomplish. You allow others to see your boundaries more clearly, and your creativity is heightened as well. If you are single, you'll meet someone at a public commitment or through a work friend. If you are attached, the two of you will commit to a common goal or community activity. This shared experience will bring you closer together. **CANCER** likes your high energy.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
 ★★ Move quickly, ask questions and refuse to get locked into a close associate's thought patterns. Prepare to discard conventional thinking for a more effective process. Many people will share their thoughts. Do acknowledge their suggestions, both good and bad, as you work toward a goal. **Tonight:** A must appearance.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 ★★ More than just your delivery, it also is how you phrase concepts that counts. Fortunately, you can be a reserved and cautious person when you need to be. One-on-one relating draws someone in and allows greater cohesiveness. **Tonight:** Visit with a friend.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
 ★★ Listen to a boss or older friend to get feedback that is drawn from years of experience, and you only can gain. Communicate and share your thoughts; others will begin to participate in the same manner. **Tonight:** Do some shopping, and perhaps meet a friend or loved one for a late dinner.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 ★★ You have been holding back, and for an effusive and emotional sign, this experience has been a test of your self-discipline. Finally, you will be able to express your thoughts. Others might be taken back. Listen to forthcoming news. **Tonight:** Feeling your Wheaties? Act accordingly.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 ★★ Zero in on your priorities, whether in a meeting or just with one person. Understanding evolves with a friend when you decide to work together toward a mutual goal. The goal can be anything — it is the process that counts. Do not let others interfere.

**Tonight:** In the whirlwind of the moment.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 ★★ Take the lead, and encourage others to join you in a major project. Others seem to respond, yet your stress level continues to rise. Let off some steam, or you could end up having a spat with the family dog. Pressure will be increasing for about a month or so. **Be ready!** **Tonight:** Out and about.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 ★★ Keep reaching out to others. Certainly, someone you care about appears to be withholding information. Investigate what is going on. Speak your mind, and know where you are heading. Let the person in question respond accordingly. **Tonight:** Others will follow your lead.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 ★★ A discussion is inevitable. Listen well, yet be sure to make your points — you'll want to drive them home. This opportunity could be the last time for a while that you will have a conversation like this. Do not build barriers ... only bridges. **Tonight:** Let your mind drift to fun times.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 ★★ Say what you think and touch base with others. Mars enters your sign today, which gives you the gift of energy. If you do not use this planet in a positive manner, you could find yourself in the middle of several squabbles. Be careful. **Tonight:** You might feel the Force already.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 29)  
 ★★ Get as much done as possible, and make it a priority to make key calls and finish important talks. You cannot force someone to be ready to talk, but you can encourage dialogue. Clear out as much as you can, especially responsibilities involving a key group. **Tonight:** Go with someone's suggestion.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 ★★ Your imagination opens up new vistas. You might be a little overwhelmed by your own need to have some fun and touch base with your many pals. A loved one or potential new sweetie wants your full attention. **Tonight:** The party goes on.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 ★★ Acknowledge what you want. Lighten up the moment and allow a friend or loved one to move into your way of thinking. Accept whatever reasons this person offers. Isn't it more important to enjoy his or her company? **Tonight:** Love the one you are with.

### Tundra



### Shoe



### Mother Goose and Grim



### Zits



### Garfield



### Beetle Bailey



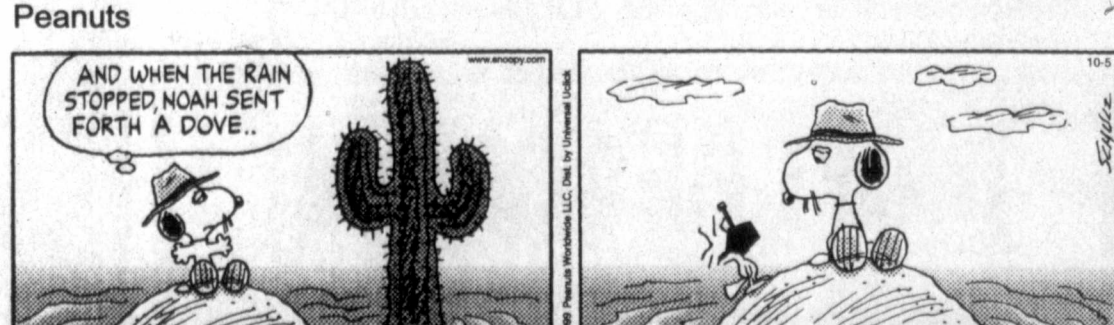
### Marvin



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



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## BANANAGRAMS!

Add a G to each of the words below, and then rearrange the letters in each word to form a new seven-letter word.

- BEWARE
- LEASES
- ARABLE
- HOSIER

Yesterday's Answer: IMPALA, NAPALM, ABOUND

Sudoku

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

Sudoku

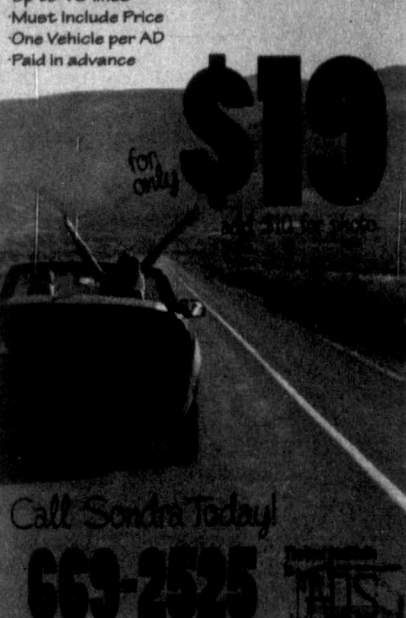
3			1					4
2	8	5						1
					7			
						7		
	6	7	9	1		2		
			2				5	
1	4				9			3
9			6	4			1	

Level: Advanced

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## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Your column has been a fixture in my life. Thank you for the smiles and the tears.

My dilemma: I received yet another invitation to someone's home for a "product party." In the past year, I have been considered a prospective buyer of cookware, candles, makeup, toys and vitamins. While I have at times used all these products, the invitations to sales parties that come from friends and sometimes friends of friends, irritate me.

When I phone to decline, the hostess invariably says, "Oh, you don't have to buy anything." Of course that's not exactly entirely true because it's a sales party, and "guests" are pressured in various ways to buy the product. People often buy things they don't need or want because they fear they'd be disloyal to the hostess if they didn't.

When I was growing up, my father said, "You don't invite friends to your house to sell them things." Maybe Dad was on to something.

Abby, how should unwanted invitations be handled? — IRKED IN INDIANA

DEAR IRKED: Continue to decline the invitations.

Tell the hostess you have "a conflict" and cannot change your plans. (You don't have to give any details.)

P.S. To ease your conscience, your "conflict" can be your plan to watch your favorite "I Love Lucy" rerun on TV.

DEAR ABBY: I'm wondering what I should do when my biological father dies. He and my mother divorced before I was born. I've had little contact with him, but my older sister and brother lived with him growing up and are close to him.

My mother died 20 years ago, and afterward I tried to get to know him, but he didn't want to know me. He never paid child support. Both he and my mother remarried. I was fortunate to have a loving stepfather, and I was very close to him until his death.

When the time comes, I am considering not going to my birth father's funeral. I have not told my sister how I feel because she thinks he is the greatest. I think he is a dirt ball.

What do you advise, under these circumstances? — CONFUSED IN SIOUX CITY

### DEAR CONFUSED:

Funerals are for the living. Go to his funeral and give your siblings the emotional support they will need. I understand why you feel the way you do, but in this situation, it would be an act of kindness to keep your true feelings to yourself.

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago, when I read one of your letters about pennies from heaven, I laughed about it to myself. My sister-in-law had died a few months earlier and I said, "OK, Sharyn, if you're there, send me a penny from heaven."

Abby, the next day when I arrived at work, there on my keyboard was a perfectly placed penny. And for weeks afterward I kept finding more pennies. Finally I had to say, "OK, Sharyn, I get it." And the pennies stopped.

### — A BELIEVER NOW IN SOMERS, CONN.

DEAR BELIEVER NOW: I'm glad your faith is restored. If you saved them, have them made into charms for a bracelet. Every time you wear it you'll feel close to the sister-in-law who's smiling down on you.

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 41 Lukewarm
  - 43 IRS worker
  - 44 Singer Cara
  - 45 Comfy spots
  - 46 Packed in boxes

TOPS BLOWN  
OMIT BEANIE  
GENE ERRAND  
ANTEATER  
PLATYPUS  
SCALES ISA  
HONES FLEES  
OWN BOARDS  
ELEPHANT  
AARDVARK  
TIEPIN IRON  
EDSELS ANTE  
DOERS NOSE

### Yesterday's answer

- DOWN
- 8 Car lines
  - 9 Wears away
  - 10 Bowler's button
  - 17 Hosp. sections
  - 22 Supporter's vote
  - 24 Try out
  - 26 Bloch and Hemingway
  - 28 Feral
  - 29 Writer Follett
  - 31 Secant's reciprocal
  - 32 Was in charge of
  - 33 Praline bit
  - 35 Top story
  - 38 Car scar
  - 42 Important time

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Crossword grid with clues:

- 11 Gets by
- 6 Kitchen gadget
- 11 Sports spot
- 12 In the know
- 13 Jitterbug's cousin
- 14 Texas river
- 15 Bashful buddy?
- 16 Like many resorts
- 18 Yale fan
- 19 Ball
- 20 Trawling need
- 21 Bank
- 23 Punches
- 25 Notice
- 27 Mountain road shape
- 28 Unadorned
- 30 Delineate
- 33 Hole number
- 34 Teachers' org.
- 36 Sturgeon eggs
- 37 Plain to see
- 39 "Rose — rose ..."
- 40 Coastal features



# Travis

Continued From Page 1

boys' bathrooms, the plumbing was capped to stop the water from flowing.

But during the night on June 8, one of the caps popped off, Faubion said, causing a serious flood.

"When the custodian came to work the next morning water rushed out when she opened the door," Faubion said.

There was water damage to several classrooms and the gym, where the wooden floor buckled after it got drenched with water, she said.

The district's insurance company paid to replace carpets in five classrooms and to sand and revarnish the gym floor, Faubion said.

But as the flood-damaged areas of the school were repaired, along with those that were part of the school district's original plan, the other parts of the

school not scheduled for upgrades showed their age.

The hallways and the school's administrative office got repainted and the half-decade old school now looks almost brand new on the inside.

"The staff and students at Travis Elementary are very thankful and appreciative for the improvements that have been made to their campus," Faubion said, adding that money is very tight at schools right now.

As a way to show appreciation to the school board for their part in the renovations, the school, which has 420 students in grades K-5, hosted the Sept. 25 school board and feed dinner to the school board members.

School board members were given tours of the school by some of the fifth-graders, and students wrote letters to school board members thanking them for sprucing up their school, Faubion said.

"Their letters were so cute," she said.

# D.O.G.S.

Continued From Page 1

WATCH D.O.G.S. is a new program at PJH utilizing positive adult role models to build friendships through casual conversations with students.

Male volunteers are asked to greet students with hand shakes, high fives or just a smile of encouragement at arrival and dismissal times and

through lunch time.

Organizers are asking for more fathers, father figures and adult community members to volunteer with whatever time they can give.

Volunteers don't have to have a child attending PJH to be a part the program.

Lending support to this inaugural event, the Pampa Lions Club cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for all attendees. Also the organizers

wanted to thank REMAX, Bill Allison Auto Sales, Happy State Bank, Wheel Times and Pampa Physical Therapy.

The event would not have been possible without donations from these sponsors.

Pampa Youth and Community Center provided fun activities for the kids as well.

During the meeting, new district Superintendent Dr. David Young and Deputy Superintendent Eddie

Gage were introduced. Young was involved in the WATCH D.O.G.S. program at Waco Midway School District and said he endorses this program whole heartily.

For more information, or to volunteer call Sabrina East or Charlene Gee at 661-3426.



## Using dye or stain to finish natural wood

### HOME HOW-TO

Dear Pat: I am planning to build some natural wood cabinets for my living room. I am trying to determine the most attractive method to finish the wood. Is it better to use a stain or a dye on the wood? — Lori L.

Dear Lori: There is nothing more beautiful than finely finished natural wood cabinets. You can purchase nice ones, but if you want the best hand-rubbed finish, do it yourself. Hand-finished cabinets are usually outside of most people's budget constraints.

The answer to your stain or dye question depends upon the type of wood you are using and type of finish you desire. In some situations, using both can create the most attractive finish. Also, the application procedure has a significant impact upon the final appearance of the wood surface.

Dyes are generally used to change the color of the wood or to create a unique surface effect. Some dyes can give the wood surface a sense of depth, while others can create a weathered or antique appearance. The entire surface of the wood changes color, so the grain is neither enhanced or diminished.

Dyes are made of microscopic particles that attach themselves to the wood fibers. Dyes are available as liquids or as powders that are mixed with solvents such as alcohol, water or oil-based chemicals. They are basically transparent, so all of the wood surface details show through.

Stains are made of colored pigments that stick in the grains and pores on the wood surface. A binder, such as oil or acrylic, is used to hold them in place. Unlike dyes, the pigment particles in the stain build up in the grain, so it is enhanced. For this reason, stains create the greatest change in the appearance of open-grain woods such as ash and oak. It has less effect on maple.

If you are satisfied with the grain definition in the wood and just want to darken the color, then a dye is your best choice. Also, if the wood surface has some scratches that are difficult to remove, dye is also effective. Using stain would make the scratches more apparent, just as it enhances the grain.

On the other hand, if the wood has a nicely finished surface, but the grain can barely be seen, staining it works well. Use a dark stain instead of several coats of a lighter stain. The binder in the stains is not extremely

strong, and if it builds up from several coats, the final top finish may not adhere well to the wood fibers.

For a stunning appearance, first apply a dye to color and give the wood depth. Follow this with stain to enhance the grain and texture of the wood surface. Always practice first on a sample piece of the same wood to determine how much to dilute the dye to produce the color you desire.

The general procedure is to pre-

pare the wood surface with sandpaper. Rub on the dye per the manufacturer's instructions. If you found the grain to be excessive on your test sample, brush on a washcoat. This is a thin coat of sealer, often dewaxed shellac, to partially seal the grain. Next, work the stain into the grain and wipe off the excess. Apply a protective topcoat of urethane, tung oil, etc.

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

# Feller

Continued From Page 4

by standing next to the president and holding up well.

He started off with the kind of here-is-how-this-affects-you empathy that has been missing from much of his campaign.

"Ann yesterday was at a rally in Denver," Romney said of his wife. "And a woman came up to her with a baby in her arms, and said: 'Ann, my husband has had four jobs in three years, part-time jobs. He's lost his most recent job. And we've now just lost our home. Can you help us?'"

"And the answer is, yes, we can help, but it's going to take a different path."

What Obama wanted was to leave the American people with little doubt about his plans for the next four years and how they differ from Romney's. It was a rare chance for him in this election year to reach millions of people directly, yet the debate's jerky pace and subject detours made it hard for him to break through.

Even so, a status quo result, or something close, would not hurt him nearly as much as it would Romney.

By the end of a long night, the president tried to bring his agenda items back to the prideful auto workers, to the mom who

went back to school.

"All those things are designed to make sure that the American people, their genius, their grit, their determination, is channeled, and they have an opportunity to succeed," Obama said.

Romney's calculus was different.

He needed a commanding performance. He needed people to see him as a president, unflinching next to the guy who currently has the job.

In 10 battleground states, none of the nonpartisan polling since before the recent Democratic and Republican conventions has found Romney holding a lead.

Romney's mission was to come across as having a better and clearer economic revival plan than Obama; to undermine the president's standing, particularly on the economy, without being petulant; to get people thinking that four more years of Obama would make their lives worse; to score that one memorable moment.

"Mr. President, you're entitled as the president to your own airplane and to your own house, but not to your own facts," Romney said during one of the flare-ups, this on one education.

Romney clearly had his lines ready. Two more debates await.

*Ben Feller is the White House correspondent for the Associated Press.*

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# Sports

## Fourth ranked Wildcats final test for Harvesters before district

By GAYDEN HAYS  
ghays@thepampanews.com

Upcoming for the Pampa Harvesters varsity football team will be the Canadian Wildcats ranked No. 4 in the state by Texas High School Magazine this Friday at Harvester field.

The Harvesters will play three of their next four games at home, two being against district rivals.

Coach Heath Parker purposely created his pre-district schedule against the best opponents possible. In order to prepare his team for the upcoming stretch of games.

"Our players are focusing on October, it is the most important month in high school football. We have three of four games at home, and we need to use this to our advantage," comment Parker.

Fridays game will be the last nondistrict game before district play begins, and will be the Harvesters last chance to fine tune their offense and defense.

In Texas high school football the district games are the only ones that count toward a team making the playoffs unless a tiebreaker is implemented.

Canadian has a 4-1 record for the year and have beaten all of the common opponents that they and Pampa have on the year.

The Wildcats beat River Road 51-21, Perryton 28-14 and Bushland 41-24, all larger 3A schools that share the Region 1 district with the Harvesters.

"We have common opponents, and by playing Canadian we really see where we measure up against our district competition," commented Coach Parker when asked about the importance of the last nondistrict game.

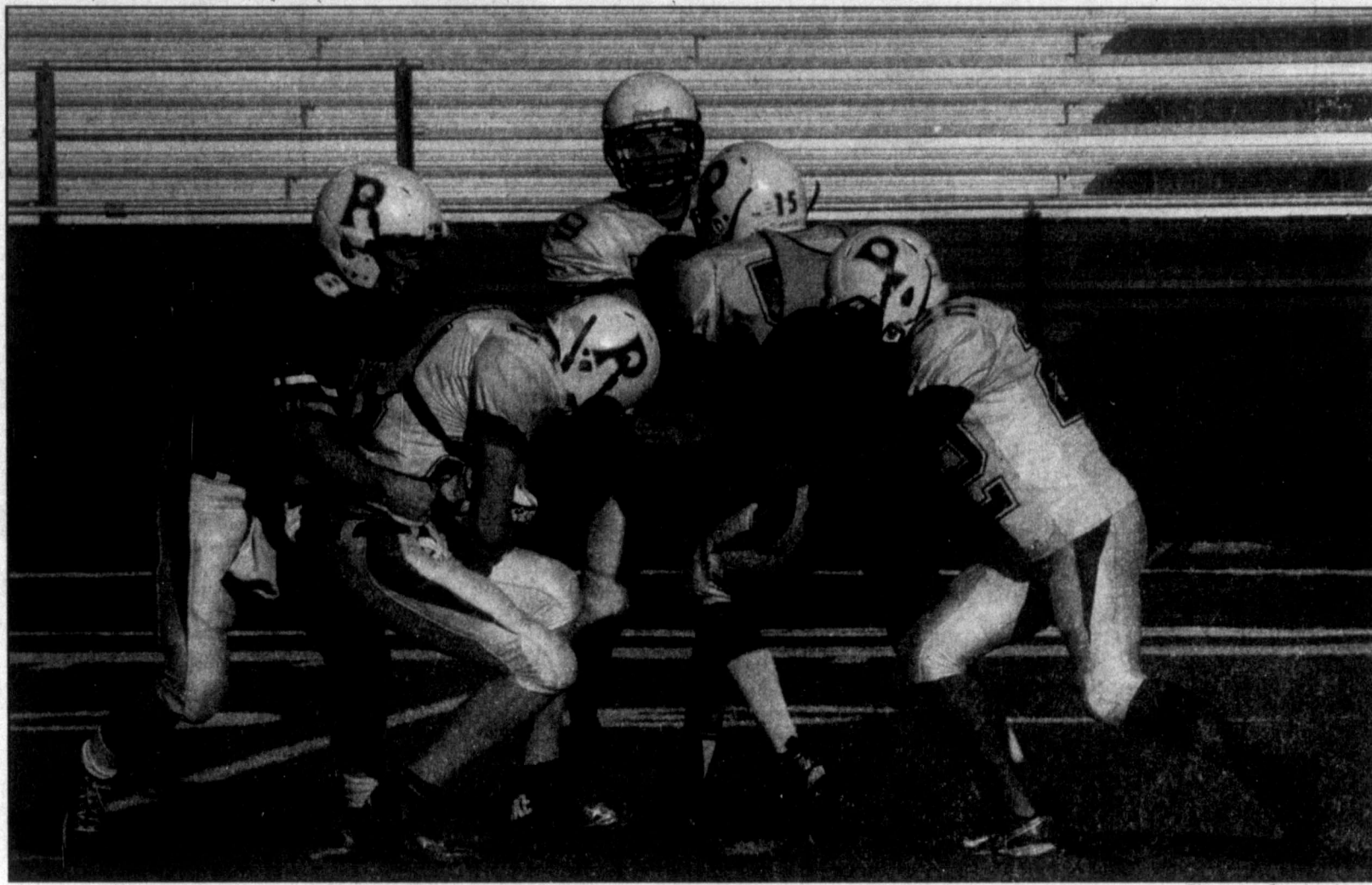


Photo by Gayden Hays

**DEFENSIVE DRILLS.** Harvester quarterback Ryan Smith and starting tailback Sammy Smith participate in defensive drills Wednesday afternoon. Pampa varsity football team will play host to the fourth ranked Canadian Wildcats at Harvester Field Friday, at 7 p.m.

The Wildcats despite the fact they have moved up a classification to 2A this year, are expected to win district, and are projected to move deep into the Texas High School football playoffs and currently have a three game winning streak.

On the year, Canadian has out scored their opponents, scoring 168 points while their defense only has allowed 101 points.

The offensive style that the wildcats will show to the Harvesters is a spread offense that is geared to pass first, and run second with bootlegs and counter plays.

Defensively, Canadian has a group of returning lettermen, especially

at linebacker and defensive line, that performed outstanding, carrying the Wildcats to the Area round in the playoffs in 2011.

The team strengths for the Wildcats according to Maxpreps web site are the linebacking core, wide receivers, and the fact they have a winning tradition.

This should be a very good indicator of where the Harvesters are at the midway point of their season, and how the stack up against their district rivals.

Pampa will play Canadian Friday at Harvester Field, and the game begins at 7:30 p.m.. This will be their last non-district game, before Perryton and League play begins on Oct. 12.

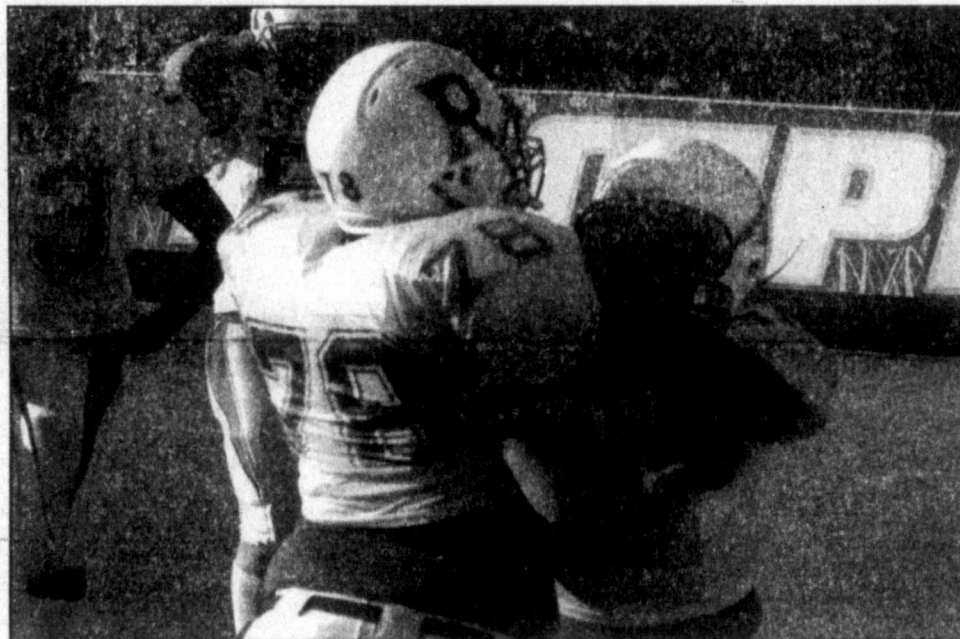


Photo by Gayden Hays

**LEAD BLOCKER.** Pampa Harvester running backs prepare for the upcoming game with Canadian practicing their technique during blocking drills.

## Harvester cross country teams out distance competition

By BARB AMRHEIM  
Contributing Writer

Terra Truitt appears to be rounding into the same form that helped her earn a berth in the UIL State 3A Cross country Championships last season.

The Lady Harvester senior finished third overall in a time of 11 minutes 59.34 seconds at the 78th Annual OSU Jamboree Cross Country Meet in Stillwater, Okla. Saturday, leading her team to second place behind Plainview, Okla.

Plainview won the meet

with 38 points, ahead of Pampa with 69 and Marlow, Okla. With 88 points in the meet that featured 14 teams in Class 1-A-3A and is the longest running cross country meet in the nation.

The Lady Harvesters are improving as a team, and all five scoring runners finished among the top 26 runners overall and top 23 among runners on competing teams.

J'Cee Holmes, who won the first race of the year, continues to give Pampa a strong one-two punch. The senior finished seventh in a time of 12:18.48.

A key to Pampa forming a team that can qualify for state is improvement of the third, fourth and fifth scoring runners.

The Lady Harvesters are finding that improvement with the younger runners beginning to finish closer in time to Truitt and Holmes.

Yesenia Soria (13:07), Reata Collins (13:09) and Claire Hopkins (13:25) ran more as a pack to help each other and finished in 18th, 20th and 23rd in the team standings.

"I keep telling the girls (who goes to) state is decided at the four and five spots," Pampa cross country coach Mark Elms said earlier this season. "We need to keep improving our gap (from first to fifth runner)."

The addition of a sixth runner is also strengthening the Lady Harvesters as a team.

Vanessa Ontiveros ran sixth for the team and clocked a 14:29. While not a scoring runner, (five

best runners times are added together for final score) Ontiveros finished in 49th place among team runners, and was ahead of the fifth runner from all but two teams entered in the race.

Girls 1-3A Team Results: (All schools except Pampa are from Okla. Unless indicated.) 1. Plainview 38; 2. Pampa 69; 3. Marlow 88; 4. Hennessey 146; 5. Tonkawa 159; 6. Holland Hall 175; 7. Perry 201; 8. Henreyetta 203; 9. Lutheran

South Academy 207; 10. McCool Junction, NE 233; 11. Deer Creek Lamont 263; 12. Coalgate 322; 13. Heavener 342; 14. Hinton 360.

### Boys Race

Alex Marrufo and Jose Hernandez represented Pampa in the boys 5-kilometer race in the OSU Jamboree.

Maruffo ran the course in 18 minutes 37 seconds for a 27th place finish.

Hernandez finished 39th in 19:01.



Photo by Barb Amrhein

**HOME STRETCH.** J'Cee Holmes and Terra Truitt are leading the way for the Harvesters in 2012. Both teams will run in Canadian this weekend.

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# Debate

Continued From Page 1

out of Colorado in all directions Thursday, with an itinerary that touches down in some of the most hotly contested battleground states in the coming days: Obama campaigns in Colorado and Wisconsin, then on to Virginia and Ohio. Romney and running mate Paul Ryan are off to Virginia, then Romney spends more time in Virginia before moving on to Florida. Vice President Joe Biden is bound for Iowa.

But before leaving Colorado, Romney brought in some more campaign cash to fund the final push. He went to a mansion located on the Cherry Hills Country Club south of Denver, where a Bentley and other luxury cars were lined up for a private breakfast with donors who contributed at least \$50,000. Their money will help fund Romney's current advertising gap in the final weeks, putting out messages like the ad his campaign revealed Thursday in which the candidate wore an open-collared shirt on a factory floor and outlined his job creation plan.

With a 13-day break before their next debate, Obama and Romney have time to hone their arguments while their campaigns continue to bombard the most hotly contested states with negative ads that go far beyond the more restrained jibes the candidates leveled from their respective podiums. Obama made no mention, for example, of Romney's caught-on-tape remark that he's not worried about the 47 percent of Americans who don't pay federal income taxes. Democratic ads, though, have been making hay with the comment.

Asked why the president didn't raise the video, Obama senior political adviser David Axelrod suggested on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" that he didn't need to since it has been so widely seen and heard. "The president's belief is that's something that has been very much a part of the discussion," Axelrod said.

In next few weeks, Romney is expected to give a number of policy speeches filling in details as he tries to sharpen the contrast with Obama while answering criticism that he hasn't clearly outlined his plans. The Republican challenger begins with a foreign policy speech in Virginia on Monday. Subsequent speeches are expected to focus on his plans for job creation, debt and spending.

Romney has promised to balance the budget in eight years to 10 years, but hasn't explained just how he'll do it. Instead, he's promised

a set of principles, some of which — like increasing Pentagon spending and restoring more than \$700 billion in cuts to Medicare over the coming decade — work against that goal. He also has said he will not consider tax increases.

Obama argued that it's all too much.

"At some point, I think the American people have to ask themselves, is the reason that Gov. Romney is keeping all these plans to replace secret because they're too good?" he said. "Is it because that some-how middle-class families are going to benefit too much from them? No."

The president went on to say the nation faces tough problems that defy simple solutions and said his own choices were "benefiting middle-class families all across the country."

Romney maintained it was Obama who was crushing the middle class and getting the numbers wrong, telling him, "Mr. President, you're entitled to your own airplane and your own house, but not your own facts."

The two candidates planted themselves behind wooden lecterns and faced off before about a crowd of fewer than 1,000 people at the University of Denver. But their policy-heavy debate really was aimed at the tens of millions of television viewers who tuned in, particularly those who are undecided or soft in their support for a candidate. Just the sort of voters who may be less partisan and more interested in hearing specifics.

Karl Amelchenko, an Obama supporter who watched the debate at a store-front art gallery in Raleigh, N.C., thought Romney did himself some good.

"I think he won, unfortunately," Amelchenko said. "I think he might change some minds."

But some voters still aren't ready to commit one way or the other.

Cynthia Gerst, a state worker in Ohio who attended a nonpartisan debate watch party in downtown Columbus, confessed she's "been under a rock, but now I'm ready" to pay attention. She leans Democratic, but hasn't made up her mind.

"I couldn't distinguish who was in the right," she said after the debate.

Axelrod said on NBC's "Today" show Thursday that the former Massachusetts governor had "big gaps in truth that we saw" and said that Obama will set the record straight. He charged that Romney "refused to offer any way to pay" for the broad-ranging tax cut he advocated.

"I give him credit for a strong performance. I give him an F for being honest with the American people," Axelrod said.

Ed Gillespie, a top aide to Romney, said what peo-

ple saw in the debate was a presidential challenger "who had a command of the facts."

"He had a very fact-based critique of Obama's policies," Gillespie said on NBC, adding that "we didn't hear very much, frankly, from President Obama about a second-term agenda."

Both candidates came into the debate with distinct missions, and largely achieved them: Romney needed to project leadership and dispel the image of an out-of-touch elitist. Obama needed to avoid making any major mistakes and press the case that he still has more to offer.

The GOP nominee began his charm offensive from the outset, offering 20th wedding anniversary wishes to the Obamas and joking that the debate hall was quite the romantic setting. Then he quickly segued to the campaign's central issue — jobs — and called it "a very tender topic."

Obama sketched out his familiar agenda of improving schools, expanding energy sources, increasing tax fairness and paying down the debt, then made a simple but all-encompassing promise: "All of this is possible."

Each candidate wielded studies and experts to buttress his arguments, and each hauled out anecdotes about ordinary people to connect with voters. Romney spoke of the woman in Ohio who grabbed his arm and told him she's been out of work since May. Obama recalled the teacher he met in Las Vegas who had students sitting on the floor and using 10-year-old textbooks.

Biden and Ryan were probably two of the most attentive viewers: Their own debate is up next, on Oct. 11 at Centre College in Danville, Ky.

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