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Amarillo Fans

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SEE PAGE 7



THE PAMPA

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3

Small, non-farm businesses eligible for disaster loans

The Small Business Administration has announced that small, non-farm businesses in 204 Texas counties may apply for low interest disaster loans.

Gray, Carson, Hutchinson, Armstrong, Collingsworth, Donley, Roberts, Wheeler and Hemphill residents are eligible to apply, according to a press release from SBA.

These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenue to farmers and ranchers caused by the severe drought conditions,

above normal temperatures and wildfires that have occurred, according to Alfred E. Judd, director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

"Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact

of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage," Judd said. "These loans have an interest rate of 4 percent, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship."

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster

at the request of Gov. Rick Perry.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the secretary's declaration.

However, in drought disaster nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Information and applica-

tion forms may be obtained by calling toll-free 800 659-2955, or by visiting the SBA Web site at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call 800 877-8339.

Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for these loans is Nov. 7.

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Program to fight obesity in children

A program that encourages children to get more physical activity and make better choices on food and beverages will kick off Friday at Westgate Mall in Amarillo.

The program, called NonStop, is managed and presented by the Coalition of Health Services, Inc., an organization that is composed of 13 hospitals throughout the Panhandle.

Pampa Regional Medical Center is not a participant this year, according to program director Holly Hancock.

"They have new ownership, and have not gotten on board this year," she said. "We hope they will join us in the near future."

The program focuses on childhood obesity and teaching children how to make better choices when selecting food.

"Childhood obesity is an epidemic with serious economic ramifications for the

Texas Panhandle," Hancock said. "This is because chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease result from this condition and our health care facilities will be treating these children and later when they are adults. NonStop is a preventative program and could make a significant impact."

The NonStop program has been in the testing phase for several years and it combines the current best practices for behavior modification in children. It uses a rewards program and kid friendly activities to motivate children, ages 5-13 years to "Get Fit, Get Stuff."

"Our member hospitals understand that obese children will very likely become obese adults," said Carolyn Witherspoon, executive director of the Coalition of Health Services. "Some experts have noted that more than 20 percent of the cur-

See **OBESE**, Page 3

Art club event



Courtesy photo

Heritage Art Club's Annual Member Show and Silent Auction is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. Jennie Barker, president, left, and Ruth Barrett, this year's featured artist, look over silent auction items on display all week. All monies raised are donated to the center. Barrett, chairwoman of the auction, has been a member of the club for 16 years. Her favorite medium is watercolor. The event is open to the public.

\$1 million available to protect agricultural land

TEMPLE — Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Larry Butler has announced the availability of more than \$1 million to protect agricultural land in Texas through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program in fiscal year 2006.

"Preserving the state's prime agricultural farm and ranch lands helps to ensure a vibrant future for American agriculture," Butler said. "Once protected by conservation easements, this land will be shielded

from development pressure and continue to support our safe and abundant food supply."

The NRCS is seeking proposals from state, federally recognized tribal and local governments, and non-governmental organizations interested in working together to acquire conservation easements on farms and ranches. NRCS state offices must receive proposals by 4 p.m. CDT on May 11. NRCS is expected to announce final project selections in June.

Since the program's inception in 1996, more than 2,000 acres of farm and ranch land have been protected in Texas. FRPP protects productive agricultural land by purchasing conservation easements to limit conversion of farm and ranch lands to non-agricultural uses.

Using existing programs, USDA partners with state, tribal, or local governments and non-government organizations to acquire conservation easements or other interests in land from landowners.

USDA provides up to 50 percent of the appraised fair market value of the conservation easement in this voluntary program. State and local entities can match that amount, including the use of landowner donations.

The eligible farm or ranch must have the following components:

- Contain productive soils or historic or archaeological sites

See **LAND**, Page 3

Metroplex storm leaves thousands in the dark

DALLAS (AP) — Thunderstorms raged through North Texas early today, causing scattered damage and leaving up to 85,000 people in the dark.

About 70,000 remained without power around the Dallas-Fort Worth area just

after daybreak, said TXU Electric Delivery spokeswoman Carol Peters. All available crews have been dispatched for repairs, which could take 24 hours to complete, she said.

Numerous Dallas intersections were left without

functioning traffic lights, complicating the area's morning commute.

Wind gusts as high as 77 mph toppled trees and shattered glass in at least one downtown Dallas office tower. One large pecan tree at the historic Belo mansion

in downtown Dallas was among the toppled trees, chipping a corner of a mansion canopy.

Rescue crews had to lead motorists from vehicles stalled in standing water on Dallas-area streets early Thursday.

No major injuries were reported.

Most of North Texas was under a flash flood watch, with storms forecast for later Thursday in parts of West, North and East Texas.

Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet & Citizen of the Year

Thursday, April 20th • 7:00pm • MK Brown Auditorium

Featuring John A. Garcia, Senior Economic Development Officer at the University of New Mexico
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Gray County Weather

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Increasing clouds, with a high around 67.

Wind chill values between 32 and 37 early. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly in the morning. Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.

South wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 76. West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 53. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchafalaya Grain of White Deer.

Wheat	4.02
Milo	3.40
Corn	4.29
Soybeans	4.56

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY	101.75	-0.72
BP PLC ADR	75.76	-0.01
Cabot Corp	35.07	+0.26
Celanese	21.47	-0.02
Cabot Oil Gas	51.66	-1.51
Coca Cola	41.85	+0.16
VLO	68.32	-0.67
HAL	83.25	+0.76
TRB	42.62	+0.47
KML	91.36	+0.07
XCEL	18.54	+0.32
Kerr McGee	103.21	-1.78
XOM	64.49	+0.19
Nat'l Oilwell	70.56	-1.29
Limited	25.20	+0.29
Williams	23.02	-0.22
MCD	35.00	+0.45
Atmos	26.60	+0.07
Pioneer Nat	44.35	-0.49
JCF	63.26	+0.94
COP	70.21	-0.57
SLB	68.06	+0.31
Tenneco	26.94	-0.04
CVX	60.43	-0.58
Wal-Mart	46.64	+0.17
OKE	33.41	+0.23
NS Grp	51.44	-0.46

New York Gold	640.00
Silver	14.70
West Texas Crude	72.17

FCC steps up probe into radio payola allegations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Communications Commission is stepping up its investigation into alleged payola practices at four of the nation's largest radio corporations after attempts to reach a settlement stalled.

An FCC official with direct knowledge of the investigation confirmed the agency had requested documents this week from Clear Channel Communications Inc., CBS Radio Inc., Entercom Communications Corp. and Citadel Broadcasting Corp.

The agency wants to learn more about accusations that radio programmers received gifts, cash and other items in exchange for playing certain songs at radio stations without publicly disclosing the deals.

The FCC requests, known formally as "letters of inquiry," are the next step in investigations that could result in sanctions ranging from financial penalties to the revocation of stations' licenses.

"The commission takes seriously any alleged violations," said FCC spokesman David Fiske. "Chairman

Martin directed the enforcement bureau to conduct an active and ongoing investigation a number of months ago."

The four companies have been negotiating with the FCC for weeks but the talks stalled last month over how much the broadcasters should pay, said the FCC official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Radio executives have said that company policies prohibit accepting gifts for airplay and that internal probes have not revealed widespread

wrongdoing. Federal regulations require that radio listeners be informed anytime there is an exchange of items of value for airplay of specific songs.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer launched an investigation in 2004 into alleged wrongdoing by music and radio companies. Earlier this year, Spitzer sued Entercom Communications Corp., accusing its executives of running scams to trade cash for airplay of songs.

Entercom has denied the allegations.



Land

Continued from Page 1

- Be part of a pending offer from a non-governmental organization, state, tribe or local farmland protection program
- Be privately owned
- Covered by a conservation plan
- Large enough to sustain agricultural production
- Accessible to markets for what the land produces
- Surrounded by parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production.

The Announcement of Program Funding can be found at <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp>. Additional FRPP information also can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp>.

Obese

Continued from Page 1

rent population of children is dangerously overweight. NonStop will be one of the tools that we as healthcare providers will use to begin changing this situation.

The Power Launch for the NonStop program is open to the public. It will take place at Center Court at Westgate Mall at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Organizers say from the high tech virtual reality fitness bicycles to the low tech NonStop Jump Rope Challenge, the event will be fun and children and parents will get a workout.

A press conference at 3:30 p.m. will precede the launch.

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Egg hunt



Jace Ware hunts eggs during a recent Easter Egg Hunt at St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School.

Events calendar

• **Habitat For Horses, Inc.**, is in the area distributing horse feed, hay, medical and barn supplies. The volunteer organization will continue to organize feed and hay drives to the fire damaged area and coordinate distribution centers as needed. For more information, call (866) 434-5737 or (806) 681-5858.

• **The Second Annual Cowboy Poetry Roundup** at Boys Ranch will be staged Saturday. The event

will begin at 11 a.m. Performers will include Marianne Logan, Tom Moss, Kitty O'Cairre, Genny Peters, Mellvinia Stocking of Pampa, Tibb Burnett of Benjamin, Ivan Cates, Bill Crenshaw of Canyon, Don DeHay, Carol Glover, Charolyn Gouldy, Ed Harville of Iowa Park, Ludie Stone and Buck Wehrbein.

• **The 11th Annual Woe-Man Contest** will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Monday in the auditorium of Pampa High School. Senior guys will vie for the title of Miss Woe-Man 2006. The pageant will include a talent competition and two big dance routines with all contestants. Five finalists will participate in an interview segment. Admission is \$3 per person. All proceeds will benefit PHS Student Council activities such as homecoming and prom.

Security

Continued from Page 4

found guilty, he'll be punished accordingly. The administration argued that the indictment, and Padilla's transfer to civilian custody, gave him what he sought. But it didn't resolve the separation of powers question. Padilla could be redesignated as an enemy combatant, and the administration has not backed down on its bold assertion that the president can decide which legal protections are provided to terrorism suspects, even those who are U.S. citizens arrested in this country.

The first time that Padilla's case came before the justices, in 2004, the court ruled that it had been filed in the wrong jurisdiction, thereby sidestepping the key issue. It's unfortunate that the latest action gives the administration room to continue overreaching in the name of national security.

Hide

Continued from Page 4

has the easiest interface. But, if your wallet is a bit light, check out the long list of freeware located at Stego Archive (<http://www.stegoarchive.com>).

For a fascinating and quick example of steganog-

raphy, check out Spam Mimic (<http://www.spam-mimic.com>). This site will hide a short message in a seemingly spam-ridden message, and then decode it on command. What better way to send a secret message than through spam!

As steganography grows in usage, you may want to give that downloaded picture a "second look."

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BREAKFAST SERVED DAILY!

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Crushed in California" whined about her new stepdaughter's "rude, tacky, inappropriate and cruel" reaction after Stepmom and Dad dumped notice on his 24-year-old daughter -- in a public place, no less -- that they had eloped. Abby, the ADULTS were the rude, insensitive, inappropriate, self-centered and inconsiderate parties in this matter -- not the daughter. They are the ones who should be seeking to mend fences. When I decided to remarry, we invited my daughters (all in their 20s) over for a private dinner at home where we made the announcement, invited the girls to participate in the planning and answered questions. And yes, the question about a pre-nup was raised. So what! My daughters wanted assurance that I had thought things through. They wanted to know how the marriage would change our family's dynamics, home arrangements, college plans, etc. They were surprised. They got emotional. But they clearly cared about me and my happiness. Their questions weren't out of line; they were the same questions I got from close friends. It seems to me that these self-centered "adults" cared diddly-squat about what Dad's daughter felt or worried about: Keep the young woman in the dark. Don't let her contribute toward planning the event. Don't let her attend this milestone. Then dump the news on her in a public place to keep her emotional response contained. That ought to show her how important she is in her dad's new life! Get over it, Stepmom. You married a man with a daughter. She needs to be part of your life right now. You and Dad blew it by shutting her out. Maybe in time the daughter will forgive you. -- **A DAD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE**

DEAR DAD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE: You appear to be at the helm of a close and functional family. It's sad that more families aren't like your own. What bothered me about the letter from "Crushed in

California" was that the first words out of the daughter's mouth had to do with money. I believe that people who earn and save money should be able to spend it as they wish. I also believe that it is unwise to count other people's money as your own. If the father wants his daughter to have any of his assets, then he should have a will that says so. (It's called estate planning.) If he already has a will leaving his property to his daughter, now that he is married he will need a new one, because here in California, his wife would have a claim on half his estate in the event of his death. Read on for other readers' comments:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, have a stepdaughter who "freaked out" when her father and I married. Her father and I were shocked at her reaction. We offered her the option of family counseling, but she refused to go. My husband and I decided to go by ourselves. It worked miracles! Once his daughter came to grips with the fact that we were going to stay together, and she would always still have her father, things gradually got better. Now, a few years later, we're a close and loving family. It seems she was afraid she would no longer be No. 1 to Daddy, but she is -- she's just No. 1 Daughter. I am No. 1 Wife. There is plenty of love to go around for the both of us. -- **NO. 1 WIFE IN MINNESOTA**

DEAR ABBY: If you look beyond the daughter's initial reaction, I think you'll see someone who was scared to death of losing her father. Eloping was probably interpreted as the first step to abandonment. Bottom line: She was scared. Instead of pulling away from her and resenting her, they should embrace her and reassure her that she'll always be part of their lives. -- **ANOTHER DADDY'S GIRL IN PORTLAND**

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



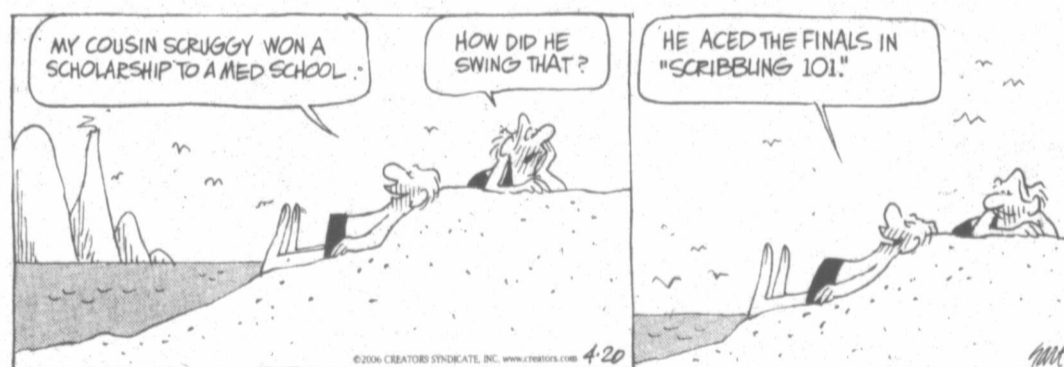
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Spat
- 5 Rib-related
- 11 Test type
- 12 Goals
- 13 Exceptional
- 14 Was abundant
- 15 Too much
- 17 Fresh start?
- 18 Showed interest
- 22 Singer Cline
- 24 Not oblivious
- 25 Quarter-back Manning
- 26 Cloth scrap
- 27 Copier need
- 30 Milky gems
- 32 Gem
- 33 Skater Jansen
- 34 Avoid
- 38 Harmonize
- 41 "See ya!"
- 42 "Little Women" character
- 43 Crumb carriers
- 44 Mean
- 45 Series set on an island

DISH	TOLEDO
OTTO	APEMAN
FARE	LEGUME
FLU	LENS
CREST SET	
HITIT	OTTER
ABUT	ARLO
HERES	EXIST
AXE	ATTIC
AURA TEL	
ATONCE	JUDE
BARNEY	URGE
SNEERS	GEEK

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
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Marmaduke



The Family Circus



Flo & Friends

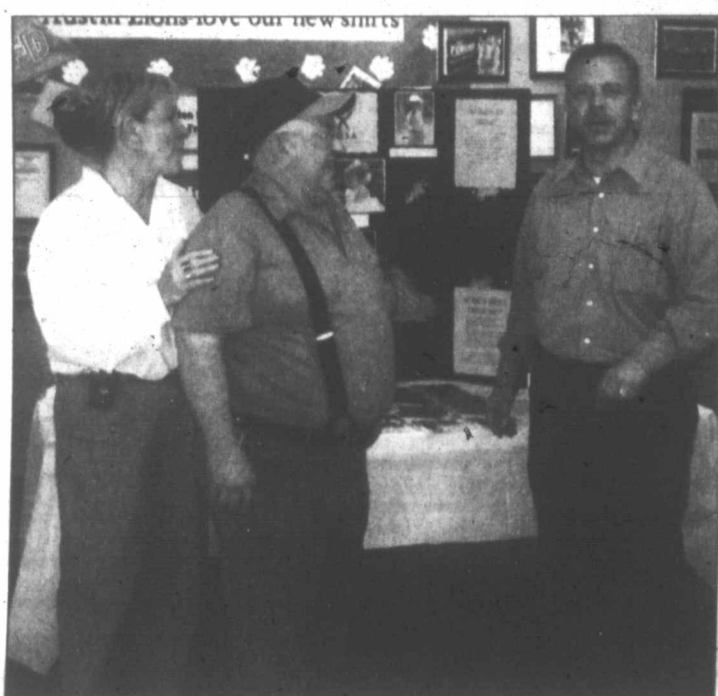


Welcome home



Jacque Burklow, left, president of Pampa Rotary Club, and Gary Willoughby, right, president-elect, recently presented Jeff Boyd, center, with a welcome home cake. Boyd, a Rotarian as well, has served the past 10 months in Iraq with the U.S. Navy.

After Hours Event



The first monthly Pampa Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Event was held recently at Fenton Motor Co. CASA volunteers were present in an effort to boost public awareness during Child Abuse Prevention Month. Above: Vickie Goheen, Neil Fulton and Harry Fisher, Sr.

Lions Club



Ann Davidson of White Deer Land Museum addressed a recent Pampa Lions Club meeting.

Gill Ranch



Michael R. Gill, from left, and Elizabeth Ann Gill of Gill Lazy H Ranch were recognized recently by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs during a Family Land Heritage Program ceremony in Austin. Gill Lazy H Ranch in Roberts County was honored for its acceptance into the program for 100 years of agricultural operation. The ranch has been in continuous agricultural production since 1904 by the same family.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

MIAMI (AP) — An invasion of privacy lawsuit filed by a woman who claims she participated in a sex video with Scott Stapp and Kid Rock was dismissed by a judge who said the woman cannot sue if she remains anonymous.

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Gerald Hubbard on Wednesday told a lawyer for the woman, identified only as "Jane Doe" in court papers, that she could refile the lawsuit within 20 days if she is willing to have her real name included.

"There's no showing on why the claim should be allowed to proceed under a fictitious name," Hubbard said.

The woman claimed in the lawsuit that she was the "star" of a group of women who appear in the video with Kid Rock and Stapp. The lawsuit sought to prevent sale of the video and unspecified damages. It named distributor World Wide Red Light District and Stapp as defendants, but not Kid Rock.

Stapp and Kid Rock have won a

temporary court order in Michigan preventing World Wide from distributing it or promoting any part of the 1999 video, which the former Creed singer contends was stolen. Red Light had previously shown a 40-second preview clip on its Web site.

World Wide lawyer Thomas Julin said the woman has no claim because "she's not a child, she's not abused. She can't claim invasion of privacy because this tape was made in the presence of others."

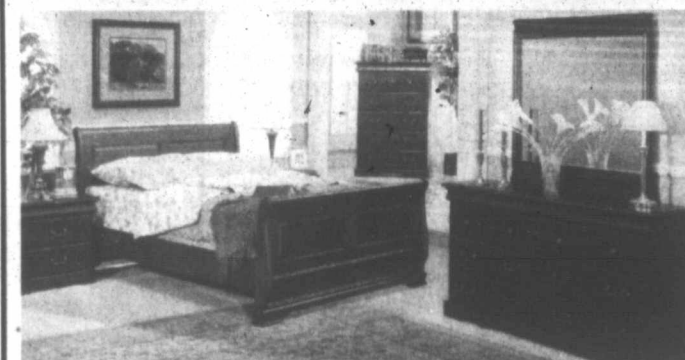
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