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LOW  
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See expanded weather on Page 2

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# THE PAMPA NEWS

Thursday, April 1, 2009

Volume 103 • No. 309

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Raising a red flag to indicate high danger of wildfires are some of Pampa Fire Department's Central Station personnel. From left are Equipment Operator John Evans, Acting Captain Robert McDonald, Firefighter Andy Schroeder and Firefighter Jay Alejandre.

## Pampa firemen raise the red flag

By JULIE ANN THOMPSON  
The Pampa News

Pampa Fire Department has a new way to signal the public and other departments know that the Gray County area is at high risk for fire danger. It is called a Red Flag Warning, issued by the United States National Weather Service, it alerts area firefighting and land management agencies that conditions are ideal for wildland fire ignition and propagation. Pampa's own Red Flag was raised for the first time on Monday, March 31, just underneath the American and Texas flags outside the station.

"This is the first time we've used it," Fireman Robert McDonald said. "We just got it this year." To the public, a Red Flag Warning means high fire dangers with increased probability of a quickly spreading vegetation fire. The idea originally started with the National Forest Service, who use different colored flags to

indicate different conditions. Red meant no open burning. "The weather service has done this for several years. It only recently became a tool for us to use," McDonald said. According to Chief Kim Powell, the criteria for the Gray County area to call for a Red Flag warning must be below 15% relative humidity and above 25 mph sustained winds. "When the weather meets certain criteria, the Red Flag basically tells our firefighters to be extra careful. The winds might be erratic ... we just need to be extra cautious," McDonald said. "If we know it's gonna be like this, we can let other departments know earlier that we may need extra help." McDonald added that residents of Gray County who live in the country need to be especially cautious with their outdoor activities. "We're doing the same thing we always do," McDonald said. "With this, we can move resources faster."

## Ultrasound theft under investigation

By MARILYN POWERS  
The Pampa News

A theft, suspected drugs and a handgun were among the calls which kept Gray County sheriff's deputies busy over the weekend. Theft of property was reported Thursday at Smithfield Premium Genetics, located east of Pampa on Highway 60. Two ultrasound machines with a

combined value of \$5,500 were reported stolen from the company. The case remains open and under investigation, according to GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. Anyone with information concerning the incident is asked to call 669-8022. A substance believed to be crack cocaine was found in the course of a traffic stop

See THEFT, Page 3



Above - Pampa City Manager John Horst, center, introduces his wife, Terri, to City Attorney Franklin McDonough during Horst's retirement reception Friday at Lovett Memorial Library. Horst is retiring after serving the City of Pampa for 21 years. Below - Pampa City Manager John Horst, center, visits with Andy Epps, left, as Assistant Pampa Police Chief Logan Stout and Emergency Coordinator Fred Courtney look on.

## PGCD looking for new airplane

By David Bowser  
The Pampa News

WHITE DEER — With their weather modification season beginning, the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District is looking for a new airplane. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations approved the district's license for a rain enhancement program for another four years, but without a 15-mile buffer zone around the

district. Following complaints from residents in neighboring counties at a February hearing in Amarillo, the state agency clipped the district's wings. The district can fly over the neighboring counties, but they can't seed any clouds in those areas. The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations is also considering penalties against the district for seed-

See AIRPLANE, Page 3



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### NEXT DAY FORECAST

Wednesday      Thursday      Friday



Cloudy



Cloudy



Sunny

**Wednesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a high near 53. Wind chill values between 30 and 40 early. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. South-southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Thursday:** A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 66. South-southeast wind 15 to 20 mph becoming northwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40. North wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

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Wheat	8.60	XOM	85.20	+0.62	
Milo	8.88	Nat'l Oilwell	58.04	-0.34	
Corn	10.13	Limited	17.85	+0.75	
Soybeans	10.07	Williams	32.90	-0.08	
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:		MCD	56.55	+0.78	
OXY	72.53	-0.64	Atmos	25.87	+0.37
BP PLC ADR	60.41	-0.24	Pioneer Nat	48.62	-0.50
Cabot Corp	28.31	+0.21	JCP	39.32	+1.61
Celanese	40.90	+1.85	COP	75.91	-0.30
Cabot Oil Gas	30.16	-0.68	SLB	86.41	-0.59
Coca Cola	61.30	+0.43	Tenneco	29.00	+1.06
VLQ	30.25	+1.14	CVX	85.02	-0.34
HAL	38.69	-0.64	Wal-Mart	53.30	+0.62
XCBL	20.30	+0.35	ORX	45.06	+0.43
			New York Gold	921.50	
			Silver	17.31	
			West Texas Crude	101.58	

## Texas briefs

### Texas man shoots church pastor and wife, police say

DENTON, Texas (AP) — An 18-year-old man shot a pastor and his wife as they were getting ready to leave for church services, apparently blaming them for his breakup with his girlfriend, officials said.

Arturo Silva Jr., 18, was being held early Tuesday morning at the Denton County Jail on two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Bond was set at \$250,000. It was unclear if he had an attorney.

Denton County sheriff's Lt. Allen Gibson said Silva shot Pedro Beltrain, 32, and his wife, Zaida, 33, as they were getting ready to leave for church with Silva's former girlfriend. The 27-year-old ex-girlfriend had recently obtained a restraining order against Silva, Gibson said.

The pastor was shot in the arm and his wife in the mouth, Gibson said. Both are in stable condition at a hospital in Dallas.

"He blamed them for the girlfriend's breakup with him," Gibson said.

Silva fled before deputies arrived, leaving a .22-caliber pistol on the porch. Deputies also found six spent shells on the ground, Gibson said.

Silva turned himself in Monday.

## CITY BRIEFS

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### Feds to bypass laws to build border fence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials say the Bush administration will bypass more than 30 laws and regulations in an effort to complete 670 miles of fence along the southwest U.S. border by the end of this year.

The legal waivers — which Congress authorized — would cut through bureaucratic red tape and sidestep environmental laws that currently stand in the way of the Homeland Security Department building 267 miles of fencing in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The step was confirmed by officials familiar with the plan who spoke on condition of anonymity because the waivers have not yet been announced.

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# Obituaries

## Lena Pearce, 96

LINDALE — Lena Pearce, 96, of Lindale, died March 31, 2008, at Lindale. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the period beginning at 12:01 a.m. Saturday and ending at 7 a.m. Monday.

**Saturday, March 29**  
Thirty-one traffic stops were made. Stops in the 900 block of South Barnes, the 100 block of North Ballard, the 800 block of Malone, the 1300 block of Duncan, the 300 block of South Houston, the 600 block of East Frederic and the 400 block of West Brown resulted in arrests.

Possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia were reported during a traffic stop in the 100 block of North Ballard. Two arrests were made in connection with the incident.

An arrest for a warrant was made in connection with a traffic stop in the 400 block of West Brown.

A wrong/fictitious/alterd/obscured registration was reported in the 1200 block of Boyd in connection with a traffic stop, and an arrest was made.

Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of Sumner and Kentucky streets.

Traffic complaints were received from the 1300 block of North Wells, the intersection of Twiford and Rose streets, and the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Hobart and Wilks streets, and the intersection of 25th and Hobart streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1500 block of Williston, the 2100 block of Hazel, the 1300 block of Charles, the intersection of Cuyler and Atchison streets, the 1100 block of Christine, the 1200 block of East Foster and the 800 block of Malone.

A civil matter was reported in the 1300 block of East Foster.

One warrant service was attempted and resulted in at least one arrest.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 400 block of Graham, the intersection of Barnes and Frederic streets, the 600 block of Plains and the 600 block of North Gray.

A suspicious person and a minor in possession of alcohol were reported in the 600 block of West Browning. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the intersection of Lefors and Jordan streets, the 400 block of Magnolia and the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Huff Road, the 800 block of North Nelson, the 1300 block of East Kingsmill and the 800 block of West Kingsmill.

A minor in possession of alcohol was reported in the 600 block of West Browning.

Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in the 300 block of North Christy, and an arrest was made.

A threat was reported in the 1100 block of Darby.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 500 block of North Nelson and the 1300 block of Coffee.

Assault on a family member was reported in the 1000 block of South Christy. Minor injuries were reported, but medical attention was refused.

Assault was reported in the police department lobby.

Two alarms were reported.

One building check was made.

Theft was reported in the 1200 block of Garland. A mini-bike valued at \$500 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of Magnolia and the 1000 block of Wilks.

**Sunday, March 30**  
Thirteen traffic stops were made. Stops in the 800 block of East Browning, and the intersection of McCullough and Barrett streets

resulted in arrests.

Traffic complaints were received from the 300 block of Miami and the 600 block of South Gray.

Motorist assistance was rendered in the 300 block of West Brown.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 2100 block of Williston, the 700 block of Deane Drive, the intersection of Ford and Somerville streets, and the 200 block of Canadian.

Welfare checks were made in the 2300 block of North Hobart, the 800 block of East Francis and the 1200 block of East Kingsmill.

A runaway was reported in the 700 block of Bradley Drive.

A runaway was reported in the 1100 block of Coronado. The runaway later returned home.

A civil matter was reported in the 800 block of North Wells.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 100 block of South Somerville and the 1800 block of Hamilton.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from Recreation Park, 1600 E. Highway 60.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 600 block of East Frederic, the 1000 block of Huff Road, the 900 block of Varnon Drive, the 1900 block of North Hobart, the 200 block of Miami and the 900 block of South Banks.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported at the intersection of Worrell and Russell streets.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of North Naida, the 600 block of North Sumner, the 1000 block of North Sumner, the 1000 block of North Frost and the 1100 block of East Kingsmill.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 700 block of East Browning.

Criminal mischief was reported in the police department lobby. A vehicle was keyed. Estimated cost of damage is \$550.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of South Christy.

Assault causing bodily injury/family violence was reported in the 300 block of Canadian. Minor injuries which did not require medical attention were reported in connection with the incident.

Four alarms were reported.

One building check was made.

Theft was reported at Wal-Mart Supercenter, 2801 Charles. Makeup and clothing worth a total estimated value of \$76 were taken.

Theft was reported at the Best Western Northgate Inn, 2831 Perryton Parkway. Cash valued at \$60 was taken.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 100 block of Lowry. Taken were electronics, jewelry, tools, prescription medications and a weapon. Two windows were broken in the course of the burglary. Estimated value of loss is \$1,390.

**Monday, March 31**  
Two traffic stops were made.

Civil matters were reported in the 700 block of Naida and the police department lobby.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of Linda and the 1100 block of Sandlewood.

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart.

Powell on a call for medical assistance.

4:54 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Seneca on a carbon monoxide alarm.

**Monday, March 31**  
9:10 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident at the corner of Hobart and Harvester. Two injuries were reported.

**Tuesday, April 1**  
8:05 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2300 block of Dogwood on a call for medical assistance.

### Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Sunday and 7 a.m. today.

**Saturday, March 29**  
7:55 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded 9-miles east on Highway 60 and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:44 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Christy. No transport.

10:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Prairie Drive and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:52 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

3:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Miami and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to 25th and Perryton Parkway and transported a patient to PRMC.

**Sunday, March 30**  
12:46 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Davis and transported a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

1:47 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Russell and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

4 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded 1-mile north of Lefors on Highway 273 and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Hobart. No transport.

8:20 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:23 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to N.W.T.H.

**Monday, March 31**  
3:54 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Baten prison unit and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Christine and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:03 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2300 block of Dogwood. No transport.

8:36 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

9:27 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:56 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Willow and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:31 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of North Faulkner. No transport.

9:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Hobart and transported two patients to PRMC.

10:18 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

### Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls in between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

**Saturday, March 29**  
11:17 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to One Medical Plaza on a standby.

4:45 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2100 block of Russell on a call for lifting assistance.

7:22 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident at 25th and Perryton Parkway. No injuries were reported.

**Sunday, March 30**  
3:20 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of

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# New irrigation technology not cost-effective for region

By David Bowser  
The Pampa News

WHITE DEER -- The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District board of directors decided last week that new irrigation technology is not yet cost effective in the Texas Panhandle.

The district has long had a low interest loan program to help farmers buy more efficient irrigation systems. To date, that has generally meant the large pivot sprinklers for their fields, but with an increasing interest among area farmers in drip irrigation, a system in which a hose or tape with holes in it is buried beneath the surface of the soil to put water in the root zone of plants, the district asked Paul Colaizzi

from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Station at Bushland to come to White Deer for the board's monthly meeting and explain the research he has done on irrigation systems.

"In crop production," Colaizzi told the board Tuesday concerning drip irrigation and cotton production, "it does result in slightly higher yields, slightly better fiber qualities, slightly better grow returns than LEPA or spray."

The two systems Colaizzi compared the drip irrigation system to the Low Energy Precision Application, or LEPA, and the center pivot sprinklers that spray water over the crop. The LEPA system also uses center pivot technology, but the furrows are diked to hold water and

the water is distributed onto the ground through a hose with a drag sock between furrows rather than a spray.

"But if you consider the cost of a drip system relative to the increase in yield," Colaizzi said, "there's the weak point."

At this time, he said he's not sure what the bottom line is.

"We have two experiments running out at Bushland right now," Colaizzi said.

The first one is a system comparison among the drip irrigation, two spray systems and LEPA. They have run this experiment for four years, although they were hailed out one year, so there's only three years of data.

They are also looking at surface soil temperatures.

The hypothesis, he said, is

that drip irrigation results in higher surface soil temperatures because there is not the cooling effect of the evaporation of the sprinklers or surface application.

The other experiment concerns different designs in the technology.

"One of the difficulties with drip irrigation is when you have a dry year like this year," Colaizzi said, "is trying to water up the crop when you don't have a whole lot of moisture in the soil."

Colaizzi said there are four million acres of irrigated farmland across the 41 counties of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains out of 8.5 million cultivated acres. He said 72 percent of the irrigated land is watered by center pivot systems, 27 percent is irrigated by gravity flow and

less than one percent is watered by drip irrigation, although drip irrigation is growing in use.

In 2000, only 40,000 acres were watered through drip irrigation. By 2008, that had grown to about a quarter of a million acres.

While drip irrigation results in greater crop yields, greater water efficiency and slightly better fiber quality in cotton, he says the greatest barrier is cost.

A center pivot system costs about \$80,000 for 126 acres, or about \$640 per acre to install.

A drip system is almost double that with costs running from \$1,000 to \$1,200 an acre.

Other drawbacks, Colaizzi said, are increased management requirements and the

need for a permanent seedbed.

He said that in their research there is no difference in cotton maturity rates for the different irrigation systems. The rates are influenced more by the amount of water than by the method of delivery.

Drip irrigation, Colaizzi said, is more efficient, but the cost is twice as much as other types of irrigation.

The problem the district would have, Williams said, is collateral for a loan. With a center pivot system there is equipment that could be taken back, but a drip irrigation system is buried beneath the ground. There is no salvage value to a drip system.

"Two-thirds of the cost is the tape buried underground," Williams said.

## Airplane

Continued from Front Page

ing clouds in Briscoe County last year. District General Manager C.E. Williams said that at Briscoe County's request, the district had agreed not to seed in their county, which was part of the district's buffer zone at the time, but one of the district's planes had inadvertently strayed into the county when it made a seeding run.

Williams took responsibility for the error.

"It was my fault," he told his board of directors at their

monthly meeting Tuesday.

He said they had changed meteorologists and he had neglected to tell the new meteorologist about the prohibition.

Jennifer Wrights, the district's meteorologist, said the computer track of the plane showed it went about a mile into Briscoe County.

The district started their program in 2000. Their old permit expired March 13. The new permit is for four years.

The problem they face now is that their 1974 twin-

engine Cessna/340, one of two planes the district uses to seed cloud formations, is no longer deemed airworthy. There is a crack in the fuselage.

It would cost almost as much to fix the old plane, or perhaps more, than to replace it, according to Williams.

Williams said he thinks the plane can be sold or parted out for about \$50,000. That plus an insurance settlement from several years ago of \$58,000 for hail damage should be enough to buy

another plane.

They also have a spare engine to sell and a radar installation that they've sold.

The old plane had been bought with a state grant paying 50 percent of the purchase price.

The district is talking to a weather modification program in California about buying a twin-engine Piper Aztec from them. Williams said the company had nine to pick from. Although it would be used, Williams said he expected the one they choose to last at least five to

six years. The district would put about 85 hours operating time on the plane annually.

Should that deal fall through, Williams said they have also talked with a weather modification program in Kansas about leasing a single-engine plane for the summer for about \$15,000.

"We will continue the program with two planes," Williams said.

If the district is unable to get the twin-engine plane from California, Williams said the drawback will be

that they won't be able to top-seed the clouds because the single-engine plane they have and the one they would lease don't have the power to go higher enough, but he said they would still be able to seed from beneath the clouds.

The normal cloud-seeding season, Wright said, usually begins in mid-April and runs until mid-September, although last year, she said they began flying in late March because of the weather conditions.

## Theft

Continued from Front Page

Saturday on Hobart Street.

Deputy Rhett Rollins made the stop and discovered the driver, Lee Galaviz Rodriguez, 31, of Pampa did not have a driver's license,

Hoard said.

"Something aroused the deputy's suspicions and he requested consent to search the vehicle," Hoard said.

Rollins searched the vehicle and then searched Rodriguez.

"He found a white substance believed to be crack cocaine in the man's hat," Hoard said.

Rodriguez was booked into Gray County Jail and charged with possession of less than one gram of a con-

trolled substance, according to jail records.

A man with a gun prompted a call to the sheriff's office on Sunday.

"We received a call from a person reporting that a male whom they identified as

Anthony Baston had been waving a pistol at them," Hoard said.

The incident reportedly occurred while Baston and the caller were traveling eastbound in their cars on Highway 60 west of Pampa.

Baston, 18, of Pampa was stopped by deputies and a handgun was found in his vehicle, Hoard said.

Baston was booked into Gray County Jail for unlawful carrying of a weapon, according to jail records.

# Congressional hearings question oil companies' profits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top executives of the five biggest U.S. oil companies said Tuesday they know high fuel prices are hurting consumers, but deflected any blame and argued their profits — \$123 billion last year — were in line with other industries.

"On April Fool's Day, the biggest joke of all is being played on American families by Big Oil," said Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., as his committee began hearing from the oil company executives.

Lawmakers were looking for answers to the soaring fuel costs a day after the Energy Department said the national average price of gasoline reached a record \$3.29 cents a gallon and global oil prices remained above \$100 a barrel although supplies of both gasoline and oil seemed to be adequate.

"I heard what you are hear-

ing," John Hofmeister, president of Shell Oil Co., told Markey, adding in prepared testimony that he knows that "Americans are worried about the rising price of energy... These cost increases are hitting consumers hard, particularly the poor and those on fixed incomes."

But neither Hofmeister nor the executives from Exxon Mobil Corp., BP America Inc., Chevron Corp., and ConocoPhillips said their companies should be blamed and they rejected the notion that their profits are extreme.

"Our earnings, though high in absolute terms, need to be viewed in the context of the scale and cyclical, long-term nature of our industry as well as the huge investment requirements," said J.S. Simon, Exxon Mobil's senior vice president. Last year the oil and gas industry earned 8.3 cents per dollar of sales, only a little higher than the

Dow Jones Industrial Average for major industries, he argued in prepared testimony.

Executives from the largest U.S. oil companies have been frequent targets of lawmakers, frustrated at not being able to do much to counter soaring oil and gasoline costs.

In November, 2005, Hofmeister and the top executives of the same companies represented Tuesday, sat in a Senate hearing room to explain high prices and their huge profits.

The prices are of concern, Hofmeister said at the time, adding a note of optimism: "Our industry is extremely cyclical and what goes up almost always comes down," he told the skeptical senators on a day when oil cost \$60 a barrel.

About six months later, when the cost of the same barrel reached \$75, the exec-

utives were grilled again on Capitol Hill on their spending and investment priorities.

Recently oil prices reached a peak of \$111 a barrel. While declining a bit in recent days, the price remains above \$100 and there's talk of \$4 a gallon gasoline in the coming months.

Markey challenged the executives to pledge to invest 10 percent of their profits to develop renewable energy and give up \$18 billion in tax breaks over 10 years so money could be funneled to support other energy and conservation.

The executives said the companies already are spending billions of dollars — more than \$3.5 billion over the last five years — on renewable fuels such as wind energy and biodiesel, but rejected any tax increases.

"Imposing punitive taxes on American energy companies, which already pay

record taxes, will discourage the sustained investment needed to continue safeguarding U.S. energy security," Simon insisted.

"These companies are defending billions of federal subsidies ... while reaping over a hundred billion dollars in profits in just the last year alone," complained Markey, chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

The House last year and again on Feb. 27 approved legislation that would have ended the tax breaks for the oil giants, while using the revenue to support wind, solar and other renewable fuels and incentives for energy conservation. The measure has not passed the Senate.

The oil industry has argued on Capitol Hill and at the White House that the tax breaks are needed to assure continued investment in

exploration, production and refinery expansions. President Bush has promised to veto any such bill, saying the oil companies should not be singled out.

The threat of nationwide \$4-a-gallon gasoline, perhaps this summer, and \$100-a-barrel oil is producing strong political reverberations, even as lawmakers acknowledged there is little that Congress can do to bring prices down.

## Federal agencies fighting over border fence laws

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Federal wildlife officials have told Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff he would have to use his waiver authority to get around their objections to a combined levee-border fence design in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Department of Homeland Security plans to announce Tuesday its decision to waive 30 environmental laws so 267 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border fence can be built this year in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

In a letter obtained by The Associated Press, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told U.S. Customs and Border Protection — a division of the Homeland Security Department — that its plan to combine Rio Grande flood levees with the border fence in Hidalgo County was a no-go because it would split critical habitat in its Lower Rio Grande

Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The new design was created to mollify local officials who had been asking the federal government for years to help pay for levee improvements.

The March 3 letter from Deputy Fish and Wildlife Director Kenneth Stansell to Greg Giddens, executive director of the Secure Border Initiative, said "we were very concerned that after months of consultations on a proposed project design and reaching consensus on a way forward that satisfies the needs of both wildlife and a secure border, (Customs and Border Protection) would unilaterally propose a completely new design and request an immediate response from the (Fish and Wildlife) Service."

The new design, which replaced the original "wildlife friendly" fence design with an impermeable 16 to 18 foot high wall built

into a flood control levee," was not compatible with the refuge's mission, the letter said, concluding that Homeland Security would have to waive the 42-year-old National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act to proceed with the design.

Congress gave Chertoff authority to waive any laws that stood in the way to building physical security barriers along the border, but the conflict underscores the many levels of opposition and conflict that have accompanied the plans to build hundreds of miles of fence along the U.S.-Mexico border to stanch illegal immigration and drug smuggling.

Chertoff has used his waiver authority three times in California and Arizona, but this would be the first in Texas.

The levee-border fence design was initially touted with great fanfare as an example of local and federal cooperation on the project

that has spurred dozens of lawsuits and animosity from local and state officials. Chertoff came to Hidalgo County in early February to make the announcement.

But environmentalists quickly complained that the impenetrable concrete levee wall would prevent wildlife from migrating and from reaching the Rio Grande, which in some areas is the only source of fresh water.

Customs and Border Patrol asked Fish and Wildlife to quickly develop new options to soften the impact of the levee-border fence in one of the country's most biologically diverse ecosystems.

One alternative Fish and Wildlife suggested if the levee-fence moves ahead was acquiring another 1,300 to 1,700 acres of habitat in the area to preserve critical wildlife corridors. A preliminary cost estimate was \$7 million, according to the letter.

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# Viewpoints

## Eateries get creative with menu titles

April Fool's Day seems like the perfect day to consider how crazy the world has become. One example that really eats my lunch, so to speak, is the feeling that I have to have a working knowledge of several languages and training as a master chef in order to know what my choices are at a fast-food franchise restaurant. It seems that nowadays, these places want their customers to feel that they are ordering at an exclusive,

upscale establishment rather than the cookie-cutter cafes they really are. I am really losing patience with the commercials touting "designer"-sounding food combinations for the local branch of Elmer's Eatery. Would you know, for example, what Sonoma Turkey or Alpine Chicken was? Would you let on that you didn't know? What is chipotle? Here's one for you: capicola. That makes poblano seem downright

old-hat. I grew up with fast food that had described as "special sauce" or "secret recipe." I did not expect a world-class chef to be flipping burgers or stuffing pita bread for me if I went through the drive-up at any diner. No place that has a drive-up window is likely to

have Emeril at the grill. My palate is not sophisticated enough to fully appreciate this dining experience. One sandwich shop boasts Black Forest ham and Genoa salami. I am sure I would not know the difference between Black Forest ham and plain old ham, and the same goes for the salami.

I never knew what I'd been missing by not having carne asada steak and artisan bread. Black Angus seems to be the premier breed of beef cattle for some of these bun-slingers. Do you really know what you're getting if you order the Fiesta version? Do you have the nerve to admit you had a sammie for lunch? Let's face it. A meal that costs less than \$10 for everything including a drink and dessert, and that you can carry out to your car in a

paper bag, is nothing more than fast food, no matter how the home office tries to dress up the basics. Fancy-sounding ingredients for a meal you eat with your hands is just plain silly, in my opinion. I'll have the burger and fries. Hold the artisan bread and forget the carne asada steak. Ground beef and onions in a bun work just fine for me.

**Marilyn Powers**  
Staff Writer



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

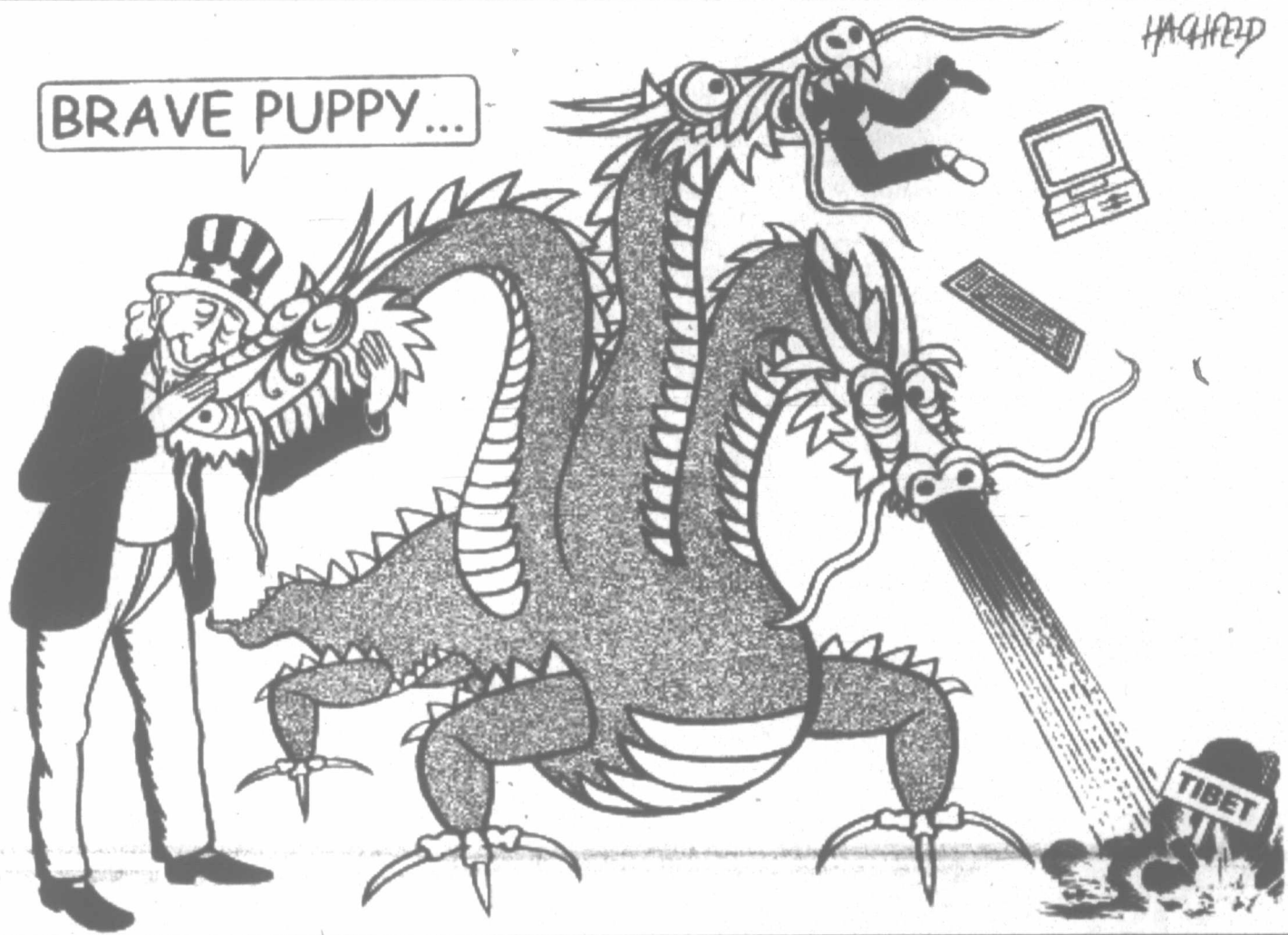
Today is Tuesday, April 1, the 92nd day of 2008. There are 274 days left in the year. This is April Fool's Day.  
Today's Highlight in History:  
On April 1, 1945, American forces launched the amphibious invasion of Okinawa during World War II.  
On this date:  
In 1853, Cincinnati established a fire department of paid city employees.  
In 1918, the Royal Air Force was established in Britain.  
In 1933, Nazi Germany began persecuting Jews with a boycott of Jewish-owned businesses.  
In 1946, tidal waves struck the Hawaiian islands, resulting in more than 170 deaths.  
In 1958, President Eisenhower signed a \$1.85 billion emergency housing measure.  
In 1960, the first weather satellite, TIROS-1, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.  
In 1963, most of New York City's daily newspapers resumed publishing after settlement was

*'Life is short. Live it up.'*

— Nikita S. Khrushchev  
Soviet leader  
(1894-1971)

reached in a 114-day strike.

BRAVE PUPPY...



## Our readers write

### More on emergency services training

Dear Editor, It would be nice if everyone on every truck had a paramedic license, but what would that do to these little communities that we now serve? Would the service be better? Is it the license that makes the service, or is it the people that make the service what it is regardless of the license?

All Basics go through training and testing to be certified. We can not only

### Volunteers valuable, too

Dear Editor, All Basics EMTs are trained, tested and certified to take vitals and deliver nitro, aspirin, glucose and oxygen which are all considered drugs. Our ambulance drivers and firefighters who help are kept current on CPR.

The difference between

package, but we also can take vitals, give nitroglycerin, glucose and aspirin and oxygen, which are all considered drugs. We are also trained how to use the combi tube and administer CPR.

I believe the record in these communities can speak volumes of the services that we can and do provide.

**Ronia Anderson**  
**McLean EMS director**

professional, paid departments is they respond when on the clock and getting paid. The volunteer responds in the middle of the night, heat of the day, rain, snow, sleet and sometimes several times in a 24-hour, 48-hour or longer time period with-

See LETTER, Page 5

## Ask yourself, is Obama ready for America?

Some pundits ask whether America is ready for Obama. The much more important question is whether Obama is ready for America and even more important is whether black people can afford Obama. Let's look at it in the context of a historical tidbit.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson, signing a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers, broke the color barrier in major league baseball. He encountered open racist taunts and slurs from fans, opposing team players and even some players on his own team. Despite that, his first year batting average was .297. He led the National League in stolen bases and won the first-ever Rookie of the Year Award.

Without question, Jackie Robinson was an exceptional player. There's no sense of justice that should require that a player be as good as Jackie Robinson in order to be a rookie in the major leagues but the hard fact of the matter, as a first black player, he had to be.

In 1947, black people could not afford a stubble bum baseball player. By contrast, today black people can afford stubble bum black baseball players. The simple reason is that as a result of the excellence of Jackie Robinson, as well those who immediately followed him such as Satchel Paige, Don Newcombe, Larry Doby and Roy Campanella, there's no one in his right mind, who might

watch the incompetence of a particular black player, who can say, "Those blacks can't play baseball." Whether we like it or not, whether for good reason or bad reason, people make stereotypes and stereotypes can have effects.

For the nation and for black people, the first black president should be the caliber of a Jackie Robinson, and Barack Obama is not. Barack Obama has charisma and charm but in terms of

character, values and understanding, he is no Jackie Robinson. By now, many Americans have heard the racist and anti-American tirades of Obama's minister and spiritual counselor. There's no way that Obama could have been a 20-year member of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's church and not been aware of his statements.

Wright's racist and anti-American ideas are by no means unique. They are the ideas of many leftist professors and taught to our young people. The basic difference between Sen. Obama, Wright and leftist professors is simply a matter of style and language. His Philadelphia speech demonstrated his clever style where he merely changed the subject. The controversy was not about race. It was about his longtime association with such a hatemonger

and whether he shared the Reverend's vision.

Obama's success is truly a remarkable commentary on the goodness of Americans and how far we've come in resolving matters of race. I'm 72 years old. For almost all of my life, a black having a real chance at becoming the president of the United States was at best a pipe dream. Obama has convincingly won primaries in states with insignificant black populations. As such, it further confirms what I've often said: The civil rights struggle in America is over and it's won.

At one time, black Americans did not have the constitutional guarantees enjoyed by white Americans; now we do. The fact that the civil rights struggle is over, and won does not mean that there are not major problems confronting many members of the black community but they are not civil rights problems and have little or noth-

See WILLIAMS, Page 5

**Walter Williams**  
Columnist



## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ March 20  
Austin American-Statesman on gun rights:

The U.S. Supreme Court has decided to intervene in the long, noisy debate over whether the stilted and confusing language of the Constitutions Second Amendment guarantees individuals a fundamental right to "keep and bear arms."

If the justices questions in Tuesday's hearing in District of Columbia v. Heller are any indication, the court will probably rule that it does. Such a holding would reverse all of the courts previous decisions on the question (the

most important one nearly 70 years ago), which had consistently held that the framers did not intend to guarantee an individuals right to firearms but the right of the states to organize their militias free of federal interference.

Paradoxically enough, such a decision expected in June could have the effect of taking the amendment out of the nations rancorous debate over the presence and effects of the 235 million guns flooding the country.

That's because, even if the court rules that the amendment protects an individual's right to own firearms, it will prescribe a "standard of review" to define at what point the government has a legitimate interest in limiting that right. Practically all of the Constitutions fundamental rights are

balanced by limits: Free speech is limited by the speakers responsibility for defamation and libel; freedom from state searches may be overridden by a legal warrant; freedom of religion falls short of allowing human sacrifice, and so on.

The Second Amendment would be no different. It would be unimaginable, indeed, if the court, in granting a fundamental individual right to bear arms, did it in such a way that it repealed every gun law in the country. Whatever "standard of review" the justices set, while doubtlessly overturning the District of Columbia strict handgun ban (the law directly in question), it probably will not want to overturn laws

See GUNS, Page 5

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# Williams

ing to do with racial discrimination. While not every single vestige of racial discrimination has disappeared, Obama and the Rev. Wright are absolutely wrong in suggesting that racial discrimination is anywhere near the major problem confronting a large segment of the black community. The major problems are family breakdown, illegitimacy, fraudulent education and a high rate of criminality. To confront these problems, that are not the fault of the larger society, requires political courage and that's an attribute that Obama and most other politicians lack.

Continued from Page 4

—Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

# Guns

against possessing unlicensed machine guns, for example, or denying felons or the criminally insane access to firearms.

Continued from Page 4

The result, it is to be hoped, will be a rational debate about who should own guns and under what circumstances, without perfervid appeals to the Second Amendment. With the constitutional question settled in favor of individual gun rights within sensible limits, the country could turn to a calmer discussion of how to allow legitimate owners possession and use of their guns while still addressing the human carnage 30,000 dead and more than 100,000 wounded wreaked by guns every year.

Guns are inherently dangerous consumer goods that society should rationally regulate, just as it does automobiles or airplanes or toasters, in the interest of public health and safety. The Supreme Court, by granting gun owners their Second Amendment rights, may actually make that discussion more, and not less, possible. URL: <http://www.statesman.com>

# Letter

out regard to their time card.

Continued from Page 4

We as volunteers respond because we love our community. Our dedication is due to the support that our families and communities give us.

Thank you.  
Dana Davis, Lefors EMS director/EMT Basic  
Karen Noble, CPR certified driver  
Linda Stanton, CPR certified driver

# Pelosi: Supers have right to vote conscience

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the superdelegates who may ultimately decide the Democratic party's presidential nominee have a right to vote as they wish, and that the drawn-out contest between candidates Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama should be allowed to reach its conclusion.

"These superdelegates have the right to vote their conscience and who they think would be the better president, or who can win, but they also then should get involved in the campaigns and make their power known there," Pelosi said in an interview aired Tuesday on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Pelosi recently drew objections from Clinton backers when she said she shared Obama's view that superdelegates — nearly 800 elected officials and party leaders — should be guided by the vote for pledged delegates. Obama leads Clinton in pledged delegates earned in primaries and caucuses, but Clinton leads Obama in endorsements from superdelegates. Overall, Obama has 1,632 delegates to Clinton's 1,500, according to the latest Associated Press tally. It takes 2,024 delegates to win the nomination.

Pelosi repeated her view that it would be harmful to the party if superdelegates were perceived to overturn the will of voters, but made clear she was not suggesting Clinton withdraw from the race.

"I think the election has to run its course," Pelosi said. "I think that for all that I have said about respecting the will of the people that the inference to be drawn from that is that we have to continue the election in terms of hear-

ing from the people. "I do think that it is important for us to get behind one candidate a long time before we go to the Democratic National Convention if we hope to win in November," Pelosi added.

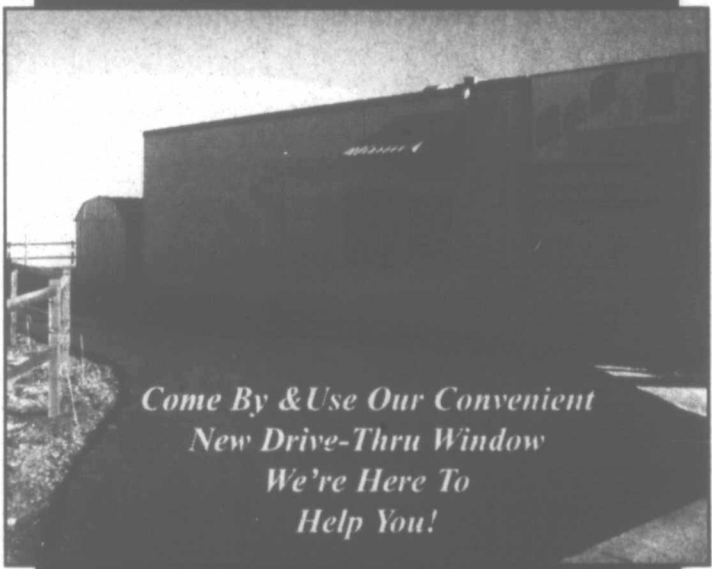
Last week, Pelosi received a letter from 20 top Democratic donors who support Clinton, expressing unhappiness that Pelosi appeared to be backing Obama's position on pledged delegates and urging her to clarify her position.

Asked about the letter, Pelosi said: "It wasn't important to me."

Barring a complete meltdown by Obama, Clinton has almost no chance of surpassing his number of pledged delegates, even if she wins big in Pennsylvania's April 22 primary, the largest remaining cache of delegates. But some Democrats fear such victories would encourage her to keep criticizing Obama — her only hope for the nomination — and thus heighten doubts about Obama's ability to defeat Republican nominee-in-waiting John McCain in the fall.

Obama, in an interview taped Monday and aired Tuesday on NBC's "Today Show," said the former first lady "has certainly earned the right to stay in this race as long as she wants ... I think she deserves to be able to run and make her case."

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### Kid Scoop

**This Week: Maple Syrup**

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Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at:  
[www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

## Sweet and Sappy

Around the middle of March, days begin to warm up, but the nights are still frosty in the northeastern regions of North America. The sap is thin, barely sweet and as colorless as spring water. It isn't ready for pancakes at this stage.

This change in the weather causes the sap in maple trees to start moving.

When the sap begins to move, small tubes are drilled into the maple tree to redirect some of that sap out of the tree to be collected.

The sap is thin, barely sweet and as colorless as spring water. It isn't ready for pancakes at this stage.

Boiling the sap causes much of the water to evaporate, leaving behind the thick, sweet syrup enjoyed on pancakes.

Drilling a hole into a tree to capture the sap is called "tapping." This does no permanent harm to the tree. Only about 10% of the sap is collected each year.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Read expository text to locate information.

### Red Squirrel Harvests Maple Sugar

When its stores of pinecones and nuts gathered during the summer and fall run low, the squirrel scratches the bark of sugar maple trees with its sharp teeth. This allows some of the tree sap to drain out.

The sap's water evaporates in the winter sunlight, but the sap leaves a sugary trace on the bark. The squirrel returns to lick it, and gets an energy boost in an otherwise lean time of year.

It is thought that the Native Americans learned about the sweet maple sap by watching the squirrels.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know that an organism's patterns of behavior relate to the nature of that organism's environment.

### What's a Doodlebug?

A doodlebug is a homemade tractor built from parts of old, rusted out cars or trucks. The doodlebug is used to haul the sap from the maple trees to the sugarhouse, where the sap is boiled into syrup.

Draw the other half of this doodlebug.

Write the letter that comes after each letter below to find out what the Native American tribe, the Algonquins, called maple sap.

R H M Y H A T B J V T C

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

### Maple Sap Facts

Use the code to discover these sweet facts!

Maple sap is about  $\star$  water.

Boiling approximately  $\star$  gallons of sap makes one gallon of syrup.

A gallon of pure maple syrup weighs about  $\star$  pounds.

A maple tree must be at least  $\star$  inches in diameter before it is tapped.

**SECRET SYRUP CODE**

$\star = 1$   $\diamond = 2$   $\square = 4$   $\triangle = 7$

$\blacklozenge = 8$   $\blacktriangle = 9$   $\blacklozenge = 0$

Find the lookalike bottles of maple syrup.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify unknown words by alphabetical order.

### The Kid Scoop Puzzler

Who won the Pancake Eating Contest?

Peggy and Patsy ate the same number of pancakes. Paulino ate twice as many pancakes as Patsy. Pablo ate seven more pancakes than Patsy. After nine pancakes, Patsy was full. Perry ate three more pancakes than Paulino.

\_\_\_\_\_ ate the most pancakes.

Standards Link: Math: Use logic to solve problems.

### Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

MAPLE SYRUP PINECONES DOODLEBUG TEASERS TRACTOR PANCAKES WATER CAPTURE TUBES SUGARY TRIBE BARK NUTS CARS

P	C	S	E	B	I	R	T	S	G
W	I	A	E	L	P	A	M	U	E
C	E	N	R	K	R	A	B	T	R
A	S	R	E	S	A	E	T	O	E
P	T	U	A	C	L	C	T	N	T
T	U	D	G	D	O	C	N	U	A
U	N	R	O	A	A	N	B	A	W
R	S	O	Y	R	R	E	E	A	P
E	D	P	T	S	S	Y	P	S	Y

Standards Link: Letter sequencing, Recognized identical words, Skim and scan reading, Recall spelling patterns.

### Kid Scoop Together: Proof It!

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the article below and correct the 10 grammar and spelling errors you find. The first one is done for you.

### Canada's Largest Maple Tree

Some ~~days~~ the Comfort Maple is the oldest and finer sugar maple tree in Canada. Located in the Town of Pelham, Ontario, this 500-year-old tree towers about 80 foot at its crown with a trunk circumference of 20 feet. The tree are located on land purchased by the Comfort family in 1816 and is now protected for its historical and biological significance.

Standards Link: Editing: Edit drafts to correct spelling and grammar.

### What a Character! Sweet is ...

... thinking up something nice to say to another person.

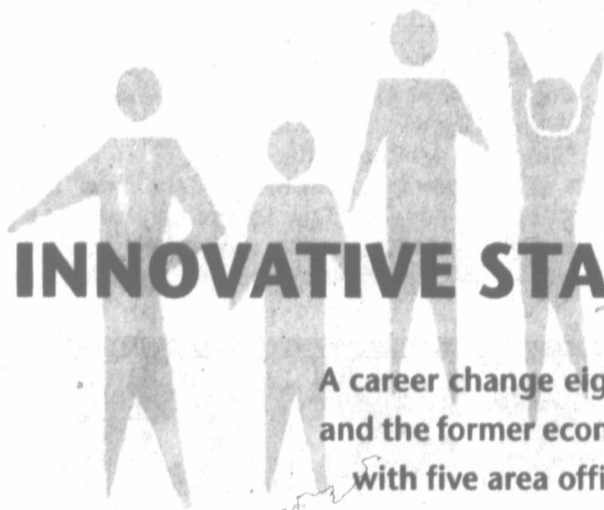
### Kid Scoop-doku

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word MAPLE in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

P						
M	A	P	L	E		
	L					

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

# BUSINESS REVIEW



## INNOVATIVE STAFFING SOLUTIONS, LLC

A career change eight years ago for a former Stramitt employee in Perryton and the former economic development director in Perryton, led to a business with five area offices.



In August of 1996 Regina Partain, owner and manager of Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC, and Dr. Myron McCartor, former economic development director in Perryton, partnered together and created Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC (Innovative) to be "beneficial to the community."

Innovative specializes in the hiring of long-term employees in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, as well as southern Kansas. They provide agricultural, industrial, oilfield, clerical, administrative, medical and sales personnel, as well as others.



Specializing in the best fit for the client, regardless of the industry, is one of the things that make innovative different from other staffing companies. Screening processes to ensure the best fit include reference checks, skill testing, cognitive abilities testing, and personality assessment, two levels of interview, drug screens and back ground checks as needed.

Additionally, Innovative offers education to employers and other community groups. Some seminars and workshops include Hiring Legally and Effectively, Gender Diversity in the Workplace, Team Building, and Workplace Ethics. Other courses can be customized depending upon the needs of the client.



Safety of employees is a major concern. Innovative works with both employees and clients to ensure that all employees work in a safe environment and in a safe manner.

Also, some of our staff members have been certified through the University of Utah to train substitute teachers in classroom management, how to follow a lesson plan, and how to be a valuable asset to school districts. Courses can be scheduled to train substitute teachers in the above areas.

Six offices serve the Panhandle of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. They are located in Perryton, Pampa, Hereford, Dumas, Amarillo, and Elk City, Ok.



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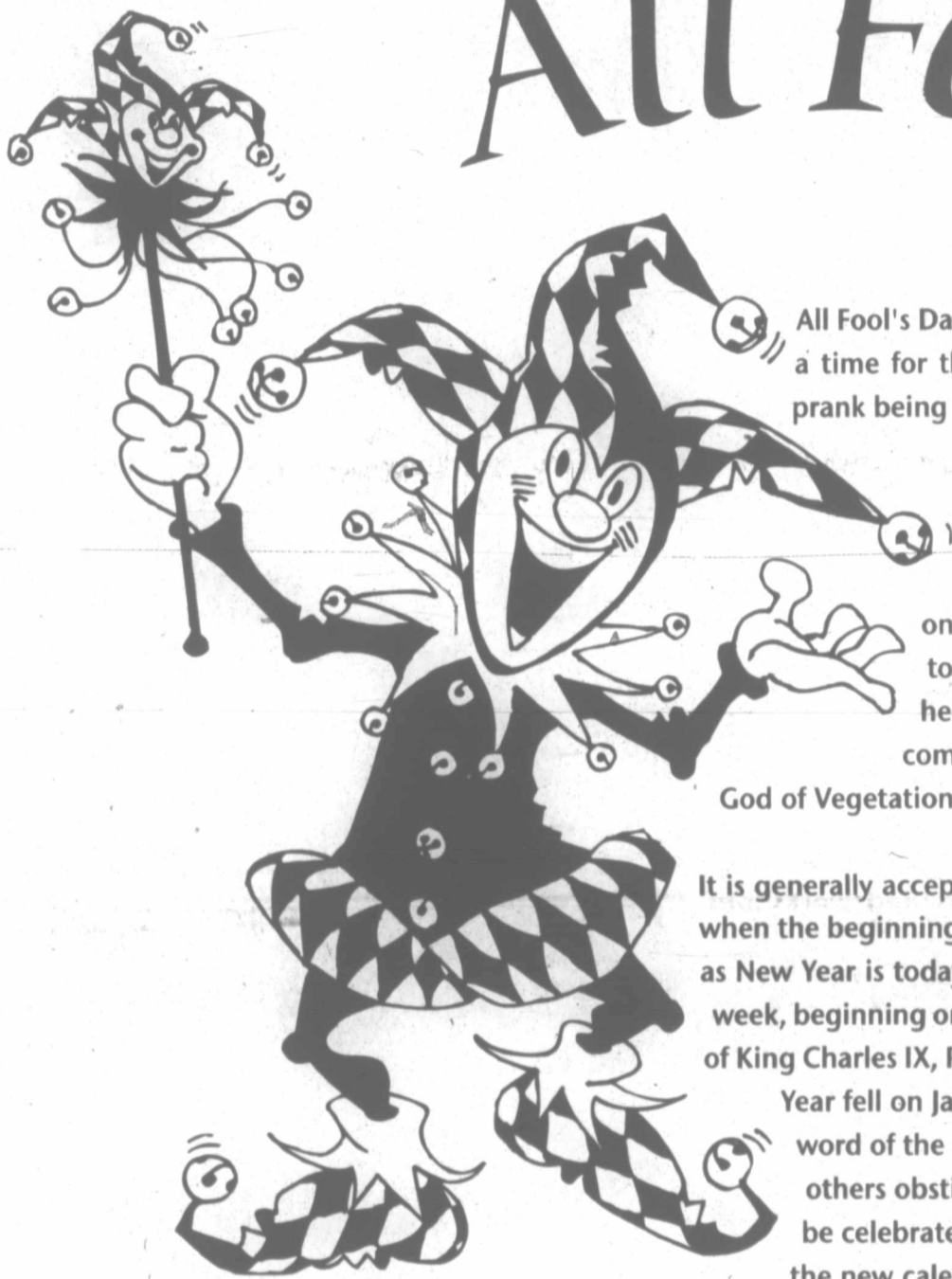
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# All Fool's Day



All Fool's Day, also known as April Fool's Day, is celebrated annually on the first day of April. It is a time for the traditional playing of pranks upon unsuspecting people...the victim of such a prank being called an April Fool.

The origins of this custom are somewhat uncertain, but may have initially been related to the arrival of Spring in late March, at which time Mother Nature is said to "fool" the human race with sudden and fickle changes in the weather...showers one minute and sunshine the next. The playing of practical jokes, however, dates back to Ancient Rome and such activities were an integral part of the Hilaria celebrations held on March 25, a celebration which would again appear to be associated with the coming of Spring and the Vernal Equinox, held to honor the resurrection of Attis, Roman God of Vegetation who was linked to the seasonal cycle.

It is generally accepted that the All Fool's Day tradition began in France during the Sixteenth Century, when the beginning of the New Year was observed on April 1 and was celebrated in much the same way as New Year is today with parties and dancing late into the night. At that time, the festivities ran for a week, beginning on March 25, and included the exchanging of gifts. In 1582, however, during the reign of King Charles IX, Pope Gregory introduced a revised calendar for the Christian world wherein the New Year fell on January 1. Since it took some time, possibly even years, for many people to even hear word of the change (communications being what they were in the Sixteenth Century) and since others obstinately refused to accept such reform or simply forgot, New Year's Day continued to be celebrated on the first day of April in many areas. Individuals who had accepted the dates of the new calendar played tricks on those who had not and referred to the unfortunate victims of

such pranks as "April Fools," sending them on a "fool's errand" (an invitation to a non-existent party, for example) or attempting to make them believe that something which was true was actually false. Over time, this practice evolved into an annual tradition of April 1 prank-playing, eventually migrating to England and Scotland during the Eighteenth Century and thus, introduced to the American colonies by British and French settlers.

In many cultures, tradition dictates that the pranking period must expire at noon on April 1 and any jokes attempted after that hour will bring back luck to the perpetrator. In addition, any who fail to respond with a good humor to tricks played upon them are said to attract bad luck unto themselves. Such victims are, however, entitled to "turn the tables" after the hour of noon with the retort: "April Fool's gone past...and you're the biggest fool at last!" It should be noted that not all April Fool superstitions are negative. Males who are fooled by a pretty female, for example, are said to be fated to marry the girl...or at least enjoy a healthy friendship with her.

The style of April Fool's pranks has changed over the years. Sending unsuspecting parties on pointless errands was a particularly prized practical joke in the early history of the celebrations. Today, however, it is often a time of initiation rites into a club or group, especially by the adult population, and it is the children who appear to truly celebrate the day complete with its original sense of abandon. Otherwise, modern pranks tend to center more around bogus telephone calls and media-driven foolery. In sum, All Fool's Day is a "for fun only" observance...a time when nobody is expected to buy gifts, receive cards or spend money and there are no vacations from work or school. The primary force behind April Fool's Day jokes and pranks are that they should not be harmful but able to be enjoyed by everyone...especially the person upon whom the joke is played.

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** To say I am upset is an understatement. I have a terrible problem. My wife of 22 years, "Verna," was recently sentenced to 15 years in prison. Verna, you see, always programmed our VCR. As a result, I have no idea how to record my favorite sporting events. I begged my daughter to show me how to operate the darned thing, but she's still mad at me because when she asked me if her blue blazer made her look fat, I replied: "No, I don't think your blazer makes you look fat. It's those double cheeseburgers you've been scarfing down two at a time that make you look so fat." I'm thinking maybe if I run a personal ad in my local paper I could meet a nice lady and get my mind off all the sports I'm missing on TV. Here's how I plan to word it: "SWM seeking single female with lots of money and a fast car. Race, age and looks unimportant. Please send picture of car." I know you get hundreds of letters every day with the same exact problems that I have, but please tell me what to do. -- **APRIL FOOL FROM FORT SMITH, ARK.**

**DEAR APRIL FOOL:** People often ask me if I get made-up letters, and in honor of April Fools' Day, I am printing yours. By the way, forget about the personal ad. You have enough family problems already without revving up anyone else's engine.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 13, and I have a problem with my parents. They have been having sex. That's not the problem, except for the fact that they don't wait for me to fall asleep before doing it. Tonight they had sex before saying goodnight! How do I confront them about this? -- **FREAKED OUT IN ALAMEDA, CALIF.**

**DEAR FREAKED OUT:** Tonight at dinner, say, "Mom, Dad, I think it's time we talked about the facts of life. The first fact of life is, I'm not deaf."

**DEAR READERS:** The following poem was written by a longtime reader, the late Jean Wells Rogers. In March of 2002, I printed a poem she had penned titled, "Old-Timer's Bedtime," which contained the heart-warming lines: "We're old and we're wrinkled, but why should we mind? We sleep like two trees -- our branches entwined." Today, I'm sharing another one of her treasures because it is both timely and relevant. Enjoy!

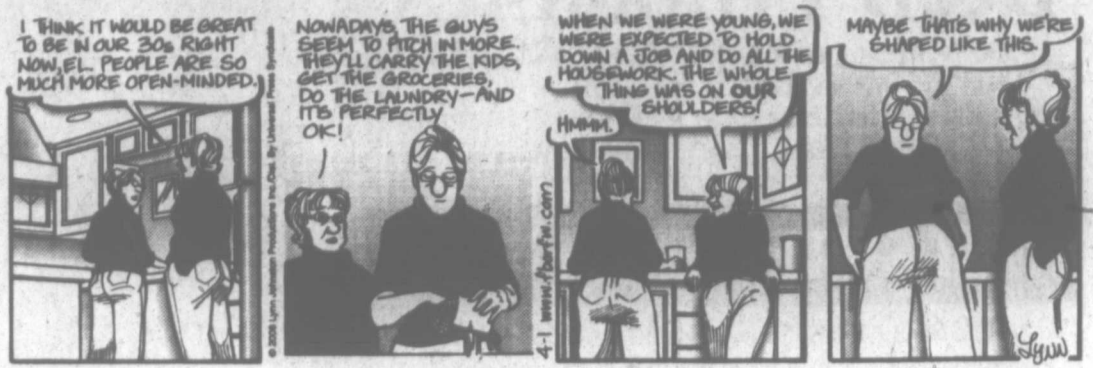
**APRIL 1**  
**No one goes hungry**  
**All people are fed**  
**The oceans are clean**  
**Lake Erie's not dead.**

**The Irish aren't fighting**  
**The Arabs love Jews**  
**The swords are now plowshares**  
**Now ain't that good news?**

**The water's delicious**  
**The air is so clear**  
**On top of a mountain**  
**You see to next year.**

**Couples stay married**  
**Children are jewels**  
**Sure got you going!**  
**APRIL FOOLS!**

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

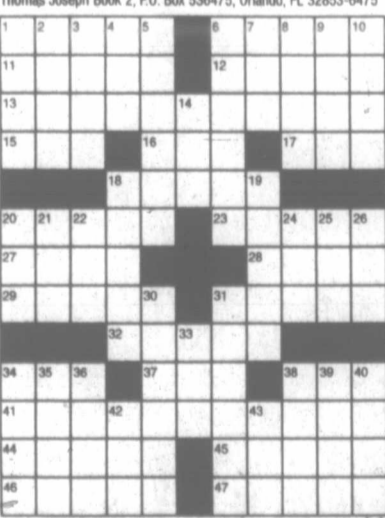
- 1 Film units
- 6 Took care of
- 11 Hit from the past
- 12 Unembellished
- 13 One of a classic comic duo
- 15 Wrestling need
- 16 Low digit
- 17 Cowboy nickname
- 18 Question of place
- 20 Pond growth
- 23 Trade shows
- 27 Yard parts
- 28 The Emerald Isle
- 29 Tribe symbol
- 31 Say "hi" to
- 32 Mechanical man
- 34 Lawn material
- 37 Wheel track
- 38 Jerry Stiller's son
- 41 "Jude the Obscure" writer
- 44 Assistants
- 45 Maxim
- 46 Alex Haley book
- 47 "Impression: Sunrise" painter

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 MOVIE EVANS  
 ANODE DEBBI  
 JOKERS BAG  
 ORES POLISH  
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 NOWAY  
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 ISSUE RITES  
 TETRA AVERT  
 DONT YENS

Yesterday's answer

- 6 Orb
- 7 — carte
- 8 Toad
- 9 Ocean
- 10 Cameo
- 14 Fish eggs
- 18 Hose
- 19 Wield
- 20 Back on a boat
- 21 Zodiac roarer
- 22 Obtain
- 24 Dessert choice
- 25 Iron source
- 26 Filming site
- 30 Bog
- 31 New York nickname
- 33 City vehicle
- 34 Walk of Fame symbol
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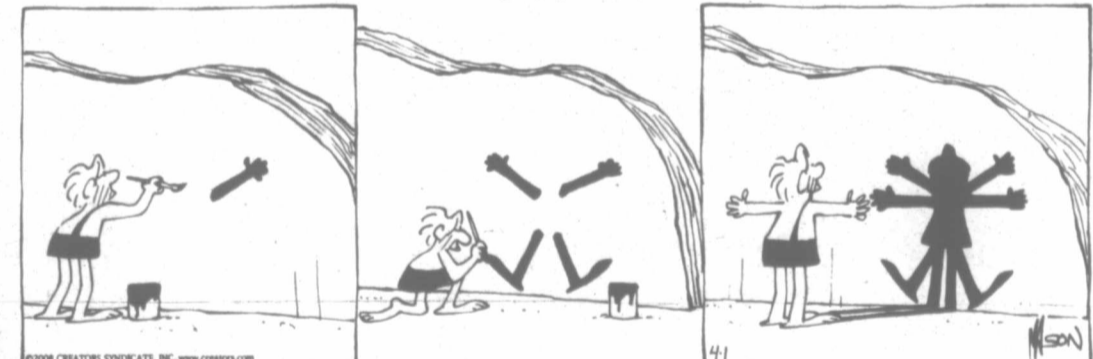


## The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blonde



## Flo & Friends





# Sports



Photo by Julie Ann Thompson

Starting pitcher Colden Fortenberry fires a ball toward home plate in Saturday's game against Caprock.

## Longhorns defeat Harvesters by one run

By Julie Ann Thompson  
Staff Writer

Pampa Harvester varsity baseball team lost by just one run in a close game with Caprock on Saturday, March 29.

The Harvesters made a promising start, when Braden Hunt hit a two out double into the left field gap allowing Brett Powell, who was hit by a pitch in the beginning, and Mitchell

Killgo to score two runs in the first inning, according to Coach Clay Wilson.

Starting pitcher Colden Fortenberry, whose record on the season is 2-4, pitched seven innings. He had six strikeouts and two walks, allowing 14 hits and five earned runs.

By the seventh inning, the score was tied 3-3 with bases loaded thanks to a single by Ryan Funderburg, said the coach. Hunt then hit a fly

ball to the outfield sending Madison Wilson home to score the Harvesters' third run. Caprock then gained two runs with a two out bases loaded hit to center field that put them ahead.

The seventh inning started with Wilson being hit by a pitch. Powell then hit a fielder's choice sending Wilson to second. With one out and Powell at first, Killgo hit a double down the right field line positioning Harvester

runners at second and third. Funderburg then hit a fly ball to center field to score Powell. According to Coach Wilson, Hunt was then walked intentionally to put runners at first and second. Fortenberry then gounded out to the short stop to end the game.

The varsity season record is now 5-15 and their district record is 0-2. The Harvesters play Palo Duro at 4:30 on Tuesday, April 1 in Amarillo.



Photo by Julie Ann Thompson

Pampa Harvester varsity baseball team cheer on their teammates from the dug-out.

## Basketball



Courtesy Photo

The Pampa Shockers won first place in the Tenth Annual Borger Extreme Classic Basketball Tournament held March 28 and 29. First row: Cory Chidester and Solon Wilson, second row: Kolton Jefferies, Cade Engle, Josh DeLoach, third row: Nathan Furgason, Landon Taylor.

## JV softball girls defeat Hereford 10-0

The Lady Harvesters defeated Hereford 10-0 in JV softball on Saturday, March 29. Jordan Mayhew pitched a no-hitter, striking out nine and walking five.

Pampa's defense was solid in the game with second baseman Rachel Heuston and short stop Katelin Wall making some big plays to hold Hereford scoreless. The Lady Harvesters had seven hits in the five inning game, but were also helped out

with seven errors by the Hereford defense.

Leading hitters for Pampa were Emilie Troxell with two doubles and four RBI's, Mikaela Flores with one triple and one RBI, Brooklyn Barker with one single and one RBI, Rachel Heuston with one single and one RBI, Devin Valentine with one single and Amanda Harkins with one single.

Pampa JV's record is now 15-7 and 3-1 in district.

## Harvester tennis plays in Lubbock Invitational

The Harvester tennis team played in the Lubbock Invitational Tennis Tournament on Friday, March 14 and Saturday March, 15 in Lubbock.

Results are as follows: In boys doubles, Myles Foreman and Kevin Frels of Pampa defeated Grainery-Guerrero of El Paso Franklin (7-6, 5-7, 7-6), lost to Nguyen-Palmer of Lubbock high (6-0, 6-3), defeated Rhynel-Biggs of Tascosa (6-1, 6-1), defeated Rehyer-Tscretili (3-6, 6-3, 6-1), lost to Nokes-Monroe of Amarillo High (6-4, 7-6, 6-3) and lost to Stienhouher-Shah of Levelland.

Matt Kelley and Garrett Coutts of Pampa lost to Manning-Garcia (6-2, 7-5), lost to Jayawickarama-Fuentes (6-4, 6-0), defeated Blake-Morelos of Canyon (6-4, 6-0) and lost to Ash-Rumph of Coronado (6-1, 6-1).

In boys singles, Aaron Silva of Pampa lost to Figueroa of Lubbock High (6-1, 6-0), lost to Smithee of Tascosa (6-0, 6-0), lost to Barraza of Dumas (6-1, 6-2), defeated Clemmons of Canyon (6-4, 6-3) and lost to Barraza of Dumas.

James Vaid of Pampa defeated Meadows of Midland High (6-1, 1-6, 6-3), lost to Greshem of Dumas (6-1, 6-0), lost to Jackson of Amarillo High (6-1, 6-3) and lost to Lambright of Plainview (6-4, 6-0).

In girls doubles, Ashley Hernandez and Katie O'Neal of Pampa lost to Smiley-Stewart of Midland High (6-2, 6-1), defeated Lambert-

Seibert of Canyon (6-1, 6-4), defeated Jallard-Bustamante of El Paso Franklin (6-3, 7-5) lost to Frank-Jordan of Lubbock High and lost to Blake-Allison of Lubbock High (6-3, 6-1).

Lauren Coutts and Holly Gage of Pampa lost to Thornton-Parkh (6-3, 6-4), lost to Cawthorn-Goodwin of Midland High, lost to Yeary-Poole of Levelland, defeated Munoz-Marlar of Plainview (6-4, 6-2) and lost to Mills-Jones of Plainview (6-4, 6-2).

In girls singles, Megan Barnett of Pampa lost to Shea of Canyon (6-3, 6-1), lost to Ortiz of Coronado (6-0, 6-1), defeated Saenz of Dumas (6-3, 7-5) and lost to Escobar of Plainview (6-2, 4-6, 7-5).

Sammi Finney of Pampa lost to Fitzgerald of Levelland (6-2, 6-2), lost to Heine of Plainview (6-0, 6-1), defeated King of Midland High (6-2, 6-3) and defeated Saenz of Dumas (6-2, 6-3).

In mixed doubles, Kaden Barton and Alyssa Hoelting of Pampa lost to Faulks-Barrara of Dumas (6-1, 6-1), defeated Fierro-Guerrero of Plainview (6-3, 6-3), lost to Alba-Vechione of El Paso Franklin (6-3, 6-1) and defeated Barron-Fugate of Levelland by default.

Jack Ware and Rachel Lee of Pampa lost to Ray-Carrego of El Paso Franklin (6-4, 4-6, 6-1), defeated Winter-Novak of Amarillo High (5-7, 6-4, 6-4), lost to Moffit-Baker of Coronado (6-3, 4-6, 6-0) and defeated Truitt-Faulks of Levelland (7-6, 6-1).

## Mavericks win over Clippers 93-86

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks haven't beaten any teams with winning records since trading for Jason Kidd. They're also having difficulty putting away teams with losing records while reigning MVP Dick Nowitzki is out with an injury.

Josh Howard came through in the clutch on Monday night, scoring 12 of his 25 in the fourth quarter, and the Mavericks held off the banged-up but stubborn Los Angeles Clippers 93-86 to complete a sweep of the four-game season series.

Howard, who scored 30 or more points in the Mavericks' first three games without Nowitzki, was just 4-for-15 from the field over the first three quarters and 8-for-20 overall. Kidd had 27 points and Jason Terry added 20 points for Dallas, playing its fourth game since their leading scorer went down

with knee and ankle injuries. The Mavericks are 11-10 since acquiring Kidd from New Jersey, 0-10 against teams with winning records.

"This was a big win on the road because of the position we're in," Kidd said after his highest-scoring game with the Mavericks. "Everybody responded against a team that plays hard. With Dirk out, I'm just looking to be more aggressive and look for my shot. The coach and my teammates have been encouraging me to be aggressive and maybe score a little bit more than in the past."

The Mavericks are seventh in the Western Conference standings, five games behind front-running San Antonio and New Orleans with eight games remaining — including the regular-season finale against the Hornets in Dallas. Just six games separate the

See MAVERICKS, Page 8

# Drury scores in OT for Rangers victory over Penguins

NEW YORK (AP) — It doesn't take long to slip into crisis mode in the tight Eastern Conference playoff race.

Take the New York Rangers. They began a home-and-home series at Pittsburgh on Sunday knowing that a sweep of the two games would leave them one point out of first place with a game in hand on the front-running Penguins.

A 3-1 loss killed any hopes of a division title and suddenly put the Rangers in a precarious position that threatened their mere inclusion in the postseason.

Chris Drury took much of that fear away Monday night and postponed Pittsburgh's celebration in the best way he knows how.

Drury fired in a power-play goal 1:46 into overtime, giving the Rangers a 2-1 victory and a split of the two-game series with the Penguins. The win pushed New York to the brink of a postseason berth.

Drury has scored in overtime four times and has notched 44 NHL game-winners, including seven this season — his first with the Rangers.

Any combination of two points they gain or not earned by the ninth-place Washington Capitals will put the Rangers into the playoffs for a third straight season.

"You can't have a roller-coaster inside of yourself," said New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist, who made 21 saves. "Every loss can't drag you too low and every win can't get you too high, either, or too excited."

Good luck with that. The Rangers have three games remaining in the regular season that concludes Sunday. They will play another home-and-home series, this one with the New York Islanders, and then finish at the New Jersey Devils — the team they are tied with in points.

"I can't believe it is only three games to go," Lundqvist said. "It has been a fast season. It has just been flying the last couple of weeks. A lot of things can happen, so it is exciting."

"The good thing is not to

speculate too much, just focus on what to do right now. I'll let you guys speculate what can happen and what if. There are a lot of what-ifs right now."

The Devils are fourth in the East and are the only club that still has a shot — albeit a remote one — to catch Pittsburgh for the Atlantic Division title. New Jersey is ahead of the Rangers because it has two more wins and one more game to play than New York.

"We are just keeping our mind on the next game," Drury said. "We will regroup, get our legs back, and be ready."

In the only other NHL on Monday night, the Atlanta Thrashers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 2-0 in a game pitting the bottom two teams in the East against each other.

The Rangers jumped over idle Ottawa for fifth place in the East. Whichever team finishes fourth will own home-ice advantage in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"I am not thinking about the home-ice advantage right now. I am thinking about making it," Lundqvist said. "We have been winning and taking points, but we are still close to the ninth spot."

Pittsburgh is still in prime position to win the Atlantic, leading New Jersey by seven points. The Penguins, with 100, are two ahead of Montreal in the race for the top seed in the East. They have two games remaining, Montreal has three, and New Jersey has four.

"We would have liked to (clinch)," captain Sidney Crosby said. "We are now one point away. It's tight hockey from here on in."

"They're battling for their lives over there. A lot of teams have to dig deep this time of year. We're not any different."

The Rangers were given a power play in the opening minute of overtime when Sergei Gonchar held Jaromir Jagr as the New York captain drove to the net. Drury nudged the Rangers closer to a playoff spot with his 24th goal.



Above, Yesenia Flores hits a single in Saturday's game while Libby Dyson, below, stands on a second and looks to her coach while waiting for the next hit.



Courtesy Photo

Courtesy Photo

## Texas AP's April 2008 Sports Calendar

DALLAS (AP) — A look at the events the Texas AP is planning to cover in April. The daily sports digest will provide more details, including which events will be staffed, such as NBA and/or NHL playoffs, and any other items that merit coverage.

Tuesday, April 1 MLB Houston at San Diego, 9:05 p.m. Texas at Seattle, 9:10 p.m. NBA Golden State at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. Houston at Sacramento, 9 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL Rice at Texas, 6:05 p.m. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at Texas Tech, 6:05 p.m. Baylor at TCU, 6:30 p.m. Stephen F. Austin at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2 MLB Houston at San Diego, 9:05 p.m. Texas at Seattle, 9:10 p.m. NBA Golden State at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. MLS Deportivo Saprissa at Houston, CONCACAF Champions Cup, 9 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL Stephen F. Austin at Texas A&M, 3 p.m. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at Texas Tech, 3 p.m. Texas Southern at Texas, 6:05 p.m. Texas-San Antonio at Baylor, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 3 MLB Houston at San Diego, 2:35 p.m. NBA Houston at Portland, 9:30 p.m. NHL Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m. MEN'S GOLF PGA Tour, Shell Houston Open. AUTO RACING

NASCAR Nationwide practice, Fort Worth. Friday, April 4 MLB Houston at Chicago Cubs, 1:20 p.m. Texas at Los Angeles Angels, 9:05 p.m. NBA San Antonio at Utah, 8 p.m. Dallas at Los Angeles Lakers, 9:30 p.m. Houston at Seattle, 9:30 p.m. NHL Phoenix at Dallas, 7 p.m. MEN'S GOLF PGA Tour, Shell Houston Open. AUTO RACING

NASCAR Sprint Cup qualifying/practice, Fort Worth. COLLEGE BASEBALL Texas at Oklahoma, 6 p.m. Kansas St. at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m. Kansas at Baylor, 6:30 p.m. Texas Tech at Nebraska, 6:35 p.m. Saturday, April 5 MLB Houston at Chicago Cubs, 12:05 p.m. Texas at Los Angeles Angels, 8:05 p.m. MEN'S GOLF PGA Tour, Shell Houston Open. AUTO RACING Sprint Cup practice and NASCAR Nationwide race, Fort Worth. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL NCAA Division I semifinals, San Antonio. COLLEGE BASEBALL Texas at Oklahoma, 2 p.m. Texas Tech at Nebraska, 2:05 p.m. Kansas St. at Texas A&M, 2 p.m. Kansas at Baylor, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 6 MLB Houston at Chicago Cubs, 1:20 p.m.

Texas at Los Angeles Angels, 2:35 p.m. NBA Dallas at Phoenix, 2:30 p.m. San Antonio at Portland, 5 p.m. Houston at Los Angeles Clippers, 9:30 p.m. NHL San Jose at Dallas, 2 p.m., regular season finale. MLS FC Dallas at Houston, 2 p.m. MEN'S GOLF PGA Tour, Shell Houston Open. AUTO RACING NASCAR Sprint Cup, Fort Worth. COLLEGE BASEBALL Kansas St. at Texas A&M, 1 p.m. Kansas at Baylor, 1 p.m. Texas at Oklahoma, 1 p.m. Texas Tech at Nebraska, 1:05 p.m.

Monday, April 7 MLB St. Louis at Houston, 6:05 p.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL NCAA Division I national championship game, San Antonio. Tuesday, April 8 MLB Baltimore at Texas, 1:05 p.m. St. Louis at Houston, 7:05 p.m. NBA Seattle at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL New Mexico at Texas Tech, 6:05 p.m. Texas State vs. Texas, at Round Rock, 6:05 p.m. TCU at Baylor, 6:30 p.m. Texas A&M at Houston, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 MLB Baltimore at Texas, 7:05 p.m. St. Louis at Houston, 6:05 p.m. NBA Seattle at Houston, 7:30 p.m. Phoenix at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m. NHL Playoffs begin. MLS

Houston at Deportivo Saprissa, CONCACAF Champions Cup, 7 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL New Mexico at Texas Tech, 3 p.m. Texas-Arlington at Baylor, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10 MLB Baltimore at Texas, 7:05 p.m. NBA Utah at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. HIGH SCHOOL UIL soccer championships, Round Rock

Friday, April 11 MLB Toronto at Texas, 7:05 p.m. Florida at Houston, 7:05 p.m. NBA Phoenix at Houston, 7:30 p.m. Seattle at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL Texas Tech at Kansas, 6 p.m. Baylor at Kansas St., 6:30 p.m. Texas at Missouri, 6:30 p.m. Oklahoma at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m. HIGH SCHOOL UIL soccer championships, Round Rock

Saturday, April 12 MLB Florida at Houston, 6:05 p.m. Toronto at Texas, 7:05 p.m. NBA Dallas at Portland, 9 p.m. MLS Houston at Kansas City, 7 p.m. New York at FC Dallas, 7:30 p.m. COLLEGE BASEBALL Baylor at Kansas St., 2 p.m. Texas Tech at Kansas, 2 p.m. Texas at Missouri, 2 p.m. Oklahoma at Texas A&M, 6:30 p.m. HIGH SCHOOL

# Mavericks

Continued from Page 7

first nine teams in the West, and one of them is going to miss the playoffs.

"We're in control of our own destiny. All we have to do is get better on defense and keep moving the ball on offense," coach Avery Johnson said. "If we can get some of the same performances we're getting out of guys now without Dirk, when he gets back, we can be a pretty good team."

Rookie Al Thornton scored 26 points for the

Clippers, who trailed throughout. They shot 36.8 percent and committed 23 turnovers against a Dallas defense that came in forcing a league-low 12.3 turnovers per game. Seven of them were by Corey Maggette, who finished with 23 points despite shooting just 3-for-15 from the field.

Los Angeles lost for the 19th time in 22 tries after ending a season-worst 10-game losing streak Saturday night against Memphis.

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

4-1 CRYPTOQUOTE

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JPU, ASL JYGL SL MPXA

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Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO CULTIVATE KINDNESS IS A VALUABLE PART OF THE BUSINESS OF LIFE. — SAMUEL JOHNSON

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ACHOO'S THE NATION

## Low graduation rates plague many districts

By KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seventeen of the nation's 50 largest cities had high school graduation rates lower than 50 percent, with the lowest graduation rates reported in Detroit, Indianapolis and Cleveland, according to a report released Tuesday.

The report, issued by America's Promise Alliance, found that about half of the students served by public school systems in the nation's largest cities receive diplomas. Students in suburban and rural public high schools were more likely to graduate than their counterparts in urban public high schools, the researchers said.

Nationally, about 70 percent of U.S. students graduate on time with a regular diploma and about 1.2 million students drop out annually.

"When more than 1 million students a year drop out of high school, it's more than a problem, it's a catastrophe," said former Secretary of State Colin Powell, founding chair of the alliance.

His wife, Alma Powell, the chair of the alliance, said students need to graduate with skills that will help them in higher education and beyond. "We must invest in the whole child, and that means finding solutions that involve the family, the school and the community." The Powell's organization was beginning a national campaign to cut high school dropout rates.

The group, joining Education Secretary Margaret Spellings at a Tuesday news conference, was announcing plans to hold summits in

every state during the next two years on ways to better prepare students for college and the work force.

The report found troubling data on the prospects of urban public high school students getting to college. In Detroit's public schools, 24.9 percent of the students graduated from high school, while 30.5 percent graduated in Indianapolis Public Schools and 34.1 percent received diplomas in the Cleveland Municipal City School District.

*'We must invest in the whole child, and that means finding solutions that involve the family, the school and the community.'*

— Alma Powell  
Alliance chair

Researchers analyzed school district data from 2003-2004 collected by the U.S. Department of Education. To calculate graduation rates, the report estimated the likelihood that a 9th grader would complete high school on time with a regular diploma. Researchers used school enrollment and diploma data, but did not use data on dropouts as part of its calculation.

Many metropolitan areas also showed a considerable gap in the graduation rates between their inner-city schools and the surrounding suburbs. Researchers found, for example, that 81.5 percent of the public school

students in Baltimore's suburbs graduate, compared with 34.6 percent in the city schools.

In Ohio, nearly 83 percent of public high school students in suburban Columbus graduate while 78.1 percent in suburban Cleveland earn their diplomas, well above their local city schools.

Ohio Department of Education spokesman Scott Blake said the state delays its estimates by a few months so it can include summer graduates in its calculations. Based on the state's methodology, he said Columbus graduated 60.6 percent of its students in 2003-2004, rather than the 40.9 percent the study calculated.

By Ohio's reckoning, Columbus has improved each year since the 2001-2002 school year, with 72.9 percent of students graduating in 2005-2006, Columbus Public Schools spokesman Jeff Warner said.

Warner said the gains were partly because of after-school and weekend tutoring, coordinated literacy programs in the district's elementary schools and bolstered English-as-a-second-language programs.

Cleveland's current graduation rates are also higher than the statistics cited in the new report, school district spokesman Ben Holbert said.

Spellings has called for requiring states to provide graduation data in a more uniform way under the renewal of the No Child Left Behind education law pending in Congress.

Under the 2002 law, schools that miss progress goals face increasing sanctions, including forced use of federal money for private tutoring, easing student transfers, and restructuring of school staff.



Courtesy Photo

### Style Show

Logan McDonald models a casual outfit from Taylor Tans. Taylor Tans is one of several stores showing fashions at the annual Altrusa Style Show April 12 in the Heritage Room of M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. The fashion show and brunch is set to begin at 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$12 apiece.

## Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off set April 5 in communities around Texas

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Transportation is issuing a call to all Texans to volunteer for the Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off, which occurs April 5.

During Trash-Off, volunteers across the state will clean roadsides, parks, waterways and neighborhoods.

"Until every Texan uses a litter bag in their car and refuses to litter, there will always be a need for Trash-Off," said Doris Howdeshell, Travel Information Division director of TxDOT.

"Because of the prevalence of litter, we consider Trash-Off one of the best events to help bring people together to clean up our roadways.

In fact, we'd love to double last year's turnout, so we're asking everyone to volunteer and bring a friend."

Adopt-a-Highway volunteers are at the heart of Trash-Off, and TxDOT encourages all people to join their local community's efforts by registering at [www.DontMessWithTexas.org](http://www.DontMessWithTexas.org) and

clicking on Get Involved, Programs, then Trash-Off.

TxDOT also provides free vehicle litter bags for Texans, and if each Texas litterer put only six pieces of trash in a litter bag each year, Texas would be litter-free.

The Trash-Off is the largest one-day statewide cleanup event in the U.S. and is co-sponsored by

TxDOT and Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB). The event brings together KTB volunteers and Adopt-a-Highway groups from across the state who clean up their communities on one designated day.

The annual Trash-Off is now in its 22nd year.

## Integrated pest control crucial for producers

By Kay Ledbetter  
Extension News

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my.

Area producers and landowners need not worry about these three wild animals, but feral hogs, coyotes and bobcats are predators in need of management, a Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist says.

A "Predator Awareness Workshop," hosted by the Extension Service, is scheduled between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. April 8 at the Gray County Extension Annex in Pampa.

Ken Cearley, Extension wildlife specialist, will start the session by talking about "appreciating predators" as well as interpreting physical evidence of predation. Cearley also will discuss controlling predators while managing wildlife.

The meetings are designed to help people realize when they have a predator problem and when they don't, Cearley said.

"We'll stress the need to use an integrated pest management approach to any predator-related problems that may arise," he said. "That includes identifying their presence, monitoring population trends and choosing from an array of tools to address damage problems that may occur."

Feral hogs are of particular interest because their range is expanding and producers in new areas are requesting information on how to manage them, Cearley said. "Also, we'll talk about the role of predators in the ecosystem, the positive impacts they have as well as the negative effects in some situations," said Cearley.

Participants will preview a DVD on feral hogs and a video on bobcats. Rick Gilliland, Panhandle district supervisor for Extension's Wildlife Services, will address the coyote issue.

In the afternoon session, Wildlife Services personnel

will demonstrate control alternatives including non-lethal approaches, foothold traps and snares, M-44s (a sodium cyanide ejection device) and livestock protection collars, and aerial gunning and calling.

Dr. James Alexander, regional zoonosis veterinarian with the Texas Department of Health, will talk about predators as vectors of disease.

Cearley will wrap up the workshop with a review of the "Code of Ethics" for predator management and show a video titled "Preventing Illicit Use of Pesticides in Predator Control Programs."

Each participant can earn up to six continuing education units toward their pesticide applicator license recertification including three general, one laws and regulations, and two integrated pest management.

To register or for more information, call the local Extension office at 669-8033.

### Events calendar


• **Pampa's Tribute to Woody Guthrie Center** is currently seeking memorabilia from the Dust Bowl Days for a special commemoration of this particular period in history April 10-13 at the center. For more information, e-mail [lmmb777@hotmail.com](mailto:lmmb777@hotmail.com).

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The fol-

lowing clinic(s) will be offered: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-5:30 p.m., April 2 and 9:30-11:30 p.m. and 1-3 p.m., April 16, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

• **Copper Breaks State Park** at Quanah will premier a new children's campsite program April 5. The family-oriented presentation will begin at 3 p.m. and is part of the statewide "Great Texas Trash Off" events being observed at the park from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. that day. For more information, call (940) 839-4331.

• **Pampa Book Club** will review the following books in the coming months: "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, April 9; and "Walking Drum" by Louis L'amour, May 14. The club meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.



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