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February 12, 2009 Volume 104 • No. 288 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## Agreements reached in felony cases

by Rachel Stennett  
rstennett@thepampanews.com

The 223rd Judicial District Court approved many plea agree agreements for third-degree and state-jail felony offenses yesterday (Feb. 17), with the honorable Judge Lee Waters presiding.

In the case of Texas vs. Robert James Ellis, Ellis pleaded guilty to the third-degree felony assault causing bodily injury against Kaci Dawn Hillby hitting or slapping her with his hand on Aug. 15, 2007. Ellis had previously been found guilty of assault against a member of the defendant's family. Ellis reached a plea agreement with the district attorney to serve six years confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, institutional division, and three years probation. Ellis was also ordered to pay \$2,000 in fines and serve 160 hours of community service. Ellis was placed on immediate probation. William Craig Stevens pleaded guilty to the state-jail felony of operating a vehicle without consent of the owner on July 3, 2008. Stevens had previously been found guilty of fleeing from arrest on Dec. 18, 2008. Stevens was sentenced to serve 12 months in confinement at TDCJ and pay \$1,500 in fines. Ronald Ray Harris pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated, third or more offense, on Feb. 13, 2008. Harris was On March 8, 2006, Harris was convicted in Comal County Court of driving while intoxicated. On Sept. 20, 2006, he was convicted in Comal County Court of driving while intoxicated, second offense. On March 8, 2006, Harris was convicted in Comal County Court of driving while intoxicated, second offense. Harris was sentenced to serve six years confinement in TDCJ, and six years probation, ordered to pay \$2,000 in fines, ordered to spend 10 days in Gray County Jail, suspended driver's license for 12 months, and an interlock system placed in his vehicle. Laura Martinez Gray pleaded guilty to the state-jail felony of possession of marijuana greater than four ounces, but less than five pounds. Gray was sentenced to deferred adjudication, probation for two years, \$140 in restitution.

**PLEAS— cont. on page 3**

## Two arrested on drug charges

by Rachel Stennett  
rstennett@thepampanews.com

A traffic stop on Monday (Feb. 16) led to the arrest of two people on drug charges. Deputies stopped a vehicle at 4:39 p.m. Monday in the intersection of 23rd Street and Rosewood on a routine traffic violation. When the car was stopped, it is believed that the passenger opened the door and threw something out of it, according to Lt. Joe B. Hoard of Gray County Sheriff's Office. The deputy acquired consent to search the vehicle from the driver, Steven Steve Edmond Smith, 48, of Amarillo. The search revealed "several pills in a white container."

**DRUGS— cont. on page 3**

## Trout release set for tomorrow

One thousand Rainbow Trout averaging 12" in length are scheduled to arrive in Pampa on Thursday, February 19. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Inland Fisheries Division will transport the fish from the Dundee Fish Hatchery near Wichita Falls to the Recreation Park Lake on East Highway 60 sometime on Thursday. The City of Pampa has participated in this Rainbow Trout stocking program since 1993. This year the City purchased 1,000 trout and the State matched that with 1,000 trout supplied at their expense. This is the second of two shipments. The first shipment was delivered in early December of last year. As Recreation Park Lake is a public waterway, State fishing regulations are in effect. These are enforced by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Game Wardens and not by the City. Generally, a fishing license is NOT required for persons under 17 years of age, persons born before September 1, 1930 or

**TROUT— cont. on page 3**

## FIRE DANGER STILL HIGH



A member of the Pampa Fire Department uses a thermal imaging camera to check an outbuilding after a grass fire in the backyard of 1500 block of Hamilton yesterday (Feb. 17). The blaze was contained and did not reach the home. Four units and nine personnel responded to the incident at 4:04 p.m. The public is urged to use caution with any type of outdoor fire use. No burning is permitted in the City of Pampa. There is a burn ban in effect for the county.

## Tour and dinner highlight school board meeting Thursday

by David Bowser  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees will get a first hand look at high school renovations when they meet Thursday. An appreciation dinner and the school board's regular meeting will follow a tour of the high school. During their meeting, the school board will call for a general trustee election and determine the time, date and location to canvass the general trustee election results. The general election is scheduled for May 9. Canvassing of the votes has to be done between the third and 11th day following the election. In this case, that window would be between May 12 and May 20. Because the school board's regular meetings are on May 7 and May 21st, a special meeting will have to be called to canvass the election. For the purpose of canvassing the election results, two board members constitute a quorum under state law. They will also consider another request to the Texas Education Agency for expedited waivers for the 2009-2010 school year for fewer than 180 teaching days, for having up to six early release days and for allowing campuses to use a modified

schedule on TAKS testing days so that only Those students who are being tested are on campus during the testing periods. The Texas Education Agency has in the past approved such requests. The board will consider staff development absences for several district staff members. They will also consider a resolution declaring Texas Public Schools Week next month. The state has designated March 9 through 13 as Texas Public Schools Week. Pampa Independent School District is planning special events for the week, including open houses and student art exhibits. The board will get construction updates on the high school and junior high and consider accepting a cornerstone for the new junior high school from the Pampa Masonic Lodge. They will also consider changing the name of the street leading from Texas Highway 70 to the new junior high. The board will discuss and possibly taken action on site recommendations for the tennis facility and moving temporary buildings from Pampa High School to other locations. The school board will consider the shared service-

**SCHOOL— cont. on page 3**

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**PAMPA FORECAST**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
High 58 Low 25	High 64 Low 22	High 46 Low 24

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. Wind chill values between 19 and 29 early. West northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 25. Wind chill values between 18 and 23. Calm wind becoming southwest between 5 and 10 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 64. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. Windy, with a calm wind becoming north northeast between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 46. Windy, with a north wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 24. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

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*Grain prices*

The following grain quotations are provided by Atterbury Grain of White Deer. Prices quoted are for the close of the last market day.

Wheat.....	\$4.46
Milo.....	\$4.36
Corn.....	\$6.06

## Mega Millions jackpot now \$120 million

ATLANTA (AP) — There has been another rollover in the grand prize for the Mega Millions multistate lottery — to \$120 million.

The rollover occurred because no player matched all the winning numbers from Tuesday night's \$103 million drawing.

The next Mega Millions drawing will be Friday night.

Although there was no grand prize winner, five players won second prizes of \$250,000 apiece. None of those tickets were sold in Illinois. Another 61 players, seven of whom bought their tickets in Illinois, won third prizes of \$10,000 apiece.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: one, nine, 23, 27 and 33. The Mega Ball number was 24.

## Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 10-21-27-28-35.
- Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$25,628.
- Winning ticket purchased in Klein.
- Matching four of five: 61. Prize: \$189
- Matching three of five: 2,604. Prize: \$10
- Matching two of five: 25,257. Prize: \$2
- Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

## Fort Hood soldier dies in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon says a 23-year-old Fort Hood soldier has died in Iraq of a gunshot wound.

A Defense Department statement says Cpl. Stephen S. Thompson of Tulsa, Okla., died Saturday in Baghdad. The statement contains no other details on the shooting, but it says the military continues to investigate.

Thompson was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood.

## Argyle police find missing girl

ARGYLE, Texas (AP) — Argyle police say they have found the body of a 3-year-old girl who was last seen playing in her back yard.

Argyle police Captain Temple Cottle says the body of Alisandra Galvan was found early Wednesday in the septic system of her home. Cottle says investigators suspected the girl was in the septic tank when they noticed the tank's cover was missing.

Cottle said once the tank was pumped out the girl's body was found in the bottom of the tank, along with the tank's cover.

The girl's body was taken away by the Tarrant County medical examiner's office, which will conduct an autopsy.

The girl was reported missing by her family Tuesday evening.

Cottle said the girl's parents had recently moved into the home and hadn't noticed whether the cover to the septic tank was in place or missing. He said an investigation into the incident continues.

# For the Record

## Obituaries

### Sherilyn Ruth Brooks

Sherilyn Ruth Brooks, 53, of Tulsa, Okla. went home to be with the Lord Thursday, February 12, 2009.

She was born November 30, 1955 in Greenville, Texas to John Earl and Edith Sayles. She was the oldest of four children.

Sherilyn graduated from Pampa High School in 1973. She attended Frank Phillips Jr. College in Borger. In June, 1975 Sherilyn was given away in marriage by her favorite uncle, Joe Mack Sayles, to Ben Melvin Brooks.

Sherilyn accepted Christ

at an early age and later in life moved to Tulsa where she united with Greater Union Baptist Church by Christian Experience on April 11, 1993.

She was employed as a bus driver for Metropolitan Transit Tulsa from 1984 until 2001. She then worked for Bill Whit and Company until 2006 she enjoyed driving charters and always looked forward to driving at Halloween and the Christmas lights tour.

Sherilyn leaves many precious memories to be cherished by her immedi-

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## Emergency Services

### FIRE

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

Monday, Feb. 16  
3:08 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center on a fire alarm.

7:43 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 600 block of Dwight on an electrical short.

### PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Monday, Feb. 16  
Four alarms were investigated.

Officers conducted a total of 19 calls and/or stops concerning animals.

A burglary was reported at 2524 North Perryton Parkway, Pampa Mall, where two metal doors were damaged, valued at \$2,500.

Officers conducted a total of six traffic stops.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the lobby of the PD.

A narcotics violation was reported in the intersection of Randy Matson and Charles streets, where a minor was in possession of tobacco.

Traffic complaints were received from the 300

block of North Davis, the 500 block of North Naida, and the 500 block of North Davis.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Seneca, and the 200 block of South Tignor.

Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 700 block of North Christy, the intersection of Kentucky and Bradley streets, and the 1100 block of South Christy.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 900 block of East Denver.

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

One attempt to serve papers was made.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 2600 block of North Hobart, and the 2200 block of North Dogwood.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 300 block of West Thut, the intersection of Oklahoma and Barret streets, and the 300 block of West Thut.

A runaway was reported in the 500 block of North Lowry.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1300 block of North Starkweather.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Officers conducted four traffic stops. A stop in the 1100 block of North Starkweather resulted in at least one arrest.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of 19th and

Hamiton streets, and the intersection of Varnon and Neel streets.

A burglary was reported in the 1300 block of Price Road.

One alarm was investigated.

### SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Monday, Feb. 16

Steve Edmond Smith, 48, of Amarillo was arrested by GCSO for possession of dangerous drugs, and possession of marijuana, less than two ounces.

Tena Lynne Dennis, 47, of Amarillo was arrested by GCSO for possession of dangerous drugs.

Lee Galavis Rodriguez, 31, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for possession of controlled substance, less than one gram, failure to identify-giving false/fictitious info.

Isaac Martinez, 34, of Pampa was arrested by the GCSO for no valid driver's license.

Gabriel Mora, Jr., 28, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for no valid driver's license.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Joshua Lee Knoop, 19, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for resisting arrest/search or transport, evading arrest/detention, failure to identify fugitive from justice, warrants on violation of probation criminal mischief, ran stop sign, consumption of alco-

hol by minor, failure to identify, failure to appear, no valid driver's license, failure to maintain financial registration, criminal mischief, and failure to appear and resisting arrest in Hemphill County.

Nicholas Craig Littlefield, 24, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for wrong/fictitious/altered/obscured vehicle registration.

### AMBULANCE

Guardian EMS ambulance service reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Monday, Feb. 16  
12:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Russell and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:59 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Baptist St. Anthony's in Amarillo.

5:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of East 17th and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of North Zimmers and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of North Gray and transported a patient to PRMC.

## Marchers block US border to protest army presence

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Hundreds of people blocked bridges to the United States in three border cities Tuesday, demanding the army leave in another challenge for the Mexican government as it struggles to quell escalating drug violence.

The protests in Ciudad Juarez blocked traffic for about two hours across three bridges connecting the city to El Paso, Texas. Similar protests broke out on bridges in the border cities of Nuevo Laredo and Reynosa. Demonstrators blocked city hall and a main avenue in the northern industrial city of Monterrey and roads in the Gulf state of Veracruz.

It was the largest display of discontent against the army's role in an anti-drug crackdown since President Felipe Calderon began deploying soldiers across the country two years ago to fight cartels. About 45,000 soldiers are now spread out across Mexico.

Government and army officials claimed that drug cartels organized similar protests in Monterrey earlier this month to undermine the crackdown.

Human rights activists say there are legitimate

complaints about abuses by soldiers, including cases in which patrols allegedly opened fire on civilians at military checkpoints. But they say it is unclear who has been behind the demonstrations.

Calderon's offensive was initially widely popular among Mexicans hopeful for an end to relentless shootings, kidnappings and killings. More than 6,000 people were killed in drug violence last year.

Border towns have been transformed by the crackdown, with soldiers in ski masks regularly rumbling down the streets in large convoys.

About 30 people, mostly women and children, blocked the Paso del Norte bridge leading from Ciudad Juarez to downtown El Paso. They shouted "Soldiers, get out!" as they stood in front of about 20 troops in green army pickup trucks. One person held a sign reading, "Get out of Juarez, thieves abusive soldiers."

Brenda Contreras, a 22-year-old mother of two, said the city has only become more dangerous since troops arrived. She said soldiers detained her 32-year-old husband dur-

ing a raid at a car wash three months ago, and she has not heard from him despite filing a complaint with the Defense Department.

"I saw him on the floor and they wouldn't let me get near him. Where he is, only the army knows. What am I going to tell my daughters?" she said.

The protesters waved to soldiers and dispersed peacefully after about an hour, allowing a long line of cars to proceed across the bridge.

Not all residents, however, are against the army's presence.

"Knowing that the soldiers are out there all over the city makes me feel that the city is more protected," said Cynthia de los Santos, 32, a secretary at a Ciudad Juarez law firm.

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## Plea agreements reached

Pleas— cont. from page 1

120 hours of community service, and payment of \$2,000 in fines, which were paid at the time of the hearing.

Becky Giddens Lasater pleaded guilty to the state-jail felony of possession of cocaine, less than on gram on Dec. 21, 2005. Lasater was sentenced to pay \$1,500 in fines and 120

hours of community service.

Alan William Broadbent pleaded guilty to evading arrest or detention with a vehicle. Broadbent also pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance, cocaine, less than one gram on Aug. 13, 2007.

Broadbent was sentenced to serve eight years

confinement in TDCJ and ordered to pay \$5,000 in fines, and \$140 in restitution. Broadbent was sentenced in two cases, one was a motion to proceed due to violated probation at the time of the incident on Aug. 13, 2007, and the other was for possession of a controlled substance.

## RISD board meets Thursday

School— cont. from page 1

es agreement with the Amarillo Regional Day School Program for the Deaf. The district provides the legally required special education and related services to eligible children through the regional cooperative agreement.

The board will also consider property and casualty insurance and renewal of the administrator's contract.

The board of trustees

will hear reports on the credit hours each member has accumulated. Lance DeFever accumulated three training hours in the past year. Derrell DeLoach accumulated 13 hours. Joe Martinez has 33.5 hours. Mark McVay has 17.75 hours. Lee Porter has 22.75 hours. Charles Smith has 29.5 hours. Dana Terry has 17.5 hours.

The board will hear a budget calendar report and

a report on the allotment of funds for the high school. They'll also hear a personnel management report, athletics report and insurance report.

The tour of the high school will begin at 4:45 p.m., Thursday. The board appreciation meal is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Their meeting will follow the meal.

## Trout release tomorrow

Trout— cont. from page 1

certain individuals with developmental disabilities, as defined by Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Sec. 46.002. Otherwise, a State fishing license AND a Freshwater Trout Stamp

Endorsement are required. According to the 2008-2009 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual Hunting & Fishing Regulations website at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us)

<<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>>, the daily catch limit on trout is 5 per day, with no set minimum length requirement.

## Two arrested for drugs

Drugs— cont. from page 1

Hoard said and what is believed to be marijuana, less than two ounces in the vehicle. The passenger, Tena Lynne Dennis, 47, of Amarillo also found with pills in her possession.

Smith was arrested for possession of dangerous drugs, and possession of marijuana, less than two ounces. Bond was set for Smith at \$3,000 and he was released yesterday.

Dennis was arrested for possession of dangerous drugs and bond was set at \$2,000. She was released from jail yesterday.

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On Vacation with the Pampa News!

### Orlando, FL Walt Disney World



A group of Pampans traveled recently to Florida where they had a great time at Walt Disney World. Shown above are Bryan, Annie, William and Jacob Harper; Bob and Janetta Frazier; Noah, Amy, Zane and Sierra Sutherland; and Chris, Angela, Bradey and Emily Porter.

Take me with you!  
Take a copy of The Pampa News with you and once you arrive, take a picture of us together. We'll run your photo in the newspaper and you'll have a chance to win a prize at the end of the year. Either bring the photo and information to our office or email a copy of the photo and information to this address: [rprbble@thepampanews.com](mailto:rprbble@thepampanews.com). Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number so we can contact you if we have questions. Photos mailed to our office may be picked up after they run in the newspaper. Or if you want them returned by mail, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Male Springer Spaniel Cross



**"Pacey"**  
(Left) Male Shih Tzu  
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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2009. There are 316 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1685 - La Salle, French explorer, establishes first settlement on American soil in Texas.

1861 - Jefferson Davis is sworn in as president of the secessionist Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Alabama.

1885 - Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" is published in the United States.

1930 - American astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh discovers the planet Pluto.

1945 - Battle for Iwo Jima begins in Pacific in World War II.

1953 - "Bwana Devil," the movie that heralded the 3D fad of the 1950s, opens in New York City.

1977 - The space shuttle Enterprise, sitting atop a Boeing 747, goes on its maiden flight above the Mojave Desert.

1989 - Afghan government declares state of emergency "to ensure peace and security" in war-ravaged country.

1992 - Libya produces two men accused of blowing up an American jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, but insists they'll never go to trial in the West.

*'Temperament is temper that is too old to spank'*

— Charlotte Greenwood, American actress-comedian

1997 - Mexico's top anti-drug official, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo, is dismissed and later sentenced for taking money from a drug kingpin.

2000 - The Alabama Supreme Court rules that a waitress who received a lottery ticket worth \$10 million as a tip does not have to share the jackpot with her co-workers.

2001 - Veteran FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen is arrested on charges of spying for Russia for more than 15 years.

2002 - Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov, the Russian navy's commander in chief, discloses that the Kursk, a nuclear-powered submarine that sank in the Barents Sea in August 2000, had been loaded with obsolete torpedoes that contained unstable fuel.

2003 - A 56-year-old man ignites a container of flammable liquid inside a subway train in Taegu, South Korea, starting a blaze that engulfs two trains, killing at least 133 people.

2004 - Runaway train cars carrying a lethal mix of fuel and chemicals derail, catch fire and then explode hours later in northeast Iran, killing more than 200 people, injuring at least 400 and leaving dozens trapped beneath crumbled mud homes.

Today's Birthdays:

Nicolo Paganini, Italian composer-violinist (1784-1840); George Kennedy, U.S. actor (1925--); Toni Morrison, U.S. author (1931--); Yoko Ono, U.S. singer/John Lennon's widow (1933--); John Hughes, U.S. screenwriter/director (1950--); Cybill Shepherd, U.S. actress (1950--); Randy Crawford, U.S. singer (1952--); John Travolta, U.S. actor (1954--); Greta Scacchi, British-Italian actress (1960--); Matt Dillon, U.S. actor (1964--); Dr. Dre, U.S. rapper (1965--).



ONE POSSIBLE REASON HOW TWO NUCLEAR SUBS COLLIDED IN THE ATLANTIC...

## Editors across Texas say...

### The Dallas Morning News on too many unqualified teachers:

One of public education's most deplorable failures in Texas is the growing number of unqualified math and science teachers in the classroom.

Bleak new statistic: More than a third of high school science teachers were uncertified in the subject last spring, an 80 percent increase over four years, according to a study done at UT-Austin and funded in part by Texas Instruments. Middle schools are struggling with similar math and science deficits in their classrooms.

Unfortunately, researchers offer a gloomy forecast for improvement in the next few years.

Lawmakers must resolve to dramatically reverse this trend. And they can start by listening carefully to the many good ideas from alarmed educators and business groups on ways to attack the problem.

For instance, the Higher Education Coordinating Board recommends the Legislature allocate funds to universities based on desired outcomes, not merely on head count of incoming students. Graduating competent math and science teachers those who can pass exams on subject matter ought to be a priority outcome that gets priority funding.

At the same time, the state should better nurture alternatively certified teachers, who now outnumber incoming university-trained math and science teachers. These recruits have a higher attrition rate than traditional teachers. So the UT report proposes commonsense remedies such as upgraded classroom-management preparation to reduce frustration and upgraded pay to compete with industry for math and science talent.

Salary premiums also could counteract the concentration of uncertified math and science teachers for low-income students, who now make up about half of Texas' school enrollment. Low levels of teacher competence and experience correlate with poor student achievement. Letting the problem fester all but assures an intractable minority underclass in Texas.

A standard high school education also transfers an expensive burden onto universities, which now furnish remedial education to more than half of incoming students.

A new report last week from a special House committee headed by Rep. Dan Branch of Dallas proposes a goals-oriented, written blueprint for public education similar to the respected Closing the Gaps guiding document for higher education.

Great idea. But bold steps to ensure proficiency among secondary school instructions should not be put off any longer.

### Fort Worth Star-Telegram on steroid testing in Texas public schools:

Testing high school athletes for steroids represents good intentions run amok. Cash-strapped Texas legislators need to wave the white flag on this one and move on.

In the last legislative session, Texas lawmakers established the nation's most-extensive program.

The goal was to randomly test more than 40,000 athletes by the end of this school year at a cost of \$6 million over two years.

According to the University Interscholastic League, only four positive results were found after testing 10,407 randomly selected Texas high school athletes. For those keeping score at home, that is a positive rate of less than .0004, or \$750,000 to catch a student in the act.

Predictably, lawmakers who pushed for its passage in 2007 are undeterred.

Rep. Dan Flynn, R-Van, sponsored the legislation and calls the testing program an "incredible success."

Gov. Rick Perry still backs the program, but suggests a more modest effort. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who made the testing a legislative priority, believes it is too early to draw conclusions.

Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, expressed a more prevalent point of view: "Colossal waste of taxpayer money." The legislation's supporters pulled heartstrings and pontificated about steroids dangers. Alleged use by professional athletes also dominated sports pages at the time.

But a 2006 Texas A&M study found that about 1.5 percent of Texas students in the seventh through 12 grades admitted using steroids, and that number was a

decrease from a 2002 survey that was cited in a report touted by legislative sponsors.

Meanwhile, the 2005 Texas Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that 47 percent of high school students drank alcohol, 22 percent used marijuana and 19 percent carried a weapon in the past 30 days.

A 2007 American Academy of Pediatricians survey showed that more than 80 percent of physicians oppose drug testing for privacy concerns, among other things. The American Civil Liberties Union also opposes testing. But the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2002 that testing students in voluntary extracurricular activities is legal.

The Legislature is expected to get updated test results this month.

But the trend is statistically clear. It is time to close the book on this expensive exercise by declaring that steroid use is minuscule or conceding the program lacks the ability to detect the true magnitude of the problem.

Either way, there are more pressing needs.

### El Paso Times on the Asarco cleanup:

Now is not the time to let down our guard when it comes to Asarco. Forget the tendency to give a sigh of relief, sit back and sing "Ding, dong the wicked witch is dead."

There's still the matter of site cleanup, and if things don't go well, a shade of Asarco could rise from the ashes and bite taxpayers.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Asarco maintain that the cleanup costs at the closed site could be about \$50 million. Neither Asarco nor the TCEQ should be trusted, particularly based on past performance. While it's understandable that Asarco would stand up for its own interests, TCEQ and Asarco have been joined at the hip throughout this whole, drawn-out permitting process.

Indeed, some worry that costs might be five times the \$50 million estimate. So if a bankruptcy court makes Asarco put \$50 million into a cleanup trust fund -- which is currently being considered -- and the cost is more than that, who pays? You guessed it -- the taxpayers.

As Sierra Club spokesman Oliver Bernstein said, "It's the polluter that should pay for the cleanup."

It's good to see state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, keeping on top of the situation. He wants the federal Environmental Protection Agency to step in and ensure cleanup of the site at Asarco's expense.

Shapleigh also is continuing to question the relationship between Asarco and the TCEQ and will pursue obtaining documents from TCEQ concerning its dealings with Asarco.

Shapleigh said, "We see a pattern of an agency penetrated by polluters, so we want the road map to find out how polluters now control" the TCEQ.

That might go a long way toward explaining why Asarco had such a relatively easy time of it when company officials were seeking a permit that would have allowed the smelter to restart operations.

Officials must make sure that Asarco doesn't have the last laugh by sticking taxpayers with millions in cleanup costs. And a thorough check into the Asarco-TCEQ relationship can help ensure such a situation doesn't occur again.

## We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are most welcome.

## THE PAMPA NEWS

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# Harvesters end season with losses to Palo Duro



Harvester Alex Clendening, 14, shoots during the Pampa-Palo Duro game Tuesday night in Amarillo. Harvesters lost the game 86-42. Tuesday night's game ended the regular season. The Harvesters had previously qualified for post-season play, which begins next week.

staff photo by David Bowser



Pampa High Sophomore Reid Bradley, 40, drives in for a lay up during the Pampa-Palo Duro junior varsity game Tuesday night in Amarillo. The junior varsity Dons won 78-66.

staff photo by David Bowser

## Two Weeks Only!

Get a free Garage Sale kit when you place a Garage Sale ad with The Pampa News

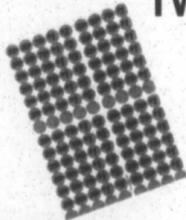


Your Garage Sale can be set for anytime. All you have to do is to place your ad in person or by telephone by Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. and we'll set it up to run on the days you want and throw in a free Garage Sale Kit to boot!

YOU RECEIVE



TWO SIGNS!



A PAGE OF PRICING STICKERS!



TIPS ON HOW TO HOLD A SUCCESSFUL SALE!

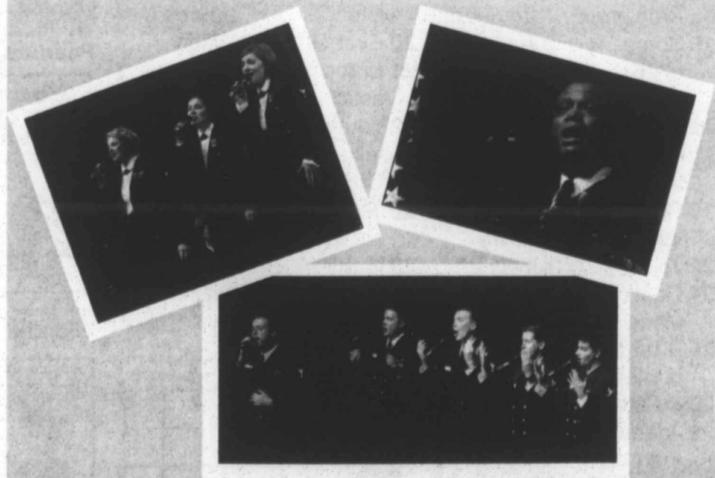
Call Beverly Taylor today at 669-2525 to reserve your free Garage Sale Kit!

# The Pampa News

## THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND presents the Sea Chanters chorus IN CONCERT

MK Brown Memorial Auditorium  
1100 W. Coronado Drive  
Pampa, Texas

Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m.  
Doors open at 6 p.m.



For up to 6 FREE tickets, send a self addressed, stamped envelope including number of tickets requested to:

Sea Chanters Tickets  
The Pampa News  
P.O. Box 2198  
Pampa, TX 79065

OR

Stop by  
The Pampa News office  
at 403 W. Atchison Ave.

and receive up to 6 FREE tickets.

For more information call 806-669-2525. Ticket holders must be seated 15 minutes before concert. Unclaimed seats will be released to non-ticket holders at that time.

Sponsored by:

# The PAMPA NEWS

AND THE CITY OF PAMPA

# Comics

## Marmaduke



"I've never even heard of a refrigerator with a door lock."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"There was a question twelve?"

## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Daring

1 Croquet setting

5 Village residents

11 Beige flowering shrub

12 Flowering shrub

13 Opposite of "ja"

14 Pad

15 Dray puller

16 Some evergreens

17 Show gratitude to

19 Stir-frying vessel

22 Toil

24 Cast's place

26 Promptly, in memos

27 Irritate

28 Jeans material

30 Out of bed

31 Blue

32 Underway, to Holmes

34 Move like a moth

35 Naughty

38 Wordy

41 Congress worker

42 Comfort

43 A party to

44 Mountain goats

### DOWN

1 Musical

2 Deck

3 Watch part

4 Sister, of sorts

5 Classic language

6 Arkansas range

7 Truck parts

8 Everything

9 Golfer

10 Plopped down

16 Way off

18 Rain dance tribe

19 Elastic site

20 Eyeball

21 Enthusiastic

22 Young fellows

23 Cruising

25 Jazz combo

29 Ill will

30 Hogwash

33 Repairs

34 Linen source

36 Wildly eager

37 Turn down

38 Omega preceder

39 Hold up

40 Flamenco cheer

41 Pizzeria buy

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### Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



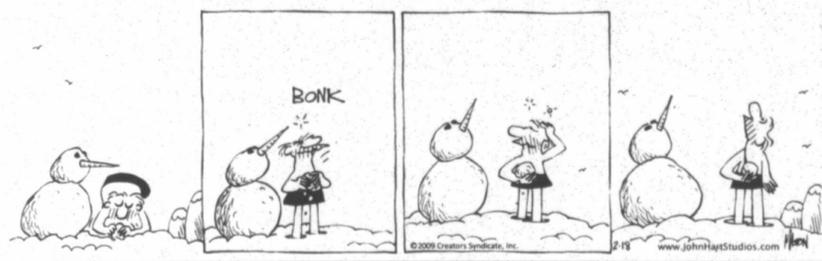
## Beetle Bailey



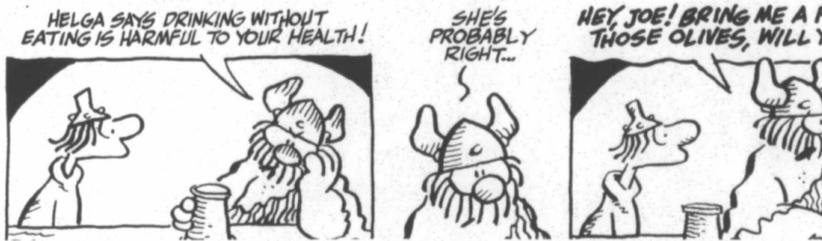
## Marvin



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My elderly mother lives in a rural area. Luckily, she is surrounded by wonderful neighbors who enable her to continue living in her home without assistance. They shop for her, maintain her lawn, do handyman repairs, cook for her and regularly check on her well-being.

Unfortunately, after being discharged from a recent hospital stay, Mama discovered that one of her "trusted" neighbors has been using her credit card to pay their utilities.

She is heartsick. She has taken the necessary steps to cancel the credit card, but now is conflicted about the best way to handle such a sensitive issue.

Abby, is there a way for everyone to save face in this situation? -- LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

DEAR L.T.N.: I hope you realize that what you have described is more than an embarrassment. It is elder abuse and fraud.

With one glaring exception, your mother's neighbors are angels. However, they have shouldered a responsibility -- seeing that your mother is cared for -- that really belongs to your family. If you cannot personally see to it that she gets the help she needs to live independently, you should contact your state's Area Agency on Aging or Department of Social Services and arrange for someone who is bonded to do it.

A social worker can help your mother report this matter to the police in a way that she will not be embarrassed and that may help her recover the funds that were stolen.

DEAR ABBY: I am at my wits' end with my 9-year-old son, "Zane." After his wrestling practice I tell him to take a shower. He either flat-out refuses or makes excuses to prolong not taking one and then refuses. A few times I have had to personally bathe him. Zane doesn't brush his teeth regularly and barely changes his underwear. I don't know what to do to get him to take care of his personal hygiene. Please give me some advice. -- TANYA IN NORTH LIMA, OHIO

When Zane returns from wrestling practice, inform him that dinner will not be served until he has taken his shower. In the mornings, let him know he is expected to brush his teeth before coming to the breakfast table, and check him out. This may be a stage your son is going through, but if it persists for more than six months, you may need more help than I can give you in this column and you should consult a child psychologist.

DEAR ABBY: When dining out at an establishment where you order your food at the counter and then they bring your food to the table, is a tip necessary?

Also, when going to coffee shops, tip jars frequently sit on the counter. How obligated should I feel to tip the people behind the counter? -- JAMI IN NASHUA, N.H.

DEAR JAMI: Food servers often earn minimum wage, which they supplement with the tips they receive. If your server is efficient and pleasant, you should leave a tip. The usual amount is between 10 and 20 percent.

At a coffee shop where there is a tip jar, assuming that you did not sit down to be served, you should put your spare change into the jar.

# THE PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS



### 5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

### 10 Lost/Found

LOST male mini Rat Terrier, Hwy. 60/Loop 171, "Killer". Reward: 662-3719, 662-3684.

FOUND on 2-12-09 at Taylor Mart, fem. Australian Sheppard. Call 664-0048 to identify.

### 13 Bus. Opp.

GREAT Investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

### 14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. Replacement windows. Ref. avail. Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

### 14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY CLEANING SERVICE Bob Marx Owner-Operator. Call 665-3541.

### 14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Baraza.

JH Concrete Work. Stamps, driveways, addition, fences, patios. Free Est. 806-382-5408.

NEED NEW & REPAIRED BARB WIRE FENCE? ALSO STEEL PENS CALL: LUIS SALAS 806-826-2112 or 806-662-8766

### 14r Plowing/Yard

ROTOTILLING flower beds, gardens, trees trimmed or cut down. 662-6594 or 665-4835.

### 14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115.

### 19 Situations

TORRI'S Cleaning Co. Very Reas. Rates. Free handmade candle per customer. 486-1514.

### 21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

### 21 Help Wanted

FULL-TIME LVN needed. Exc. benefits pkg. incl. shift differential, mileage supplement +++. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, 537-3194.

### WESTAIR Gas and Equipment, L.P. is looking for a Driver/Warehouse man.

The qualified applicant must have a minimum Class B CDL with haz-mat endorsement, pass a drug test, DOT physical and be able to lift up to 50 lbs. Westair is a joint venture with Praxair, Inc. which assures an outstanding benefit package, which includes medical, dental and life insurance, a great 401K plan, along with competitive pay. We have the benefits of a large company and the attitude of a small company. Come join our team! We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are available at our location in Pampa, TX. @ 740 W. Brown Street (HWY 60) or call 806-665-2351 for more information.

### CUSTODIAN WANTED

White Deer ISD has immediate opening for full-time custodian. Benefits included. High School Diploma or GED pref. Call Miriam Lynch, Elementary Principal, 806-883-2311 ext. 201. Applications avail.-Adm. Bldg., 601 Omohund St., White Deer, TX, 79097 or call 806-883-2311, Ext. 100 or 101. EOE.

### WAIT Staff & Kitchen Help needed.

Apply in person at Dyer's BBQ, Pampa.

### OPEN positions at Pampa ISD: CDL Bus Drivers.

Interested applicants should apply in person at 321 W. Albert, or call Sam Haynes 806-669-4700.

### OPPORTUNITY for a person who loves 3 yr olds.

The First Baptist Church Child Development Center is looking for a loving teacher for a 3 yr old class. Benefits available. Great work environment. Experience Preferred. Apply in person at 203 N West.

### SWAP SHOP Buy, Sell, Trade

1001 E. Frederic 806-688-3892

### 70 Musical

SANDERSON Stringed Instruments. Custom Guitars & Repairs. 323-3277.

### 21 Help Wanted

ACCEPTING resumes for Experienced Pump-er. 5 yrs minimum req. Must furnish 4x4 pick-up. 401K, Health Ins., Paid Vacation, Holidays. Send resume to P.O. Box 43, Pampa, TX 79066-0043.

### \$1500.00 SIGN-ON BONUS CERTIFIED NURSES AIDE PAMPA NURSING CENTER

has openings for Certified Nurses Aides on all shifts Apply in person to: Mandi Martin RN, DON 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE

### \$2000.00 SIGN-ON BONUS LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSES PAMPA NURSING CENTER

has openings for LVNS on all shifts Apply in person to: Mandi Martin RN, DON 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE

### 48 Trees/Shrubs

M&R Tree & Shrub Complete Serv., Free Est. 10% Senior disc. 273-2370, 433-4937.

### 50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

### 60 Household

COOKSTOVES, bed-room furn., freezers & complete home furnishings. 662-7557.

### 69 Misc.

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CUSTOM Soy Candles. Refills also. Go Green with Soy! Christi Coffee 669-2158.

CHESTS, b.r. suite, dinette, beds. Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes. Sat. 10-5. 665-2767.

SWAP SHOP Buy, Sell, Trade 1001 E. Frederic 806-688-3892

### 70 Musical

SANDERSON Stringed Instruments. Custom Guitars & Repairs. 323-3277.

### 95 Furn. Apts.

ALL real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

### RANCH House Motel, 720 E. Frederic, Pampa, TX, 669-1616.

Nightly, Weekly, Monthly Rates, HBO/Cable/Internet, "We Will Match Any Local Motel Price" WHITE Deer Motel, 511 W. 2nd St., White Deer Tx, 883-2572, Wireless Internet, Cable T.V/HBO, Nightly, Weekly, Monthly Rates, "Your Home Away From Home"

### 96 Unfurn. Apts.

EXTRA NICE Remodeled & Updated 4 bdr., 3 1/2 ba., 2800 sq. ft., 2 car + extra stor. gar. Extra room for office or exercise rm. 440-2866.

LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. Call for availability. Ref. & deposit req. 669-4386

LARGEST in Pampa. Spacious 1&2 bdr. apts. Friendly neighbors. Reas. rates. 665-1875.

THE Schneider House, now leasing apts., 1 & 2 bdr., utilities incl. 120 S. Russell or 665-0415.

### 98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK UP rental list in Gray Box, at 125 S. Houston, Pampa.

NUMEROUS houses in Pampa area. 2 & 3 bdr. houses, 2 bdr. duplexes, 1 bdr. apts. All reasonably priced. 665-4274

UPDATED with new tile. 2127 N. Nelson, \$850 mo. Call 665-5677 or 570-9824.

VERY clean lg. 2 bdrm. central heat / air, 1 car gar., large utility area. 1016 S. Nelson. \$575 a month. 584-1260.

3 bdr., 2 ba., \$650 mo., \$500 dep. 1301 Duncan. Cent. h/a, det. gar. 665-5473.

### 98 Unfurn. Houses

(2) 3 bd. 1 ba, 1 car gar, c h/a, lg fenced yards, very clean, 317 Anne \$650, 2221 N. Sumner \$695, 584-1266.

### 99 Stor. Bldgs.

TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

### 102 Bus. Rental

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

### 102 Bus. Rental

DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823

### OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT NBC PLAZA

806-665-4100

### 103 Homes For Sale

1820 N. Wells 4 bdr. / 1 ba., approx. 1400 sq. ft. Completely remodeled. Cent. h/a. \$72,500. 595-0234.

### 103 Homes For Sale

2215 Russell, 2/1/1. All new cabinets, c h/a, hardwood floors, porcelain tile. Very open floor plan. \$69,900 obo. Call 595-0234.

### For Sale By Owner Owner Will Finance

1028 S. Christy Pampa TruStar Realty 806-665-4595

### HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES!

CALL 665-1875

### 103 Homes For Sale

Owner Finance 629 N. Dwight 2 bdr., 1 ba. Low Down Low Monthly Call Gary at TruStar Realty 806-665-4595

### OWNER WILL FINANCE

1145 Terrace 3/1 TruStar RE 806-790-0827

### 115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

### 121 Trucks

2007 GMC Sierra HD 3/4 ton p/u, grill guard, 4 wd, reg. cab diesel. White w/ black trim. 8540 mi. \$20,000 obo. 806-665-3786.

2008 Chevy 1/2 ton, regular cab, V8. Loaded! Black. Will sell for payoff. 806-674-9920.

## DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009.

You will experience many changes this year, which ultimately will be for the better. How you see a situation could change during the year as well, allowing a smoother transition. In a year from now, you will have much to look back on, as you christen a new 11-year life cycle. Trust in yourself. Know that you can change the status quo. If you are single, do you want to remain single? Do you want to change your status? You are the creator of your own destiny right now. If you are attached, a greater warmth emanates from you, drawing some very romantic moments. CAPRICORN understands you well.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\* Be willing to step up to the plate and make a difference. Even at the last minute, you could see someone weave in a new direction. Listen and understand what someone feels — this person also is experiencing similar problems at work. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

\*\*\*\*\* Look behind the scenes to see what is going on. Your instincts play into your need to dig past the obvious. Try to take off any blinders in order to see a situation more clearly. You will perceive a lot on your own. Tonight: Ask someone to play devil's advocate. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

\*\*\*\*\* Make time for a trusted and adored pal. The two of you often are a force together. Be aware of what is hap-

pening behind the scenes. Listen to news with care as you see a situation evolve. Your sense of humor emerges once more. Tonight: You change directions. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\*\*\* You could be a bit taken aback by news that heads in your direction. Investigate news from a friend. You might change your mind on how you feel about this person. Be creative and open to new possibilities. Tonight: Dinner for two. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

\*\*\*\* How you deal with someone could change radically because of a new perspective or a difference in your daily life. Greet change positively and openly. Your even nature makes a difference. Investigate new possibilities. Tonight: Relax at home. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\*\*\* Your creativity pops up out of the blue. Listen to a child or loved one who seems to have a different perspective. Be willing to investigate deeper and find out what has happened. How you deal with others could change. Tonight: Let your hair down. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\* You remain anchored, regardless of a big switch or event on the personal front. You might see a change coming; you are far from surprised. Someone might want more of your attention, and tries to get it through a power play. Tonight: Homeward bound. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* Keep conversations open and flowing. Others seem to be more receptive and finally caught up the story. Listen to what is shared between you. News of importance is heading your way, which might force you to revise your plans.

Tonight: Chat up a storm. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\*\*\* New beginnings become possible out of the blue. Big changes occur financially because they must happen. It is time for you to take a hard look at reality. Taking a stand could be appropriate, even if you are not ready. Tonight: Indulge and play. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\*\*\* You might want a change and are heralding it in, or you might be fighting a change. Either way, you greet a deep change out of the blue. Be aware of your limitations when dealing with someone at a distance. Think positively. Tonight: Look past the obvious. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\* Know when to keep your own council and not worry so much. How you deal with a situation could change dramatically because of acknowledging a situation. Don't jump to conclusions or try something different. Tonight: Get some extra R and R. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\*\*\* Zero in on what you want, and be willing to change directions or do something to grasp new information. Everyone looks to you for cues. Aim for more of what you want. Tonight: Where the gang is.

### BORN TODAY

Singer Seal (1963), model, actor Benicio del Toro (1967), actor Jeff Daniels (1955)

\*\*\*

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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# Four swimmers qualify for state meet

*Dennis, Neef, Guyer and Stoffle will represent Pampa in Austin*

The Harvesters took gold in three races at the 2009 Region 1 Swimming and Diving Meet at Andrews High School to secure spots at the 2009 State UIL Meet.

Colby Dennis, Dustin Neef, Cole Guyer and Kelly Stoffle will represent Pampa High School in Austin on February 27-28.

Pampa's five boys who competed in the finals on Saturday acquired enough points to win the 2009 Regional Runner-up title.

The five girls who competed in the finals managed an eleventh place finish for the team.

Of the 21 swimmers qualifying for the Regional Meet, nine advanced to the finals with four more qualifying as first alternates.

On the boys side, in the 200-yard freestyle, Colby Dennis placed fourth and Cole Guyer eighth. In the 200-yard individual medley, Kelly Stoffle swam a 2:10.69 for a fifth place finish.

Dustin Neef won the 50 freestyle final on Saturday. His preliminary time of 23.07 had him seeded second for the race. True to the team motto "Step up or step aside," Dustin stepped up to take the title of Regional Champion with a time of 22.61, just 22 hundredths of a second ahead of the next competitor.

Next up, Stoffle placed fifth in the 100-yard butterfly with a 59.37. Neef followed with a sixth place in the 100 free with a 51.53.

The freestyle relay team of Dennis, Guyer, Neef and Stoffle set a pool record in Andrews on Friday during the preliminaries with a 1:34.23 beating the old record of 1:34.91.

In Saturday's final, Pampa was seeded first, with the next two teams' times within one second of the Harvesters.

The race began with Guyer swimming the first 50 yards in 24.01 in fifth place. Then Neef took to the water bringing them up to second with a 22.20 split time. Dennis swam a 22.87 split pulling them into first place and Stoffle kept the lead with a 23.01.

Pampa impressed the spectators with a final time of 1:32.09 almost one full second ahead of Big Spring at 1:33.06.

This set not only an Andrews pool record and a Pampa High School record, but also a Regional meet record and qualified the boys to attend the UIL State competition.

Two races later, Guyer was back on the blocks to finish sixth in the 100 backstroke.

Cody Hudson then swam the 100 breaststroke to a seventh place finish with a personal best time of 1:11.11.

The last race for the boys was the 400 free relay. The same four boys were seeded second in Saturday's final with a 3:30.56 just behind El Paso Chapinis 3:29.93.

The race began with Neef swimming the first 100-yard split in 51.82 seconds to start in second place. Dennis took to the water with a split of 51.01 to bring the team into first.

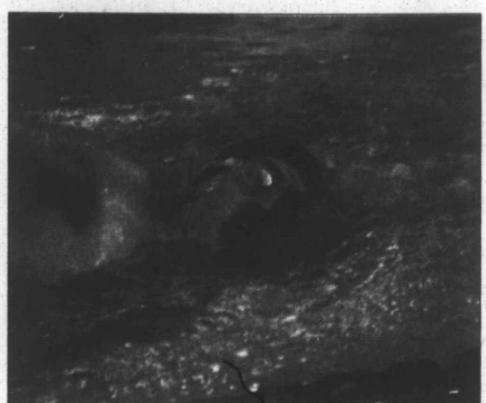
Guyer kept them there with a 51.99 and Stoffle's split of 51.73 won first place with a final time of 3:26.55, a new Pampa High record, just 6/10 of a second ahead of El Paso Chapin.

This qualified the team



Freshman Kendle Ramey (bottom) leads in a close race in the 100 yard backstroke during the regional meet last weekend. photo submitted by Stuart Stoffle

again for state competition. The girls began their day with the 200-yard medley relay team of Kendle Ramey, Abby West, Jessica Covil and Ana Saucedo taking fifth place with a time of 2:12.96. West followed with a seventh place finish in the 200 IM. Ramey also took seventh in the grueling 500-yard freestyle with a 6:25.54. West posted a fifth in her 100 breaststroke with a 2:26.28, 100 breast: 1:15.62. Spencer Estes, 50 free: 26.86, 100 back: 1:09.85. John Taylor, 100 free: 1:07.26. Cody Hudson, 100 free: 1:01.66. Colton Sweatt, 500 free: 6:28.64. Tonya Kiper, 500 free: 7:23.41, 200 free: 2:43.32. Abby West, 200 IM: 2:37.12. Carmen Saucedo, 50 free: 30.10. Ana Saucedo, 50 free: 30.03. Brittany Covil, 100 free: 1:12.40. Stoffle, Guyer, Neef and Dennis will head to Austin for the 2009 Swimming and Diving State Championships to be held at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center on the University of Texas Campus on February 27-28.



Sophomore Colton Sweatt swims in the 500 yard Freestyle at Andrews last weekend. photo submitted by Stuart Stoffle

## Spring training full of A-Rod talk

Eddie Guardado walked into the Texas Rangers' clubhouse Tuesday, paused to listen to Alex Rodriguez on television and quickly decided he had seen enough.

"We don't need to watch this," the reliever said, turning off the TV.

All across Florida and Arizona, it was hard to escape baseball's highest-paid player holding his first news conference since admitting he took banned drugs from 2001-2003 while with Texas.

"I support Alex 100 percent," said Rangers third baseman Michael Young, who played with Rodriguez in Texas and skipped the spectacle for some time in the batting cage. "He admitted he made a mistake. Obviously, I don't condone anything like that,

but as far as I'm concerned he's still my friend."

"I wish they would just come out and say who the 104 players are because it's not fair for the other players," Phillies closer Brad Lidge told The Associated Press. "We're all lumped in with them and people think most players did it during the steroid era. But all of us didn't cheat."

Raul Ibanez, who played with Rodriguez in Seattle and lives near him in Miami, felt for his former teammate and the game.

"It's a bad day for baseball to see one of the greatest players to ever play this game be caught up in this," the Philadelphia outfielder said. "From a human element, because I know him, I feel bad for him because I know he's hurting."

**Sudoku**

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

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