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The PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Volume 105 • No. 17

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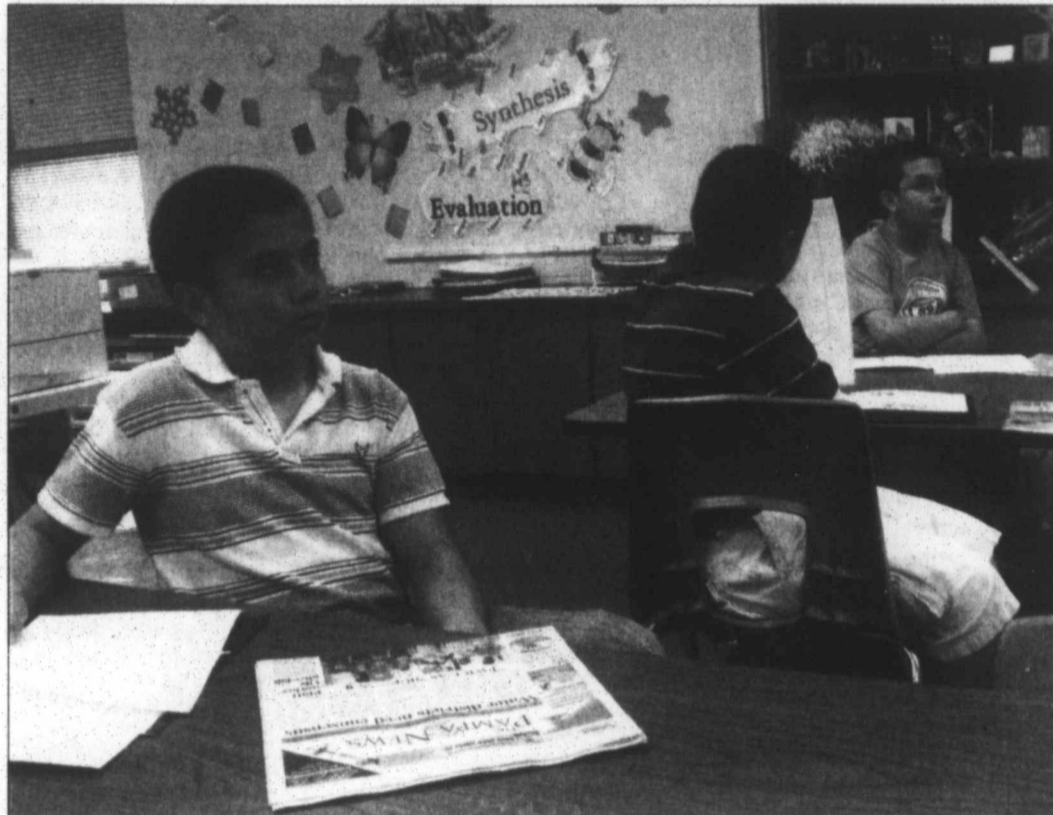
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staff photo by **Randy Pribble**

Erik Vizcaino, Bryan Calderon and Tyler Beller listen attentively to a presentation on advertising by Redonn Woods, advertising manager for The Pampa News. The trio was among the students in Mrs. Loretta Flaherty's PAAS classes who designed ads in this issue and tomorrow's issue of the Pampa News.

Students become designers

Some students in Mrs. Loretta Flaherty's have stepped into a short-term role as graphic designers.

Some of the advertisements in this issue (and tomorrow's issue) were designed by Pampa Academic Achievement Service (PAAS) fifth grade students from all the local elementary schools.

"It was a fun project designed to connect the students with some of the local businesses in a new way," said Redonn Woods, advertising manager for The Pampa News.

Woods made short presentations on good design principles, the nature and intent of advertising and how businesses use their local newspaper to promote their products. The students took it from there, using their school and home computers to create print advertisements for specific businesses.

"They enjoyed it tremendously," said Mrs.

ADS cont. on page 3

Fee set for viewing prom entrance

BY RACHEL STENNETT
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

Parents and community members will not have to crowd lawns and set up chairs at this year's prom viewing, instead, they will have chance to purchase a ticket to sit on bleachers and watch as students enter the prom in all their finery.

The public's viewing of prom attendees is a tradition that has been around for many years, according to Edie Mechaley, a parent of a senior and event organizer. Parents and community members gather on the lawns outside M.K. Brown auditorium and watch as the seniors get out of cars, stop at a podium and have

any interested community members can purchase a viewing ticket for bleacher seats for \$10. Seating will still be available on the lawn and other areas at no charge.

Reserved, paid seating has been created for parents on bleachers, which will be set up outside of M.K. Brown the night of the senior prom so that parents can watch students as they enter the auditorium.

This year, parents and

any interested community members can purchase a viewing ticket for bleacher seats for \$10. Seating will still be available on the lawn and other areas at no charge.

"This is a way for us to raise extra money for the senior all-nighter after the prom," Mechaley explained. "It's been kind

of a bad year for donations, so the money will help with the party."

Mechaley said that the reserved seating will also help parents not fight over seating, which has been a problem during past prom viewings. "We are trying to create a nice atmosphere

PROM cont. on page 3

Cinco de Mayo preparations underway

BY RACHEL STENNETT
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

Local schools from Pampa Independent School District are joining together in celebration of the second annual Cinco De Mayo celebration in Pampa.

The celebration will be from 3 - 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 5 on the Pampa High school front lawn.

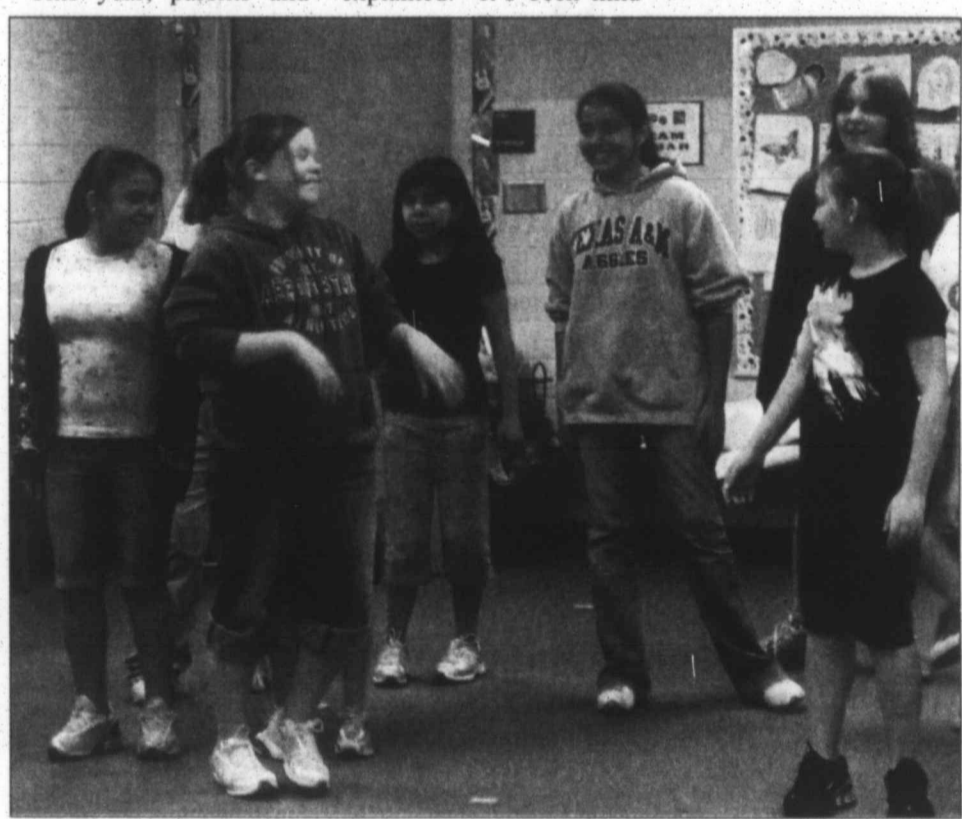
The festivities will include musical performances by Travis, Wilson and Lamar Elementary schools and Pampa High School choirs performing in the front lawn of the high school.

The celebration will be a considerable upgrade from last year's Cinco de Mayo

festivities, according to PISD administrators. The celebration this year will include musical performances, Matachines dancers, a climbing wall, car show, and food including duros and a Mexican Meal.

Other activities will include face painting by the PHS drama students and pinatas containing prizes. Several administrators have worked together to make the event possible. Janet Hancock, Sabrina East, Mike Stovall, and Carlos Regelado have worked together to organize the event.

CINCO cont. on page 3



staff photo by **Rachel Stennett**

Fifth grade girls practice their dance routine in music class at Lamar Elementary. The girls will be singing and dancing with fifth grade boys at the Cinco De Mayo celebration at Pampa High School.

UIL postponing all competition until May 11

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas officials are postponing all high school athletic competition until May 11 because of the swine flu outbreak.

The move suspends the baseball season and eliminates the regional track championships, said University Interscholastic League Executive Director Charles Breithaupt. He said UIL officials acted on the recommendation of public health officials.

The state golf and tennis championships are scheduled to begin May 11.

The state track meet, one of the largest high school track and field competitions in the country, remains scheduled for May 13-14. But it will require shuffling the schedule significantly.

Landowners council to host groundwater talk tomorrow

An Amarillo attorney will headline the Texas Landowners Council meeting at the end of the month in Pampa.

Marvin "Marty" Jones with the Amarillo law firm of Sprouse, Shrader and Smith will talk about groundwater ownership in Texas concerning what he calls the secret assault on private property rights.

Austin hydrologist Bob Harden will talk about the redistribution of groundwater and how he says the state and

groundwater districts use non-science to side step property rights issues.

The Texas Landowners Council was formed in 1990 by a group of property owners concerned about property rights. Austin-based, it is a private, nonprofit group that is active in the legislative process concerning property rights

The Texas Landowners Council will host the meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, April 30, at the Lovett Memorial Library.




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For the Record

PAMPA FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
High 81 Low 54	High 65 Low 46	High 62 Low 44 20%

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. Southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 65. East wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. East northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 44. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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PRESTIGE

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FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL: \$50 OFF VORTEX BEDLINERS

Grain prices

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

Wheat.....	\$4.65
Milo.....	\$4.91
Corn.....	\$6.70

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery: 29-22-24-6-13

(twenty-nine, twenty-two, twenty-four, six, thirteen)

No Mega Millions winner; jackpot now \$220 million

ATLANTA (AP) — There has been another rollover in the grand prize for the multistate Mega Millions lottery — to \$220 million.

The rollover occurred because no player matched all the winning numbers from Tuesday night's \$181 million drawing.

The next Mega Millions drawing will be Friday night. Although there was no grand prize winner, 12 players won second prizes of \$250,000 apiece. Another 90 players won third prizes of \$10,000 apiece.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: 15, 20, 24, 36, and 44. The Mega Ball number was six.

Daily 4 results evening drawing

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order:

3-8-4-7. Sum It Up: 22
(three, eight, four, seven. Sum It Up: twenty-two)

B & G Electric

REGION-WIDE, 24 HOURS
(806) 665-4418

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 am. Tuesday and 7 am. Today.

Tuesday
Officers conducted four traffic stops.

A total of 10 calls and/or stops concerning animals were made.

Five attempts to serve papers were made.

Civil matters were reported in the 800 block of East Brunow.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles, and the 400 block of North Wells, where five windows were broke, value \$500.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles, the 1300 block of North Charles, and the 100 block of East Harvester.

Fraud was reported in the 100 block of Sunset Drive, where there was fraudulent use of identifying information.

A traffic complaint was received from the 100 block of East Brown.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1300

block of North Charles.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 1200 block of South Nelson.

A welfare check was made in the intersection of West and Atchison streets.

A missing person was reported in the 1000 block of South Christy.

Found property was reported in the 600 block of East Foster, where a check was found written for \$800.

A violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 800 block of East Francis.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson, where two subwoofers and an amp were stolen, value \$500.

A motor vehicle accident was reported in the 100 block of West Foster.

Wednesday
A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Hobart and Kentucky.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of North Somerville.

A suspicious person was reported in the intersection of Cook and Frost streets.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 900 block of West Alcock.

Officers conduct three assist. traffic stops.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Tuesday
Cesar Contreras, 32, of El Paso was arrested by the GCSO for bond surrender on money laundering, enhanced.

Wednesday
Dana Rosalie Adkins, 35, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for unlicensed use of a motor vehicle.

Rondrell Jovan Cox, 29, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for unlicensed use of a motor vehicle.

Wednesday
Johnny Lee Roe, 19, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

FIRE

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

Tuesday
10:41 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 1400 block of West Somerville on a lift

AMBULANCE

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

Tuesday
10:59 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

1:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of East craven and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:41 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Dwight and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Baptist St. Anthony's hospital in Amrillo.

5:24 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 800 block of East Craven.

Wednesday
1:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to BSA.

Dallas man set to die for woman's rape-slaying

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A half-dozen women testifying before a Dallas County jury told how they were forced off the road as they drove alone at night, were robbed at gunpoint or abducted or raped.

They were the lucky ones.

Twenty-five-year-old LaTausha Curry fit the same profile, was abducted after getting out of her car to make a nighttime call at a Dallas pay phone, then was beaten with a two-by-four and suffocated with her blouse when she fought back against her attackers. She was robbed of less than \$10.

Derrick Lamone Johnson, convicted of her slaying 10 years ago, was set to die Thursday evening in Huntsville.

Johnson, 28, would be the 14th convicted murderer to receive lethal injection this year in the nation's most active death

penalty state.

Attorneys for Johnson were hoping a court would delay the punishment, contending the 10th-grade dropout was mentally retarded and ineligible for execution under U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

Johnson, who declined an interview request from The Associated Press, said on a Web site devoted to death row inmates that he was wrongly convicted.

"Without proper funds to retain my own lawyer, I was appointed counsel to represent me," he wrote. "I stood vulnerable, being crucified. I was young and ignorant of the law, and thus this system victimized me."

Curry's slaying was part of a two-week crime binge involving Johnson and a companion, Marcus Maxwell, who was 15 at the time. Police suspected them of as many as two dozen offenses from Dallas more than 100 miles

south to Eddy, just south of Waco, and included one spree of six robberies over eight hours.

"Heartless, ruthless, unremorseful," former Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Greg Davis, who prosecuted Johnson, described him. "I think of a cold-blooded killer that killed an innocent young girl."

In a confession to police, Johnson said he and Maxwell raped and killed Curry, who worked as a security guard and had a 4-year-old child. He told officers where to find her body in an overgrown part of a park in Dallas' Oak

Cliff area. His fingerprints were found in her car and DNA tied him to her rape.

The same night, after Curry was killed, records show the pair robbed a woman at a gas station. Then, driving Curry's car, they rammed into another woman's car in an attempt to carjack her. The victim in that incident called police but Johnson and Maxwell ran away and managed to elude police.

When he was arrested four days later at his mother's apartment, police found Johnson carrying a hollowed-out pager containing cocaine.

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

4-H GERANIUM Sale, Albertson parking lot, April 30th & May 1st, 5pm-8pm.

ANNUAL M.G. Dance & Gymnastics Center Recital, Sat. May 2nd, 7:30 pm, MK Brown Aud. \$4.50 adults, \$3 children

BALLOONS FOR Fun, see Mother's Day & Grad designs, Craft Show Sat. & Sun. 662-1801

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY will begin removing ground decorations on May 1st.

CRAFT SHOW (old Dollar Gen. bldg. downtown), Sat., Sun.

INTERIOR EXTERIOR Painting, General Carpentry, Remodeling, Additions, Custom Homes, Chaney Construction LLC, call Jimmy, 806-440-3083.

JAM SESSION Friday night, 7pm., Woody Guthrie Center, 320 S. Cuyler.

LAST NIGHT for revival at Lighthouse Covenant, 18th & Banks, 7pm.

LEFORS FCU is accepting Sealed Bids on a 1999 Dutchmen 30 ft. gooseneck travel trailer with slide out. Lefors FCU reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 835-2773 for more info.

PAMPERED PETS is Back! For all your grooming needs, call Missy, 662-1236.

PUTT-A-ROUND OR Two & Hawaiian Shaved Ice will be opening Friday May 1st. Call Michael 662-4340 for party reservations.

Weekend Bible Prophecy Conference

Rev. Bob Farber

Jewish-Christian Evangelist from Whitesboro, Texas

Graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Former Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Medford, NY



"Signs of His Coming"

Saturday, May 2

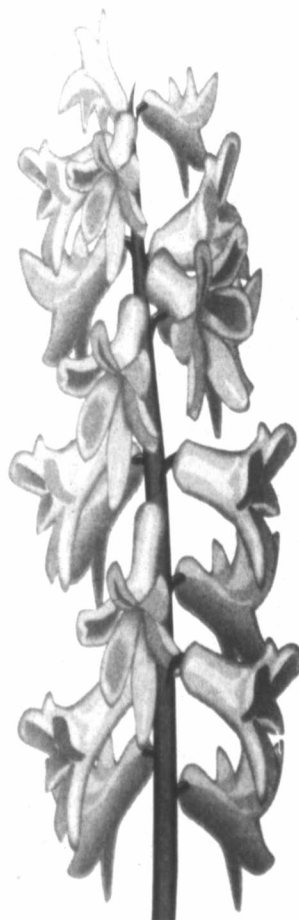
5:30 p.m. — Meal for Church Family (in the Fellowship Hall)
6:30 p.m. Conference (in the Sanctuary & open to the public)

Sunday, May 3

8:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m. Services (in the Sanctuary)

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Swine flu cases in 10 states

WASHINGTON (AP)— Virulent swine flu spread to 10 U.S. states from coast to coast Wednesday and swept deeper into Europe, extending its global reach as President Barack Obama mourned the first U.S. death, a Mexican toddler who had traveled with his family to Texas. Total American cases surged to nearly 100, and Obama said wider school closings might be necessary.

The World Health Organization said the outbreak is moving closer to becoming a full-scale pandemic.

Dr. Keiji Fukuda, the organization's top flu expert, told reporters in Geneva that the latest developments are moving the agency closer to raising its pandemic alert to phase 5, indicating widespread human-to-human transmission. That's just one step below level 6, a full-fledged pandemic.

In Washington, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano was questioned closely by senators about whether the U.S. should close its border with Mexico, where the outbreak apparently began and the casualties have been the greatest. She repeated the administration's position that questioning of people at borders and ports of entry was sufficient for now and said closing borders "has not been merited by the facts."

Dr. Richard Besser, the acting chief of the Centers for Disease Control, said in Atlanta that there are confirmed cases now in ten states, with 51 in New York, 14 in California and 16 in Texas. Two cases have been confirmed in Kansas, Massachusetts and Michigan, while a single case has been reported in Arizona, Indiana, Nevada and Ohio.

In a possible outbreak north of the Mexican border, the commandant of the Marine Corps said a Marine in southern California might have the illness and 39 Marines were being confined on their California base until tests come back.

Marine General James Conway told a Pentagon briefing an initial test indicated the sick Marine — who was not identified — might have swine flu but his illness did not appear life-threatening.

Obama said he wanted to extend "my thoughts and prayers" to the family of a nearly two-year-old Mexican boy who died in Houston, the first confirmed U.S. fatality among more than five dozen infections. Health officials in Texas said the child had traveled with his family from Mexico, to Brownsville on April 4 and was brought to Houston after becoming ill. He died Monday night.

"This is obviously a serious situation," and "we are closely and continuously monitoring" it, Obama said of the spreading illness.

Those sentiments were echoed by the Senate's top Republican. "This is a very worrisome situation and we're all following it very closely," said Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "We stand ready to closely work with the administration to protect the American people as this situation unfolds."

Meanwhile, Egypt's government ordered the slaughter of all pigs in the country as a precaution, though no swine flu cases have been reported there. Egypt's overwhelmingly Muslim population does not eat pork, but farmers raise some 300,000-350,000 pigs for the Christian minority.

The disease is not spread by eating pork, and farmers were to be allowed to sell the meat from the slaughtered animals.

In fact, officials appeared to go out of their way on Wednesday to not call the strain "swine flu." Obama called the bug the "H1N1 virus."

"The disease is not a food-borne illness," Rear Adm. Anne Schuchat, CDC's interim science and public health deputy director, told the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

She said the strain is particularly worrisome because "it's a virus that hasn't been around before. The general population doesn't have immunity from it."

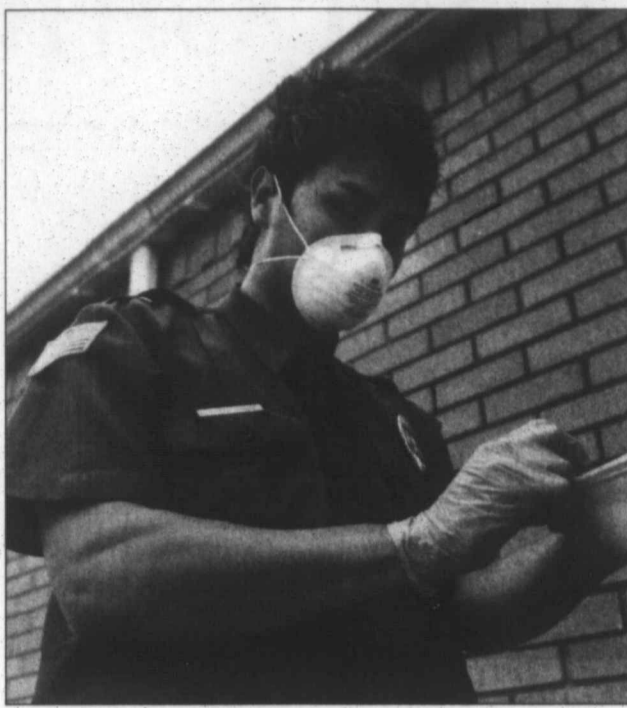
People have various levels of protection against other more common types of flu because they are exposed to it over time, and that protection accumulates. She suggested that some older people might have more resistance to this particular strain than younger people because its traits might resemble outbreaks of decades ago.

Germany became the latest country to report swine flu infections. It reported four cases on Wednesday.

New Zealand's total rose to 14. Britain had earlier reported five cases, Spain four. There were 13 cases in Canada, two in Israel and one in Austria.

Obama said it is the recommendation of public health officials that authorities at schools with confirmed or suspected cases of swine flu "should strongly consider temporarily closing so that we can be as safe as possible."

"If the situation becomes more serious and we have to take more extensive steps, then parents should also think about contingencies if schools in their areas do temporarily shut down, figuring out and planning what their child care situation would be," Obama advised.



Security guard Mario Balbuena dons gloves and a mask before entering the Golden Rule Charter School in Dallas, Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The charter school in Dallas is temporarily closed as a precaution after officials learned a student probably has the swine flu virus. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

Obama said the federal government is "prepared to do whatever is necessary to control the impact of this virus." He noted his request for \$1.5 billion in emergency funding to ensure adequate supplies of vaccines. CDC for days has said people with flulike symptoms should stay home — but now also is stressing that other family members should consider staying home or at least limiting how much they go out until they're sure they didn't catch it.

Cinco de Mayo

cont. from page 1

A parent committee created from all the participating schools has also helped plan the events.

"This has been a concentrated effort," Kathy Carter explained, director of secondary programs for PISD. "We are encouraging parental involvement of all students and we want to celebrate the Hispanic culture."

Mike Stovall has organized a car show for all interested participants, which is now up to over 40 car show entries.

Students from Lamar Elementary have been practicing for their music performances for months, according to Music Teacher Cynthia Hauck. Some of their songs their song selection include songs by Selena, popular Tejano music performer.

Twelve songs will be performed including "Juanito Cuando Baila," "Cielito Lindo," and "Como la Flor." The fifth grade girls from Lamar will wear special outfits and dance for the celebration.

"The girls really put out a sound," Hauck said.

Cinco de Mayo is a holiday in Mexico, that commemorates the Mexican army's unlikely defeat of French forces in 1862. The date is celebrated as a recognition of Mexican heritage and pride.

Ads by kids

cont. from page 1

Flaherty. "It was different and allowed them to use their creative juices."

The teacher noted that other than "correcting perhaps some capitalization or something like that, the students completed the project largely unassisted.

Not that it is all that unusual.

"In my classroom we do research and then we do what we call product information — what they have researched," she explained. "And it usually comes off as a Powerpoint presentation or a Microsoft Publisher document."

"Technology is part of our TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) assessment and this project allowed us to cover that."

"We gave the students a list of businesses and the students picked designed several ads for businesses on the list," Woods explained. "We then presented the ads to the businesses, so if you see a student's name on the ad in the newspaper, they designed an ad good enough that the business owner paid to run it in the newspaper."

"Most of the business owners loved what the kid's did."

"We want to thank the business-owners, the students and Mrs. Flaherty for their support of this project," said Pampa News Publisher Randall Pribble. "It was meant to be fun and interesting for everyone involved."

Prom funds

cont. from page 1

and solve the problem."

The funds raised through the prom viewing will go towards the senior all-nighter party. The party was created for graduating seniors to gather together and celebrate graduation responsibly, Mechaley said. The all-nighter is an effort to help students stay away from alcohol and drinking and driving.

The party will offer students a variety of entertain-

ment including a hypnotist a DJ, games, a raffle, and other contests. "The kid usually have a really good time," Mechaley said.

Turnout is expected to be around 300 or more students. The all-nighter is free for seniors. Seniors are welcome to bring one guest for a \$10 fee.

Prom will be on Saturday May 16 at the M.K. Brown Auditorium

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

SPRING FLING

Thursday
April 30, 2009
1:00 pm

Come be a part of the newest Technology!

There will be Guest Speakers, Refreshments, and a Tour.
Registration for Fall and Summer Classes is open at this time.

Here are a few things the class has to offer:
Medical Transcription
Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Power Point
Record Management
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Professional Development, Business Management, Small Business Opportunity, and lots More!

For more information about this please contact:
Angela Demine at (806) 665-8801 Ext: 2012

\$\$ SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES \$\$

How to Avoid Unexpected Problems in Your Estate Plan

CLA Estate Services, Inc offers a unique and informative workshop which provides a method for seniors who have accumulated assets and want to get more information on how to:

- Protect your estate from needless costs
- Earn higher returns on your money and eliminate annual taxes on the earnings - No 1099's!
- Protect your family from potential delays and costs in probate court
- Maximize your IRA with the changes in the tax law
- Maintain control of your Estate during your life and after
- Annuities and Life Insurance

There is no cost to attend this workshop
Space is limited. Call toll-free between 8am and 5pm CST to make reservations.
866-252-8727
Tuesday May 5th - 9:30am
at the Plaza Restaurant

Pets of the Week...

Pictures Of All The Animals Can Be Viewed In The Window Of The Shelter Office 24 Hours A Day sponsored by The Pampa News



"Gracie"
female
Shi-zu



"Annie"
Female
Hound Cross



"Carrie & Beverly"
2 Gray Cats



**"Callie" - Female
Spayed & Declawed**



Lots of kittens!

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A "FOREVER FRIEND" VISIT US TODAY!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MONDAY-SUNDAY 3 PM - 5 PM**

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PETS OR ANY OTHER
CONTACT THE ANIMAL SHELTER AT 669-5775 OR COME BY THE SHELTER AT HOBART STREET PARK**

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, April 29, the 119th day of 2009. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 29, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp; the same day, Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz president.

On this date:
In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.

In 1798, Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" was rehearsed in Vienna, Austria, before an invited audience.

In 1861, Maryland's House of Delegates voted against seceding from the Union.

In 1901, Japanese Emperor Hirohito was born in Tokyo.

In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.

'Nothing is more frightful than laughter when it comes to jealousy.'

— Francoise Sagan,
French author

In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death.

In 1968, the counterculture musical "Hair" opened on Broadway following limited engagements off-Broadway.

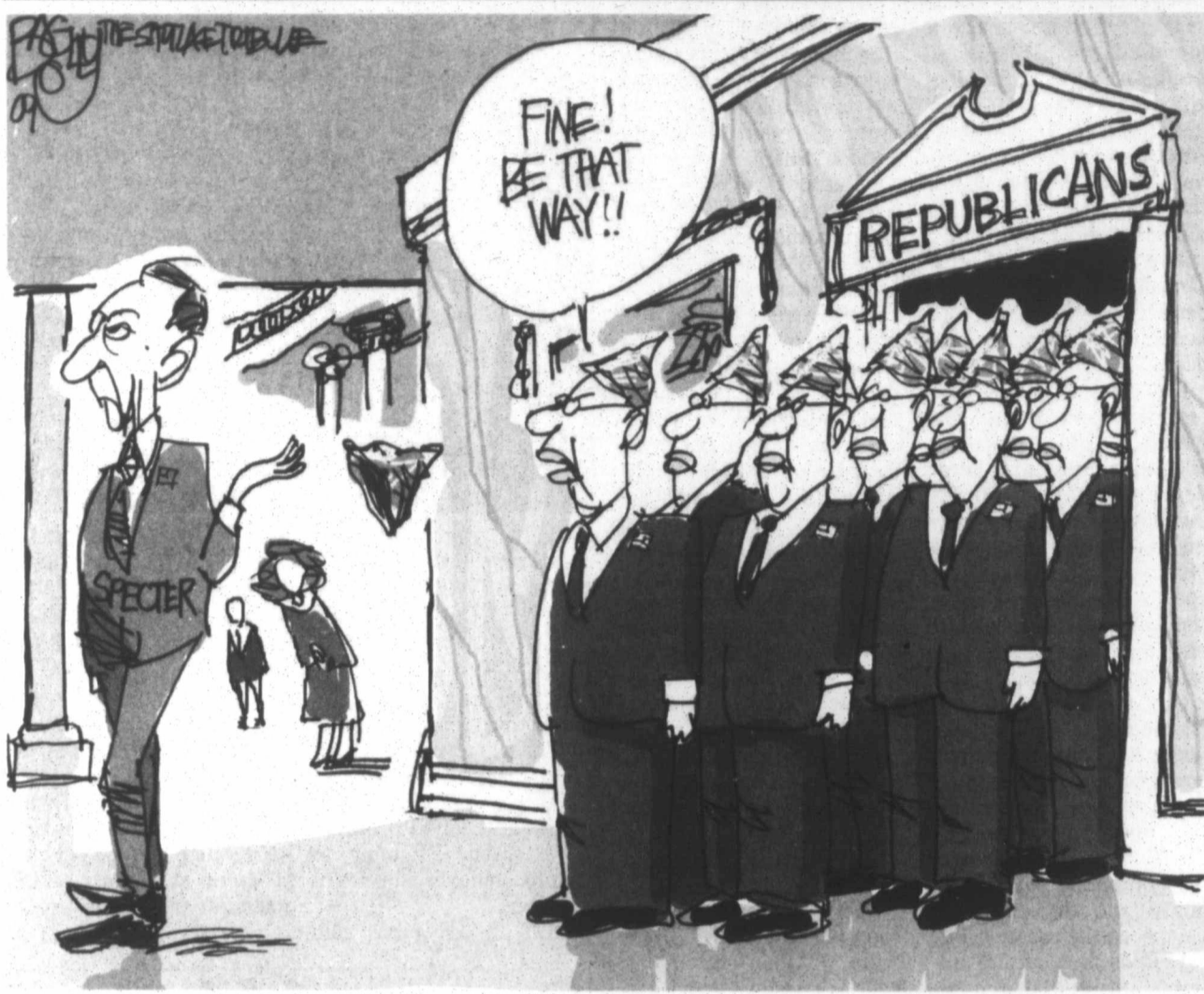
In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, deadly rioting erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley, Calif., acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

Ten years ago: Yugoslavia filed World Court cases against 10 alliance members, including the United States, claiming their bombing campaign breached international law. (The World Court ended up rejecting Yugoslavia's request for an immediate cease-fire.) The Rev. Jesse Jackson arrived in Belgrade on a mission to win freedom for three American POWs held by Yugoslavia.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Celeste Holm is 92. R&B singer Carl Gardner (The Coasters) is 81. Poet Rod McKuen is 76. Actor Keith Baxter is 76. Bluesman Otis Rush is 75. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 73. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 67. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 66. Singer Tommy James is 62. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 59. Country musician Wayne Secrest (Confederate Railroad) is 59. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 55. Actor Leslie Jordan is 54. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 54. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 52. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 51. Actress Eve Plumb is 51. Rock musician Phil King is 49. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 46. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 41. Actress Uma Thurman is 39. Tennis player Andre Agassi is 39. Rapper Master P is 39. Country singer James Bonamy is 37. Gospel/R&B singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 37. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 36. Actor Tyler Labine is 31.



Analysis: Specter defection shrinks GOP's reach

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Sen. Arlen Specter's switch to the Democrats, the Republican Party is increasingly at risk of being viewed as a mostly Southern and solidly conservative party, an identity that might take years to overcome.

Specter's move, which rocked Congress and the political world Tuesday, is the latest blow to Republicans, especially in the Northeast, once a GOP stronghold. The region's Republicans now have been reduced to a scant presence in the House and a dwindling influence in the Senate.

But Specter's defection has symbolic and immediate ramifications for the GOP nationwide. It makes it easier for Democrats, fairly or not, to paint the party as ideologically rigid and alien to large swaths of the country.

Olympia Snowe of Maine, one of the Senate's few remaining moderate Republicans, called Specter's decision another sign that her party must move toward the center.

"Ultimately, we're heading to having the smallest political tent in history," Snowe said. "If the Republican Party fully intends to become a majority party in the future, it must move from the far right back toward the middle."

But Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky was defiant. "I do not accept that we are going to be a regional party," he said. "We're working very hard to compete throughout the country."

Specter's departure follows recent Republican losses in once-reliable states. While Barack Obama was cruising to the White House last fall, Republicans were losing long-held Senate seats in Alaska, Colorado, New Mexico, North Carolina and Virginia. A moderate Republican lost his seat in Oregon, and the same seems likely to happen when Minnesota's long recount is settled.

In the House, Republicans have suffered deep losses in the last two elections, especially in the Northeast. Last week, Democrat Scott Murphy won a special election in a heavily Republican congressional district in upstate New York. Murphy will be sworn in Wednesday, giving Democrats' 256 House seats to 178 for Republicans with one vacancy.

The congressional Republicans' base is shrinking, leaving them with strongholds only in the South and parts of the mountain West.

With the departure of each centrist, including Pennsylvania's Specter, the party also appears more firmly right-of-center. Polls show most Americans nearer the political center, and Democratic leaders were happy Tuesday to promote the GOP's image as narrow-minded.

"This is now officially a Republican Party where moderates need not apply," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass.

Specter made similar remarks. "The Republican Party has moved farther and farther to the right,"

he said, adding to the trend with his switch.

Specter accused party leaders of abandoning moderate Republicans in tough races, saying, "there ought to be an uprising."

In the 1970s, '80s and early '90s, the nation's political realignment favored the GOP. Voters in many of the 11 former Confederate states ousted Democrats by the dozens, no longer accepting the old odd-bedfellows alliance of Southern conservatives and more dominant Northern liberals.

With the Northeast still home to many "Rockefeller Republicans" — centrists in the mold of former New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller — the realignment pinched Democrats hard.

In recent years, however, the tide has reversed. Moderate-to-liberal voters in the Northeast and Pacific West felt increasingly at odds with the national Republican Party, and they began electing more Democrats to local and federal posts. Obama won surprising victories in Virginia, North Carolina and Indiana, though it's far from clear that Democrats can hold those states.

The result is a shrinking and increasingly right-leaning GOP, throughout the nation and in Congress. There, moderate Republicans are almost an endangered species. While lonely, they may play pivotal roles in brokering legislative deals, especially in the Senate.

Snowe and her Republican colleague from Maine, Susan M. Collins,

now are the Senate's most prominent GOP moderates.

Collins said she was "very, very disappointed and surprised" by Specter's defection. "It's something I would never do," she said, but she called on her party to be more inclusive.

"The Republican Party has been most successful when it has adopted the big tent approach that was favored by Ronald Reagan, by Gerald Ford" and others, Collins said.

Obama hailed Specter's switch, but its blessing may prove mixed. The president vowed a more bipartisan era in Washington, and the loss of another GOP centrist will make Congress more partisan than before.

Republican leaders, meanwhile, faced an uphill battle in next year's Pennsylvania Senate race even before Specter made the switch. In that sense, they probably have lost little. Besides, only 15 years ago some pundits predicted permanent minority status for Democrats, following their huge losses in the 1994 elections.

Political fortunes can change rapidly, and unexpectedly. But for now, Republicans hold distinct minority status in the House and Senate, where Democrats and independents hold 59 seats to 40 for the GOP. They confront a popular Democratic president, and they face numerous ill-timed retirements in next year's Senate races.

Tuesday was another bad day in a political season that some Republicans must feel cannot possibly get worse.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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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 welcome.



2009 4-H FASHION SHOW



Marlee Youree, Macy Cochran, Ashlei Taylor, and Emily Jackson competed in the District 4-H Fashion show April 18 in Bushland.

Four youth representing the North Fork 4-H Club competed in the Texas AgriLife Extension Service District 4-H Fashion Show on Saturday, April 18 in Bushland. Youth from the top 21 Panhandle counties participated. For competition, 4-H members completed a Clothing and Textiles Project; Project Record Forms; and either constructed a garment or used consumer buying skills to purchase a garment, and participated in an interview answering questions about their project and garment.

4-H members representing and receiving top honors from Gray County at the District Fashion Show include:

- Intermediate - Speciality Construction - Marlee Youree - placed first.
- Intermediate - Casual Construction - Macy Cochran - placed first.
- Senior - Dressy Construction - Ashlei Taylor, placed third.
- Senior - Dressy Buying - Emily Jackson - placed third.

The objectives of the Clothing and Textiles Project are to provide opportunities for members to exhibit skills developed in their clothing projects, including application of knowledge of fibers and fabrics to wardrobe selection; clothing construction

or comparison shopping; fashion interpretation and understanding of style; good grooming and poise; modeling and presentation of themselves and their garments at the county, district, and state levels.

For more information about this or other projects conducted through 4-H, contact the county Extension office at 669-8033.

Hundreds of students miss TAKS, 29 schools closed

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — At least 29 schools have closed for the week and thousands of Texas students are missing school on an important day of standardized state tests because of swine flu fears.

The Schertz-Cibolo ISD near San Antonio closed all 14 schools, including a high school where three of the state's six confirmed cases of swine flu were found. An elementary school in suburban Dallas, a high school in New Braunfels and the entire Rio Grande City Consolidated Independent School District also closed.

A state education spokeswoman says officials are working on a TAKS retesting schedule, but it won't be completed until it's known how long schools will be closed.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am 49 and have been dating a 26-year-old woman for about five months. We have a great time together and have talked about love and being in a long-term relationship. However, I am afraid that I am setting her up for an unhappy and disappointing midlife as I may require adult care about the same time her parents do.

She becomes upset when I try to bring the subject up and asserts that she's willing to accept the responsibilities associated with my golden years because she loves me. I'm not sure how much of her response is rooted in her love for me and how much may be the result of a lack of life experience. If I stay with her, am I being selfish? -- OLD ENOUGH TO BE HER DAD IN MICHIGAN

DEAR OLD ENOUGH TO BE HER DAD: Not having met you, I can't be sure. How are the genetics in your family? Did your parents live to a ripe old age without falling apart?

How would you feel to be raising teenagers when you're in your 60s? Do you think you can keep up with them -- and her?

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to love. I have heard of many devoted May-September marriages. But regardless of age, both parties should go into it with their eyes wide open -- and that includes the two of you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old woman who has always wanted to live near the ocean. I recently had the good fortune to visit Australia and loved it so much I started looking for work while I was there. I have been feeling depressed since returning home knowing I have found someplace I would love to spend the rest of my life.

My problem is I am engaged, and my future husband doesn't share my enthusiasm for the ocean. We live in Colorado, and he loves the mountains. He never traveled as a boy and has no idea how addicting it can be.

I love him, and he fulfills all I could hope for in a husband. But I don't know if he can share the same love for a place that I can't get out of my mind. Is this relationship doomed? -- WANDERLUST IN LITTLETON

DEAR WANDERLUST: Only you can answer that. You are 20 and define yourself as someone who has wanderlust. Before you commit to marriage to someone who may not share your spirit of adventure, you owe it to yourself and to him to see more of the world and get it out of your system. Remember the movie "The Wizard of Oz"? It took seeing the Emerald City to truly appreciate Kansas.

DEAR ABBY: I have a co-worker I'll call "Linda" who is constantly on the phone making personal calls. She is chronically late to work and never gets her work caught up. My problem is she just told me she has listed me as a reference on dozens of job applications!

I take pride in being honest, so how do I come up with positive things to say about her if any potential employers call? -- CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE, CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

DEAR CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE: Linda should have asked you for permission before listing you as a reference. Tell her she must stop doing it immediately.

Should anyone call you to ask about her, tell the person that you are her co-worker and the dates that you worked together, but nothing more. If they want more details, they should be referred to the office manager.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate



Dunn's Fish Farm

85 Fittstown, OK 74842
www.dunnfishfarm.com
(800) 433-2950

Delivery of Channel Catfish, Bass, Hybrid Bluegill, Redear Bream, Coppernose Bluegill, Fathead Minnows, Black Crappie and Triploid Grass Carp are now available for Pond & Lake Stocking. 10 days notice and permit required for the purchase of Triploid Grass Carp.

TUESDAY, MAY 5TH
CANADIAN ROBBIN'S TRUE VALUE HARDWARE
949 S. 2ND ST 9:00-10:00 AM
PAMPA BRITTEN FEED & SEED
HWY. 60 W. 11:00-12:00 PM

We furnish hauling containers! - Live Delivery Guaranteed! - Discounts/Special Deliveries on large orders! - Turtle Traps, Fish Feeders, Fish Traps! - Decorative Fountains, Aerators, Windmill Aerators! - Vegetation Control, Pond Fertilizers, Floating Docks!

To place an order or for more information call one of our Aquatic Consultants, your local dealer, or email sales@dunnfishfarm.com
M-F 7am-6pm Sat 8am-4pm CST
1-800-433-2950 Fax 1-580-777-2899
www.dunnfishfarm.com

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- Back Pain or Neck Pain
- Headache

You can be PAINFREE again to enjoy life!

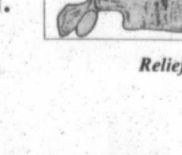
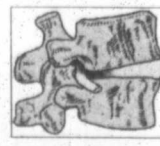
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- NO Surgery

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Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr.
Dr. Samantha A. Ford
Dr. Jacqueline C. Weaver

701 N. Price Rd.
Pampa, TX 79065
Phone: 806-665-7261

PROPERTY TAX PROTEST AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeals procedures if you have a concern about:

- *the values placed on your property
- *any exemptions that may apply to you
- *the cancellation of an agricultural exemption
- *the taxable status of your property
- *the local governments which should be taxing your property
- *any action taken by the appraisal district that adversely affects you

Informal Review

The first option a taxpayer may use to protest a value is to visit with the chief appraiser or a staff member. Records on individual properties are available for review by every taxpayer. This informal review is to the benefit of the taxpayer, as many protests are resolved at this level.

Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you cannot resolve your problem with the appraisal district staff, you may have your case heard by the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You will receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. The hearing will be informal. You and the appraisal district representative will be asked to present evidence about your case. The ARB will make a decision based on the presented evidence.

NOTE: You should not try to contact ARB members prior to the meeting. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they have not discussed your case prior to the ARB meeting.

Review by District Court

After the ARB decides your case you will be sent a copy of its order by certified mail. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order. If the appraisal district has appraised your property at \$1,000,000 or more you must file a notice of appeal with the chief appraiser within 15 days of the date you receive the ARB's decision.

Additional Information

You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district. You may obtain more information by contacting the appraisal district at the address or phone number below or by contacting the State Comptroller at the following address:

State Comptroller's Property Tax Division
PO Box 13528
Austin, TX 78711-3528

Appraisal District Address & Phone Number:
Gray County Appraisal District
PO Box 826
815 N. Sumner
Pampa, TX 79066-0826
(806) 665-0791

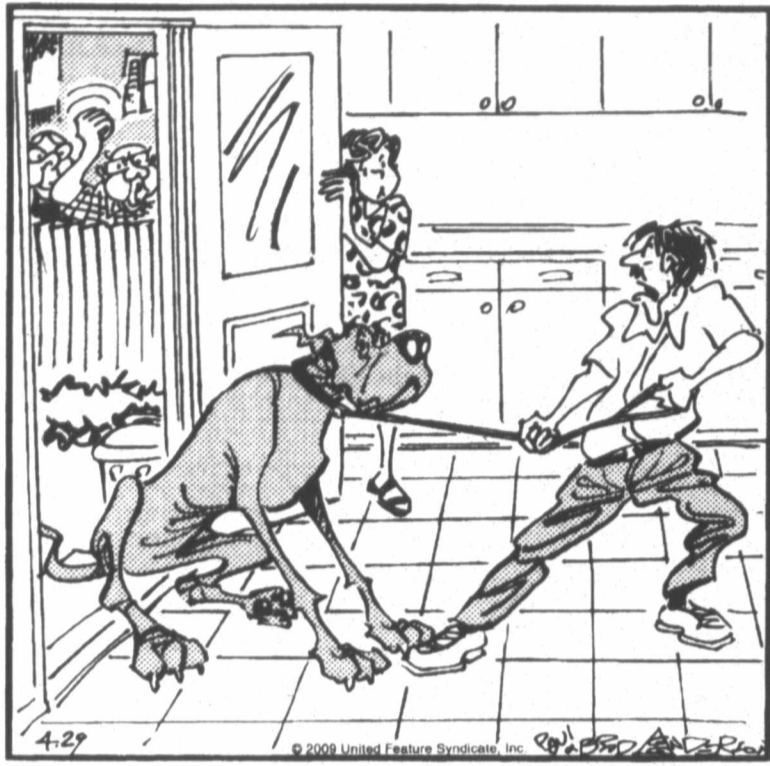
Deadline for Protesting:
June 1st or 30 days after this notice is mailed.

C-71

Apr. 29, 2009

Comics

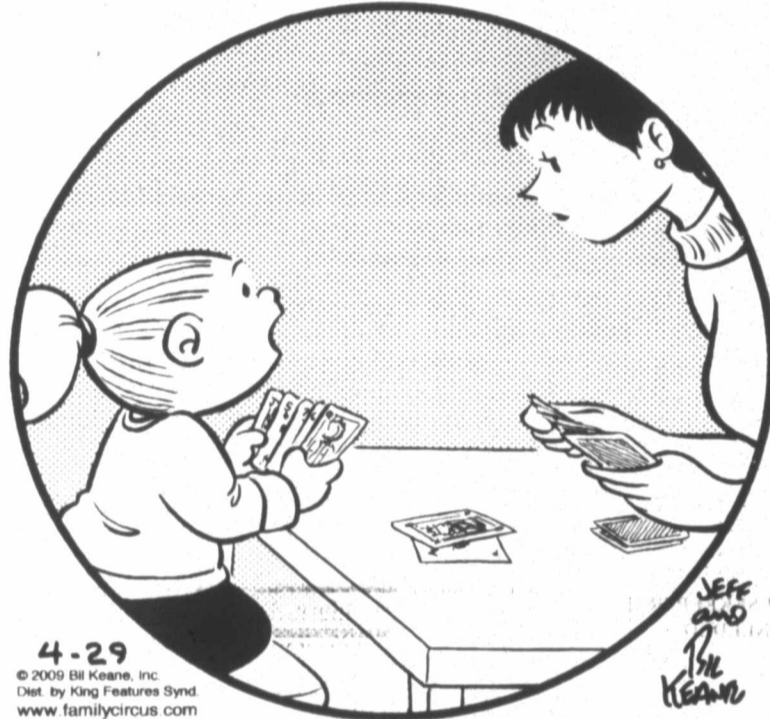
Marmaduke



"Went right over the fence. Now they're threatening to put in a moat."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"These cards have kings, queens and jacks. Where are the jills?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 44 City near Capri
 - 1 Valentine words
 - 7 Like the desert
 - 11 Photographer Richard
 - 12 Kingly address
 - 13 Dana of "Desperate Housewives"
 - 14 Reach across
 - 15 Get exciting
 - 17 Doofus
 - 20 Dublin natives
 - 23 Kimono sash
 - 24 Purplish hue
 - 26 Mouth, in slang
 - 27 Need to pay
 - 28 Understood
 - 29 Authorize
 - 31 It's picked in Hawaii
 - 32 Poker play
 - 33 Ignored the limit
 - 34 Con-stricted
 - 37 Verne's traveler
 - 39 Baseball bird
 - 43 Together, in music
- DOWN**
- 1 Naughty
 - 2 Raiser of Cain
 - 3 Singer Tormé
 - 4 Montana neighbor
 - 5 Less than any
 - 6 "Orinoco Flow" singer
 - 7 Promise
 - 8 Tattering
 - 9 Lyricist Gershwin
 - 10 Comfy room
 - 16 Fierce fighter
 - 17 "Gaslight" star
 - 18 44th president
 - 19 Closing, as a jacket
 - 21 Supply with fuel
 - 22 Reviled
 - 24 Yard machine
 - 25 Wonder
 - 30 Kansas natives
 - 33 Steal
 - 35 Silver and Glass
 - 36 Test type
 - 37 Way off
 - 38 Poem of praise
 - 40 Flamenco call
 - 41 Rent out
 - 42 Snaky letter

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

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Fierce fighter
- 17 "Gaslight" star
- 18 44th president
- 19 Closing, as a jacket
- 21 Supply with fuel
- 22 Reviled
- 24 Yard machine
- 25 Wonder
- 30 Kansas natives
- 33 Steal
- 35 Silver and Glass
- 36 Test type
- 37 Way off
- 38 Poem of praise
- 40 Flamenco call
- 41 Rent out
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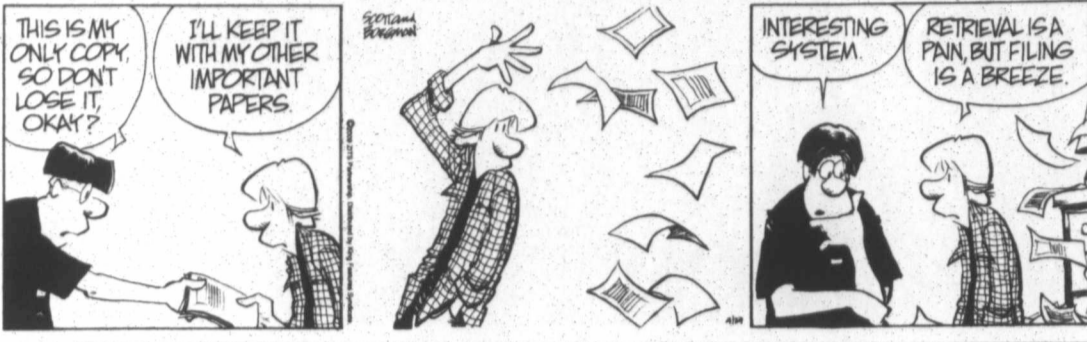
NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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11						12				
13						14				
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17	18	19				20		21	22	
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37	38					39		40	41	42
43						44				
45						46				

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



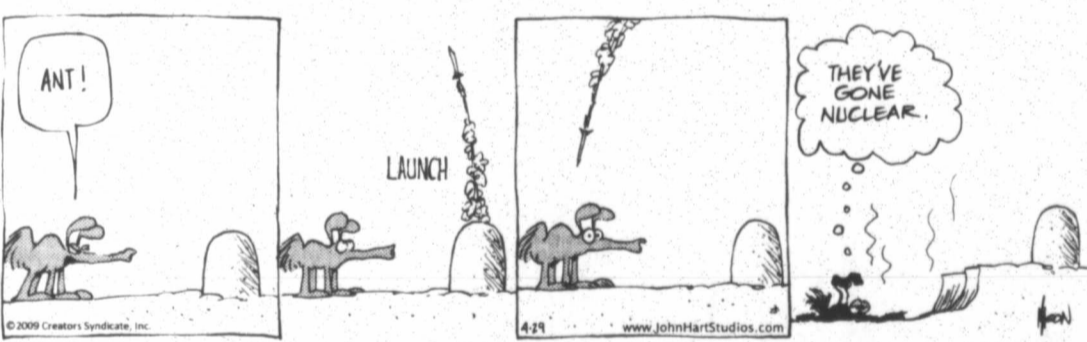
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



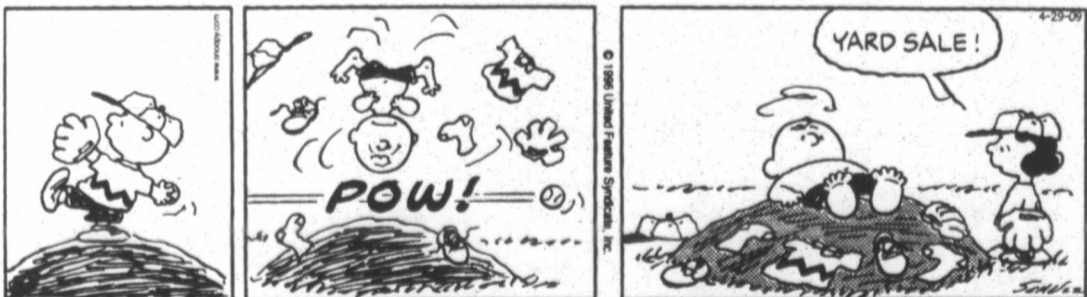
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



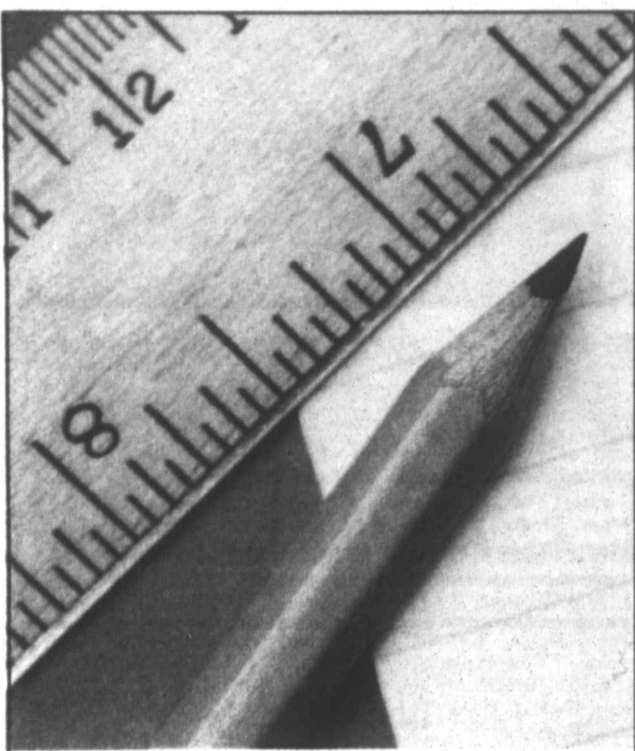
Blondie



Flo & Friends



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Pampa Regional Medical Center

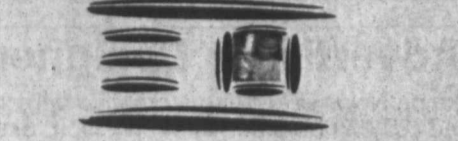


Feeling sick?

One Medical Plaza
665-3721
We're here to help you!

Designed By: Jacie Studebaker Travis 5th

The Pampa NEWS



Do you have anything that you want to put in the news? Pampa News will gladly put ads and pictures in the newspaper for you! Call or visit our website today!

The Pampa News
403 W. Atchison
(806)-669-2626
<http://www.pampanews.com>

Designed By Molly Osborn Travis 5th Grade

St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School

Give your child a gift that lasts a lifetime!

Now Enrolling for summer and fall!

Come by or give us a call!!

727 W. Browning 806-665-0703

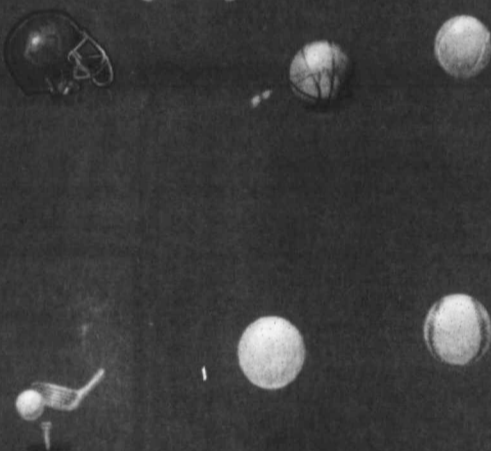
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Holmes Sports Center

We have everything you need to play the sport that you love!

Come by today and get the right equipment you need for the right price!

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(806)-665-2631



Hit one over the fence and slide on into Holmes, we have all your sporting needs !!!!!!!



Bill Allison Auto Sale has the best cars!

For more information call Allison's all day!
1200 N HOBART
665-3992

Rheams Diamond Shop

Spring Sales Event

- Bridal Sets
- Diamond Earrings
- Diamond Pendants
- Seiko Watches

25% off

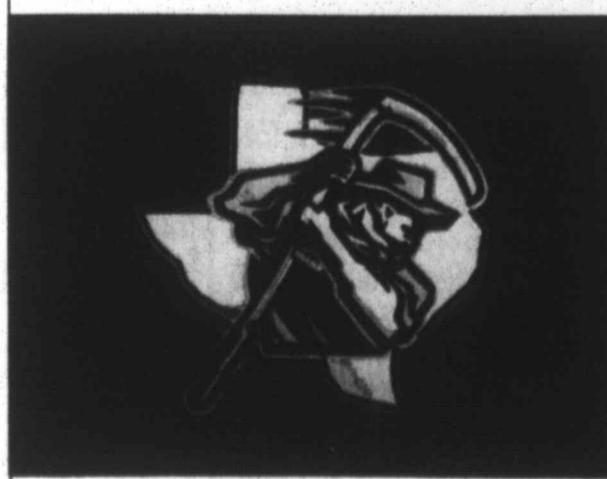


Designed by Erik Vizcaino-Wilson Elementary

LeJan Inc.

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665-0627

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Keyes Pharmacy



Keyes Pharmacy cares about you.

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Designed by Anthony Nguyen Travis 5th