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The PAMPA NEWS

Monday, May 11, 2009 Volume 105 • No. 9 50¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

GRAY COUNTY ELECTION RESULTS

Mayor elected to fifth term, Teichmann upsets Smith for PISD

BY PAMPA NEWS STAFF



Robbins

Incumbent Mayor Lonny Robbins won his position as Mayor again this year. He has filled the position for the past eight years, and this win will mean a decade of service in this position.

Robbins said of his win, "I am pleased to be able to serve the citizens for another two years and I want to give a special thanks to all who went out and voted."

Robbins is also the Senior Pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church in Pampa. He has been mayor of Pampa since 2003.

Robbins was opposed by Monty Danner, who also opposed him in 2003. In early voting, Robbins had 206 votes in his favor and Danner 81. On Election Day 186 people voted for Robbins and 80 for Danner.

Danner had not return calls to The Pampa News as of press time.

Commissioners Brad Pingel, Ward 1, and Robert W. Dixon, Ward 3 were unopposed for their positions.

Incumbent, PISD president defeated

David Teichmann had a good weekend. His daughter, Carlyn, was the winner pitcher Friday night in the Lady Harvesters first softball bidistrict playoff game and was the relief pitcher that came in Saturday to win the second game in Lubbock.

Saturday, while Teichmann was in Lubbock for the Pampa-Abilene Cooper game, voters elected him to the school board.

Election officials said today that Teichmann tallied 402 votes out of 587 cast for the Place 4 position in the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees election Saturday.

Incumbent Charles Smith, serving as president of the school board, got 185 votes. Smith had no comment on the election Monday.

Lee Porter, who ran unopposed in the Place 5 race, received 472 votes.

The results won't be official until the votes are canvassed by the school board.

School district officials said today that the school board will meet next week to canvass the votes. Teichmann and Porter will take their oaths of office at that time.

The school board has until May 20 to canvass the votes and make the results official.

Turnout extremely low

Gray County Elections Administrator Linda Lewis said a turnout was low in this election, as expected. County wide, just 3.3 percent of registered voters cast ballots. "We had lost of last-minute voters, from 6

-7p.m.," Lewis said, "Our last hour of voting was heaviest. We even had people in Lefors pulling up as we were pulling our voting machines at about 7:15 p.m."

PRMC Chili Cook-off set for Friday, May 15

BY RACHEL STENNETT
 rstennett@thepampanews.com

As the final act of celebration for hospital week, Pampa Regional Medical Center is inviting the community to a chili cook off on May 15 at 5 p.m.

Hospital week, which is a week devoting to celebrating hospitals and the medical practice, has always been a private celebration up to this point, Terry Barnes, PRMC marketing director, explained. This year, personnel at PRMC decided to have an event involving the community, since it is the community that makes up the hospital staff and patients.

"We serve the population



staff photo by Rachel Stennett
 Jennifer Black, RN, and Twilla Thomas, RN, are both organizers for hospital week and the community chili cook off on May 15.

Join in our recipe guide and win!

Share a great recipe with our readers and you might win \$50.

The Pampa News is bringing together the most delicious recipes from the best cooks in our community. Are you one of them?

Does your family beg for your special casserole? Does your chili leave them sweating for more? Is no holiday meal complete without that marshmallow surprise? Whatever you love to cook, The Pampa News' "Pampa Perfect Recipe Collection" has a category for you to share your favorites with the community. And there are prizes!

Categories are:
 Sumptuous Salads
 Enviable Entrees
 Produce Perfected
 Comfort Casseroles

RECIPES cont. on page 3

ELECTION RESULTS

<p>Pampa Mayor</p> <p>✓ Lonny Robbins</p> <p>Early— 206 (71.78%) Election— 186 (69.92%) Total— 392 (70.89%)</p> <p>Monty Danner</p> <p>Early— 81 (28.22%) Election— 80 (30.08%) Total— 161 (29.11%) Total Votes Cast— 553</p> <p>Commissioner, Ward 1</p> <p>Brad Pingel</p> <p>Early— 250 (84.75%) Election— 223 (81.68%) Total— 473 (100%) Total Votes Cast— 473</p> <p>Commissioner, Ward 3</p> <p>Robert W. Dixon</p> <p>Early— 213 (100%) Election— 214 (100%) Total— 427 (100%) Total Votes Cast— 427</p> <p>PISD Trustee, Place 4</p> <p>✓ David Teichmann</p> <p>Early— 194 (62.99%) Election— 208 (74.55%) Total— 402 (68.48%)</p> <p>W. Charles Smith</p> <p>Early— 114 (37.01%) Election— 71 (25.45%) Total— 185 (31.52%) Total Votes Cast— 587</p> <p>PISD Trustee, Place 5</p> <p>Lee Porter</p> <p>Early— 257 (100%) Election— 215 (100%) Total— 472 (100%) Total Votes Cast— 472</p> <p>Mayor McLean</p> <p>Peggy Sharp Bear</p> <p>Early— 90 (100%) Election— 49 (100%) Total— 139</p> <p>Alderman McLean (vote for 2)</p> <p>✓ Molly McDowell</p> <p>Early— 64 (37.87%) Election— 29 (37.87%) Total— 139</p> <p>Daniel D. Gallaway</p> <p>Early— 32 (18.93%) Election— 22 Total— 54</p> <p>✓ Lynn Reeves</p> <p>Early— 73 (43.20%) Total— 41 Total— 114 Total Votes Cast— 261</p>	<p>McLean ISD Trustee, 3 Year Term</p> <p>Chet Bohlar</p> <p>Early— 61 Election— 30 Total— 91</p> <p>✓ Carey Richardson</p> <p>Early— 90 Election— 53 Total— 143</p> <p>✓ Jeremiah J. Soto</p> <p>Early— 88 Election— 56 Total— 144 Total Votes Cast— 378</p> <p>McLean ISD Trustee, 2 Year Unexpired Term</p> <p>Randy Eddleman</p> <p>Early— 91 Election— 50 Total— 141</p> <p>Lefors City Council Member (vote for 3)</p> <p>✓ David Boyd</p> <p>Early— 19 (20.88%) Election— 35 (30.70%) Total— 54 (26.34%)</p> <p>✓ Billy McMinn</p> <p>Early— 29 (31.87%) Election— 31 (21.19%) Total— 60 (29.27%)</p> <p>Dana Davis</p> <p>Early— 7 (7.69%) Election— 7 (6.14%) Total— 14 (6.83%)</p> <p>Roy Clark Reedy</p> <p>Early— 10 (10.99%) Election— 12 (10.53%) Total— 22 (10.73%)</p> <p>✓ Susan Oldham</p> <p>Early— 26 (28.57%) Election— 29 (25.44%) Total— 55 (26.83%) Total Votes Cast— 205</p> <p>Trustee, Full Term Lefors</p> <p>✓ Mecca McBee</p> <p>Early— 23 (35.38%) Election— 32 (39.02%) Total— 55 (37.41%)</p> <p>Sam O'Brien</p> <p>Early— 18 (27.69%) Election— 13 (15.85%) Total— 31 (21.09%)</p> <p>✓ Kathy Tinney</p> <p>Early— 24 (36.92%) Election— 37 (45.12%) Total— 61 (41.50%) Total Votes Cast— 147</p> <p>Trustee, Unexpired Term</p> <p>Pat McBee</p> <p>Early— 38 (100%) Election— 40 (100%) Total— 78 (100%)</p>
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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 88 Low 64	High 86 Low 53	High 74 Low 60

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 8am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 88. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 86. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Windy, with a east northeast wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 74. East wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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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.....	\$5.38
Milo.....	\$5.82
Corn.....	\$7.43

Cash Five Texas results

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

- Winning numbers drawn: 19-24-34-15-21.
- Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$26,204
- Winning ticket purchased in: Fort Worth
- Matching four of five: 108. Prize: \$109
- Matching three of five: 2,842. Prize: \$9
- Matching two of five: 26,711. Prize: \$2
- Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Daily 4 results evening drawing

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-0-9-9. Sum It Up: 27 (nine, zero, nine, nine. Sum It Up: twenty-seven)

Pick 3 results nighttime drawing

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-6-2. Sum It Up: 15 (seven, six, two. Sum It Up: fifteen)

Emergency Services

AMBULANCE

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

Friday

12:59 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of West Somerville and transported a patient to PRMC.

2:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of Warren. No patients were transported.

5:08 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to North West Texas Hospital.

9:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 400 block of North

Dwight.

Saturday

11:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Lefors Mutual Aid. The call was cancelled in route.

3:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Wells. No patients were transported.

5:25 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of North Dwight. No patients were transported.

6:27 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the intersection of Georgia and Charles and transported a patient to PRMC.

7:41 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Wynne and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Roberta and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:48 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of West Foster and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Sumner and transported a patient to

PRMC.

10:27 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Duncan. No patients were transported.

11:03 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Highway 152 and mile marker 45 and transported a patient to PRMC.

Sunday

7:36 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of South Varmon and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:29 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Rham and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

Monday

5:09 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of South Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests.

Friday

Jose Magalianes, 27, was arrested for no valid driver's license.

Derrick Way Hollon, 26, was arrested for insufficient bond.

Travis Glenn Mask, 17, was arrested for civil warrants.

Claude Glenn Free, 65, was arrested for warrants in another county.

Kenneth Allen, 25, was arrested for warrants.

Saturday

Christopher Calderoni, 18, was arrested for disorderly conduct, obscene language.

Sunday

Maria L Campos, 32, of Pampa was arrested by the Pampa Police Department for eight counts of issuing bad checks.

Ricardo Rodriguez Navarrete, 28, of Pampa was arrested by the Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated.

Julian Moreno-Galarza, 33, of Dallas was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Guillermo Trujillo-Abad, 26, of Capital Heights, Md., was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.

Shon Michael Day, 24, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Daniell Reyne Petree, 26, of Azle was arrested by the GCSO for warrants on failure to signal/wrong signal.

SHERIFF cont. on page 5

LAST MINUTE CLASSIFIED LINE ADS

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

ARCHERY 3D Shoot Sat., May 16th at the Ferguson Ranch 22 miles North of Pampa on Hwy 70 to 4F Outfitters Sign. All proceeds go to the upcoming Kicking Bear Youth Camp June 19-20. All ages, All Classes, \$20 per shooter. Each entry will include one raffle ticket to win a new Diamond Compound bow. For more info call Cal Ferguson, 806-663-3575 or email: fouroutfitters@yahoo.com

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Obituaries

Judy Lynn Blackshear, 30

Pampa, TX — Judy Lynn Blackshear, 30, died on May 8, 2009 in Pampa, TX.

Graveside services will be at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at Fairview Cemetery, with Rev. Lynn Hancock of Briarwood Church, officiating.

Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

BIOGRAPHY: Mrs. Blackshear was born on September 25, 1978 in Ft. Worth, Texas. She came to

Pampa in 1982, living here ever since. She attended Pampa schools. She worked in the retail industry and child care services. She attended Briarwood Church. In her spare time she liked to read, listen and sing karaoke to country & western music, but mainly she liked to spend time with her family and friends. She was preceded in death by one son, Randall Robert Alexander Jones, her father, Robert Lynn Blackshear, one niece, Heather Wilson,

and one nephew, Heath Wilson.

Survivors include one daughter, Brooklyn Jones of Pampa; mother, Judy Gates of Pampa; brother, Billy Haley of Bradenton, Fla., two sisters, Theresa Doyle and husband Sammy of Pampa, and Tracy Blackshear of Arlington; grandmother, Frances Musgrave of Pampa and numerous nieces and nephews.

MEMORIALS: Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.



Judy Lynn Blackshear

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Ernie Kane, 72

Pampa, Texas — Ernie Kane, 72, died on May 9, 2009 in Pampa, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Kane was born December 5, 1937 in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. He married Susan Darling on April 1, 1969 in Reno, Nevada. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1969, working for Leonard Hudson Drilling. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He loved to spend time with his grandchildren.

He liked to read, fish and play slot machines in his spare time. Ernie will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Susan Kane of the home; six sons, Randy Kane and wife Trish of Borger, Jerry Kane and wife Hannah of Sacramento, California, Charles Kane and wife Kathy and Leonard Kane, all of Pampa, James Kane and wife Ranea of

Soldotna, Alaska, and John Kane and wife Nikki of Minnesota; two daughters, Donna Kane and Jane Dedrick, both of Pampa; brother, Harry Kane of Hookstown, Pennsylvania, sister, Doris Coy; daughter-in-law: Gina Kane of Pampa; 18 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents and 11 brothers and sisters.

MEMORIALS: BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, Texas 79065, or Pampa Meals on Wheels,



Ernie Kane

P.O. Box 939, Pampa, Texas 79066-0939.
Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Adam Mark Taylor, 26

Austin, Texas — Adam Mark Taylor, 26, died on May 6, 2009 in Austin, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Adam was born August 31, 1982 in Amarillo. He grew up in Methodist parsonages across the Texas Panhandle with his little brother and best friend, Sean. Adam was a graduate of Dalhart High School. After graduation, he enjoyed a stint as a DJ at KXIT Radio. He later

moved to Austin where he attended and graduated from Capital City Trade School. Adam was employed by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and worked at Emma Long Park where he received an award for projects and innovations at the park. He was a fan of Texas Tech football, Dallas Stars hockey, and all things NASCAR. He was a hero to his younger brothers, and he will be missed

by all who loved him.

Survivors include his parents, Rev. Jeff and Karen Taylor of Pampa; three brothers, Sean Taylor of Denton, Travis Taylor and Landon Taylor, both of Pampa; paternal grandmother, Kathy Taylor of Lubbock; maternal grandparents, John and Ann Ball of Georgetown; many aunts, uncles and cousins, including his great-aunt, Gloria Gammill of Lubbock.

MEMORIALS: Ceta Canyon Camp and Retreat Center, 37201 FM 1721,



Adam Mark Taylor

Happy, Texas 79042.
Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Dustin Shane Stoddard, 35

Pampa, Texas — Dustin Shane Stoddard, 35, died on Saturday, May, 9, 2009 in Lefors, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Stoddard was born April 29, 1974 in Liberal, Kansas. He has been a lifelong resident of Pampa where he graduated from Pampa High School in 1992. Dustin attended

the Liberal Area Vo-tech School from 1994-1995. He was a former employee for Steve Osborne. Dustin owned and operated Stoble Construction. Dustin was member of the Central Baptist Church and the Pampa Moose Lodge #1385.

Survivors include mother, Susan Kae Ratzlaff of Amarillo; one son; Jacob Samuel Stoddard of

the home; one daughter, Alexis Kaitlyn Stoddard of the home; one step son, Brenden Cade Courtney; his soul mate: Michelle Courtney of the home; two sisters, Tacy Lamb and husband Jay of McLean and K'Lee Ratzlaff of Amarillo; Maternal Grandmother, Roberta Babb of Pampa; Step Mother, Bettie Stoddard of Albuquerque, New

Mexico; Step sister, Heidi Wells and husband Dave of Albuquerque, New Mexico; two uncles and aunts, Curtis Babb and wife Christine of Pampa, Jerry Stoddard and wife Kathy of Lubbock, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Chili cook-off

and the community and we want them to join in the celebration of staff," Jennifer Black, co-organizer for the event, explained.

Doctors will be judging the various chili stews and will decide on a winner. PRMC is looking for local organizations and individuals to enter their chili stews in the competition.

"We want as many people to be involved as possible," Black said. "This

is the climax of hospital week." Other hospital week events, which have been exclusively for staff members, have included a bake off and family photos. Donations are will be accepted upon entering the cook off, which will all you can eat style with live music from local band "Moore Sound."

The first place winner of the cook off will receive \$100 in cash, a photo print-

ed in The Pampa News, and a trophy plaque.

The donations from the cook-off will go to support a local charity in Pampa. There is a \$25 application fee and a five court minimum for those who want to be involved in the competition. All non domestic means (cat, skunk, elk, deer, possum) must be posted with the chili.

cont. from page 1

Recipe contest

Down Home Desserts
Bodacious Beverages
Join in the fun and win \$50— plus bragging rights, if your recipe is named Pampa Perfect by our team of expert eaters. There will be one prize awarded in each category.

The only condition is that your recipe must be your own - perhaps you put your unique touch on the

traditional mac and cheese casserole, perhaps your burgers have that special ingredient, or perhaps your salad dressing is unique - in some way the recipe must be your own.

E-mail is the preferred way to submit entries. Please put RECIPE plus the name of your dish as the subject, example; RECIPE Betsy's tuna cas-

serole. You may bring your recipe to The Pampa News office if you prefer. Don't wait to enter - all recipes must arrive in our newspaper office by 5 p.m. May 20, 2009.

The Pampa Perfect Recipe Collection will be a special section in our Monday, June 1 issue.

cont. from page 1

Energy futures ease; pump prices trek higher

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Energy prices eased Monday as investors appeared to second-guess a 10 percent surge in the value of crude last week on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Benchmark crude for June delivery fell 67 cents to \$57.96 a barrel. On Friday, the contract rose \$1.92 to settle at \$58.63 a barrel, the highest level this year, and about 80 percent above the \$32.40 per barrel reached on Dec. 19.

Retail gas prices, which have risen more than 15 cents a gallon in the last week, continued to move upward overnight.

Optimism over an economic recovery, or at least the belief that things may not get worse, have pushed energy prices higher with some expecting a rebound in demand. Oil prices have followed the stock market, which has soared since hitting bottom in early March with the Standard & Poor's 500 benchmark index up 37.4 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average and the S&P 500 also were lower Monday with both indexes down more than 1 percent.

Regardless, oil prices continue to rise even though demand has hit its lowest level since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Crude inventories are at their highest levels since 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

"In my mind, this is a

market that is looking for an 'excuse to go higher,'" said Phil Flynn of Alaron Trading Corp.

But with a weaker stock market and analysts expecting another build in inventories when the government releases its weekly report Wednesday, oil is being held in check, he said. "They're buying just to buy into the momentum," said analyst and trader Stephen Schork.

"No one is looking at the fundamentals."

Prices at the pump continued to trek higher Monday, moving up 1.3 cents to a national average of \$2.226 a gallon, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. Prices are 17.4 cents higher than last week.

Prices are 17.4 cents higher than a month ago, but more than 15 cents of that gain has come in just the last week. For motorists who had grown accustomed to \$2 gas, that rise has caught many off guard.

Rising pump prices are the norm for May, however, because refiners are switching over to more expensive blends of gasoline that are required to meet state and federal emissions requirements.

"It's a new American tradition," Flynn joked. "We might as well make it a holiday."

There are also refineries still operating at reduced levels due to annual main-

tenance, said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service.

One more reason why gas prices are rising: gasoline futures on Nymex have been rising on the same optimism that has boosted crude and equities markets. Reformulated gasoline traded in New York, the major trading center for both imports and domestic fuel, is up about a dime in the last week.

Kloza said gas prices may hit as high as \$2.30 a gallon before Memorial Day, but that should be the peak for the time being.

"Demand is flat. Supplies are very abundant, and there is awful lot of refining capacity that can be tapped," he said.

As fast as gas prices have risen, they remain far below last year at this time when a gallon of gas cost almost \$1.50 more. No one is predicting gasoline will get close to the \$4.11 national average reached last July.

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for June delivery fell by 4 cents to \$1.6675 a gallon and heating oil dropped 2.35 cents to \$1.4949 a gallon. Natural gas for June delivery slid 2 cents to \$4.292 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent prices fell \$1.87 to \$57.05 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

ed and released by Sunday afternoon.

The fire was one of four authorities believe were started by an arsonist.

Voter ID bill passes House committee

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A House committee has approved legislation that would require new ID requirements for Texas voters, but efforts to forge a compromise that can pass out of the Legislature seemed to be falling apart.

The 5-4 vote in

the House Elections Committee Monday comes after Republican Rep. Todd Smith, chairman of the panel, floated a series of proposals designed to attract a bipartisan coalition.

He said the chances of bridging the partisan

divide were now "less than 50 percent." Republicans say the measure is needed to prevent voter fraud. Democrats have criticized the move as a partisan power grab designed to suppress their base vote.

Runner-up dropping out of Austin runoff

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Austin City Councilman Brewster McCracken is withdrawing from a runoff election for mayor.

That leaves Councilman Lee Leffingwell, the first-place finisher in Saturday's election, as the last candidate standing to replace incumbent Mayor Will

Wynn. Term limits prevented Wynn from running again.

Leffingwell led the five-candidate mayor's race with 47 percent of the vote, sending him into a runoff with McCracken, who had 27 percent.

Former state comptroller and gubernatorial candidate

Carole Keeton Strayhorn finished third.

McCracken sent a letter to supporters Monday telling them of his decision. He said a runoff would require heavy fundraising in a tough economy. He said a runoff election could get negative and would be expensive for taxpayers.

May is motorcycle safety month

In 2008, the DPS Motorcycle Operator Training Program trained a record-number 41,000 motorcycle operators.

But all that training isn't enough to ensure the safety of motorcycle operators. Drivers of other vehicles, who share Texas roadways with 908,665 licensed motorcyclists, must make a conscious effort to look for motorcyclists.

Almost 400 motorcyclists were killed in crashes in 2007; preliminary fatality reports for 2008 also indicate an increase in fatalities. A high percentage of those crashes involved other vehicles. Most motorcycle crashes occur near intersections,

largely because inattentive vehicle drivers fail to see the motorcyclist and give them the right-of-way.

"Because of its small size, a motorcycle can be easily hidden in a car's blind spots such as the door or roof pillars, or masked by objects or backgrounds outside a car such as bushes, fences and bridges," said John G. Young, coordinator of the DPS Motorcycle Safety Unit. "Take an extra moment to look for motorcycles, whether you're changing lanes or turning at intersections."

To address the increase of car and motorcycle crashes on a local level, some Texas cities such as Arlington have begun local

public awareness events. The City of Austin has a motorcycle safety fair scheduled for May 9 to increase public awareness and remind drivers to look for motorcycles.

"We encourage all cities to get involved with public awareness for motorcyclist safety," Young said.

For more information on the Motorcycle Safety Unit, visit

www.txdps.state.tx.us/msb and www.looklearn-live.org or call 1-800-292-5787

Car hits horse

BY RACHEL STENNETT
rstennett@thepampanews.com

A car collided with a horse late Saturday evening on Highway 152, totaling the vehicle but the driver only sustained minor injuries.

At 11:05 p.m., Jesse Flowers, of Fritch was driving westbound on Highway 152 at the intersection of Gray County Road 4.5, when a horse wandered into the road. Flowers did not see the horse until impact, at which time he ducted in his car and hit the horse, a move that probably saved his life according to Captain Mike day of the Pampa Fire Department.

Flowers was driving a Ford Focus going approximately 60 miles per hour when he hit the horse, which belonged to Toby Bowman.

The collision peeled back the roof of the car and completely totaled the vehicle, but Flowers only sustained minor injuries. He was transported to

Pampa Regional Medical Center for treatment and was released.

The horse was killed on impact.

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6 San Antonio firefighters injured

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Six San Antonio firefighters were briefly hospitalized Sunday after being exposed to chlorine while battling a blaze at a shed on the city's northwest side.

Assistant Fire Chief David Coatney said the firefighters experienced burning skin and some had trouble breathing after dealing with the blaze early Sunday. It was not immediately apparent who owns the shed, located on property near a cemetery and a country club, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The shed contained chlorine cylinders that apparently expanded and leaked

into the air.

A spokesman for University Health System in San Antonio told The Associated Press that all the firefighters were treat-

ed and released by Sunday afternoon.

The fire was one of four authorities believe were started by an arsonist.

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Sports

Ladies sweep bi-district playoffs

BY DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

LUBBOCK - The Lady Harvesters softball team will be on the road Friday, playing El Paso Burges in Seminole as they move up through the playoffs.

The Lady Harvesters beat Abilene Cooper in two games over the weekend in Lubbock to sweep the Class 4A bi-district playoffs.

Pampa tamed the Abilene Cooper Cougars 6-2 Friday night and beat them 4-1 Saturday afternoon at Coronado High School in Lubbock.

After four innings of a scoreless game, Callie Preston hit a single, then advanced on a sacrifice by Devin Valentine and scored on a bunt by Kamie Doughty.

Libby Dyson took a base on balls, advanced on Doughty's hit and came in on a hit by Kelby Doughty.

Starting pitcher for Pampa, Ashley Facio held Cooper at bay until the fifth inning. Carlyn Teichmann came in to finish the game.

Facio struck out six and walked three. Teichmann struck out six and walked one.

The Lady Cougars in the bottom of the fifth answered Pampa's score with one run, but the Lady Harvesters came back in the seventh with Dyson and Kelby Doughty each scoring on fumbled throws.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Lady Cougar's third baseman, Sierra Sudberry, popped out to Pampa right fielder Valentine for the first out.

After giving up two hits, Teichmann struck out the next two batters to end the game and get the Lady Harvesters a ticket to Seminole for a double-header Friday night against El Paso Burges.



staff photo by David Bowser

Lady Harvester Callie Preston, 22, scores the first run of the game in the fifth inning against the Coronado Cougars in Lubbock Saturday.



staff photo by David Bowser

Lady Harvesters Softball team after winning Saturday's game against Coronado in Lubbock 4-1.

Season ends for Harvesters

BY KEVIN HUNT

On Senior recognition day and playing without the services of Blake Sieck, Ryan Funderburg and John Luke Covalt the Pampa Harvester baseball season ended with a loss to Canyon by a score of 17-3.

The game had been scheduled for May 12, after the UIL suspended all UIL activities due to the swine flu outbreak. On Thursday the UIL announced that games could resume on May 8.

Pampa wanted to play the game on May 12, after three key players returned from the choir trip.

The district executive committee voted that the game be played on May 8.

With a win, Pampa would have at least clinched a tie for the fourth and final playoff spot with the winner of the Hereford-Dumas game.

But in the end, it just wasn't meant to be for the Harvesters.

This was a season of close calls for Pampa.

The season started on a strong note as Pampa claimed the championship of the Cavalier Classic tournament in

late February.

The team then made it to the finals of the annual Snyder tournament. The next week, they were 3-0 at Burk Burnett and headed for the championship game before the tournament got rained out.

Pampa ended their non-district season with a 13-3 record and a ton of momentum.

In the first district game, Pampa ended Randall's 2 1/2 year undefeated streak in district play, beating them 15-14.

The next week at Palo Duro, Pampa blew a 5-0 lead as Palo Duro came from behind and beat Pampa 10-8.

In the next game, Pampa took a 3-1 lead in to the bottom of the seventh at Caprock, only to lose 4-3.

PHS sent Dumas home after its next outing, winning 11-6.

The next game featured Pampa against Hereford, and even though Pampa was down 8-1 at one point, the Harvesters clawed back and got within 1 run, before eventually losing 10-7.

The next week Pampa travelled to Canyon, and again squandered a 5-0

lead as Canyon would come from behind and defeat Pampa by a score of 6-5 in extra innings.

The next week at Randall, Pampa took a 3-2 lead in to the bottom of the seventh inning, only to see Randall score two runs and defeat Pampa 4-3.

Pampa then ran over the Palo Duro Dons by a score of 11-1.

At Dumas for the next game, once again Pampa would lead for most of the game only to have Dumas rally and score four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to defeat Pampa.

In the rematch against Caprock, Pampa allowed five runs in the top of the sixth to lose by a score of 11-7.

In the rematch against Hereford, and a must win game, Pampa battled to a 2-1 win to keep their playoff hopes alive.

But in the end, facing a must win situation against Canyon plus being short three starters, Pampa's playoff dream would end.

PHS ended the season with an overall record of 17 wins and 11 losses and a district record of 4-8 and one game out of the playoff race.

Congrats Lady Harvesters!
We are proud of you!

Lady Harvesters to host summer basketball camp

The sounds of basketball will resound through McNeely Field House this summer with the Lady Harvester Basketball Camp.

Coach Gene Valentine, the Lady Harvesters head basketball coach, will hold the camp June 15 through 19 for girls entering first through ninth grades to work on ball handling, dribbling, shooting and teamwork. Girls need to register by May 22.

Valentine, district coaches and players on the Lady Harvesters basketball team will provide the instruction.

Cost of the camp is \$50 and includes a camp tee shirt, certificate and awards for various skills at each grade level. Water bottles and snacks will be available for sale during breaks.

Campers need to wear court-appropriate shoes, Coach Valentine said.

For more information, contact Coach Valentine at 1706 Duncan or call him at 669-4800.

Rockets beat Lakers without Yao, even series 2-2

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets never doubted they could still beat the Los Angeles Lakers without Yao Ming.

The Lakers better believe it, too.

Aaron Brooks scored a career-high 34 points, Shane Battier sank five 3-pointers and added 23, and the Rockets beat the Lakers 99-87 on Sunday to even their Western Conference semifinal at two games apiece.

Luis Scola had 11 points and 14 rebounds as the Rockets got exactly the team effort they needed after Yao broke his left foot in the Lakers' win in Game 3.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles, and anyone who thought the Rockets were finished without their best player only needed to watch the first quarter Sunday, when Houston built a 29-16 lead.

The Rockets never trailed and led by as many as 29 before the Lakers made the score respectable toward the end.

"I'm not surprised," Battier said. "It almost sounds cliché, but we're a resilient group. We talk about bouncing back. Through adversity, through lineup changes, through trades, through injuries, we've never quit and we've never stopped believing."

Pau Gasol scored 30 points and Kobe Bryant had a quiet 15 for Los Angeles.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson warned his team about taking the Rockets too lightly after hearing about Yao's injury. But the Lakers looked lethargic from the start, giving away careless turnovers and playing lax defense.

"They didn't anticipate the energy that they were going to come with," Jackson said. "But you say as much as you can as a coach and then the players have to execute and do it on the floor."

The Rockets opened the game with a 22-7 run, starting 4-of-5 from 3-point range. Bryant scored the Lakers' first three baskets, but the rest of the team missed its first seven shots.

Houston led 54-36 at the break. The Lakers grabbed only two offensive rebounds and generated only four fast-break points in their lowest-scoring half of the season. Battier had 15 points at halftime, two more than Bryant.

Landowners, attorneys make additional \$20 million

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Landowners and their attorneys made an additional \$20 million by fighting the city when it acquired property for the new Dallas Cowboys stadium, according to a newspaper report.

Offers to buy land for the \$1.1 billion stadium initially added up to \$60 million, but just-released city records show the actual payments will be at least \$80 million. The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday. The cost is double what the city of Arlington first projected by using Tarrant Appraisal District numbers.

The city has worked for nearly four years to settle most of the land disputes. The owners of 17 parcels are still trying to challenge condemnation in court.

"To this day, I think we've been fair to everybody,"

said Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck. "There are many of those cases we thought were excessive in the court. ... Everybody had the option to take the offer or go to a lawyer."

Attorney Glenn Sodd, who represented some of the property owners, said many of his clients received pay that was several hundred percent higher than what the city first offered.

"They (cities) have a big incentive to make lowball offers because they know that some people are going to take whatever they offer," he said.

Trey Yelverton, an Arlington deputy city manager, said the city hired professional appraisers and didn't "lowball" anyone.

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nal, failure to appear, and no liability insurance.

Steven Wilson Rivera, 43, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for warrants on open container, and failure to appear.

Reynaldo Martinez, 32, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

Monday

Jere David Hink, 44, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for tampering/fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Alan Vincente Barragan, 27, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.

Jesus Manuel Vargas, 22, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Jorge Leon Desantiago, 32, of Pampa was arrested by the PPD for public intoxication.

FIRE

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

Friday

11:45 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and Alcock streets on a motor vehicle accident.

1:04 p.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to the 1400 block of North Hobart on a med assist.

1:14 p.m. — One unit and five personnel responded to the 1400 block of West Somerville on a med assist.

Saturday

3:38 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of North

Wells on a med assist.

5:29 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1600 block of North Dwight on a med assist.

9:41 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 100 block of West Foster on a med assist.

10:07 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 2100 block of North Nelson on a smoke investigation.

11:05 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to Highway 152 and Gray County Road 4.5 on a motor vehicle accident.

11:21 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of Duncan on a motor vehicle accident.

Sunday

9:32 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2800 block of Charles on an odor investigation.

11:00 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1200 block of North Wells on a lift assist.

Monday

5:12 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of South Wells on a med assist.

PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Friday and 7 a.m. Today.

Friday
Officers conducted 15 traffic stops.

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

Theft was reported in the lobby of the PD, Pampa Junior High School, where \$45 worth of juice boxes and klondike cars were sto-

len, the 300 block of South Henry, the 700 block of Frost, where two gold rings were stolen, value \$600, the 800 block of South Somerville, where an air conditioner was stolen, value \$145, and the 300 block of South Canadian.

Burglary was reported in the 1500 block of North Duncan, where a chainsaw and Ford F350 dump truck were reported stolen.

One alarm was investigated.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the intersection of Hobart and Alcock streets, and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 200 block of East Tyng, the intersection of Browning and Gillespie streets, the intersection of Roberta and Naida streets, the 2000 block of North Mary Ellen, and the intersection of 17th and Russell streets.

A traffic complaint was received from the 200 block of North Sumner.

Civil matters were reported in the 900 block of South Reid.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Seneca, the 1000 block of South Varnon, the 500 block of North Starkweather, the 500 block of North Lowry, and the 1100 block of North Starkweather.

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

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1100 block of East 16th.

A violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1100 block of West Coronado.

An assault was reported in the 800 block of North Dwight.

Saturday
Disorderly conduct was

reported in the intersection of Scott and Barnes, the 800 block of East Beryle, the 100 block of West Foster, the 1100 block of East Browning, the 700 block of Finley, the 1000 block of West Wilks, and the 900 block of East Malone.

A violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 200 block of West 28th.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather, the 1000 block of Duncan, the intersection of Alcock and Price streets, the intersection of Somerville and Francis streets, the 700 block of Blackwell in Lefors, the intersection of Kentucky and Russell streets, the intersection of Charles and Georgia streets, and the 2300 block of North Hobart.

A traffic complaint was received from the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Foster and West street, the 1800 block of West Buckler, and the 800 block of West Crawford.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1300 block of North Hamilton, and the intersection of Browning and Warren streets.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather.

A suicide attempt was reported in the 2100 block of North Duncan.

Officers conducted 12 traffic stops.

A total of 11 calls and/or stops concerning animals were reported.

Traffic complaints were received from the 2800 block of North Charles, and the 2000 block of North

Duncan.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of West Foster, Well Car car wash, where two vacuums were damaged, value \$200, and the 1000 block of South Barnes, where a window was busted out of a 2004 Jeep, value \$500.

A burglary was reported in the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of North Roberta, where a Craftsman lawn mower was stolen, value \$300; and the 1400 block of Helton where a fire extinguisher was stolen from a 2006 GMC truck.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of North Sloan.

Civil matters were reported in the 800 block of East Frederic, and the 600 block of Wynne.

One alarm was investigated.

An unattended death was reported in the 1600 block of North Dwight.

A welfare check was made in the 2200 block of North Duncan.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th.

A missing person was reported in the 500 block of North Zimmers.

A runaway was reported in the 1100 block of South Dwight.

Sunday

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Russell, the 1000 block of North Mary Ellen, the 600 block of East Denver, the 700 block of North Somerville, and the 100 block of East Craven.

Officers conducted nine traffic stops.

A total of five calls and/or stops concerning animals

were made.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1000 block of North Dwight, the 600 block of East Craven, the 400 block of Yeager, and the 200 block of South Miami.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 2400 block of North Christine.

One alarm was investigated.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of East Campbell.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 300 block of South Starkweather.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of North Beech, where a mirror of a 2003 Cadillac Deville was broke, and the 1200 block of North Hamilton.

Civil matters were reported in the 1800 block of North Hamilton, and the lobby of the PD.

Motor vehicle accidents were reported in the 2800 block of North Charles.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of South Sumner.

A traffic complaint was received from the 1400 block of North Zimmers.

A welfare check was made in the 800 block of North Frost.

Agency assistance was reported at Highway 60 West, and the 500 block of Naida.

Monday

Officers conducted two traffic stops.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of North Davis.

A prowler was reported in the 700 block of North Dwight.

A suspicious person call was received from the 700 block of East Browning.

San Antonio picks mayor; incumbents, booze win

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — An attorney emerged from a crowded nine-candidate race to become San Antonio's new mayor Saturday, while the favored mayors in Fort Worth, Arlington and El Paso were easily re-elected.

Out west, the biggest teetotaling town in Texas decided to go wet for the first time since the state lifted prohibition in the 1930s, and a small county approved — by just three votes — opening a radioactive waste site.

With all 575 precincts reporting, San Antonio attorney Julian Castro won with 56 percent of the vote, coming in well ahead of public relations executive Trish DeBerry-Mejia, who came in second with 29 percent. Castro narrowly lost the 2005 mayoral runoff against Mayor Phil Hardberger, who could not seek re-election because of term limits.

"I want to make sure the future aspirations of our citizens are met," Castro said in Saturday's online edition of the San Antonio Express-News.

With all 207 precincts reporting, Austin City Councilman Lee Leffingwell led the five-candidate mayor's race with 47 percent of the vote, sending him into a runoff with fellow Councilman Brewster McCracken, who had 27 percent. Term limits barred Austin Mayor Will Wynn from seeking re-election.

Former state comptroller and gubernatorial candidate Carole Keeton Strayhorn, who had 21 percent, lost her bid to return to the Austin mayor's office, where she served three terms from 1977-83 and was the first woman in that seat.

"It has been a great race," Strayhorn told the Austin American-Statesman after calling the two council members to concede. "As I have said, this city has given me a lifetime of joy."

With all 132 precincts reporting, Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief won with 70 percent of the vote,

defeating his first serious opposition since his 2003 election, former City Councilman Clyde Picht. After accusing Moncrief of ignoring residents' concerns with urban gas drilling, Picht finished second in the three-candidate race with 22 percent.

With all 27 precincts reporting, Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck won with 65 percent of the vote. Retired economist Jerry Pikulinski, who had 25 percent, placed second in the five-candidate race. Cluck had been praised for his efforts in bringing the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium and upcoming Super Bowl to the city, and being an advocate for the General Motors plant.

With all 77 precincts reporting, El Paso Mayor John Cook won with 61 percent of the vote, defeating five first-time candidates. Mortgage broker Gus Haddad was second with 28 percent.

With all 75 precincts reporting in Lubbock, 64 percent of voters backed a measure allowing stores to sell beer, wine and liquor.

Lubbock has allowed by-the-drink alcohol sales in bars and restaurants since the 1970s, but people had to leave city limits to buy six-packs of beer or bottles of wine.

The most popular option for Texas Tech University students and others has been driving to "The Strip," a quarter-mile row of stores on the edge of town. Although the city annexed it in 2006 to increase sales tax revenue, it was the only part of Lubbock where alcohol sales were allowed.

Previous measures have failed in the city of 210,000 residents. This time, opponents expressed fears of more underage drinking and liquor stores being built in poor neighborhoods.

After a petition drive got the issue on the ballot, supporters said the city should be more progressive, citing convenience, paying a fair price for alcohol and economic growth.

In Andrews County, which borders New

Mexico, voters decided Saturday to help Dallas-based Waste Control Specialists fund construction of a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. The vote was 642 in favor and 639 against, said County Judge Richard Dolgener.

Because the measure passed, county officials can now issue bonds to purchase \$75 million of the company's assets and lease those back to the company. Dolgener said he was unsure if anyone would request a re-count but said officials will now consider their options with the project, which some residents supported until they found out the county would have to pay part of the bill.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Justice said it was monitoring Saturday's elections in Farmers Branch and Hondo to make sure they comply with the Voting Rights Act. Federal officials declined to say why those cities were chosen.

In Hondo, a San Antonio suburb, the mayor was re-elected and two Hondo City

Council members were defeated in a regular election. But three other council members, all Hispanics, were recalled by a narrow vote in a special election. They had been accused of steamrolling the other members and making bad financial decisions since their election a year ago.

One councilman in the trio has claimed for years that Hondo has discriminated against Hispanic residents, prompting their supporters to say the ouster effort is racially motivated — a claim denied by the group leading the recall effort.

In the Dallas suburb of Farmers Branch, voters were electing two City Council members and deciding on 14 city charter amendments and \$55 million in bond propositions.

None of the issues deal with trying to oust illegal immigrants, which has previously caused controversy and prompted lawsuits against its ordinance requiring landlords to verify that all tenants are legally in the U.S.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I had a falling-out with his parents last October. We sent them an e-mail in December to let them know we have no desire to keep our children -- ages 5 and 6 -- from them. We feel it is important that they have a good relationship with their grandparents even though we don't.

My in-laws never responded and have made no attempt to see the children. They do send cards to them for holidays and birthdays, however.

While we accept that they want nothing to do with us, the kids keep asking why they don't get to see Nana and Papa anymore. We tell them that Nana and Papa love them very much, but are very busy. My in-laws live just 10 minutes away.

Abby, how do I continue to explain this situation to my children? They have done nothing wrong, and my heart breaks for them. -- DON'T BLAME THE KIDS

DEAR DON'T: You are behaving as if the ball is now in your in-laws' court. Continue telling your children that their grandparents love them, and have them pick up the phone and call Nana and Papa. If your in-laws are screening their calls and don't answer, have the children leave a message saying they miss their grandparents and would like to see them. Then the ball will be in their court.

DEAR ABBY: My son will graduate in June from a college in the Northeast. We live way down south. I am sending a few invitations to announce the occasion. No one is expected to make the trip for the event. If people send only

congratulatory cards, is a thank-you in order if no gifts are received? -- GRAD'S MOM

DEAR MOM: You should not send an invitation to anyone you know will not attend the graduation ceremony. To do so would seem like a bid for a gift. Instead, send a graduation announcement. According to "Emily Post's Etiquette": "Recipients of any kind of announcement are not expected to give gifts, though they may want to send a congratulatory note or card."

When someone does something nice for someone else, it deserves to be acknowledged. If your son receives a card congratulating him on his graduation, he should take a moment and drop the sender a note saying, "Thank you for remembering me at this special time in my life."

DEAR ABBY: I am a single woman in my mid-20s and am in the process of buying my first home. It is a great house and not necessarily a typical "starter" home.

My issue is many friends and acquaintances keep asking me how much I am purchasing the home for and how can I afford it. I was raised that to ask about someone's financial situation is rude and intrusive. Am I right, or has this become acceptable? -- VEXED IN TEXAS

DEAR VEXED: It's not surprising that someone would be curious. However, you are right. It IS bad manners to ask people what they paid for something. That's why you are perfectly within your rights to say that you would prefer not to answer and the question makes you uncomfortable.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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7	9	6						

Level: Beginner

Comics

Marmaduke



"Mom! The cookie jar is full of dog treats!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



5-11

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"Can he still go left?"

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Muck

1 "Smooth Operator" singer

5 Jeweler's unit

10 TV's

11 Lucky charm

13 — Raton, Florida

14 Rigid bracelet

15 Some paints

17 Shade tree

18 Fine-tunes

19 Dr. Dre's music

20 Sign of approval

21 Factory areas

22 Church areas

25 Washing-ton painter

26 LummoX

27 Gift-tag word

28 Massage

29 Strident

33 Mine yield

34 Active spot

35 Wrapped dress

37 Singing voice

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Saturday's answer

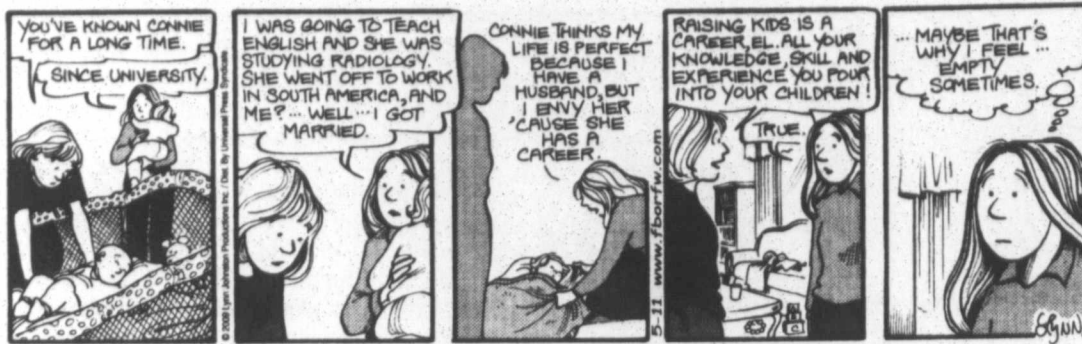
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24	Become serious work	32	Keats

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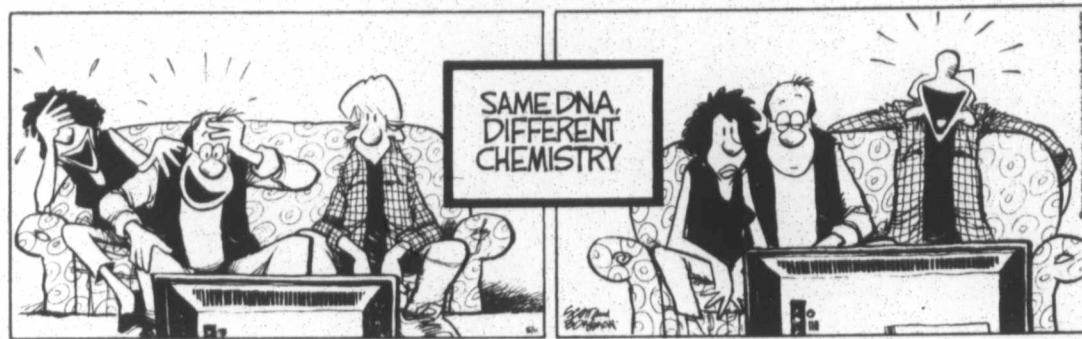
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For Better Or Worse



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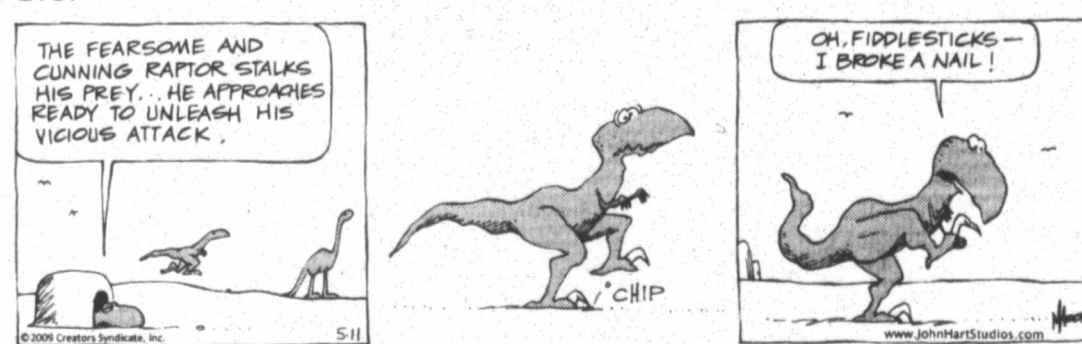
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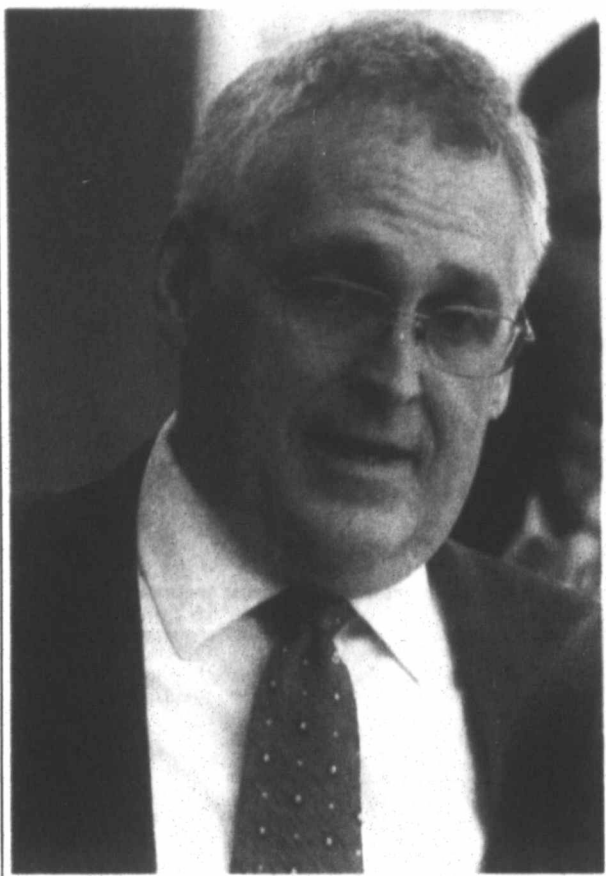
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In a Feb. 23, 2009 file photo U.S. District Judge Samuel Kent leaves the federal courthouse Monday, Feb. 23, 2009 in Houston after pleading guilty to obstruction of justice. Kent's sentencing hearing is set to begin Monday, May 11, 2009. (AP Photo/Pat Sullivan/file)

Federal judge gets about 3 years in prison

HOUSTON (AP) - A disgraced federal judge has been sentenced to nearly three years in prison for lying about whether he sexually abused his secretary. U.S. District Judge Samuel Kent was sentenced to 33 months Monday. He was also fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay \$6,550 in restitution to the two women whose complaints resulted in the first sex abuse case against a sitting federal judge. Kent could have received up to 20 years in prison after admitting to obstruction of justice, but prosecutors said they wouldn't seek more than three years under a plea agreement.

Texas school to teach Arabic

COPPELL, Texas (AP) - A proposed charter school in suburban Dallas will be among the few in Texas providing Arabic and French classes to elementary students, according to school organizers. Leaders of Manara Academy - which is scheduled to open in August in Coppell - say it's important to emphasize Arabic, especially when government officials are seeking more Arabic speakers. The Dallas Morning News reported, Arabic is one of the most commonly spoken foreign languages among children in the state, but most of the schools teaching Arabic are near Houston or in South Texas.

"There is a domestic demand for Arabic speakers, and there is a gap in Texas," said Ehab Sabri, president of the school's board. "We are providing an edge by teaching these two languages." School organizers said there are limited ways to learn Arabic, while Spanish dual-language schools are much more common in Texas.

Though leaders from the Islamic Center of Irving mosque have promoted the school, board members say it's open to everyone, not just Muslim students.

"We are not targeting a specific religion or a specific culture or background," said board member Michelle Alkhatib. "We're nonsectarian, nonreligious."

Charles Haynes, a senior scholar at the First Amendment Center, a non-partisan education foundation, said a number of Arabic and Hebrew-focused charter schools have popped up across the country in recent years. Haynes said that with such schools, leaders must be vigilant and careful not to choose language texts that promote any sort of religion.

Sabri, an industrial engineer originally from Jordan, said he was prompted to start a school after noticing many young students have weak math skills. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Dallas and the University of Texas at Dallas. He plans to transfer his daughter from

the private Islamic School of Irving into Manara Academy when it opens. The school will be located in a building that previously housed the Christ Our Savior Lutheran School.

The Texas State Board of Education approves charter schools, which are public and taxpayer-funded. Charter schools are subject to fewer state regulations than other public schools.

According to the Texas Education Agency, only about 300 students in Texas public schools took an Arabic class last year. Schools teaching Arabic include Bellaire High School in Houston, a foreign language magnet school and Dulles High School in Sugar Land, which has a substantial number of Muslim students.

Only one other school in North Texas reported teaching Arabic, Ai Faith Family Academy charter school, which was rated academically unacceptable last year.

At Manara, students will have the option of taking 30 to 45 minutes a day of Arabic or French. School organizers plan to enroll about 326 students in kindergarten through fifth grade this fall, with plans to expand the school to the eighth grade. Directors are recruiting students from nearby school districts, including Irving and Carrollton-Farmers Branch.

Organizers are modeling the school after Amana Academy, an Alpharetta, Ga., charter school that says it was the first public elementary school in that state to require Arabic when it opened in 2005. The school has students whose first language is Arabic and others whose first language is English.

The Coppell school's leaders hired the Georgia school's principal, Amaris Obregon. She previously has worked as a principal in the Spring Branch school district outside Houston and as a Spanish bilingual teacher.

Manara means beacon or lighthouse in Arabic, leaders say.

Energy futures ease; pump prices move higher despite flat demand

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - Energy prices eased Monday as investors appeared to second-guess a 10 percent surge in the value of crude last week on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Benchmark crude for June delivery fell 87 cents to \$57.76 a barrel. On Friday, the contract rose \$1.92 to settle at \$58.63 a barrel, the highest level this year, and about 80 percent above the \$32.40 per barrel reached on Dec. 19.

Retail gas prices, which have risen more than 15 cents a gallon in the last week, continued to move upward overnight.

Optimism over an economic recovery, or at least the belief that things may not get worse, have pushed energy prices higher with some expecting a rebound in demand. Oil prices have followed the stock market, which has soared since hitting bottom in early March with the Standard & Poor's

500 benchmark index up 37.4 percent.

The Dow Jones industrial average and the S&P 500 also were lower Monday with both indexes down about 1.5 percent.

Regardless, oil prices continue to rise even though demand has hit its lowest level since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Crude inventories are at their highest levels since 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

"They're buying just to buy into the momentum," said analyst and trader Stephen Schork.

"No one is looking at the fundamentals."

Prices at the pump continued to trek higher Monday, moving up 1.3 cents to a national average of \$2.226 a gallon, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. Prices are 17.4 cents higher than last week.

Prices are 17.4 cents higher than a month ago,

but more than 15 cents of that gain has come in just the last week. For motorists who had grown accustomed to \$2 gas, that rise has caught many off guard.

Rising pump prices are the norm for May, however, because refiners are switching over to more expensive blends of gasoline that are required to meet state and federal emissions requirements.

There are also refineries still operating at reduced levels due to annual maintenance, said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service.

One more reason why gas prices are rising: gasoline futures on Nymex have been rising on the same optimism that has boosted crude and equities markets. Reformulated gasoline traded in New York, the major trading center for both imports and domestic fuel, is up about a dime in the last week.

Kloza said gas prices may hit as high as \$2.30 a gallon before Memorial Day, but that should be the peak for the time being.

"Demand is flat. Supplies are very abundant, and there is awful lot of refining capacity that can be tapped," he said.

As fast as gas prices have risen, they remain far below last year at this time when a gallon of gas cost almost \$1.50 more. No one is predicting gasoline will get close to the \$4.11 national average reached last July.

In other Nymex trading, gasoline for June delivery fell by 4 cents to \$1.6675 a gallon and heating oil dropped 2.35 cents to \$1.4949 a gallon. Natural gas for June delivery slid 2 cents to \$4.292 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent prices fell \$1.87 to \$57.05 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

List by county of Texas swine flu cases

Texas has 185 confirmed cases of swine flu, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Texas officials. (The total number of confirmed cases includes a Mexico City boy who died in Houston but isn't in the county-by-county breakdown.)

CONFIRMED CASES: 185

- Bexar County: 32
- Brazoria County: 1
- Brazos County: 1
- Cameron County: 3
- Collin County: 3
- Comal County: 4

- Dallas County: 15
- Denton County: 2
- El Paso County: 17
- Erath County: 1
- Fort Bend County: 4
- Guadalupe County: 18
- Harris County: 11
- Hidalgo County: 1
- Jefferson County: 1
- Johnson County: 9

- Matagorda County: 1
- Montgomery County: 1
- Nolan County: 1
- Nueces County: 5
- Starr County: 2
- Tarrant County: 41
- Taylor County: 5
- Travis County: 4
- Wise County: 1

Critics try to undo futile care law

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - Those who want to extend the time some hospital patients may live before their life support is cut off are worried their proposal is running into a wall, and the clock, at the Capitol.

Legislation by Rep. Bryan Hughes and pushed by Texas Right to Life, best known for its anti-abortion views, requires life-sustaining treatment to continue for patients until a transfer to another medical facility can be arranged, if their family requests it.

Currently, hospitals can stop life support treatment after 10 days in certain cases if the patient is terminally or irreversibly ill and cannot express his or her wishes about treatment.

"No other state in the country has a law that Draconian," said Hughes, a Mineola Republican. "The balance of power is completely shifted against the patients and the families."

The Texas Medical Association, Texas Hospital Association and a number of individual hospitals oppose Hughes' bill.

Disabled activist groups, like the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities and Not Dead Yet of Texas, back Hughes' proposal, as does the American Civil Liberties Union.

All made their views known to the House State Affairs Committee. But no compromise has been reached among the interest groups, and there has been no committee vote. Time is running out for passing bills before the Legislature adjourns June 1. Several key House deadlines arrive this week.

If it doesn't win approval, Hughes' treatment-untill-transfer measure could stay alive if it's tacked onto related legislation - like an omnibus Medicaid bill, in the waning days of the session.

While critics call the Texas law extreme and restrictive, doctors and hospitals describe it as useful and unique. Among other things, doctors say, the law enacted in 1999 when George W. Bush was governor addresses the details of advance medical directives and holds medical officials accountable for honoring patients' liv-

ing wills.

"We knew it was a groundbreaking statute. It does so many neat things for patient care," said Dr. Robert Fine of Dallas, who favors the existing system and testified against Hughes' bill. He represented the Texas Medical Association and Baylor Health Care System.

The provision that gives a terminally ill patient's family two days' notice before a hospital ethics committee meets then 10 days before the termination of treatment, unless a court intervenes, is rarely used, hospitals say.

Typically, families and medical officials work together to reach a treatment decision and a transfer is arranged if the family wants it, Fine said, adding that in a few cases no facility can be found that will take the patient.

Opponents of the law say there is no incentive for hospitals to work to arrange a transfer, unless the news media or courts step in.

"All a hospital has to do is mark their calendar and fold their arms for ten days and they can pull the plug," Hughes said. "That wasn't the intent of the law, but that's what's happening."

Another House bill that would extend the 10-day cutoff by a few days has been filed, but hasn't progressed.

Hughes contends that in a couple of "ghastly" cases patients who were able to voice their preferences for treatment were ignored. Fine said he has seen no evidence of those cases, but said medical groups are willing to work to improve the law.

Fine noted that some anti-abortion groups back the existing law and that Texas Right to Life, which opposes it, was among the groups that helped craft it a decade ago. He said the criticism came about only after the case of Terri Schiavo, a Florida woman who was at the center of a highly publicized end-of-life case.

"This all has gotten wrapped up in post-Terri Schiavo politics," Fine said.

The philosophy of doctors is to "first do no harm" and to "comfort always," Fine said. In some cases continued treatment of a

terminally ill patient is aggressive and painful and merely prolongs inevitable death, he said.

Elizabeth Graham, director of Texas Right to Life, said her organization doesn't want medical officials making judgments on quality of life for families, who she said should have the time to transfer an ill loved one to another medical facility. She said 11 states have treatment-untill-transfer laws.

"The medical community is really beginning to make frightening decisions on who receives what kind of treatment," Graham said.

In the 2007 legislative session, Texas Right to Life and other interested parties reached a fragile compromise that proposed extending the 10-day limit

for cutting off life support to 21 days and built in some review hospital and court review periods. But that agreement broke apart and the bill died.

All the while, the life-and-death drama of 18-month-old Emilio Gonzales was playing out at Children's Hospital of Austin, where hospital officials wanted to discontinue his life support, despite his mother's opposition. The case was pending in court when Emilio died late in the legislative session.

This time there's no high-profile case in the news, only quiet maneuvers behind the scenes at the Capitol.

And it appears the adversaries couldn't be further apart.

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