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# The PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, August 10, 2010

Volume 105 • No. 380

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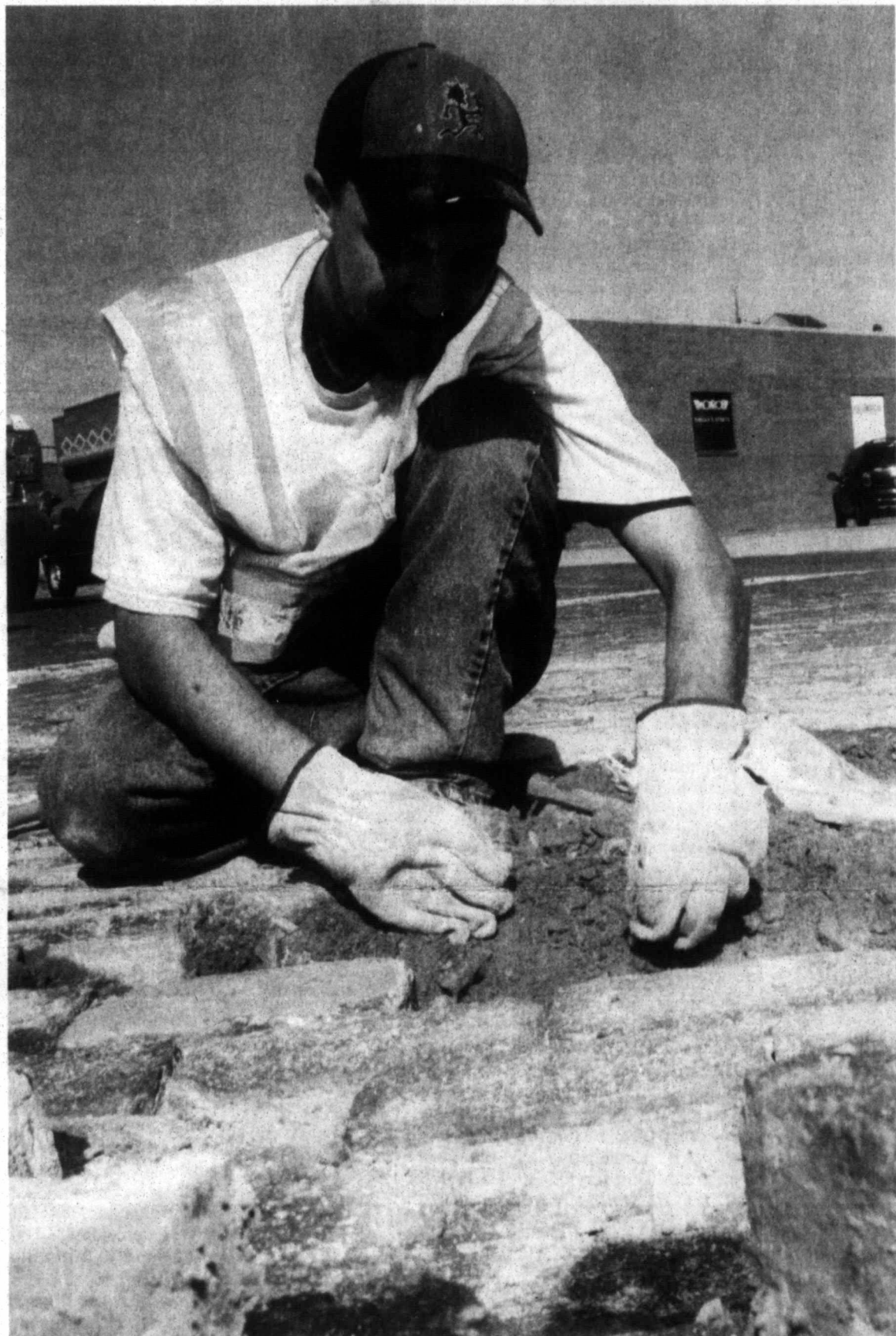
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## BRICK BY BRICK



Marshall Walsh of the city's street department was busy this week repairing dips on Pampa's historic brick streets along Foster Avenue.

## Skellytown Fire plans fundraiser

DAVID BOWSER  
dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Skellytown Area Volunteer Firefighters and EMS Association are planning a fall fundraiser in order to buy an ambulance.

Clayton White, Skellytown fire chief, said the city lost its ambulance in 2003, when the EMTs in town left.

Since then, White said, interest in acquiring an ambulance has been renewed because one EMT moved to Skellytown and four volunteer firefighters, including the chief, are going to school to get certified.

White said the fire department has joined with the City of Skellytown to split the ambulance's costs.

They are going to purchase a used ambulance from White Deer. The vehicle will be available because White Deer is upgrading its ambulance service and selling its old ambulance, he explained.

The money from next month's fundraiser will go toward the purchase of the ambulance and training the EMS crews.

"It's very expensive to send somebody to school," he acknowledged.

White said the fall fundraiser will be Saturday, Sept. 4, at the Skellytown football field following a 10:30 a.m. parade.

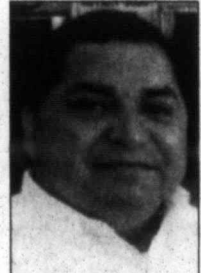
There will be a barbeque cook off, featuring chicken, ribs and brisket. The barbeque will be served to the public at the community center beginning at 4:30 p.m. Two bands, Casey Berry and the Live Texas Mosquitoes and the Tommy Gallagher Band, will take the stage beginning at 8 p.m.

White said there will be a Kid's Zone set up starting about 11 a.m. with face painting and blow up facilities.

The fire department will have games including water volleyball and horseshoes in the afternoon, White said.

## Clarendon's Jaramillo excited about fall, long term VP reiterates commitment to Gray County despite Auvenshine departure

ARNIE AURELLANO  
editor@thepampanews.com



Jaramillo

It's a busy time of year at Clarendon College Pampa Center, with fall registration under way and the 2010-2011 school year just around the bend.

Raymond Jaramillo, vice president of Clarendon College Pampa Center, said that a strong fall registration period is an encouraging sign of what's to come.

"We don't have our final registration numbers yet so I really can't give you those, but from what I'm seeing, I think we're in for a really good semester," said Jaramillo.

"We're seeing a lot of kids come in," he added. "It looks like we're going to have another good class this fall, and that's only going to help."

Jaramillo said that he's also

excited about the continuing relationship between the college and the Pampa Independent School District, a bond that he and his staff have been working hard to forge over the last few years.

"It's something that's important to us," he said. "As far as our dual credit enrollment, we're seeing it steadily improving."

"Last spring, we had pre-registration (at the high school) for dual credit for the fall semester, and we had 156 (sign-ups). Last year, we had 104, so we're seeing those numbers go up."

Jaramillo added that the college is looking to add some new

**"We have a long-term commitment to Gray County, and it's not hard to see what Gray County offers."**

— Clarendon College Pampa Center Vice President Ray Jaramillo

continued education programs aimed at careers in medicine and emergency services.

"We're looking at starting a safety training program," said Jaramillo, "as well as some new EMS and EMT programs. We're still rounding out some issues yet, but we're expecting that those will be ready for this semester."

Jaramillo reiterated that Clarendon College has a long-term dedication to Pampa and the Gray County commu-

nity even as the school goes through a transition period, as Clarendon College President Bill Auvenshine announced in June that he intends to resign at the end of 2010.

"Restating what (Auvenshine) said at the Rotary Club last week, Gray County is an opportunity for growth for Clarendon College," Jaramillo said. "We have a long-term commitment to Gray County, and it's not hard to see what Gray County offers. CLARENDON cont. on page 3

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# For the record

## PAMPA FORECAST

| Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  |
|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |
| High 96<br>Low 68   | High 98<br>Low 70   | High 98<br>Low 70   |

**Today:** Isolated showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly cloudy, with a high near 96. South southwest wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Tonight:** Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Wednesday:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 98. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 98. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 70. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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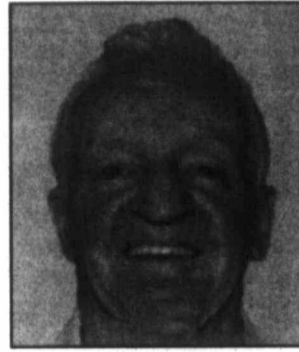
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## Obituaries

### Jerome J. (Jerry) Werner



Jerome J. Werner

SKELLYTOWN — Jerome J. (Jerry) Werner, 91, died August 9, 2010 in Skellytown, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Werner was born in 1918 in Chicago, Illinois. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army, serving 2 1/2 years in the Aleutian Islands and 2 years state side. He was discharged in October of 1945 as a staff sergeant.

He was employed as a foreman for the City of Chicago Water Department and later as a building inspector for the City of Phoenix until his retirement in 1980.

Jerry enjoyed motorcycles, sail boating, hunting, fishing, as well as target shooting with his sons. He took five meticulous years to build his own cabin cruiser in order to take his family fishing. Reading was his favorite hobby, especially as he aged and was no longer able to participate in physical activities. Jerry will be missed by those who loved him.

Survivors include: his wife of 51 years, Dolores "Dee" Werner; son, Claude Werner; stepson, Warren Kayler, Jr. and wife Gwyn; daughter, Elaine Dunbar; stepdaughter, Susan Kayler; 5 grandchildren, Jimmy Blaylock and wife Tonya, Samantha Wheeler and husband Bronn, Kayla Iacovino, Matthew Larson and Steven Kayler; 4 great-grandchildren, Chelsea Pierson, Brody Blaylock, Lily Kayler and Mason Kayler.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com)

### Ruby Lorene Tollison

Ruby Lorene Tollison, 95, died August 9, 2010 in Amarillo, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Tollison was born January 13, 1915 in Okemah, Oklahoma. She was a 1931 graduate of Lone Wolf High School in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, and a graduate of Draughan's Business College in Okla-



Ruby L. Tollison

homa City, Oklahoma. Ruby worked as an accountant for 38 years in Oklahoma City until her retirement in 1973 when she moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas where she resided for 32 years before moving to Pampa in May of 2005.

She married Ira Cleetis Tollison on September 8, 1937 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death on January 28, 1998. She was also preceded in death by her father: Percy Irwin Montgomery in 1945; and her mother: Dovie Pack Montgomery in 1961. In addition, she was preceded in death by seven brothers and six sisters.

She was an active member of National Park Christian Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and transferred her membership to First Assembly of God Church when she moved to Pampa.

Survivors include five nieces, Donna Anderson and husband Frank of Pampa, Lorene Wright and husband Archie of Stratford, Dixie Nielsen of Grass Valley, California, Roma Jo Quick of Hutchinson, Kansas, and Helen Hovator of Wichita, Kansas; one nephew, Billy Joe Van Meter and wife Carolyn of Menifee, California; and a large number of great-nieces and great-nephews.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com)

### Karen Sue Brantley Ayala

Karen Sue Brantley Ayala, 54, died August 9, 2010 in Pampa, Texas.

Memorial services will be scheduled at a later date. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Ms. Ayala was born January 19, 1956 in Pampa where she attended Pampa schools. She received her LVN from Frank Phillips College in Borger. She was a nurse in Pampa, Phoenix, Arizona and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Survivors include her brother, Louis Brantley and wife Virginia of Pampa; sister, Olivia Howard of Minneapolis, Minnesota; 1 niece and 3 nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorials are to a favorite charity.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com)

### Bernadine Glassey

CHICKASHA, Okla. — Bernadine Glassey, 82, died on August 8, 2010 in Pampa, Texas.

Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at Sayre-Doxey Cemetery in Sayre, Oklahoma, with Rev. Bobby Glassey, her son, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa, Texas.

Mrs. Glassey was born April 6, 1928 in Clinton, Oklahoma. She married R. V. Glassey on May 19, 1946 in Gem City, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death on April 3, 1983. She had been a resident of Chickasha since 1974. Bernadine was passionate about reading her Bible and working crossword puzzles. She was always there for her family when they needed her, and she gave many years of patience, understanding and guidance.

Survivors include 4 daughters, Patricia "Ann" Glover and husband Loyd, Jessie Rush and husband Robert, and Valonda Richardson and husband Jay, all of Chickasha, Oklahoma, and Frances Thredgill and husband John of Pampa, Texas; a special adopted daughter: Verlie "Little Bit" Perez; 2 sons, Bobby Lee Glassey and wife Lisa of Marshall, Texas, and Rusty Glassey of Chickasha, Oklahoma; special friends: Clarence and Wanda Wright; 16 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Bernadine was preceded in death by 2 sons, Ernest Glassey in 1959, and Rodney Wayne Glassey in 2009.

Memorials include Odyssey Hospice, 6900 I-40 West, Suite 150, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

Sign the online register at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com)

### Stanley Edward Burnham

LEESBURG, Va. — Stanley Edward Burnham, 84, of Leesburg, Virginia, passed away Saturday, July 24. Born September 2, 1925 in Fredericktown, Missouri, he was the son of the late Council Adair

North Somerville.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2300 block of North Navajo, in the 2400 block of Fir and in the 100 block of West 30th.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 100 block of East Nicki.

**Saturday, Aug. 7.**  
Domestic disturbances

Burnham and Florence Mercer Burnham.

Stan is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Anne (Mapes) Burnham. He was a devoted father to his children Jennifer Kemp of Charleston, SC, James Burnham (wife Melody Thomson) of Winston-Salem, NC, Susan Takesian (husband Walter) of Leesburg, VA, John Burnham (fiancée Denise Brown) of Ashburn, VA, Sarah Speer (husband Charles) of Oakton, VA and the late Stanley Patrick Burnham. He was the adored grandfather of Jackson Speer, Rebecca and Geoffrey Burnham, and Anne and George Takesian and is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Stan was the youngest brother of Lola Chalfant, Norma Burnham, Rex Burnham, Leslie Burnham, Irene Ward and Calvin Burnham, all of whom predeceased him.

Stan served in the United States Army Air Corp and Air Force as an Aircraft Observer Navigator in the Pacific and in the Korean conflict, attaining the rank of First Lieutenant. While stationed in San Angelo, Texas, he met Anne Mapes, the love of his life.

Stan obtained his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and completed many post graduate business courses.

Stan enjoyed a long career with Cabot Corporation, working in various capacities including senior positions in Cabot's Gas Pipeline and Production division in Charleston, WV and Amarillo, TX; as the plant manager of the Pampa, Texas carbon black plant; and as controller of the carbon black division worldwide at Cabot's Boston headquarters. He and Anne moved to Charleston, SC after his retirement from Cabot in 1987.

Stan's greatest joy was spending time with his family. He was an avid reader and enjoyed golf, tracking the financial markets, music and his wife's cooking.

Arrangements by Loudoun Funeral Chapels, 158 Catoctin Circle, SE, Leesburg, Virginia 20175. Memorial service and interment will be held privately. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 11240 Waples Mill Road, Suite 4, Fairfax, VA 22030 or to a charity of one's choice. To share memories of Stan, please visit [www.loudounfuneralchapel.com](http://www.loudounfuneralchapel.com).

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of South Jean and in the 2700 block of Navajo. An assault was reported to police. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of East U.S. Highway 60. A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of North Starkweather.

## LAST MINUTE ADS

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

**ATTENTION LEFORS ISD Students, Registration & Schedule pick up, Thurs. Aug. 12, 9-4. Transfer applications are due by Aug 19. Mrs. Porter, 835-2533.**

**GRAY CO. Latchkey, Inc.** welcomes old & new families to our Early Enrollment on Aug. 16, 2-6 p.m., at Lovett Mem. Library north entrance.

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## AFTERNOON RUSH

### House approves border security

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a rare moment of bipartisanship Tuesday, the House approved \$600 million to pay for more unmanned surveillance drones and about 1,500 more agents along the troubled Mexican border.

Getting tougher on border security is one of the few issues that both parties agree on in this highly charged election season. But lawmakers remain deeply divided over a more comprehensive approach to the illegal immigration problem, and it's unclear if Congress will go beyond border-tightening efforts.

The House passed the bill by an unrecorded voice vote after brief debate. The Senate passed an identical bill last week by unanimous consent. But senators must act again, for technical reasons, before sending the bill to President Barack Obama for his signature.

Some House members urged the Senate to act quickly, without waiting for Congress's summer recess to end in mid-September. It was unclear Tuesday whether that would happen.

### Murder for customs officer

EDINBURG (AP) — A U.S. Customs officer is scheduled to be charged with murder over the shooting death of the owner of a south Texas bar while the lawman was off duty.

The Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office says Jose Elizondo faced arraignment Tuesday in the death a day earlier of Fermin Limon, owner of the Punto 3 Night Club in Mission.

Authorities say Elizondo and his brother were thrown out of the club for fighting with another man.

Elizondo allegedly went to his truck, returned with his government-issue weapon and shot Limon twice. Elizondo told investigators he thought the 49-year-old Limon had a gun.

### Houston bus crashes into building

HOUSTON (AP) — Both drivers suffered minor injuries after the front of a Metro bus in Houston ended up lodged in a vacant building following a collision with an SUV.

The front of the bus remained stuck in the former day care center early Tuesday.

Houston police are trying to determine whether one of the vehicles ran a red light in the accident around 7 p.m. Monday.

Metro spokeswoman Raequel Roberts says both drivers had non-life threatening injuries and they were talking at the scene.

Roberts says a city building inspector was expected to check the structure before the bus, which did not have any passengers on board when the wreck happened, is removed.

### Four get prison for mailed weed

McALLEN (AP) — A federal judge in McAllen has sentenced four illegal immigrants to prison for using the U.S. Postal Service to mail marijuana.

The U.S. Attorney's Office on Tuesday announced the sentences for 42-year-old Leopoldo Perales-Rodriguez, 22-year-old Juan Carlos Hernandez, 27-year-old Victor Hugo Mares and 46-year-old Margarito Gallardo. All four lived in Mission.

Each pleaded guilty last summer to conspiracy to distribute marijuana through the postal system.

Chief U.S. District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa on Monday sentenced Perales-Rodriguez to 42 months in prison. Hernandez received a 27-month term. Prison terms of 30 months were ordered for Mares and for Gallardo.

Prosecutors say the packages mainly were mailed from south Texas to Connecticut, New York, Florida and Puerto Rico.

### Afghan war casualties spike

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The number of civilians killed in the Afghan war jumped 21 percent in the first half of 2010 compared with the same period last year, with insurgents responsible for the spike, the United Nations said in a report Tuesday.

Shortly after the U.N. released its report in Kabul, two gunmen with explosives strapped to them tried to storm the office of an international security company in the capital. When guards fought back, the men detonated their explosives, killing two Afghan drivers.

The U.N. report showed a reduction in civilian casualties from NATO action, but the overall rise in deaths indicated that the war is getting ever-more violent — undermining the coalition's aim of improving security in the face of a virulent Taliban insurgency.

"The human cost of this conflict is unfortunately rising," said Staffan De Mistura, the top U.N. envoy in Afghanistan. "We are very concerned about the future because the human cost is being paid too heavily by civilians. This report is a wake-up call."

### Death toll rises in Asia disasters

ZHOUQU, China (AP) — The death toll from landslides in northwestern China more than doubled to 702 Tuesday, as rescue crews in three Asian countries struggled to reach survivors from flooding that has imperiled millions.

Rescuers digging by hand through mud found a 52-year-old man who had been trapped for more than 50 hours inside a leveled apartment building in the remote town of Zhouqu, where more than 1,000 other people were still listed as missing.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari returned home to a storm of criticism after visiting Europe as his country was gripped by the worst floods in its history. His arrival Tuesday came as thousands of people fled a major city in central Pakistan as rivers threatened to submerge the area.

And rescuers in the desert mountainsides in Indian-controlled Kashmir recovered more bodies, with the death toll rising to 165 from flash floods. Thousands of army and paramilitary soldiers continued clearing roads and removing the debris of hundreds of homes flattened in the Ladakh region.

### Groom accidentally kills guests

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The state-run news agency says a groom has killed his father and two aunts after opening fire into the air with an automatic weapon to celebrate his wedding.

The Anatolia news agency says eight other relatives were injured during Sunday's celebration in the southeastern province of Gaziantep.

It says the groom lost control of the weapon and accidentally aimed at guests. He was arrested.

It is tradition in Turkey to shoot into the air to celebrate weddings, circumcisions or sports victories. Turkey has failed to curb the practice despite imposing harsher punishments to cut down on stray bullet accidents.

## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



staff photo by Randy Pribble

The Pampa Youth and Community Center held an open house Saturday commemorating the facility's 50th year of service to the community. Among those on hand to great people and offer tours were board members (top photo, from left) Greg Thomas, Dr. Jay Johnson, Sally Waite, Carol Cofer, Ray Duncan, Benny Kirksey, Dr. Joe Donaldson (who was also the board's first president), and Jimmy Stone. Photo at right — PYCC Assistant Manager Cullen Allen and Manager Lee Garcia.



## Gulf relief well down to final 100 feet

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The relief well being drilled to ensure crude never again spills into the ocean from BP's paralyzed well in the Gulf of Mexico has been dubbed the ultimate solution to the drama that's unfolded over the past three months.

It's the final, suspenseful act as one man guides a drill more than two miles beneath the sea floor and three miles from the surface, trying to hit a target less than half the size of a dartboard. The drill is about as wide as a grapefruit, and the target now lies less than 100 feet away.

If John Wright misses, other BP engineers will pull the drill bit up, pour concrete in the off-track hole and then try again. Wright is 40-for-40, though, having helped capped wells across the world in four decades of engineering work. And he seemed confident in a June video put out by BP that he could make it 41-for-41.

"Out of 40 relief wells that I've drilled, we've never missed yet," said Wright. "I've got high confidence we will take care of this problem as soon as we can get there."

Work began during the weekend to finish drilling the well, and company and government officials say they could hit their target as early as Friday. If it hits, engineers will perform a "bottom kill" by pouring in mud and cement to permanently seal the blown-out well that's spewed an estimated 207 million gallons since April.

In three months, the relief well has been run more than 17,900 feet from its rig. But drilling the final stretch, a section slightly longer than the distance from third base to home on a baseball field, will be a time-consuming and careful process.

Crews dig about 20 to 30 feet at a time, then run electric current through the relief well. The current creates a magnetic field in the pipe of the busted well, allowing engineers to calculate exactly where and how far they need to drill.

A "static kill" last week pushed mud and cement into the top of the crippled well, leaving very little chance oil could leak into the Gulf again, said retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the government's point man overseeing the cleanup operation. Neither he nor BP officials

have been willing to declare victory yet — but Allen said that day isn't far off.

"This step, in our view, will permanently seal the well," he said Monday.


Finishing a relief well can be tricky. It took five tries last fall for crews trying to stop a blown well in Australia to hit the target.

But the area around this well has been thoroughly mapped and carefully tracked, said Eric Smith, associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute.

"I think they know exactly where they need to go," Smith said. "I think they can get this on the first try."

BP, however, has only emphasized the caution being used and won't talk about its chances of hitting the target the first time.


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Precious Memories make Precious Gifts

2115

cont. from page 1

"We have oil. We have gas. We'll have wind. We have a good relationship with Pampa High School and Pampa Learning Center. We have a strong program here, and there's no point in changing that. Dr. Auvenshine has assured me that he's going to talk to whoever the new president will be and make sure that we don't see any changes here in Pampa."

# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 10, the 222nd day of 2010. There are 143 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 10, 1846, President James K. Polk signed a measure establishing the Smithsonian Institution.

### On this date:

In 1680, Pueblo Indians launched a successful revolt against Spanish colonists in present-day New Mexico.

In 1792, during the French Revolution, mobs in Paris attacked the Tuileries Palace, where King Louis XVI resided. (The king was later arrested, put on trial for treason, and executed the following January.)

In 1809, Ecuador struck its initial blow for independence from Spain. (Ecuador achieved independence in 1822.)

In 1821, Missouri became the 24th state.

In 1885, Leo Daft opened America's first commercially operated electric streetcar, in Baltimore.

In 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt was stricken with polio at his summer home on the Canadian island of Campobello.

In 1969, Leno and Rosemary LaBianca were murdered in their Los Angeles home by members of Charles Manson's cult, one day after actress Sharon Tate and four other people were slain.

In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Ten years ago:** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, defying the United States by being the first head of state to visit Iraq since the Gulf War.

**Five years ago:** A defiant Iran resumed full operations at its uranium conversion plant. President George W. Bush signed a \$286 billion transportation bill.

**One year ago:** While attending a North American summit in Mexico, President Barack Obama predicted that Congress would pass his sweeping health care overhaul in the fall as more "sensible and reasoned arguments" prevailed.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Rhonda Fleming is 87. Singer Eddie Fisher is 82. Singer Ronnie Spector is 67. Actor James Reynolds is 64. Rock singer-musician Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) is 63. Singer Patti Austin is 62. Country musician Gene Johnson (Diamond Rio) is 61. Actor Daniel Hugh Kelly is 58. Folk singer-songwriter Sam Baker is 56. Actress Rosanna Arquette is 51. Actor Antonio Banderas is 50. Rock musician Jon Farriss (INXS) is 49. Singer Julia Fordham is 48. Journalist-blogger Andrew Sullivan is 47. Singer Neneh Cherry is 46. Singer Aaron Hall is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lorraine Pearson (Five Star) is 43. Singer-producer Michael Bivins is 42. Actor-writer Justin Theroux is 39. Actress Angie Harmon is 38. Country singer Jennifer Hanson is 37. Actress JoAnna Garcia is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nikki Bratcher (Divine) is 30. Actor Ryan Eggold is 26. Actor Lucas Till is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "A man may fulfill the object of his existence by asking a question he cannot answer, and attempting a task he cannot achieve." — Oliver Wendell Holmes. American author (1809-1894).

## ATTENTION, TALIBAN:

JOHN COLE  
OFFICIALS, TALIBAN  
SILHOUETTES, 12  
CARACTERS, 10/10



## Messin' with the comics is not funny

Messing with the comics is not funny.

At least that is what I've always been told by other publishers who have done so.

Nevertheless, we want you to help us reevaluate our comics page.

Longtime readers no doubt have their favorites. Even a casual survey of newspaper employees here in our office turned up "Marmaduke" fanatics and people who think "Peanuts" is sacred writ. "B.C.," though, not so much and "Hagar the Horrible" has almost a non-existent fan base among the discerning newspaper employee sub-group.

However, you, dear readers, are the people we aim to please and, in general, people get very irate at the thought we might drop their

favorite cartoon strip. So why mess with it?

Well, if you take a look at our comics page, you find some strips that are a bit long in the tooth. I'm not sure when the last time any changes were made on our comics page, but certainly before I arrived on the scene.

And there are some new cartoonists out there that perhaps our local readers would really enjoy if given the chance.

At any rate, there are no definite plans to change anything yet.

What we want to do is introduce



RANDY PRIBBLE

you — our readers — to a few more of the strips available on the market and get some feedback.

For a couple of weeks, beginning the last week of this month, we will also run a page of new strips — new in the sense that we have not carried them in this newspaper before.

We want you to let us know what you think, preferably by e-mail.

If you can't live without "For Better or Worse," let us know. If you think "Blondie" is stuck in the past, let us know. If you like some of the new strips we run, by all means, let us know.

Our goal is to make the comics page better.

Randy Pribble is the publisher of The Pampa News. He can be reached via e-mail at rpribble@thepampanews.com.

## Sifting through the unemployment news

The new unemployment numbers were released Friday by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics and on the surface the rate is unchanged at 9.5 percent. However, there's a lot that can be discerned about what's really going on by looking just below the surface.

Total non-farm payroll employment declined by 131,000 jobs this past month. That means the figure doesn't include consultants or freelance people, like myself, who aren't part of a regular payroll, as well as people working on a farm of any kind. However, private sector payroll employment jumped up, which is great news, by 71,000 jobs.

The difference between those two figures is all of the federally employed census workers whose job expired. They were artificially raising the employment rate through the spring and summer, which we knew was going to happen and we knew that it would come to an end.

So, the rate of unemployment by the federal government for long-term hires stayed the same. However, the private sector of small to mid-size businesses and corporations hired some new people. Since that's the place most of us will find a new job that's great news. The rock is rolling in the right direction.

The numbers for people who have been out of work for 27 weeks or more and are still searching, long-term unemployed, remain unchanged as well as those who involuntarily switched from full time to part time employment. Those who have been out of work the longest are still not getting hired, which means it's probably time to get help with the resume, the how-to's of a job interview and to open

up the spectrum of jobs a bit wider.

At some point we have to face the possibility that it's a bad economy but we may be playing a part in it too. We can ask for some help and guidance and then be willing to just do it without all of the blather about why we can't change.

There is also some good news buried in that 9.5 percent unemployment rate. Manufacturing added 36,000 jobs mostly in the car industry, which is also good news for the rest of us because manufacturing jobs tend to have a nice roll-out affect for the rest of us.

People buy news cars, which spurs the industry to hire people to build something who then have money to spend at other businesses who then have to order more stuff for their shelves who then turn back to manufacturing.

The hardest part of recovering from a recession is getting that cycle to just start. The fact that it's starting mostly in one of the hardest-hit areas, automotive, is even further reason to believe that the deepest parts of the recession are over. That doesn't mean the climb out isn't going to take awhile.

This is a lot like eating greasy, sugar-filled food till you're a hundred pounds overweight and then devoting another year or more of hard work to lose the extra poundage. The slide into obesity probably took longer but we didn't have to take contrary actions that required work so we never noticed the time



MARTHA CARR

slipping away from us. Same deal here.

Other sectors showing signs of recovery are healthcare, which added 27,000 jobs and warehousing and transportation, which added 56,000 new employees since February.

The sector that is still lagging behind is professional and business services, which makes sense because the more highly skilled people aren't as needed until there's more money to spend. As Americans cut back further and further just trying to stay afloat they whittled away till there was nothing left but the basics and they've been slow to start spending much since. Frankly, considering what our baseline was for percentage of income devoted to spending that's probably a good thing.

Here's where part of the hard work is going to have to happen so we can all get back to work. Things aren't going to return to where they were in December of 2007 regardless of who we elect because we were out of control and operating on a system of mortgage and financial lies, both on the big level of Wall Street and the personal level of our own household budgets.

Therefore, we're going to have to accept that our disposable income, the splurge and acquire portion, may always be smaller. We may actually have to learn how to get our happiness fix from the relationships around us because they're free and within our budget.

Martha Randolph Carr is a nationally syndicated columnist, speaker and author.

## THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065  
806-669-2525  
Fax: 806-669-2520

**Randall Pribble**  
Publisher  
rpribble@thepampanews.com

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ReDonn Woods<br>Advertising Manager<br>rwoods@thepampanews.com          | Amie Aurellano<br>Editor<br>editor@thepampanews.com         |
| Sue Pribble<br>Advertising Representative<br>spribble@thepampanews.com  | David Bowser<br>Reporter<br>dbowser@thepampanews.com        |
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| Kera Kent<br>Circulation<br>circulation@thepampanews.com                | Marcus Elkins<br>Press Supervisor<br>press@thepampanews.com |
| Carrie Hair<br>Accounting<br>bookkeeper@thepampanews.com                | Chico Ramirez<br>Circulation Supervisor                     |

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to The Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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To ensure 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.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.

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# Mexico, US question legalization proposal

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A former Mexican president's proposal to legalize drugs as a way of breaking drug cartels' economic power is stoking debate in Mexico and opposition in Washington.

When former President Vicente Fox wrote in a blog Sunday that "we should consider legalizing the production, distribution and sale of drugs," it was the most far-reaching and high-ranking stand for legalization yet in Mexico. More than 28,000 people have died during the current administration's war against drug cartels.

One thing most experts agree on is that the idea is unlikely to prosper without similar moves to legalize or regulate the sale of drugs in the United States, the main consumer of drugs from Mexico.

The U.S. State Department said Monday "the question of debating the legalization of drugs is for Mexicans to decide." But a State Department spokeswoman also said that the department's position is that "we don't believe legalization is the answer."



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been romantically involved with my best friend, "Ray," for three years. We dated for a couple of years 14 years ago. He got a girl pregnant right before we started dating, and they ended up getting married and having four more children. We remained friends and began seeing each other after they divorced three years ago.

Ray says he has always been in love with me and should have married me. We're very close and spend as much time together as we can.

For the past year I have been asking when I'll meet his children. He keeps saying I need to be patient and when the time is right I can. We live in different cities.

Ray is a great dad -- very involved in his children's lives. He has them during the week, and on weekends, coaches basketball for his son, and takes them to their different activities, etc. I understand they are his first priority. I just wish he'd include me in that part of his life.

Ray says he wants to marry me. We discuss it often and plan on living together in the near future. I feel he doesn't want me to be a part of his life that involves the children. They range in age from 13 to 3 1/2. They know I exist because he has my picture by his bed, but he says they don't ask about me. Am I being "too" patient? -- REALITY CHECK IN KANSAS

DEAR REALITY: Are you absolutely certain that Ray is divorced? It seems strange to me that after three years you still haven't met his children. Or does he plan to have you move in and "surprise" them? That would be a big mistake.

If my suspicions are wrong and Ray is on the up and up, tell him you need him to set a definite timeline. You have been patient long enough.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin "Cassidy" met a man I'll call "Lenny" online and they started dating. When I met him a few months later, I recognized him as the man who had sexually assaulted two women I knew in college. He was convicted of these crimes, did time in jail and is a registered sex offender.

I was horrified and unsure about how to tell Cassidy. It turns out Lenny told her before they started dating, but she chose to date him anyway. They were married at the courthouse two years ago, a few weeks before my own wedding. I did not invite Lenny, and my cousin posted a nasty message online about it. When we are at family functions, I ignore him as much as I possibly can.

Although their marriage is not a good one, Cassidy is planning a formal wedding in a few months. I am torn. I don't support this, and besides, they are already married. If I don't attend, I'm afraid it will cause a big rift in my family.

Should I suck it up and put myself in a situation that makes me sick to my stomach? Or should I stay away with the possibility of upsetting those I care about? -- RELUCTANT RELATIVE IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR RELUCTANT RELATIVE: Your cousin already knows how you feel about her husband because you tried to warn her. Unless you're as good an actress as Meryl Streep, your family cannot have missed the fact that you avoid him as often as possible. If the idea of attending the upcoming performance gives you an upset stomach, do everyone a favor and stay away. And if anyone gives you heat, be upfront about the fact you think she's making a mistake and would feel like a hypocrite if you went.

## OFFSEASON HELP



submitted photo

Pampa Head Baseball Coach Kaleb Snelgrooes (right) receives a donation from Fenton Motors General Manager Justin Smith at the Ford Dealership's showroom.



## CENTRAL BAIL BONDS II

Kenneth Knowles *Founder*

Angela Burgher *Owner*

Larry Ingram *Area Manager*

Central Bail Bonds II will continue to operate with the same pride and traditions set by the late Kenneth Knowles. Central is a privately owned company providing bail bonds services for the North Central and West Texas area. New owner Angela 'Knowles' Burgher will follow in her father's footsteps of running the Largest Bail Bond business in Texas which was founded in 1978.

Larry Ingram has been the area manager for the Pampa area since August 1997. The Pampa office covers 9 counties, which include Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Carson, Gray and Wheeler. On average, Larry drives over 50K miles yearly. Barbara Brogdon, secretary/agent since November 1999 handles the paperwork and backup for Larry. Together they make a great team to serve all your bail bond needs.

Forty offices and seventy agents makes Central Bail Bonds II the largest private surety in Texas. Central provides jail release, assistance, supervision, and guidance to those who qualify for bail under the eighth amendment and can secure the release of defendants in every state on all types of bonds. Central will put up the total bond and charges a fee. The fee is set on percentage of the bond amount.

Central Bail Bonds II has bilingual agents, which service the non-English speaking citizens. All area agents are equipped with cell phones to provide the fastest possible release 24 hours a day.

As a privately owned company Central Bail Bonds II provides this public service at no cost to the taxpayer. The use of our service reduces your taxes.

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THAN NOT KNOW US AND NEED US.**

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**PAMPA**  
315 N. Somerville  
806-665-7716

**Larry Ingram**  
Agent

## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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| 8 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
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Level: Beginner

# COMICS

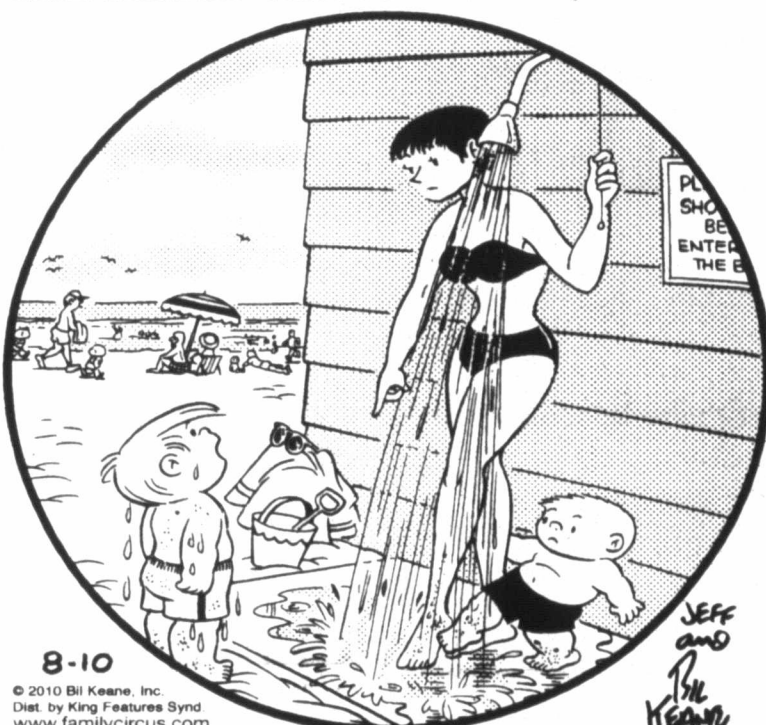
Marmaduke



"His begging is the secret to my diet."

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"But why do I need a shower? I just came out of the OCEAN!"

## For Better Or Worse



Zits



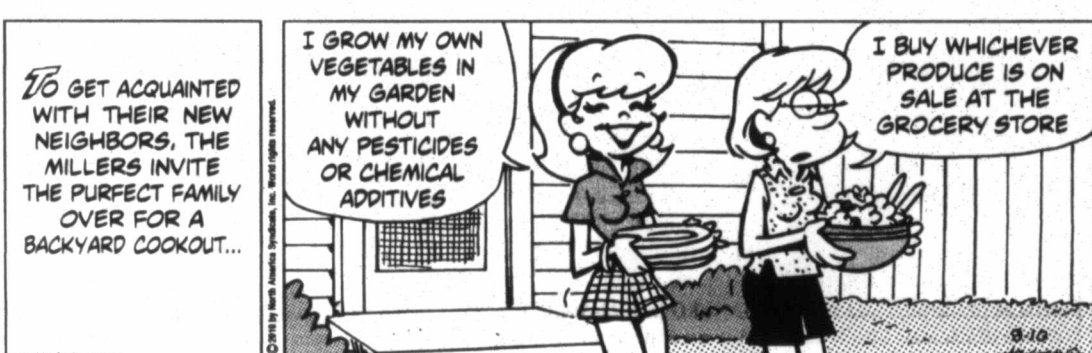
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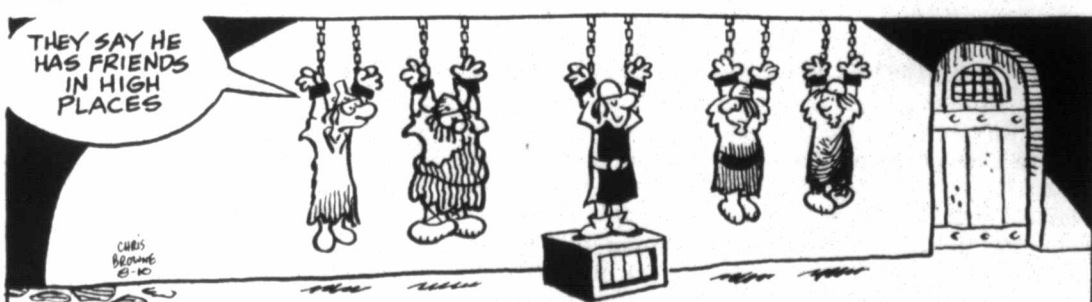
Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



## Daily Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Knocker's cry
- 7 "Very funny!"
- 11 Stealthy
- 12 Oklahoma city
- 13 Loyal buddies
- 15 Brew maker
- 16 Ninny
- 18 Sunrise spot
- 21 Winter wear
- 22 Ogle
- 24 Cobbler's tool
- 25 Crate
- 26 Cherbourg chum
- 27 Café's cousin
- 29 Flight part
- 30 Bangkok native
- 31 Storage building
- 32 Musical pace
- 34 Remote function
- 40 Toledo setting
- 41 "Bye!"
- 42 Spanish cat
- 43 Peaceful
- DOWN
- 1 Not working
- 2 Casserole
- 3 Overhead trains
- 4 Pinhead
- 5 Not qualified
- 6 Sassy
- 7 Donkey sound
- 8 Columnist
- 9 Cealed
- 10 TV spots
- 14 Moun-taineer's tool
- 16 Namely
- 17 Joe of The Eagles
- 19 Use the rink
- 20 Domesti-cated
- 21 Taxi
- 22 Sticky stuff
- 23 Waiting bonus
- 25 Short
- 28 Skin art
- 29 Bridal party
- 31 Bender
- 33 Forest growth
- 34 London weather
- 35 Cry of insight
- 36 Use the couch
- 37 Pro vote
- 38 Friend of Harry and Hermione
- 39 Bill word

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### Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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# Sports

## Conditioning plan prepares alumni team for Borger

**ANDREW GLOVER**  
aglover@thepampanews.com

When Pampa alumni team captain Ramon Martinez was playing at West Texas A&M in 2003, he was introduced to a conditioning plan. This workout plan, he said, has turned around college teams like the Arizona State Sun Devils and NFL clubs like the Philadelphia Eagles.

When it came to coming up with a workout plan for Saturday's game against Borger's alumni team, then, Martinez knew which one he wanted to use.

Martinez said it's basically a lot of running.

"We run a mile on Mondays, hundreds on Tuesdays... two miles on Thursdays and forties on Friday," Martinez said. "As the weeks progress, more increments are added. The mile and the two mile stay the same but more hundreds and forties will be added."

Alumni team member David Robinson said the plan has worked well for the team and has helped them get back in shape.

"Most of us hadn't played football in 10 years at the least," Robinson said. "Probably 20 years. Once you get out of high school, you think that you are going to

keep running and in shape. Nine times out of ten you don't. You go to the couch and that's as far as you go. When he (Martinez) introduced this workout, not only is it good for this game, it's good just in general."

Martinez said the workout will help them keep their stamina for a whole game.

"The best thing of the workout is training for four quarters and be in tip-top shape to last four quarters," Martinez said. "It's not just one quarter, you've got to play for four full quarters."

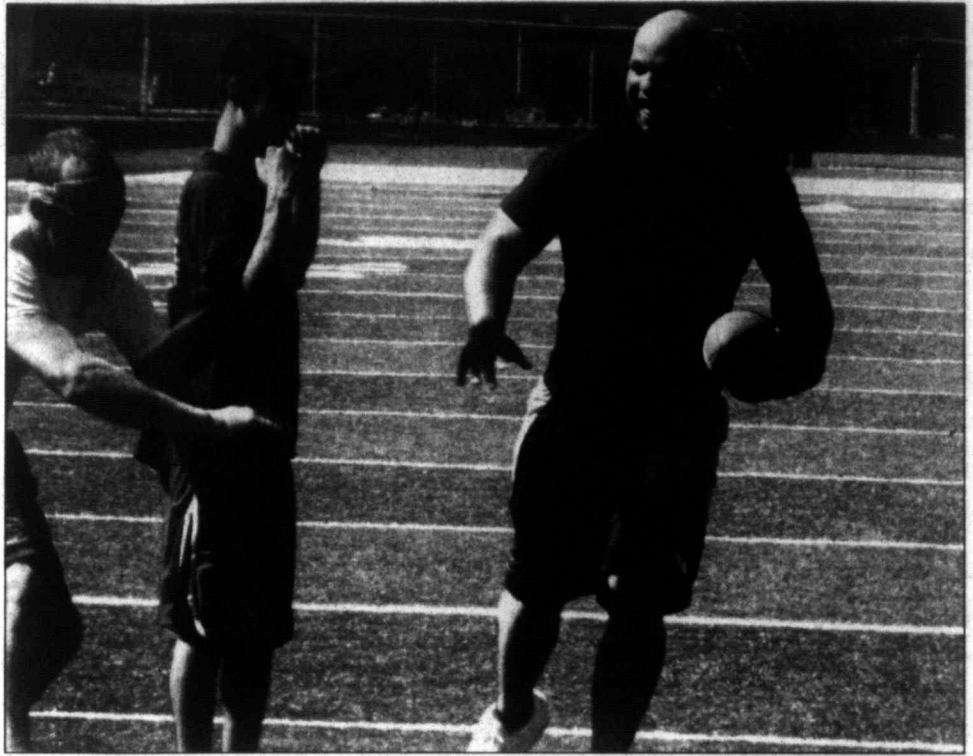
Robinson said the workout has helped the team's endurance in practice on Saturdays.

"If you see us practice early on, we had guys bailing out for some reason after 30 to 45 minutes of practice," Robinson said. "Now we have bigger numbers staying later."

Marques Long said it's tough for the team to only have one practice per week but the workout plan has helped.

"Things have gone better," Long said. "The workout plan has been good. It's good to stay in shape whether you're prepping for something like (the alumni game) or not."

Pampa plays Borger at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets can be bought at the PHS athletic office.



Marques Long runs towards the end zone in one of Pampa's alumni team practices. The team did a condition plan that featured increased amounts of running during the week to prepare for the game.

staff photo by Andrew Glover



Jason Roark throws a pass to Ramon Martinez (not pictured) in practice.

staff photo by Andrew Glover

**We want your photos!**

If you travel with local teams to local events, The Pampa News could use your photos!

Send your unedited photos to Andrew Glover at aglover@thepampanews.com the night of the game or first thing the morning after. Please include player identification. The Pampa News does not guarantee publication.

# Welcome Back!

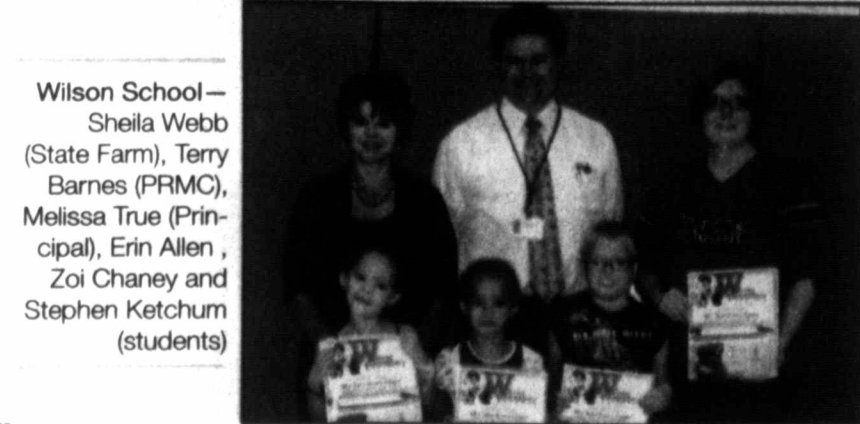
**PISD Elementary School students** will receive special folders when they return to class this fall that they can use to take homework assignments and papers home for their parents to view and sign. These folders will be presented free to each student, courtesy of *The Pampa News*, Pampa Regional Medical Center, Happy State Bank, Sheila Webb—State Farm Insurance, Memory Gardens Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa, Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center, Keyes Pharmacy and Sonic. Below, representatives of some of the advertisers were on hand when students and principals got a preview of the new folders.



Lamar School—Cameron Hair (student), Ms. Jan Cleek (principal) and Jazmyn Hair



Travis School—Terry Barnes (PRMC), Jill Faubion (principal), Sheila Webb (State Farm), Sierra Winkler and Maria Ramon (students)



Wilson School—Sheila Webb (State Farm), Terry Barnes (PRMC), Melissa True (Principal), Erin Allen, Zoi Chaney and Stephen Ketchum (students)



Austin School—Merlin Rose (Keyes Pharmacy), Sheila Webb (State Farm), Dianne Jennings (Booster Club of Austin), Beverly Underwood (Principal), Kaydan Stidham, Cayson Steward and Autumn Woods (students)

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