

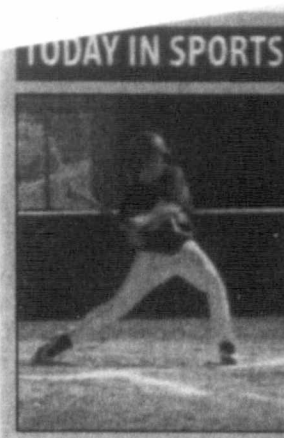
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# The PAMPA NEWS



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**Pampa by a hair**  
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Tuesday, April 12, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 6 75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

## Create-A-Beat Spring Fling set for Saturday

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

Create-a-Beat's Spring Fling fundraiser will begin Saturday morning at 1607 N. Banks with a 5K and 10K run.

The runs will be at 9 a.m., and there will be a 'Fun Run' at 10 a.m., according to Julie Long with Create a Beat.

For non-runners, she said there will be a craft show, car

show and silent auction beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday.

A hot dog and hamburger lunch will be available beginning at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

Long said there would be entertainment throughout the day, including the Pampa High School Show Choir.

All proceeds will go to help Create-a-Beat help the kids of Pampa, Long said. Funds will go towards, among other

things, Create-A-Beat's After School ARTS Program (ASAP), which has had a waiting list of interested kids since mid-August. Create-A-Beat also holds a Summer Arts Program and a Summer Drama Camp, with fee waivers and reductions available to kids from troubled families.

Such financial aid is possible through community support through Create-A-Beat's fund-

raisers, Long said.

"That means that if you want to help bless the children of Pampa," Long said, "just come and support Spring Fling, and you'll not only be helping the kids, but I promise you that you will have a fabulous time in the process."

This is the second annual Spring Fling for Create-a-Beat, with last year's inaugural Fling **FLING** cont. on page 5

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## D-I-Y PROJECT

staff photo by David Bowser

**Terry Brown of the City of Pampa** checks the grade on Rham Street behind Hampton Village. Ordinarily, the city would have contracted with a privately-owned company to pave the street, but in a money-saving move, the city is doing the smaller paving projects in town itself.

## CRMWA to meet Wed. in Plainview

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority will meet in Plainview Wednesday to hear updates on the level of Lake Meredith and the status of the water authority's wellfield expansion.

Last week, the water authority announced that it intended to buy 211,000 acres of water rights from T. Boone Pickens' Mesa Water for \$103 million.

The board of directors will hear an update on the purchase, which is expected to be completed by July or August.

They will also hear a quarterly financial report and approve the general operating and maintenance budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The board will also hear updates from the National Park Service and Kent Satterwhite, the general manager of the water authority, concerning reserve storage, the water level at Lake Meredith, administrative activities, salinity control project, water quality and system operations.

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority consists of 11 communities in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, including Pampa. The board of directors will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, at the Plainview Country Club, 2902 West Fourth Street in Plainview.

Pampa representatives to the water authority are Jerry Carlson and Rex McKay III.

## City tax intake up again

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The City of Pampa continues to increase the amount of money it takes in from sales taxes.

"It's typically slower for this month," said Robin Bailey, Pampa's director of finance.

The month of which she speaks is February, the last month reported by the Texas Comptroller's Office for sales tax receipts.

The city received a total of \$301,070 back from the state as its part of the sales taxes.

Of that, \$75,267.68 goes to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation. The remainder goes into city coffers.

The receipts for February were 0.26 percent above the budgeted amount.

"It has been higher," Bailey said.

For January, the receipts were almost 16 percent above the expected amount.

The City of Pampa received \$225,803.03 for the month.

That brings the total for the fiscal year to \$1,378,323.81, well **TAXES** cont. on page 5

## Prisons go through audit; re-accreditation Thursday

**DAVID BOWSER**  
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Rufe Jordan and Bill Baten Units of the Texas Department of Corrections are going through the American Correctional Association's auditing process this week.

Ana Steele, a spokesman for the prisons said today that units throughout the country go through the auditing process every two years.

The audits are normal procedure for correctional facilities to continue receiving recognition as being ACA accredited. Standards for accreditation are nationally accepted as a model to promote improvement in the management of correctional facilities across the country.

There will be a ceremony for local officials marking the re-accreditation at 11 a.m., Thursday, at the Rufe Jordan Unit Administration Building, 1992 Helton Road.

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### PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday



High 78  
Low 42

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 43. Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 42. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. Windy, with a west northwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 37. Windy, with a north northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 63. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 33. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

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## Texan treasures Civil War collection

WHITE SETTLEMENT (AP) — This week's 150th anniversary of the opening salvos of the Civil War at Fort Sumter is history that Ray Richey can light a fuse to GÇö literally.

After all, he might be the only man in America who's building an addition to house five Civil War artillery pieces.

He has also collected locks of hair from Confederate Gens. Robert E. Lee and Jeb Stuart, Union Gen. Ulysses Grant's ceremonial sword, a Rebel soldier's blood-stained Bible, bullet-pocked battle flags and an arsenal of weapons on display at his nonprofit museum in White Settlement.

"He has the world's finest Civil War collection. It's truly amazing," says Don Frazier, a history professor and Civil War expert at McMurry University in Abilene. "It's as good as the visitors center at Gettysburg."

Richey, 55, "absolutely hated" history when he was growing up in Wichita Falls, but a visit to the Smithsonian 25 years ago opened a window to the past that he jumped through.

Richey and his wife, Judy, soon started buying antiques to accessorize their home. But when he went to a Civil War show in Virginia to find a musket and sword to decorate his office, he was a "goner."

"I saw all this cool stuff, and I couldn't believe it. It just whacked me upside the head," said Richey, who owns an oil and gas company he started in 1978.

"Fanatical" is how his wife laughingly describes it, but that fervor has resulted in an extraordinary multimillion-dollar collection that the couple shares at the Texas Civil War Museum, a 15,500-square-foot facility that opened in 2006.

A 3,500-square-foot addition will provide space for his cannons and storage for Judy's collection of 300 Victorian-era dresses.

"I was convinced that in order to be with my husband I had to play museum so I got my collection to complement his collection," said Judy Richey, who met Ray at a church camp when she was 16.

The museum, which includes exhibits on loan from the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division, bills itself as the largest collection of Civil War artifacts west of the Mississippi.

Richey's accumulation stands out in another way. "Most collectors are hoarders," Frazier said. "It tends to be very personal, and they are very reticent about sharing it. Ray puts his out there in the public for educational purposes."

Dennis Lowe, director of Civil War auctions for Dallas-based Heritage Auction Galleries, said Richey "knows

what he's doing and he has the wherewithal to do it. It's very unusual. Lots of collectors have more money than they can spend but they don't do their research.

"It's a very treacherous world to be in the high-end collection world. Ray pays top dollar, but he gets top dollar. Everything in that museum is fantastic."

Richey's office, a short walk across a parking lot from the museum, is cluttered with artifacts.

Casual and unassuming, Richey lights up when he unlocks the door to a storage room loaded to the ceiling with boxes of uniforms worn by everything from privates to generals. A plastic jar full of Minie balls sits on the floor a few feet away from a medical corps backpack packed with original bandages.

One shelf holds a dozen revolvers and about 20 swords, including one carried by Gen. Philip Sheridan. There are enough long guns to outfit a small troop.

"Some of these guns might have fired a thousand times. Your imagination goes wild," he said.

But these aren't anonymous weapons. Provenance is everything. The value, he says, is "that this guy carried that gun."

Leaning against the walls are some of Richey's 52 Civil War flags, including his latest prized addition — Jeb Stuart's personal flag that was sewn by the cavalry commander's wife and then partially burned when it fell into a campfire.

He's also got Stuart's sword.

"That's a biggie for me because he carried it every day. It was the sword he loved, given to him by his aide. When you have stuff from this caliber of men, it's pretty special."

There are an estimated 70,000 to 80,000 collectors of Civil War artifacts, and competition is keen.

"It's more difficult now. It's not a treasure hunt anymore," Richey said. "People know what things are worth. It has evolved from Grandpa's cartridge box going for \$100 to it selling for \$10,000 at auction."

Lowe said Civil War collecting is the most active segment in the country.

"Civil War stuff is all over the place. It keeps turning up," he said. "When you start hitting six figures, it's amazing what comes out of the woodwork."

Richey wants to add more artillery to the armory, but the couple plan to eventually donate their collections to the museum.

"I've made a lot of money in the oil business, but except for what supports my family, every penny is here," Ray Richey said.

"I don't buy for investments; I buy it because I love it. This is the history of the greatest nation in history."

## Obituaries

### Nora Paulette "Polly" Hinsons, 65

With mixed emotions, we announce the peaceful passing of Nora Paulette "Polly" Hinson, 65, of Pampa, as she ascended to heaven to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. She passed away in Amarillo, on Friday, April 8, 2011, due to complications from a stroke.

Mrs. Hinson was born October 21, 1945, in Plainview, to Moyzell Zonia and Paul Louis Garrison. She married Charles Julius Hinson on October 5, 1963, in Plainview. She was employed by Pampa ISD in the food service department and by the Salvation Army.

Polly enjoyed good food, socializing, old movies, the outdoors with her grandchildren and bird watching.

She will be missed by her husband of the home; daughters, Tammy Rodriguez and her husband Shaun of Pampa, Tonja Stephenson and her husband Jason of Pampa, Tina Hinson of Pampa, and Theresa Hardy and her husband James of Pampa; son, Paul "Bubba" Hinson and his wife Tonya of Pampa; sister, Pat "Sissy" Bowley of Plainview; brother, Frank Garrison of Joplin, Mo.; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, 2011, at the Salvation Army Church located at 701 S.



Hinson

Cuyler, in Pampa, with Captain Martin of the Salvation Army officiating.

Instead of sending flowers, the family request donations to be made to the Salvation Army in Pampa or to Odyssey Hospice in Amarillo.

### George Donald Crossman, 81

George Donald Crossman, 81, formerly of Pampa, and resident of Patterson, La., passed away on Monday, April 4, 2011, at his residence.

George is survived by his wife of 61 years, Nancy Brummett Crossman of Patterson; one son, Jim Crossman and wife Lisa of Pampa; one daughter, Judy Crossman Landry and husband Wayne of Metairie, La.; four grandchildren, Jennifer Crossman Clark and husband Jon of Pampa, Zach Crossman and wife Marcie of Las Vegas., Stacia LeRay and husband Curtis of Houma, La., and Sean Guillotte and fiancé Courtney of Patterson, La.; four great-grandsons; one great-granddaughter; two sisters, Barbara Crossman Carothers of Pampa, and Ann Crossman Green and husband Ray of North Richland Hills.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Jan Crossman Duck; and his parents, Spence and Mary Exa Cullepper Crossman.

Memorial services for Crossman were held Thursday, April 7, 2011, at the First Baptist Church of Patterson. Burial will be held at a later date in Pampa.

To leave the Crossman family condolences, please go to [www.lberts.com](http://www.lberts.com).

## For the record

### Police Department

The Pampa Police Department

reported the following incidents in the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Police reported 24 traffic-related incidents.

Animal Control Officers reported nine animal-related incidents.

Pampa EMS reported five ambulance calls. Lefors Volunteer Fire Department reported one medical call.

#### Monday, April 11

A alarm was reported in the 2400 block of North Cherokee.

Officers made a welfare check in the 300 block of Henry.

Fraud was reported to police.

Officers assisted a motorist in the 300 block of West Albert.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of South Christy and at 21st and Hobart.

An alarm was reported in the 2100 block of Wiliston.

Officers assisted a motorist at McCullough and Barnes.

A runaway was reported in the 1300 block of North Terrace.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of North Duncan.

An alarm was reported in the 100 block of South Hobart.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

A violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 400 block of North Lefors.

Officers performed a welfare check in the 1000 block of East Fisher.

Officers assisted another agency in the 900 block of North Mary Ellen.

An alarm was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported at One Medical Plaza.

The Pampa Fire Department reported a hazardous material spill in the 1200 block of West Oklahoma.

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

Tuesday, April 12

Officers assisted another agency in the 1000 block of South Wells.

The burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 800 block of North Hobart.

### Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

#### Monday, April 11

Matthew Riley Archibald, 33, was arrested by police on charges of possession of a controlled substance greater than one gram but less than four grams.

Bobby Lynn Pierce, 19, was arrested by deputies on a warrant charging him with violation of probation in connection with evading arrest.

Frederick Antonio Jackson, 34, was arrested by deputies on a blue warrant issued by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to pick up a parolee.

# AFTERNOONRUSH Campus handgun bill delayed again

## Governor to view fire damage

LUBBOCK (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry was headed to West Texas today to view areas devastated by wildfires that have blackened tens of thousands of acres, destroyed dozens of homes and left one firefighter critically injured.

Perry will visit a staging post in the town of Merkel in Taylor County, which has not been hit by the raging flames, before taking an aerial tour of the surrounding ravaged counties, according to a news release.

The statement did not specify where Perry's helicopter trip would take him, but nearby Tom Green County has lost some 11,000 acres to the flames, while nearly 17,000 acres have burned in Midland County and more than 103,000 acres in Stonewall, Knox and King counties. Another blaze in Presidio County destroyed 40 homes over the weekend.

Wildfires have burned about more than 915 square miles at least 107 homes have been destroyed since Feb. 22, Craft said. Fires that have blackened about 80,000 acres in Presidio County and 25,000 acres in Brewster County continued to burn Tuesday but no communities were in immediate danger, he said.

## Firefighter critically burned

LUBBOCK (AP) — A firefighter is hospitalized after being critically burned while battling a wildfire in the Texas Panhandle.

A nursing supervisor at University Medical Center in Lubbock says Cactus firefighter Elias Jacquez remained in critical condition Tuesday.

Jacquez suffered third-degree burns over 60 percent of his body Saturday while fighting a fire that charred 60,000 acres about 40 miles north of Amarillo.

Moore County Emergency Management spokesman David Garrett says the wildfire is thought to have started from electric lines, but it hasn't been determined whether the power lines fell or just sparked during strong winds.

## Mexico asks for help with fires

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican government is asking for help from the United States and Canada to put out two large fires in an area close to the border with Texas.

Mexican Environment Secretary Juan Elvira Quesada tells The Associated Press that the fires are about 60 miles (100 kilometers) from the border and are spreading aggressively to the southeast, away from the border.

Elvira said Monday that he sent a letter to the U.S. Embassy asking for heavy tanker airplanes that can unload fire retardants. Mexico also requested aid from Quebec.

Mexican Environment Department spokesman Ruben Romero said that fires had spread over nearly 245,000 acres (99,000 hectares) of pastureland and desert vegetation in several townships of the northern state of Coahuila by Monday afternoon.

## Ex-Laredo officers gets prison

LAREDO (AP) — A South Texas police officer convicted of conspiring to safely escort loads of smuggled cocaine through Laredo is going to prison.

A federal judge on Monday sentenced 28-year-old former Laredo Officer Orlando Jesus Hale to nearly 25 years behind bars.

A jury in September convicted Hale of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, plus using a firearm to further drug trafficking, over 2008 crimes.

Investigators say Hale was nabbed in an undercover investigation involving his personal vehicle and a police-issued radio to monitor traffic to guide and protect loads of cocaine.

Hale resigned from the police force following his conviction.

## Plan to expand charter schools

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate's Education Committee has approved a plan to expand charter schools in Texas.

The measure would allow the State Board of Education to authorize 10 new open-enrollment charter schools a year. The new law would also allow existing charter schools to add new campuses without requesting approval.

The bill was authored by state Sen. Dan Patrick, a Houston Republican. Current law limits the number of charter schools to 215. The Texas Legislature authorized charter schools in 1995 to operate with fewer legal restrictions than regular public schools to allow for innovation.

The new measure would also allow the State Board of Education to authorize an unlimited number of charter schools focused on educating children with disabilities.

The bill now goes to the full Senate for a vote.

## Bill to circumvent U.S. DOJ

AUSTIN (AP) — Some Texas Republicans want to get around the U.S. Department of Justice during the redistricting process.

A House committee on Monday heard a bill that would send any redistricting or Voter ID bills straight to a three-judge panel in Washington, D.C. for "pre-clearance" under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The law requires Texas and other states, mostly in the south, to get federal approval before making major election law changes.

The bill by GOP Rep. Phil King would require the state to get approval for redistricting and Voter ID changes from a federal court - not President Barack Obama's Justice Department. King said the department is too liberal and can't be trusted to give a fair ruling in the redrawing of political boundaries. Democrats called the bill misguided and unfair.

The House Elections Committee also heard various bills impacting voter registration rules. One would allow the state to register voters online. Other measures sought to cut down on voter fraud in the registration process, including legislation that would make it a felony for non-citizens to register to vote. The bills were left pending in the committee Monday night.

check us out online @ [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com)

AUSTIN, (AP) — Efforts to allow concealed handguns in college classrooms stalled in the Texas Senate for a second time yesterday, leaving a measure that seemed headed for approval now struggling to survive.

The measure's Republican sponsor, Sen. Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio, said he didn't have the necessary support to call the bill for a vote. Wentworth would not predict if or when he would try again.

"I'm hopeful this is a bump in the road," Wentworth said. "I don't have a very clear crystal ball."

The Senate had passed a similar bill in 2009 and Wentworth had assumed he'd get it through the chamber again. With more than 80 lawmakers in the 150-member House already signed as co-authors and Gov. Rick

Perry supporting it as well, many expected the bill would sail into law.

Supporters of allowing Texas concealed handgun license holders, who must be 21 and pass a training course, to carry their weapons into classrooms call it a critical self-defense measure and gun rights issue. Critics worry adding guns to campus life will lead to more violence and suicides.

The bill first ran into problems last week when it came up one vote shy of the 21 needed for a floor vote. Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Houston, who originally supported the bill, changed his mind after college administrators in his district complained about the potentially high cost of liability insurance and adding security.

Gallegos also asked teachers he knows to poll their students.

"(They) overwhelmingly

wanted me to vote against the bill," he said Monday.

Opponents said the bill may now be doomed.

"I hope so," said Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston. "It's a bad idea."

Supporters of the legislation argue the mass shootings at Virginia Tech in 2007 and Northern Illinois in 2008, and other campus violence such as rape and assault, show the best defense against a gunman is students who can shoot back.

"I want to give law-abiding citizens a reasonable means of defense beyond duck and hide," Wentworth said.

But similar measures have failed in about two dozen states since 2007. Texas became a prime battleground for the issue because of its gun culture and its size, with more than 500,000 students at 38 public universities.

Texas higher education

officials have opposed the bill and legislative hearings have been dominated by testimony from students and professors on both sides of the issue.

"There's still a lot of support out there," said Daniel Crocker, spokesman for Students for Concealed Carry on Campus. "There is a human cost. That human cost is going to be borne by those who are unable to defend themselves."

Several former University of Texas students who survived the 1966 campus shootings by sniper Charles Whitman have testified against the bill. Jim Bryce was a 25-year-old Texas student when he was pinned down by Whitman's gunfire and saw three friend shots.

"I don't think we're on the frontier like my great-grandmother was," Bryce said.

## Judge affirms \$350 million State Farm refund

AUSTIN (AP) — A state judge in Austin ruled Monday that State Insurance Commissioner Mike Geeslin was within his authority when he ordered State Farm Insurance to refund about \$350 million to ratepayers for excessive premiums charged as early as 2003.

State District Judge Tim Sulak ruled after hearing two hours of arguments from attorneys for the state insurance department, the Office of Public Insurance Counsel and State Farm, according to The Dallas Morning News.

"There is substantial evidence to support the commissioner's decision, and

the decision is upheld," Sulak declared.

State Farm spokesman Kevin Davis tells The Beaumont Enterprise that the company plans to appeal Sulak's decision.

"We believe our rates are fair and competitive," he told the newspaper.

Geeslin issued the order in November 2009 in what was then a 6-year-old case in which regulators ordered the company to cut its rates 12 percent.

Public Insurance Counsel Deeya Beck, who represents consumers, has argued that State Farm should refund almost \$1 billion, according to the Dallas newspaper.

State Farm, however, contends it owes nothing.

State Farm writes more homeowners policies in Texas than any other company, having 28.8 percent of the market. The next biggest is Allstate with 9.2 percent, Jerry Hagens, a Texas Department of Insurance spokesman, told

Beaumont newspaper.

The battle started in 2003 when the Legislature authorized the insurance department to regulate rates. The commissioner ordered 32 companies to cut rates, and all but State Farm have complied, Hagens told The Enterprise.

## Comptroller mistakenly posts public records

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The personal information of about 3.5 million Texans - including addresses and Social Security numbers - was mistakenly posted on public servers controlled by the state comptroller's office and remained there in some cases for more than a year, the agency said Monday.

March 31 but only notified those agencies it affected Monday. He said it took several days for the agency to prepare to notify all the people involved, adding, "we had to make sure we were thorough in our analysis and preparation for this."

The information affected was in data transferred by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

The Teacher Retirement System data was transferred in January 2010 and had records of 1.2 million education employees and retirees, while the Texas Workforce Commission had data on about 2 million individuals listed in an April 2010 information transfer. The records of about 281,000 state employees and retirees were included in an Employees Retirement System's transfer from last May.

The comptroller's office will begin issuing letters Wednesday notifying those people whose personal information was mistakenly made acces-

"I deeply regret the exposure of the personal information that occurred and am angry that it happened," Combs said.

Agency spokesman R.J. DeSilva said people who were involved in the incident were dismissed but that he couldn't say how many because of human-resource rules.

The personal data was contained within folders on a comptroller FTP site separate from its main page - one that contained hundreds of folders, DeSilva said. Some of those folders were security-protected and could only be accessed by state agencies, while others were open to the public.

The personal information was "on a portion of the page where anyone could look," he said.

Jerry Strickland, a spokesman with the state attorney general's office, said officials had contacted the FBI to assist in a criminal investigation that began last week. Strickland said he couldn't comment on whether the information had been misused, citing the active investigation.

DeSilva said officials discovered the problem



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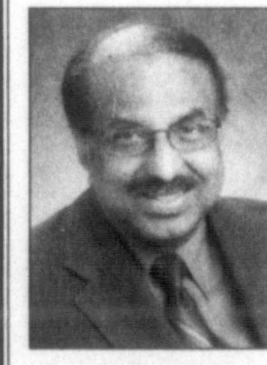


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Katrina Bigham .....	898-8510
Donna Courter .....	595-0779
Twila Fisher (BKR) .....	440-2314
John Gaddard (BKR) .....	595-1234
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5465

### Please join us for


## Parkinson's Disease Community Meeting

**When:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 6:30 PM

**Where:** Accolade Home Health, 1224 N. Hobart in Pampa, Texas.

**For Whom:** All Parkinson and movement disorder family members in the Pampa area. The Parkinson Foundation of Oklahoma is hosting this event to educate the public and bring together all area families afflicted with Parkinson's Disease and other movement disorders.

**Jim Keating, Director of the Parkinson Foundation of Oklahoma** will facilitate the meeting. You will learn how to better understand Parkinson's Disease, and find information that can help you. Refreshments will be provided. The meeting is offered as a community service by Accolade Home Health Care at no charge. For more info, call Jim Keating at 405-810-0695 or e-mail [jm@parkinsonoklahoma.com](mailto:jm@parkinsonoklahoma.com).



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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 12, the 102nd day of 2011. There are 263 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began as Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter in South Carolina. (The Union troops holding the fort surrendered the following day.)

**On this date:**  
In 1811, fur traders employed by John Jacob Astor began building Fort Astoria in present-day Oregon.

In 1877, the catcher's mask was first used in a baseball game, by James Tyng of Harvard in a game against the Lynn Live Oaks.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Ga., at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1960, Candlestick Park in San Francisco first opened, with Vice President Richard Nixon throwing the ceremonial first pitch. (The San Francisco Giants went on to defeat the St. Louis Cardinals, 3-1.)

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on its first test flight.

**Ten years ago:** The 24 crew members of a U.S. spy plane arrived in Hawaii after being held for 11 days in China.

**Five years ago:** Jurors in the Zacarias Moussaoui trial listened to a recording of shouts and cries in the cockpit as desperate passengers twice charged panicked hijackers during the final half hour of doomed United Flight 93 on 9/11.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama opened a 47-nation nuclear summit in Washington, boosted by Ukraine's announcement that it will give up its weapons-grade uranium.

**Today's Birthdays:** Country singer Ned Miller is 86. Actress Jane Withers is 85. Actor Charles Napier is 75. Jazz musician Herbie Hancock is 71. Actor Frank Bank ("Leave It to Beaver") is 69. Rock singer John Kay (Steppenwolf) is 67. Actor Ed O'Neill is 65. Author Tom Clancy is 64. Actor Dan Lauria is 64. Talk show host David Letterman is 64. Author Scott Turow is 62. Singer David Cassidy is 61. Singer Pat Travers is 57. Actor Andy Garcia is 55. Country singer Vince Gill is 54. Rock musician Will Sergeant (Echo & the Bunnymen) is 53. Rock singer Art Alexakis (Everclear) is 49. Actress Alicia Coppola is 43. Actor Nicholas Brendon is 40. Actress Shannen Doherty is 40. Actress Marley Shelton is 37. Actress Jordana Spiro is 34. Rock musician Guy Berryman (Coldplay) is 33. Actress Claire Danes is 32. Actress Jennifer Morrison is 32. Contemporary Christian musician Joe Rickard (Red) is 24.

**Thought for Today:** "Future years will never know the seething hell and the black infernal background of countless minor scenes and interiors, (not the official surface courteousness of the Generals, not the few great battles) of the Secession war; and it is best they should not—the real war will never get in the books." —Walt Whitman, American author and poet (1819-1892)

## The PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525

Fax: 806-669-2520

**Randall Pribble**  
Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

**ReDonn Woods**  
Advertising Manager

woods@thepampanews.com

**Sue Pribble**  
Advertising Representative

spribble@thepampanews.com

**Beverly Taylor**  
Classified Advertising

classified@thepampanews.com

**Kera Kent**  
Subscriptions

circulation@thepampanews.com

**Carrie Hair**  
Accounting

bookkeeper@thepampanews.com

**Chico Ramirez**  
Circulation Manager

Circulation2@thepampanews.com

**Arnie Aurellano**  
Editor

editor@thepampanews.com

**David Bowser**  
Reporter

dbowser@thepampanews.com

**Andrew Glover**  
Reporter

aglover@thepampanews.com

**Marijane Kent**  
Composing

composing@thepampanews.com

**Marcus Elkins**  
Press Supervisor

press@thepampanews.com

The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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## GOP gets its turn on Medicare hot seat

**RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**  
Analysis by the Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Now it's their turn to try to fix the health care mess. Republicans, just like President Barack Obama, may discover that's easier said than done.

The GOP budget expected to go to the full House this week would remake health care programs for the elderly and the poor that have been in place for nearly half a century. Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., says his approach would "save" Medicare by keeping the financially troubled program affordable for federal taxpayers.

But it turns out that people now 54 and younger would pay the price.

By one authoritative estimate, they'd be on the hook for most of their own health care costs after they become eligible for Medicare as retirees. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the typical beneficiary would be expected to pay more than two-thirds of his or her medical costs by the year 2030.

Costs wouldn't come down, they'd just get shifted.

"It's a political nonstarter," said health care consultant Robert Laszewski, a former insurance executive and strong critic of Obama's overhaul. "It kills Medicare as we know it, and that is simply too popular a program among seniors and their children."

Cue the Democratic political ads for the 2012 campaign.

Republicans may escape the full wrath of seniors, however, since the House budget isn't likely to get very far. It won't pass the Democratic-run Senate. House members can vote for the budget's tough medicine without having to dish it out before they run for re-election. But Democrats running against them in 2012 won't let voters forget the budget, just as Republicans hammered Democrats last year over Medicare cuts in Obama's health care law.

Whatever happens to his budget, Ryan's general idea that seniors should bear more direct responsibility for decisions that affect health care costs isn't going away.

"If everybody who bought health care was paying more when they get a more expensive plan, that would create a lot more pressure to bring costs down," said Mark McClellan, who ran Medicare for President George W. Bush. "There's reason to think that reforms that engage beneficiaries in getting less costly care will make a difference."

The principle behind Ryan's plan is that seniors making their own decisions about health insurance can do a better job of keeping costs in check than Washington bureaucrats playing whack-a-mole with rising prices.

That's different from the approach in Obama's health care law, which relies on government to police the market and would deny insurers that jack up premiums the right to sign up customers who are receiving taxpayer subsidies.

The GOP budget "will preserve Medicare through competition among health plans for the business of millions seniors," said Ryan.

But would it work as envisioned? Under Ryan's plan, Medicare would remain largely the same for current beneficiaries and people within 10 years of retirement. The biggest change for this group would be the revival of the "doughnut hole" gap in Medicare prescription coverage that Obama's health care law eliminated. (The GOP budget calls for repeal of the new law.)

Then, starting in 2022, new retirees would get a fixed amount of money to buy private insurance from a choice of plans regulated by the government. The sick would get more money, the wealthy less. The payment would be adjusted for inflation.

Ryan calls his approach "premium support." Critics call it the voucher plan.

The Congressional Budget Office analysis suggested the new system would start running into problems right away.

Buying the Medicare benefit package from a private insurer would turn out to be significantly more expensive. Medicare typically pays hospitals and doctors less than private insurance. Without some kind of effort to control private health care costs, the govern-

ment contribution toward premiums wouldn't go very far.

"I don't believe you can pursue this approach for Medicare and not at the same time address the problem of cost growth in the private health care sector," said economist Robert Reischauer, a former budget office director. "To do so would result in a two-tier health care system." Reischauer says he's sympathetic to the voucher system in principle, just not this version.

Ryan had developed an earlier form of his proposal jointly with a prominent Democratic economist, Alice Rivlin, a former vice chair of the Federal Reserve. Although Ryan publicly cited her in unveiling his plan, Rivlin said she doesn't support this version.

The government health care payment in the GOP budget would quickly fall behind medical inflation, Rivlin said. "Ryan has lowered the growth rate so that it's really punitive," she added. Rivlin also says seniors should be given a choice between staying in traditional Medicare and a voucher system.

She also differs with Ryan on raising taxes. "You can't do it all on the spending side, because the cuts required are Draconian," Rivlin said.

Despite the political risks Republicans take with their Medicare remake, they won't get much in savings over the 10-year estimating window that Congress applies to the budget. It's because the shift to a new system doesn't come until 2022.

That's not the case with Medicaid. The health care program for the poor would be turned over to the states and spending cut by more than \$700 billion over time.

Although the GOP's 2012 budget reduces total government spending by more than \$5 trillion over a decade, that still wouldn't bring the federal budget into balance.

One of Obama's top advisers, David Plouffe, says the president this week will offer his own plan for reducing long-term spending. The details will come from Obama, Plouffe says, although the adviser acknowledges that cuts to Medicare and Medicaid will be necessary.

## What 'boots on the ground' really means

Commonweal is almost certainly the best American magazine you never heard about. Accurately presenting itself as "an independent journal of religion, politics and culture," the "little" magazine (usually 32 pages) edited for 87 years by lay Catholics brims with ideas and arguments guaranteed to make you think and to make you uncomfortable.

In the March 25 issue of Commonweal, I read a short piece by Brian Doyle that made me cry and that will not let go of me. Doyle is the editor of Portland magazine of the University of Portland, and he told me he met the woman whom he writes about at a conference on nursing and war. What follows is an abbreviated version of his piece, "Boots," and I hope you, too, are touched by it.

She was a nurse in Iraq. Now, she is out of the military. "My name is Jacqueline. You can call me Jackie ... I will be 27 years old on Sunday, at 1400 hours. ... I am in good health, considering. I have a dog named Gus. I live near the beach.

"I drink tea. I learned to love tea in Kirkuk. Some days we had tea 10 times a day. We found a samovar and learned to use it. There was a man among us who could play that thing like a guitar. It got so we couldn't drink anything other than the tea he

summoned from that samovar. He vanished one day when his truck was hit by the bandits. Another man took his place. He vanished, too. I took his place.

"After a while, I forgot everyone's name. For a while, I called people by their numbers, but after a while I didn't call them anything. That's when I knew I had war sickness. I never got hit by fire, but pretty much everyone I knew did. For a while there, I thought it was me, that as soon as I said hello to someone or shook hands or learned their names, they were doomed, so I stopped touching people and learning names.

"You would think wiggling out in the middle of a war would be bad, but it's just normal. No one talks about what happens to the people nothing happens to, but something happens to them, and no one talks about it. Probably because we don't have any words for what happens. War kills words, but no one talks about that. War kills everything except more wars.

"Some of what war kills, you see getting killed off. But some of it you

don't, like the birds. The birds don't nest in wars, so pretty soon there are no birds. What kind of world is that, with no birds in it? You notice things getting killed off little by little, and then after a while you stop noticing things altogether. You don't even notice yourself. You just get by.

"By the end, all I cared about was my shoes. You want really good shoes in a war. I had the best boots you could ever imagine, and I kept them clean and oiled and ready for anything. When I got out of the war, I kept wearing those boots for a long time. I wore them with pajamas and with a bathrobe and with shorts in summer. It's only the last few weeks I go anywhere without those boots. When I am in those boots, nothing can happen to me. Trust me on this one. I kept them on a special shelf at home, just in case. You want to know something real and true and deep about wars? Boots. Boots are the secret."

The next time you hear some swagging think-tank commando or some talk-show tough guy bloviating about why the U.S. needs -- in yet one more Middle Eastern country -- "more boots on the ground," please think of nurse Jackie and ask yourself what kind of a world it is with no birds.

Mark Shields is a nationally syndicated columnist.

# Best tip for last-minute tax filers: take the time to do your taxes right

**TERRY SAVAGE**  
Creator's Syndicate

In about a week, your 2010 tax return is due. Are you ready? Here are a few last-minute tax tips. And the first one is an old Savage Truth: Haste makes waste!

Sure, you should be working on your taxes right now — but do it carefully. If you absolutely, positively can't get your return done on time, you can file for an extension. Get IRS Form 4868 at the government website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), or from your accountant. Even easier, though a bit more expensive at \$19.95 (or \$29.95 for business returns), is the extension help you can get online at [www.FileLater.com](http://www.FileLater.com).

With just a click, you can file for an extension that will delay your deadline until Oct. 17. But don't make the mistake of thinking you can delay your tax payment: All taxes estimated to be owed must be paid along with the request for an extension. So, when you think about it, you might as well just do your tax return and not extend the pain.

If you use the "short form" — 1040EZ — you can file your federal taxes online free. All of the major tax preparation services facilitate this process (or allow you to prepare and print) for free — including TurboTax.com, TaxAct.com and HRBlock.com. They also do the regular 1040 filing for free, if you pay for help or software for the more complicated forms.

If you want to file for free directly with the government, go to: [www.irs.gov/efile/index](http://www.irs.gov/efile/index). There you can learn all about the free filing process for both the short form and the standard 1040 and associated forms. The IRS says it has taken in more than 1 billion electronically filed tax returns since 1990, so there's no reason to hesitate. The index even has links to free-file online providers.

**Unemployment Compensation:** If you were collecting unemployment compensation, then 2010 had to be a tough year. But I hope you saved some money to pay your taxes, because for 2010



all unemployment compensation is taxable. Unlike in previous years, you can no longer exclude the first \$2,400 in unemployment compensation.

Some of your job-search expenses may be deductible if you itemize. But only those expenses attributable to finding a new job in your present occupation can be deducted. Obviously the government gives only lip service, not deductions, to those who want to pay for school to train for new and better employment opportunities.

**Home buyers:** If you bought a home, or entered into a contract to buy a principal residence on or before April 30, 2010, and closed by Sept. 30, 2010, you might be eligible for a home-buyers credit. First-time home buyers could get an \$8,000 tax credit, while non-first-time buyers could get \$6,500. But that tax credit phases out for single taxpayers with income over \$125,000, and couples with joint income over \$225,000, so check the details before filing.

**Electric cars:** If you bought an electric car or a hybrid in 2010, you might be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$7,500 — depending on the model, the fuel efficiency and other regulations. But the credit doesn't apply to all cars, and there are restrictions depending on the manufacturer and date purchased.

**Self-employment:** There are a variety of small changes in the tax benefits available to those who are self-employed, which includes more and more people these days. So those small deals can add up. For example, in 2010 you can deduct the cost of your health insurance premiums from your self-employment tax. And there is a larger allowance for deducting startup expenses. These complicated changes are one of the best reasons for using a tax-

preparation service or software.

If you still owe taxes and can't find any more deductions, don't forget the best deal of all: a tax-deductible IRA contribution, which can be made up until April 18. It's easy to open an IRA at any bank, brokerage or online at a mutual-fund company. But don't wait until they're all swamped the last few days.

You can open a tax-deductible IRA if you're not covered by a workplace retirement plan, and your non-working spouse can also contribute to a separate IRA. For 2010, you can contribute up to \$5,000 to your IRA, or \$6,000 if you were age 50 or older by Dec. 31.

For individuals who have access to a workplace plan, the deductibility of an IRA contribution phases out at over \$56,000 income — but there are different limits for those with joint returns, or with only one spouse working. So check with any IRA custodian or your tax preparer to get the exact amount allowable as a deduction in your case.

Remember, starting an IRA is not only a tax advantage — but a good idea in its own right. And it will be a reminder to make a contribution next year, as well.

**Bottom line:** There are only two ways to approach tax preparation season. You can view it as a challenge, and a search for all the tax-saving opportunities to which you are entitled. If that's your approach, take advantage of all the qualified help you can get. Or you can bury your head in the sand, fill out the forms blindly and make a contribution to our national debt problem.

Take the time to do it right. Get all the deductions to which you're entitled. You can use your money better than the government, and that's The Savage Truth.

*Terry Savage is a registered investment adviser and is on the board of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. She appears weekly on WMAQ-Channel 5's 4:30 p.m. newscast, and can be reached at [www.terrysavage.com](http://www.terrysavage.com). She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?"*

# Controversy persists over shale fracking

Hydraulic fracturing is a drilling process that blasts millions of gallons of water for each well deep into the earth to fracture dense shale and allow natural gas to escape.

The water is mixed with sand and chemicals. Some of them toxic, some carcinogenic. The fracking liquid gushes back with natural underground brine, a brew now intensely salty and containing barium, strontium and radium from the earth.

In Texas and other states, the liquids are disposed of in deep injection wells; Pennsylvania is the only major gas-producing state that routinely allows fracking wastewater to be partially treated and dumped into rivers and streams from which communities get their drinking water.

Researchers don't know if the discharges are dangerous to humans or wildlife; several studies on possible environmental effects are under way. Drilling companies are exempt from disclosing their chemical formulas.

At least 269 million gallons of wastewater went to treatment plants in Pennsylvania for river discharge in the 18 months ending Dec. 31, according to an Associated Press review of reports filed with the state's Department of Environmental Protection. Millions more gallons of wastewater went unaccounted for because of weaknesses in the state's tracking system.

DEP records also show some public water utilities downstream from plants treating wastewater have struggled with potentially dangerous levels of trihalo-methanes, carcinogens that can be linked indirectly to drilling waste.

Most of Pennsylvania's largest drillers say their river discharges are safely diluted but are taking steps nonetheless to reuse the waste liquids and end the partial treatment and river discharges. Numerous smaller drilling operations continue hauling the waste to treatment plants, often miles from drilling sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency, citing the potential danger to human health and aquatic life, asked last month that Pennsylvania regulators begin water sampling for radium and other contaminants. The agency plans a major national study looking at how fracking in the Marcellus, Barnett and other shale regions may already have impacted drinking water. It also looks at potential impacts.

Pennsylvania announced last week that it will expand the scope of water tests to screen for radioactive pollutants and other contaminants, but state officials insisted they aren't doing it because federal regulators prodded them.

The drilling industry insists that fracking water blasted deep underground cannot contaminate underground water aquifers that are separated by thousands of feet of rock. Drilling may have polluted several aquifers another way: by methane gas seeping through shoddy cement jobs in drilled wells in Pennsylvania, Texas, and other states, then migrating into drinking water wells.

In Pennsylvania alone, drilling companies tallied more than 1,400 violations of state laws between January 2008 and June 2010, according to The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, an environmental group. Two-thirds of the violations caused or had the potential to cause environmental damage, from chemical spills to improperly lined sludge pits, the group said.

Texas regulators do not separate gas drilling violations from those for oil drilling, making an accurate comparison with Pennsylvania impossible.

Fracking, along with horizontal drilling, allows recovery of natural gas from huge and lucrative shale reserves. In recent years, that has set off a gold rush of leasing and drilling activity, leaving regulators in Pennsylvania scrambling to keep up.

President Barack Obama, visiting Pennsylvania last week said "science" must be done to ensure that natural gas is extracted safely.

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## Fling

raising nearly \$4,000 for Create-a-Beat after-school programs. The Spring Fling 2011 Planning Committee has indicated that this year's goal is \$6,000.

For more information on the three races, call Angi Woelfle at 674-8465. For information about the craft show and silent auction call Amanda Clark at 898-3443 or 665-9770.

## Taxes

over the forecast amount of \$1,246,112.63.

That's 10.6 percent more than the expected amount for the fiscal year to date.

For the same period last year, the city received a total of only \$1,228,702.03.

Five months into the fiscal year, the city has collected about 58 percent of

the amount collected last year. That puts Pampa on the road to collect a total of

an estimated \$335,431.32 for the year if the trend continues.

cont. from page 1

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Lynn Switzer, 31<sup>st</sup> District Attorney, and Staff extend a Public Invitation to join us as we

**Walk for Victims**

in conjunction with

**National Crime Victims' Rights Week**  
Thursday, April 14th @ 6pm

Starting at Foster and Cuyler and continuing North on Cuyler to the Knights of Columbus building for refreshments.

Victims of crime often feel helpless and lost with questions and issues that need additional help.

Representatives will be available to answer questions regarding victims' rights.

Come out and walk in support of our community.

**National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

For additional information contact:

Molly Segura, Crime Victims' Rights Coordinator  
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# BP buys Gulf Coast millions in gear — but not for cleanup

MELINDA DESLATTE, MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
AND MIKE SCHNEIDER  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Tasers. Brand-new SUVs. A top-of-the-line iPad. A fully loaded laptop. In the year since the Gulf oil spill, officials along the coast have gone on a spending spree with BP money, dropping tens of millions of dollars on gadgets and other gear — much of which had little to do with the cleanup, an Associated Press investigation shows.

The oil giant opened its checkbook while the crisis was still unfolding last spring and poured hundreds of millions of dollars into Gulf Coast communities with few strings attached.

In sleepy Ocean Springs, Miss., reserve police officers got Tasers. The sewer department in nearby Gulfport bought a \$300,000 vacuum truck that never sucked up a drop of oil. Biloxi, Miss., bought 14 SUVs and pickup trucks. A parish president in Louisiana got herself a deluxe iPad, her spokesman a \$3,100 laptop. And a county in Florida spent \$560,000 on rock concerts to promote its oil-free beaches.

In every case, communities said the new, more powerful equipment was needed to deal at least indirectly with the spill.

In many instances, though, the connection between the spill and the expenditures was remote, and lots of money wound up in cities and towns little touched by the goo that washed up on shore, the AP found in records requested from more than 150 communities and dozens of interviews.

Florida's tourism agency sent chunks of a \$32 million BP grant as far away as Miami-Dade and Broward counties on the state's east coast, which never saw oil from the disaster. BP announced Monday it would give another \$30 million to help several northwest Florida counties promote tourism.

Some officials also lavished lucrative contracts on campaign donors and others. A Florida county commissioner's girlfriend, for instance, opened up a public relations firm a few weeks after the spill and soon landed more than \$14,000 of the tiny county's \$236,000 cut of BP cash for a month's work.

The April 20 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 workers and spawned the nation's worst offshore oil spill. As BP spent months trying to cap the well and contain the spill, cities and towns along the coast from Louisiana to Florida worried about the toll on their economies — primarily tourism and the fishing industry — as well as the environmental impact.

All told, BP PLC says it has paid state and local governments more than \$754 million as of March 31, and has reimbursed the federal government an additional \$694 million.

BP set few conditions on how states could use the money, stating only that it should go to mitigate the effects of the spill. The contracts require states to provide the company with at least an annual report on how the money has been used, BP spokeswoman Heidi Feick said. But it's unclear what consequences, if any, the states

could face if they didn't comply.

Some of the money BP doled out to states and municipalities hasn't been spent yet, but the AP's review accounts for more than \$550 million of it. More than \$400 million went toward clear needs like corralling the oil, propping up tourism and covering overtime.

Much of the remaining chunk consists of equally justifiable expenses, but it is also riddled with millions of dollars' worth of contracts and purchases with no clear connection to the spill, the AP found.

William Walker, executive director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, said it is clear now that communities bought more equipment than they wound up needing. But he doesn't regret handing out BP's money freely.

"At the time we were making these decisions, there were millions of gallons of oil going into the Gulf of Mexico with no clear idea when it would stop," Walker said. "We didn't wait. We tried to get (grant money) into circulation as quickly as possible. We didn't have any extra time. We needed to move when we moved."

When oil from the ruptured Macondo well began to lap at Louisiana's marshes, BP deployed an army of workers to sop it up and hired contractors who specialize in disaster cleanup.

Even with BP and the federal government taking the lead, many communities weren't content to rely on equipment they had before the spill.

Lafourche (luh-FOOSH) Parish President Charlotte Randolph billed BP for an iPad, saying she needed it in addition to her parish-paid BlackBerry to communicate with staff and other officials during the crisis. But she didn't buy the iPad until Aug. 26, a month and a half after the well was capped and several weeks after the federal government said much of the oil had been skimmed, burned off, dispersed or dissolved.

"Just because it wasn't streaming from the well any longer doesn't mean it wasn't approaching our shore," Randolph told the AP. "My work is very important. Perhaps one day you could follow me somewhere and learn what my work involves. I must be in contact at all times."

Lafourche Parish spokesman Brennan Matherne, who bought a new Dell laptop and accessories for \$3,165, said working on the spill had worn out the computer he got just a year earlier for \$2,700.

Biloxi, home to a strip of casinos overlooking the Mississippi Sound, bought 14 sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks, two boats, two dump trucks and a backhoe loader with its \$1.4 million share of BP grant money.

Mayor A.J. Holloway, who drove a city-owned 2006 GMC Yukon before the spill, now has one of the vehicles the city purchased with the BP grant — a black 2011 Chevy Tahoe 1500 LT that cost more than \$35,000. The city's public works director and chief engineer also are driving SUVs bought with BP money.

Holloway declined to answer questions about his new vehicle. City spokesman Vincent Creel said the mayor has used it to travel to "countless meetings" about the spill and to gauge the city's response with his own eyes.

"The mayor also uses the vehicle in the normal course of his duties, just as other BP equipment is used in the course of day-to-day business," Creel wrote in an email.

Walker, the state official, said he didn't know about the mayor's use of the vehicle but doesn't object.

Some Mississippi communities took a conservative approach in using their share of the money. Bay St. Louis received \$382,461 to buy safety vests, street barricades, radios and other gear, but decided against buying a vacuum truck or other expensive equipment. City Clerk David Kolf said local officials trusted BP's word it would handle all the cleanup, so they didn't see a need to buy a "bunch of new toys."

"They had a lot of heavy equipment already staged here," he said. "We don't have the training. We don't have the personnel."

Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama each got an initial \$25 million from BP, followed by an array of payments for tourism marketing, seafood monitoring and cleanup programs.

More than \$300,000 of BP money went to Kenny Loggins, the Doobie Brothers and Lynyrd Skynyrd for a pair of rock shows to promote the state's oil-free beaches; BP shelled out an additional \$260,000 in concert-related costs.

In Alabama, the state Emergency Management Agency distributed \$30 million to local governments without rejecting a single request.

Mississippi gave money to 14 counties and cities along the coast, which was dotted with tar balls but never saw the heavy bands of oil that choked south Louisiana's marshlands. In early August, after the well was capped and the oil threat seemed to abate, the state instructed counties and cities to stop spending BP's money without prior approval from state officials.

"We were trying to make the change from protection to restoration and recovery, and that's where we are now," Walker said.

Louisiana doled out its initial \$25 million to state agencies, including \$10 million for the attorney general's office to devise its legal case against BP and the companies involved in the spill. State agencies spent nearly \$9 million more on equipment, including boats, air monitoring units, mobile radios and life vests.

Local government leaders in Louisiana were left to lodge their requests for money directly with BP. Gov. Bobby Jindal's top budget adviser, Paul Rainwater, said the state's deal with BP specified that the money Louisiana got wasn't meant to replace anything that was supposed to go to the parishes.

Blue-collar Plaquemines Parish, which has absorbed some of the spill's worst environmental damage, has received slightly more than \$1 million in BP money, of which \$998,405 went to cover oil-related overtime and other payroll expenses.

"I didn't run up bills. I treated their money like I treated our own," said Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser, an outspoken critic of BP and the federal government's response to the spill. "Maybe down the road I'll look and say we should have stockpiled."

## SOME HOMEOWNERS NEED TO FILE FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

The Gray County Appraisal District is concerned that there are still many homeowners that have not filed for their residence homestead exemptions. The Texas Property Tax Code provided for Partial Exemptions from property tax on your home if you own the home and live in it as your principle residence on the first day of January of the tax year. If a person turns 65 during the year or is 65 or older and purchases the home he or she may be eligible immediately. Once a homeowner has applied, he or she need not reapply in subsequent years unless their eligibility changes.

The general homestead exemption is available for homeowners. There is also an additional exemption for those homeowners that are 65 and over or disabled. To qualify for the disability homestead exemption a homeowner must be determined 100% disabled by the Social Security Administration (a letter from the Social Security Administration must accompany the application). The homeowner may qualify for either the "65 and over exemption" or the "disability exemption", but not for both exemptions.

For example, a homeowner 65 years old or older could be eligible for \$10,000 for the 65 and older exemption and \$15,000 for the general homestead exemption for a total of \$25,000 in exemption from the value of their home for school tax purposes.

In addition to homestead exemptions, there is an exemption available to veterans with a qualified service connected disability. This exemption may be applied to any property the taxpayer owns and is based on the percent of service-connected disability as determined by the Veterans Administration (letter from the Veterans Administration must accompany the application). This disabled veteran's exemption is not the same as the "Disability" exemption mentioned above and may be applied in addition to the Homestead exemption for those who qualify.

Many taxpayers may not be aware of special value for qualified agricultural land, which is provided for by the Texas Property Code.

Also, those who own their own businesses need to remember to list and render the property owned by their business.

**In order to receive exemptions a person must apply at the Gray County Appraisal District offices at 815 N. Sumner, Pampa, Texas. For more information call 665-0791.**

**Taxes for property within the District are paid at the Gray County Tax Assessor/Collector's office. The deadline for current taxes is January 31. For information concerning payment options for delinquent taxes you must call the county tax office at 669-8020.**

The exemptions are a specific amount deducted from the total value of the property. The amounts of each exemption vary according to the type of exemption and the taxing unit offering the exemption. Many property owners may not be aware of what is available and may need to check with the Appraisal District to see that they have taken advantage of exemptions and other benefits that are available to them.

If taxpayers have any questions, need application forms or assistance in any way they may contact the Gray County Appraisal District at P.O. Box 836, Pampa, Texas 79066-0836 or come by the office at 815 N. Sumner, [telephone (806) 665-0791].

## PROPERTY TAX PROTEST AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

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

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

### Informal Review

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

### Review by the Appraisal Review Board

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

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the appraisal district to make necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You will receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. The hearing will be informal. You and the appraisal district representative will be asked to present evidence about your case. The ARB will make a decision based on the presented evidence. NOTE: You should not try to contact ARB members prior to the meeting. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they have not discussed your case prior to the ARB meeting.

### Review by District Court

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

### Additional Information

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

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

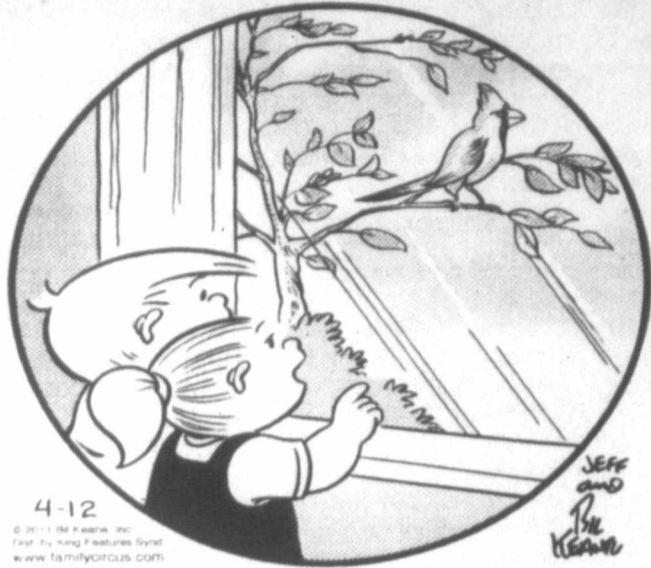
**Appraisal District Address & Phone Number:**  
Gray County Appraisal District  
PO Box 826  
815 N. Sumner  
Pampa, TX 79066-0826  
(806) 665-0791

### Deadline for Protesting:

June 1st or 30 days after this notice is mailed.

# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

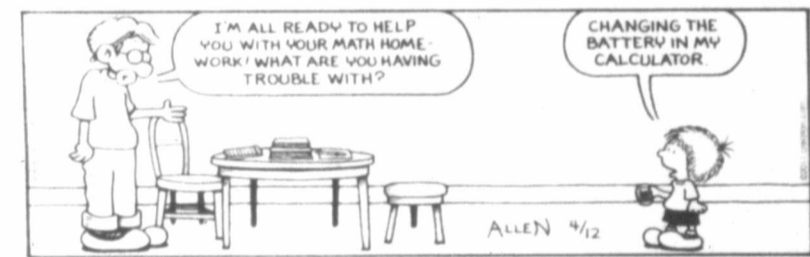


"That's a cardinal! I can tell by the cool hairdo."

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

This year, you push past seemingly insurmountable obstacles. You have the energy, ideas and creativity to manifest your desires. You are more upbeat and direct than you have been in years. You have entered a positive luck cycle. Your finances will improve, but you also might spend more. If you are single, how can you not attract admirers? You will have to make some hard choices — make it your pleasure! If you are attached, the two of you enjoy more positive interactions. VIRGO can drive a hard bargain.

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

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
 ★★ Stop multitasking, focus on one project at a time. Diversifying might seem inefficient, but it's not. You'll land on your feet. Be willing to extend your hand to someone who really needs your support. Tonight: Working late.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 ★★★ If you must, relax as if you were at home in order to work well. Communication comes from out of left field. Note a tendency to know who is going to call before he or she actually does. Maintain a low profile. Tonight: Be a couch potato if you want to.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Keep the conversations moving. Avoid getting hung up on any details or trivial matters. You can now effectively clear out what you haven't been able to for days. Finally, you have a receptive audience. A meeting gives you additional support. Tonight: Make it early.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 ★★★ Stay on top of your budget. A boss or someone you respect within the community talks a good game, but will this person come through for you? Use your instincts with an investment. You cannot be too careful. Tonight: Go with a second wind.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Your enthusiasm is based on your experiences. You know when you hit solid ground. Finally, you receive a response from a key person at a distance. You know what you want. Let the other party figure out what he or she wants without your influence. Tonight: Be the gregarious

**Lion.**  
**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Maintain a low profile for one more day. A partner seems unusually grounded and lucky. Let this person take the lead. You'll gain understanding. You also need to see the situation from a detached mental stance. Tonight: Do what you want.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Don't sell yourself short. Knowing what is desirable is important. All you need to be is authentic, and you'll see results. Note a new person in your circle. He or she could be of interest for a lot of reasons. Tonight: Make it early.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Take the lead in a situation. Honor what you want, but also think of the group. Your ability to coordinate plans and inspire others merge. Listen to what is being said discreetly. Tonight: Join a friend as soon as you can.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ You cannot help but be spontaneous. That quality marks everything you do. Some people who don't really understand could raise their eyebrows, but the majority will smile at your unusual get-up-and-go. Tonight: You could go till the wee hours.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 ★★★★★ Work directly with a partner or key friend. This person understands you well and often is able to pitch in and help make that difference. Above all, between you exists the gift of trust. You come from a space where you are just plain lucky. Tonight: Togetherness works. A discussion is inevitable.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 ★★★★★ Defer to others. Someone else might have more humor and drama than you. Let this person champion the cause for a while. Several conversations with different people emphasize the wisdom of your ways. Tonight: Dinner for two.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 ★★★ Focus on success. You might be a little too willing to pitch in — be it energy, time or money. Pull back and take a complete look at what is going on. You don't need to make a commitment of the size you were considering. Tonight: Join friends for a late snack.

Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



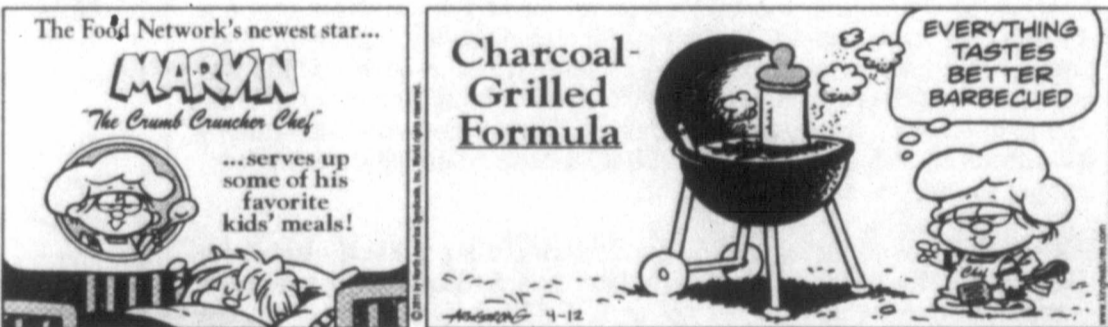
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie







Beverly Taylor - Classifieds

The Pampa News'

# Classifieds

Sell it fast! Classifieds work! The Pampa News is delivered to over 4,000 homes daily. What better way to get the word out? To place an ad, contact Beverly Taylor at 806-669-2525 or via email at [classified@thepampanews.com](mailto:classified@thepampanews.com) today!

Spring Classified Ad Special

4 Lines, 5 Days \$20.50  
6 Lines, 6 Days \$23.50

Does not include Last Minute Ads  
Prices Good March - May 2011

## THE PAMPA NEWS

"YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER"  
403 W. ATCHISON • 806.669.2525  
[www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com)

### Field Technicians Needed

Come join the ERF Wireless communications team at our office in Pampa. ERF Wireless is looking for experienced Technicians to install wireless communications equipment at Oil & Gas Rig locations and commercial/residential locations. Oil & Gas safety trained and tower climber certification preferred. If interested, e-mail [humanresources@erfwireless.com](mailto:humanresources@erfwireless.com).

### COMPRESSOR SERVICE TECHNICIAN PAMPA, TX

J-W Power Company, an industry leader in the leasing, sales and servicing of natural gas compression equipment, is seeking a Compressor Service Technician.

- 1-10 years experience
- Operate and perform maintenance of compressor packages
- Engine and compressor overhaul
- Diagnose failures
- Natural gas experience necessary

J-W Power Company offers competitive salaries and excellent benefits.



If you meet the minimum requirements, please apply at: [www.jwenergy.com](http://www.jwenergy.com)

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

4-12 CRYPTOQUOTE  
KZYX RKV WBLZM QLEX LZIK  
IJX TKBQP, RKV FVGI  
UBKIXYI LI, TX FVGI UBKIXYI  
LI WR YJNZMLZM IJX TKBQP.

— XQLX TLXGXQ  
Yesterday's Cryptquote: ON THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING, I DIG MY FINGERS DEEP INTO THE SOFT EARTH. I CAN FEEL ITS ENERGY, AND MY SPIRITS SOAR. — HELEN HAYES



Your guide to...

### Local Beauty Professionals

Look and feel your best! This guide is a list of local salons and parlors that want to cater to you!

#### Massage Therapy

**Massage Therapy**  
Cathy Potter, Holly Albert & Brittany Shuman  
1224 N. Hobart, Suite 9  
(806) 669-0013

**Massage Advantage**  
Trena Moore, LMT  
Norma Madrid, LMT  
701 N. Price Road  
(806) 665-7261

#### Massage Therapy

**Magic Moments**  
Massage  
By Genna  
By Appointment Only  
806-662-4586

Want to list your salon?  
Call Beverly at 806-669-2525

#### 1 Public Notice

**Notice of Annual Meeting of Friends of the Pampa Library**  
In accordance with the Bylaws of the Friends of the Pampa Library, the annual meeting will be held at 4:30 pm, on the 18th day of April, 2011 in the Lovett Memorial Library auditorium, 111 N. Houston St., Pampa, Texas. The following business will transacted at the meeting:  
1. Election of Directors and Officers  
2. Transact any other necessary business  
All members of the Friends of the Pampa Library are invited to attend.  
G-96 Apr. 12, 2011

#### 3 Personal

**ADOPT: Hugs & Kisses, Dreams & Wishes**, stay-home mom & dotting successful dad await precious baby. Expenses paid. Frank & Kerri, 1-800-816-8424

#### 5 Special Notices

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

#### 10 Lost/Found

**REWARD. Missing Min Pin wearing red collar with rabies tag from Dr. Easley (vet). Please call 440-6155 or 806-433-1337**  
**FOUND Med. male dog around North side of Pampa 2 wks ago. Call 440-6938 for more info**

#### 14d Carpentry

**OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR** Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347, 806-663-0192.

**WHOLE House to Handyman, always get 3 bids. Make sure one is ours!** 806-440-4051.

#### 14e Carpet Serv.

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

#### 14g Elec. Contr.

**RUSSELLCROW Electric** for your electric needs! Comm., Resi. 665-0878, 440-1171.

#### 14h Gen. Serv.

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

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

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

**JH Concrete**, all types of concrete incl stamp, stain, deck, pools. Free est. 806-382-5408

#### 14n Painting

**INTERIOR / Exterior Painting.** Call Steve Porter, 669-9347 or 662-2574.

#### 14r Plowing/Yard

**C&J Mowing.** Reasonable rates for your lawn care needs. No job too 'big or too small. Free est. Please call us at 664-3266

**JIMENEZ Multi-Serv.** Yard work, fertilize, leaf clean-up, cut trees, tree trim, gardening, haul trash. 669-2618, 806-886-2027.

#### 14s Plumbing

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

#### 14w Air Cond/Heat

**BROWNING'S Refrigeration, Heating & Air Cond.** Specialists since 1964!! 665-1212.

#### 19 Situations

**CHILDCARE—** days, evenings & weekends. Call 806-669-1743.

**NEED a Mechanic??** 20 yrs. exp. Cars & trucks. Beat any price in town! Free est. 664-2756.

#### 21 Help Wanted

**NOTICE**  
Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.  
**KOYOTE Trucking** needs Full-Time Flatbed Truck Driver. 2 yrs. driving exp. req. Apply in person, 734 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

**WANTED Manager** for After School Care Program at St. Paul UMC. Prefer Bilingual. Send questions or replies to [steox2000@att.net](mailto:steox2000@att.net)

**SEEKING Exp. Field Maintenance Tech & Relief Pumper** for Sunray Area. Send resume to P.O. Box 1422, Pampa, Tx. 79066-1422.

#### 21 Help Wanted

**NEEDED:** Wheel Alignment / Tire Tech for busy auto shop. Exp. a plus, but will train. Call 665-4851 or come by 217 E. Atchison.

**NEED exp. mechanic** to work on chemical pumps, turbine meters, valve & controls, gas prod. units & other type oil field equip. Call Ron T & J Valve. 665-0868

**BUSY Auto Shop** looking for Service Writer with exp., but willing to train the right person. Call 665-4851 or come by 217 E. Atchison.

**COME & check out our benefits!** Positions for FT & PRN CNA's and Part-time RN. St. Ann's Nursing Home, in Pampa, handle. 537-3194.

**NEED Exp Truck Driver—** must have exp. in hauling heavy equip., dozers, trackhoes & sidebooms. Also hiring Backhoe Operator with CDL. 806-665-4336.

**TURNER ENERGY SERVICES LLC A COMPLETE PRODUCTION SERVICE CO.**

**Do you want to work for a company that truly understands what you want and need?** Then Turner Energy Services would like to talk to you!

We have full time **TRANSPORT DRIVER & BOB TAIL DRIVER**

positions available in our Borger location. Previous experience preferred and a valid CDL driver license required.

**We Offer Competitive Wages, Excellent Benefits!**  
•Health, Dental & Vision Ins.  
•STD/LTD Ins.  
•Company Paid Life Ins.  
•Paid Holidays, Vacation & Sick Leave  
•401(k) Retirement Plan  
•Extra Pay for Hazmat Endorsement  
•Uniforms  
•Retention Bonus Every 3 months  
•Higher Pay For Night Drivers

**Come Grow With Us Today! Contact the following location:**  
**101 Carolina Borger**  
806-273-2325  
**EOE / Drug Free Workplace**

#### 21 Help Wanted

**LVN FT & PRN** are needed at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Pampa. Come in and apply, or for more info, call 537-3194.

**SOCIAL Worker** needed. Must have bachelor degree in Social Services Competitive salary. Wheeler Nursing & Rehabilitation, contact Kenna Howard 806-826-3505 for details.

**CULLIGAN Water** is seeking a part-time office assistant. Good people skills, phone and computer skills a must. Flexible hours. Drug screening required. Call 888-501-1031.

**"HANDS ON" Patient Care**  
Position in a busy Chiropractic office. Put your "people skills" to work. Fax Resume to (806)665-0537

**SIVALLS Inc.** is looking for Welder-Fabricators. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa, Tx.

**JOIN THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS, JOIN HALLIBURTON**

Halliburton, one of the largest and most safety-conscious providers of oil field services, is hiring for entry level positions in and around the Pampa, Texas area. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://www.halliburton.jobs/>



#### FIELD PERSONNEL

deliver & set fiberglass & steel tanks. 50-60 hrs. clean driving record. Competitive wages, medical insurance, retirement package, paid holidays.  
**Apply in Person 100 N. Price Rd. Pampa, Tx 806-669-1128**

Chemical Delivery Driver  
Oilfield exp. helpful. Mandatory drug test and background check. CDL w/ Hazmat and air brake endorsement will be req. during employment. Good benefits. 401k after 1st yr of employment. Pampa, Perroyon, Canadian area. 1-806-228-5463 806-228-3462 for application

#### 21 Help Wanted

**APARTMENT MANAGER**  
needed for Pampa's Premier apartment community. Must have previous apt mgmt exp. competitive salary. Fax resume 1-505-275-7899 or email to [rlrober@jackstahlco.com](mailto:rlrober@jackstahlco.com)

#### 69 Misc.

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

**CLASSIFIED LINE AD SPRING SPECIALS For Mar. Apr. May (does not include Last Minute Ads on pg. 2)**  
4 lines 5 days \$20.50  
6 lines 6 days \$23.50  
**Call for Deadlines 669-2525 Mon.-Fri. 8-4pm**

**RED Barn Open** Each Sat. 1424 S. Barnes. Sale-New Queen Mattress Sets \$256.

**TABLES, sofas, freezer, chests, dressers, hutch, love seat, microwave.** Call 662-7557

#### 69a Garage Sales

**HAVING A GARAGE, MOVING OR ESTATE SALE???**  
**Going to put an ad in Pampa News Classified Garage Sale column??**  
**Don't miss the deadline to get your ad in the paper!!**  
**BE SURE TO CALL PAMPA NEWS & ASK FOR DEADLINES**

**77 Livest/Equip.**  
15 Head Angus Bulls for Sale. 15 mo. to 2 yrs. old. \$1500 each. Frog, 806-662-4861

**80 Pets & Suppl.**  
KITTENS needing loving indoor homes. Shots, spayed, neutered. 665-4901 lv. msg.

#### 89 Wanted To Buy

**NEED Money Now?** We will give you top \$5 for your house. Call us today. 665-1875

#### 95 Furn. Apts.

1 bdrm's avail. starting \$435/ mo. \$100 off 1st mo. rent w/ 7 mo. lease. Corp. units: utilities, linens, basic cable. Caprock Apts, 665-7149.

#### 96 Unfurn. Apts.

\$100 off 1st Mo. Rent 1 bdr starting \$395 / mo. On-site laundry. Caprock Apts. 665-7149

#### 98 Unfurn. Houses

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

#### 99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

#### 102 Bus. Rental

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

#### 103 Homes For Sale

1601 Grape Ln. 4 bdr., 3 ba, 2777 sq. ft. Corner lot. For info: [r\\_robben25@hotmail.com](mailto:r_robben25@hotmail.com)

#### FOR SALE

FOR Sale: 3/1.75/2. 3 living, 1885 sq. ft. 2313 Comanche \$134,000. 662-0056.

#### OPEN HOUSE

307 W. 8th White Deer Sun. Apr. 17th 2-4pm. Price Reduced! (MLS 11-8899)

**Rod Donaldson Agent 663-2800 Quentin Williams Realtors**

#### OWNER Will Finance

1412 E. Browning, 2 bdr., 1 ba. Cash Discount. Call Trustar RE for details, 440-1698.

#### TRUSTAR Real Estate

for all your complete real estate needs. Show list, property mgmt. 665-4595.

#### 115 Trailer Parks

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

### Devon Energy Corporation,

headquartered in Oklahoma City, is one of the larger independent oil & gas producers and independent processors of natural gas and natural gas liquids in North America. As a Fortune 500 company with approximately 4,400 employees, the company's portfolio of oil and gas properties provides stable, environmentally responsible production and a platform for future growth.

### MEASUREMENT TECHNICIAN

This is a technical position concentrating on the installation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of natural gas measurement systems. The position will require the individual to assist field personnel in the installation and maintenance of mechanical and electronic measurement equipment, witnessing of custody transfer meter calibrations, and providing guidance to the Field and Engineering staff in the implementation of and conformance to Devon's Measurement Policies.

#### JOB DUTIES INCLUDE:

- Commitment to safety and environmental stewardship
- Investigate measurement variances and prepare solutions to prevent further occurrences
- Complete and maintain measurement schematics and measurement reviews
- Install and maintain natural gas measurement equipment to Devon standard in designated areas
- Witness third-party calibrations on check measurement stations
- Witness calibrations of custody transfer meters
- On 24 hour call for repairs of natural gas measurement sites
- Preparing System Balance reports
- Foster and maintain positive relationships with field personnel, landowners, and purchasers

#### PREREQUISITES

- Live in Canadian, TX area
- Basic understanding of gas industry terminology
- Working knowledge of applicable measurement standards (API, AGA, EUB, etc)
- Good mechanical and electronic troubleshooting skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- Capable of lifting 50 lbs. several times a day
- Able to climb and work from 6' ladder
- Knowledge of maintenance and installation of mechanical natural gas measurement equipment

- Knowledge of maintenance and installation of electronic flow computer gas measurement equipment
- Knowledge of meter tube design and installation
- Knowledge of natural gas analysis and sampling procedures
- Team oriented, self-motivated and flexible to change
- Valid driver's license
- Basic computer skills including Microsoft Excel and Word

Devon offers a competitive salary commensurate w/exp & excellent benefits.



Visit us online at [www.devonenergy.com](http://www.devonenergy.com) to apply or for more details.

Visit us online at [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com).



# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I would like to respond to "Agnostic Dad in South Carolina" (Feb. 16), who wondered about how to answer the inevitable "Is there a God?" question his children will ask. My parents had strong but differing Christian faiths. They compromised when bringing us up, and we went to the church nearest our home (another denomination). Further, when we were teens, they allowed us to "sample" other religious traditions to determine what would suit us best.

I became agnostic, and like "Dad in S.C." was un-

sure what to tell my son. My husband and I do not belong to any organized religion and didn't take him to church as a youngster. Instead, we introduced stories from the Bible at bedtime, and allowed him to attend his friends' churches when he asked to. More important, we showed him that all people are to be valued and that differences are to be respected.

Our son is now in his late 20s. He's a gentle, caring person with an interest in people from other cultures, religions and circumstances. Whether he is agnostic, religious or an atheist is a personal matter to him. He's comfortable with his beliefs and doesn't impose them on anyone else. As a parent, I couldn't ask for more. — **FREE-THINKING MOM IN WASHINGTON**

**DEAR MOM:** Thank you for writing. Many readers were eager to offer guidance on this subject to a fellow parent. **Read on:**

**DEAR ABBY:** Despite eight years of Catholic education, I'm an atheist. My wife is a Lutheran. We've never argued about it because we feel everyone has

**ISSUES**  
**IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 41 Stuffed
  - 1 Top-rated
  - 5 Cereal grain
  - 10 Notions
  - 12 Mars neighbor
  - 13 Setting piece
  - 15 Greek vowel
  - 16 Bolt partner
  - 17 Knight's title
  - 18 Hold
  - 20 Ward of TV
  - 21 Floor models
  - 22 Baby carriage
  - 23 Prepare for a jolt
  - 25 Cotton pod
  - 28 Panache
  - 31 Huron neighbor
  - 32 Call it a day
  - 34 Brink
  - 35 Skirt edge
  - 36 One of the Stooges
  - 37 Formulaic writing
  - 40 Pop star John
- DOWN**
- 1 Waited
  - 2 Fixed copy
  - 3 Capitol group
  - 4 Leather shade
  - 5 Cried
  - 6 "2001" computer
  - 7 Pencil part
  - 8 Hun leader
  - 9 Aries
  - 11 Soon-to-be grad
  - 14 Chases
  - 19 Stroll
  - 20 Asparagus unit
  - 24 Globbs
  - 25 Carpet type
  - 26 Baltimore player
  - 27 Bounds
  - 29 Prison resident
  - 30 Revolted
  - 33 Must have
  - 35 Coop group
  - 38 Auction unit
  - 39 Research site

C	A	R	E	R	A	M	P	S		
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S	O	A	P	D	A	Y	T	O	N	
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T	U	R	E	E	N	S	O	D	A	
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- Yesterday's answer**
- 11 Soon-to-be grad
  - 14 Chases
  - 19 Stroll
  - 20 Asparagus unit
  - 24 Globbs
  - 25 Carpet type
  - 26 Baltimore player
  - 27 Bounds
  - 29 Prison resident
  - 30 Revolted
  - 33 Must have
  - 35 Coop group
  - 38 Auction unit
  - 39 Research site

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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40					41			
42						43		

### BANANAGRAMS!

Add an **I** to each of the five-letter words below and then rearrange the letters in each word to form a new six-letter word.

**LEVEL**

- T R O M P
- BRIDE
- FLUTE
- STRIP

Yesterday's Answer: PUPIL/HOLLY, CRAZY/BATHE, CROWD/MULCH

### Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

Thank you for not driving buzzed and crashing into my car last night.

Shoshanna Williams

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# Sports

## JV baseball lets lead slip, rallies to down Demons

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters junior varsity baseball team entered the top of the sixth within a run of earning a run-rule victory. They entered the bottom of the seventh facing a deficit.

When it was all said and done, though, the Harvesters were still victorious 17-16 over the Dumas Demons Monday at Harvester Field.

The Harvesters took the lead from the get-go. Jeff Smith led off with a single. Taylor Woods walked with one out but was thrown out at second when Ethan Hunt grounded into a fielder's choice. Sheldon Reeve drove in the first two runs with a double to left.

In the second inning, the Harvesters broke the game open. Pampa sent 13 batters to the plate and scored eight runs on seven hits. Smith hit a RBI double. Ryan Powell, Woods and Hunt hit RBI singles. Eight of nine Harvesters scored. The inning ended when Brandon Stokes was picked off at third with the bases loaded.

Casey Martindale started on the mound and pitched strong in the first two innings allowing one hit and a walk and got out of both innings with a double play. Chris Howard caught a fly ball in the first and threw to Hunt for the out. Smith touched second and threw to first to complete a double play.

In third inning, the Demons would cut into Pampa's lead with four runs on four hits and two errors. All nine Dumas batters came to the plate. Martindale ended the inning and his outing with a strikeout.

In the bottom of the fifth, Pampa added on to their lead. Woods hit a one out double and scored on an error by the center fielder. Reeve, who reached on the error, scored on a single by Howard, who advanced to second on the throw home. Douglas hit a RBI single and scored Howard. Pampa wasn't able to get the last

run across to assure a run-rule victory as Stokes popped up to shortstop.

The Demons made sure the sixth inning wasn't going to be their last at bat as they plagued the Harvesters with 10 runs on eight hits and two errors. Powell took over the pitching duties in the fourth and retired his first six batters. Dumas first four batters reached base and two of them scored. After a flyout to Woods, the Demons next five batters reached base and four runs scored. Powell was pulled for Hunt, who walked the first batter he faced with the bases loaded. An error and a ground out scored the next two runs. The Demons entered the bottom of the sixth with a 14-13 lead.

Coach Dustin Miller said Dumas was just hitting the ball in the right spot.

"They were hitting little bloopers and everything hit the grass," Miller said. "There was nothing we could do. There was a couple of plays we could have made but didn't."

The Harvesters only reached base on an error in the bottom of the sixth. The Demons added two runs in the top of the seventh on two hits and an error. The inning ended with a pop up to Eddleman.

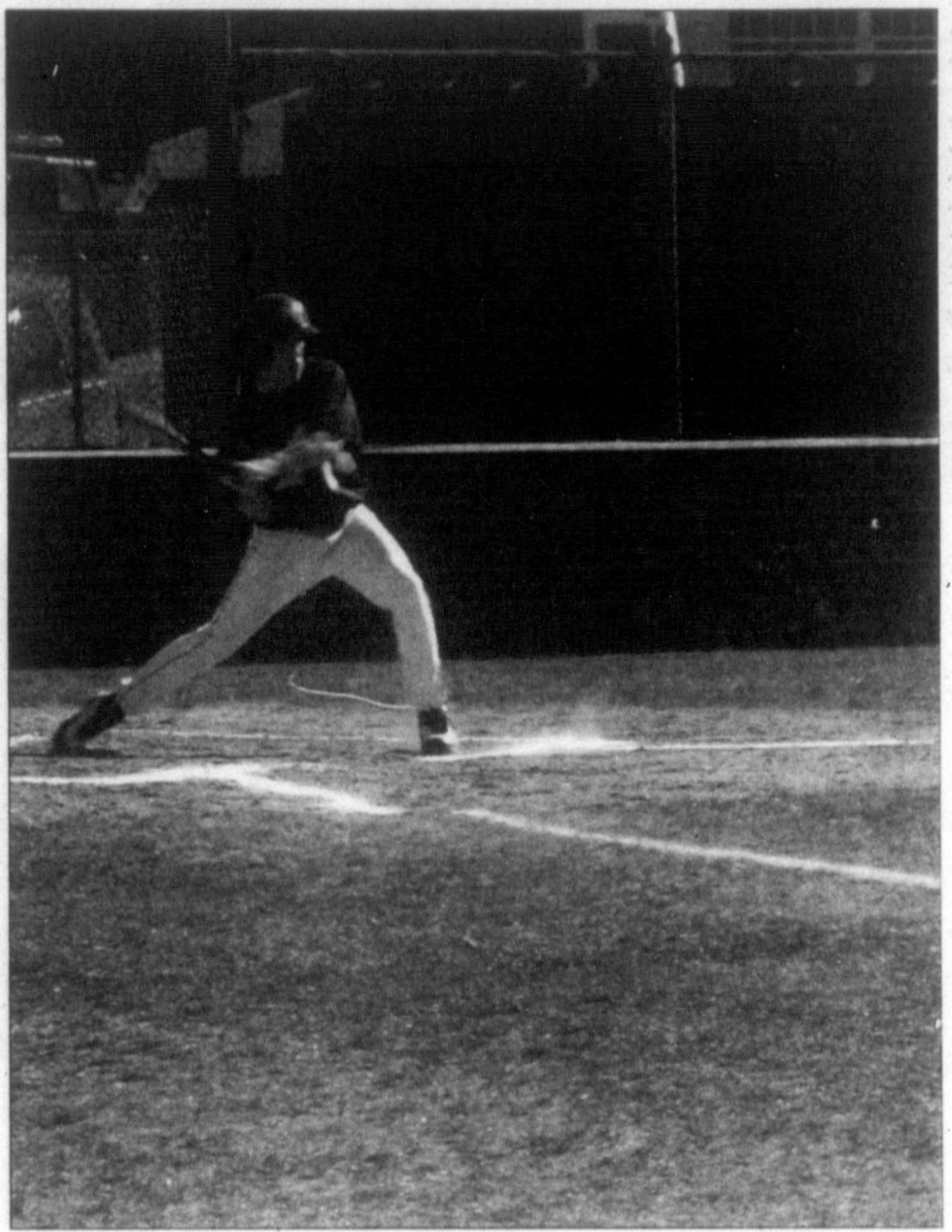
Facing a 16-13 deficit and vanishing daylight, the Harvesters rallied. The first three batters walked. Stokes, who ran for Hunt scored on an errant pick off throw by the catcher. With a 3-1 count, Douglas hit the fifth pitch over the left field wall for a walk-off three-run home run.

Miller said it was a big hit for Douglas and was happy for him.

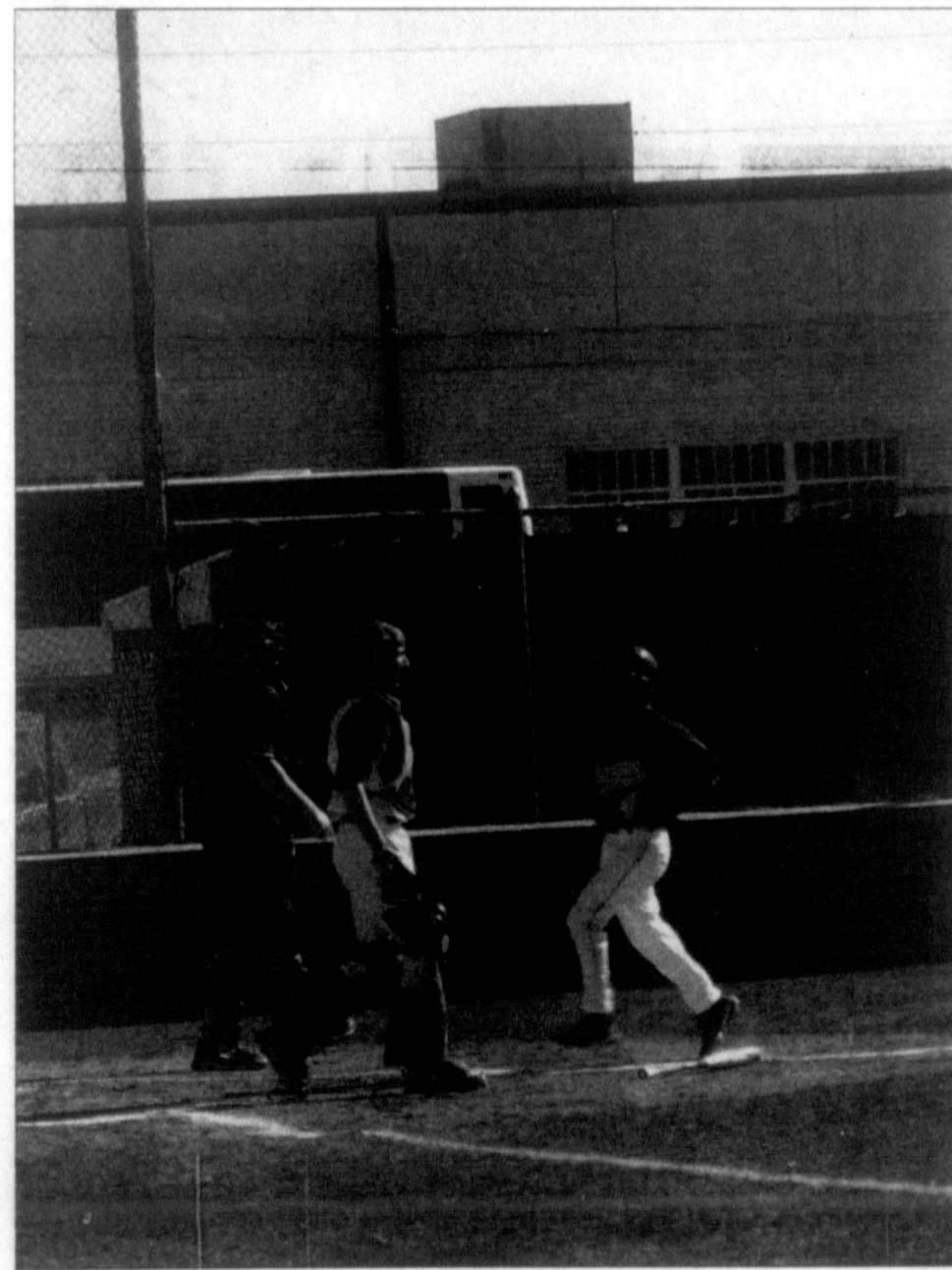
"It's his first career home run of his life," Miller said. "A walk-off game-winner that's pretty sweet."

Hunt earned the win allowing three runs (two earned) on two hits, walked one and struck out one. Douglas was the leading hitter with three hits and four RBI.

The junior varsity (8-3, 3-1) visit Borger following the varsity's 2 p.m. game Saturday.



staff photo by Andrew Glover  
Sheldon Reeve swings for a 2 RBI double Monday against Dumas. Reeve reached base four times and scored three runs as Pampa JV won 17-16.



staff photo by Andrew Glover  
Jeff Smith scores the first run for Pampa Monday against Dumas. Smith scored two runs on two hits as the Harvesters prevailed 17-16.

## PJHS girls take second place, boys place fourth and ninth

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa junior high track teams concluded their season at the district meet Saturday at Randy Matson Track. The seventh grade girls finished second place with 121 points and were nine points behind first place Westover. Brittney Gonzalez broke the school record in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.87. Coach Deanna Polasek said it's exciting when someone breaks a school record.

"All of our district records are hard to break. Some records have been held for more than 25 years," Polasek said.

The eighth grade girls finished second with 98 points. Westover won the meet with 170 points.

The seventh grade boys tied for fourth with 70 points and were nine points behind third place Dumas. The Reapers won the 400-meter relay with a time of 49.40. Coach Brittin East said that was one second faster than their previous personal best. Marcheenan Hair, Rickie Johnson, Cade Engle, and Chanceton Roberts were the runners.

"This is an extremely fast seventh grade class, not just here, but throughout this whole area," East said. "It was great to see our guys come out on top and prove to themselves that they can run with the best."

The eighth grade boys finished ninth and were seven points behind eighth place Dalhart.

### Pampa Junior High District Meet Results

#### 7th Grade Girls

2400-meter run: Reata Collins-First 9:12.23  
4 x 100-meter relay: Fifth 57.26  
800-meter run: Kayli Bagley-Third 2:47.93  
100-meter hurdles: Brittney Gonzalez-First 16.87; Jacie Studebaker-Second 17.95  
100-meter dash: Cameron Schaub-First 13.19  
4 x 200-meter relay: First 1:55.10  
200-meter dash: Kathryn Cummins-Second 27.63  
1600-meter run: Reata Collins-First 5:51.36  
4 x 400-meter relay: Second 4:29.08  
Long jump: Bailey Johnson-Third 14-02; Brittney Gonzalez-Fourth 14-01  
Triple Jump: Bailey Johnson-Third 28-08  
Discus: Mackenzie Dull-Fifth 71-04; Bailee Budd-Sixth 70-09

#### 8th Grade Girls

2400-meter run: Elizabeth Gill-Third 9:39.05  
4 x 100-meter relay: Third 55.18  
100-meter hurdles: Tori Robles-Fifth 17.95; Jaycee Devoll-Sixth 17.96  
100-meter dash: Kyle Krieder-Fourth 13.78  
4 x 200-meter relay: Second 1:55.16  
400-meter dash: Caragan Niccum-Fourth 1:06.29; Madison Brown-Fifth 1:07.19  
200-meter dash: Macie Loggins-Sixth 28.35  
1600-meter run: Elizabeth Gill-Fifth 6:15.72  
4 x 400-meter relay: Fourth 4:36.13

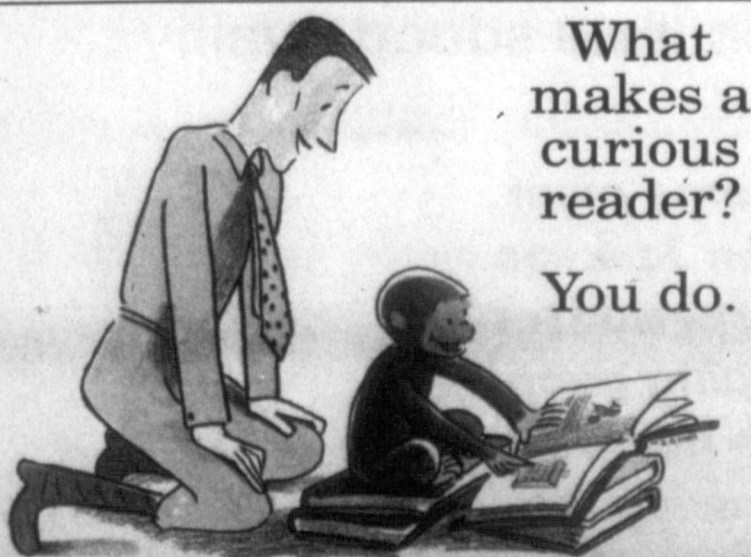
Pole Vault: Cheyenne Williams-Third 7'  
Long jump: Madison Brown-Third 14-11  
Triple Jump: Tori Robles-Fourth 30-02 1/2  
Discus: Cheyenne Williams-Second 93-08  
Shot Put: Cheyenne Williams-First 37-04 1/2

#### 7th Grade Boys

4 x 100-meter relay: First 49.40  
800-meter run: Cade Engle-Second 2:23.62  
4 x 200-meter relay: Fifth 1:50.82  
400 meter dash: Cade Engle-Second 1:00.43; Bryson Burrell 1:03.54  
300 meter hurdles: Erik Vizcaino-Fourth 52.17  
200-meter dash: Rickie Johnson-Second 24.91  
1' meter dash: Chanceton Roberts-Fifth 12:35  
1600-meter run: Andres Losoya-Sixth 5:55.85  
4 x 400-meter relay: Sixth 4:24.06  
Pole Vault: Rance Tipps-Fifth 7-06  
Long jump: Rickie Johnson-Second 16-11  
Triple Jump: Bailey Johnson-Third 28-08  
Discus: Mackenzie Dull-Fifth 71-04; Bailee Budd-Sixth 70-09

#### 8th Grade Boys

800-meter run: Jose Hernandez-Fifth 2:25.26  
4 x 200-meter relay: Sixth 1:46.89  
400-meter dash: Brendan Ponce-Second 56.49  
Pole Vault: Paden Watson-Fifth 8'  
Long Jump: Brendan Ponce-Third 17-09  
Discus: Kristian Vizcaino-Second 110-02; Jonathan Doyle-Sixth 102-11



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# Sports

## Varsity girls golf wins, boys finish third; Reagan advances

**ANDREW GLOVER**  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters golf team won district and the varsity boys finished third Monday in Dalhart.

The girls shot 368 in the third round and brought their total to 1532 beating Borger by 136 strokes. The team advances to regionals April 20-21 in Lubbock. Senior Liz Hoelting shot 86 in the final round and finished second with a 367, five strokes behind first. Junior

Lindsey Brown finished third with 382. Alison Alexander finished fourth with 387. Samantha Kelly finished fifth with 398. Senior Cori Cook finished seventh with 426.

The girls junior varsity finished fourth with a score of 1845, seven strokes behind Borger JV, who finished third. Erin Parr finished with 452 and led the team. Nicole Brashears finished with 465. Savanna Mertz finished with a score of 466. Francheska Bridwell finished with a 477. Ashley Keith finished with a

492. Head coach Alan Segura said he is excited about what his junior varsity will do in the future.

"The JV did very well for their first year of playing," Segura said.

The varsity boys shot 338 and finished 66 strokes behind Perryton. Logan Reagan tied for the second lowest score with a 74 and brought his total to 318, finished two strokes behind third. Reagan will also advance to regionals. Senior Joseph Mechelay shot 343. Brandon Burrell shot 355. Senior Jonathan Polasek

shot 357. Logan Turley shot 398.

The junior varsity shot their best golf of the tournament Monday with a 395 to bring their total to 1733. Calvin Armbrister shot a 428 to lead the team. Tyler Payne shot 434, Tre Dildy shot 455 and Destry Baten shot 462.

Segura said all the teams did well. "All players played well and I am proud of all their efforts," Segura said. "We have come a long way in the two years that I have been here and I am very proud to be their coach."

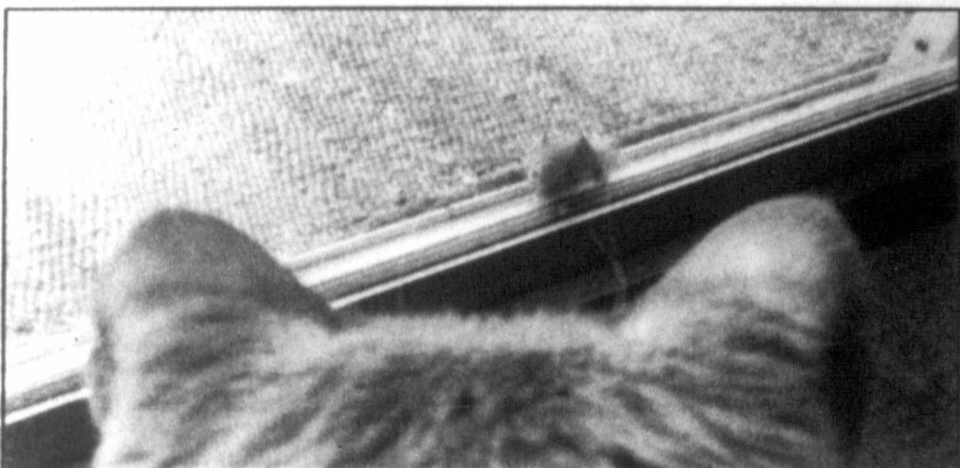
## PHS junior varsity tennis finishes season at district tournament

**ANDREW GLOVER**  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvester junior varsity tennis team concluded their season Friday at the district tournament in Borger.

Brandon Gage won boys singles.

Dylan Parks finished second and Chuck Benavidez finished third. Fanny Canon finished third in girls singles and Cecilia Alzona finished fourth. Olin Boyd and Austin Beck won boys doubles. Bray Eddleman and Blake Chisum finished second.



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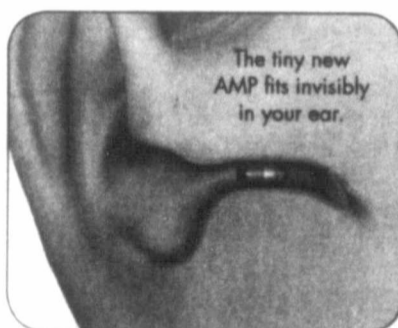


photo courtesy of *Ellen Gage*  
Brandon Gage serves in a match April 8. Gage won boys singles at the district tournament in Borger.

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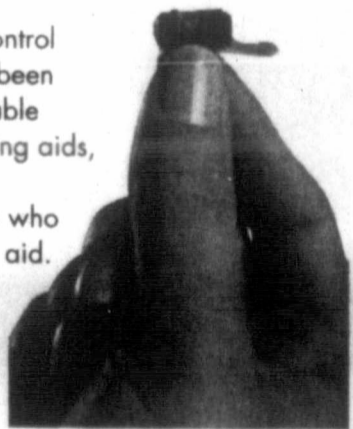
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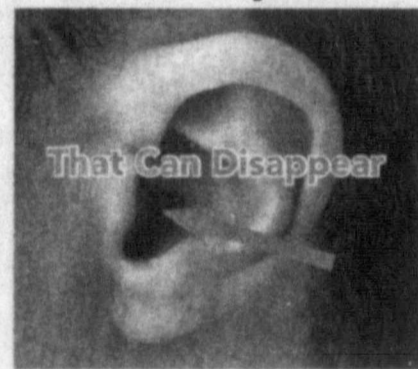
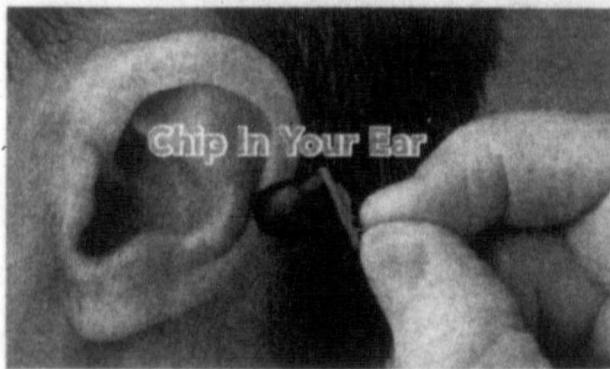
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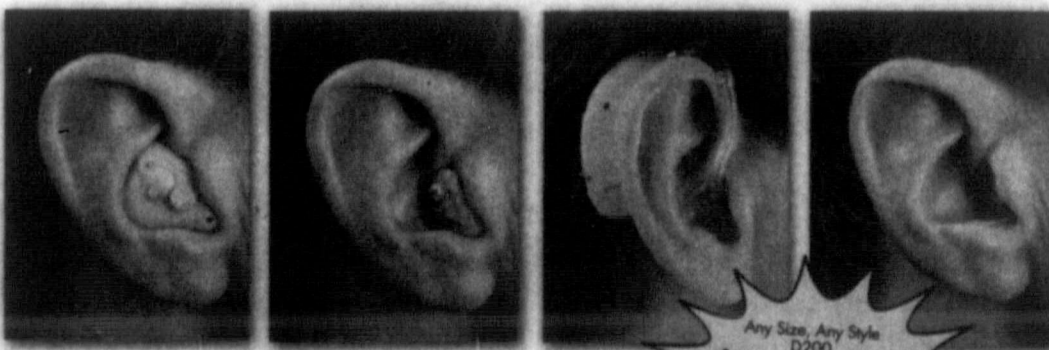


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