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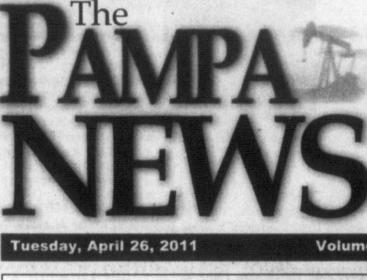
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Regional ready Pampa track teams prepare for regional meet Page 1



Volume 107 • No. 18

75¢ Daily · Weekend \$1.50

Early voting

to kick off

on Monday

ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

With the campaign season in

full swing, Gray County residents

will have their first chance to voice their choices next week when early voting begins at 8:30

Early voting will be held at the non-jury courtroom on the first floor of the Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell, and will run until Tuesday, May 10. According to Gray County Election Administrator Linda Lewis, there will be two twelvehour days during the early voting period; people will be able to cast

their early ballots from 7 a.m. to 7

p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday,

go from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Election Day proper is

All other early voting days will

Saturday, May 14 at the M.K. Brown Auditorium for all pre-

This year's election, Lewis said, has been designated an "at

large" election, which means that

while candidates for the three

commissioner posts must reside

in the ward they are running for,

voters may vote for all three posts

whether or not they live in those

"Anyone (who lives) anywhere

within the Pampa city limits can

vote for any of the commission-

a.m. on Monday.

May 3 and 4.

cincts within the city

AND THEY'RE OFF!



staff photo by David Bowser

Mayoral candidates Joy Combs and Brad Pingel were among the city candidates who spoke at the Top O' Texas Republican Woman's Club's candidate forum on Monday.

City candidates speak at forum

DAVID BOWSER dbowser@thepampanews.com

At Monday's city candidates' forum hosted by Top O' Texas Republican Women's Club, mayoral candidate Joy Combs - for many a virtual unknown entity in this election - spoke her mind about why she decided to enter the

Joy Combs, candidate for mayor in the May election, criticized her opponent, City Commissioner Brad Pingel, for supporting the building of the city's new water park and the

costs associated with it. "I believe all citizens should be heard and

have input," said Combs, the first of the candidates to speak.

She went on to say that she thinks Pampa needs more restaurants and jobs in industry and retail.

"We need things to make Pampa grow," Combs said.

She said that Pampa needs to be a better place.

"When our kids go on to college," Combs FORUM cont. on page 5



ers," Lewis said.

specific wards.

In addition to the Pampa city elections, Grandview-Hopkins Independent School District voters are **ELECTION** cont. on page 5

Bowers to receive conservation honor

RANDY PRIBBLE rpribble@thepampanews.com

Charles Bowers of Pampa will be honored for his outstanding contributions to the Texas soil and water conservation program at a Conservation Honors Banquet for Area I on Tuesday, May 3. The banquet will be held at 7 p.m. at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview. Area I consists of 52 counties in the Panhandle area.

Categories in which awards will be presented include Outstanding Conservation District; Resident Conservation Rancher; Resident Conservation Farmer; Business/Professional Individual and Wildlife Conservationist. Awards will also be presented to area youth winners of the poster and essay contests.

The purpose of the Conservation Awards Program is to recognize and honor Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and individuals who have dedicated their time, efforts and talents to making wise use of renewable natural resources.

Sponsors of the Area Conservation Awards Program are the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the 216 SWCDs in Texas. BOWERS cont. on page 3

CULBERSON STOWERS CELEBRATES

A NEW FRIEND



staff photo by ReDonn Woods

One-year-old Bella Garcia makes a friend in Pokey the Clown at Culberson Stowers this past weekend. The reigning Pampa Business of the Year is celebrating its 84th year of serving the Pampa community.

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Pampa Partnership **Golf Tournament** call today to be a Meal Sponsor or a T-box Sponsor
Pampa Chamber of Commerce 669-3241 IN THIS ISSUE:

Obituaries 2 Viewpoints 4 Local Record...... 2 Neather 2 Afternoon Rush 3 Puzzles/Dear Abby...9 Sports 9,10 The Savage Truth 3



PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday







Low 39

Low 48

Low 46

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 74. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 86. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. Breezy, with a southwest wind around 15 mph becoming northwest. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph

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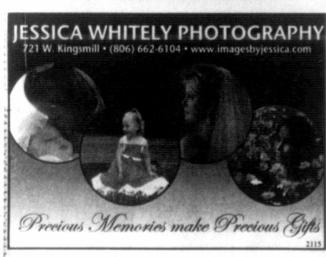
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Last Minute Ads

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4-H GERANIUM Sale, Apr. 28-29, 4:30-8pm. Coronado Shopping Center







*Automatics * A/C * Power Steering * AM/FM Radio Low Cost Moving Protection Plan One-Way Rentals U.S. & Canada Mileage Included •FREE 24-Hour Road Service • Auto Transports & Tow Dollies Complete Line of Moving Supplies & Towing Accessories

•Prices as Low as * \$9.95 Per Day (* plus mileage)

Obituaries

David Leon "Bud" Schaffer, 75

JERICHO-David Leon "Bud" Schaffer, 75, died Monday, April 25, 2011, in Pampa from complications related to leukemia..

Services will be at 10 a.m., Wednesday, April 27, 2011, in the First United Methodist Church in Groom with Rev. Weldon Rives, Pastor, officiating. Interment will be at Jeri-

cho Cemetery in Jericho. Arrnagements are under

the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors of Clarendon.

tis and Oma Schaffer. Bud graduated from Groom High School in 1955, graduated from Clarendon College in 1957 and served in the Texas Army National Guard. He lived in Gray County throughout his life other than time spent in the National Guard. He married Evelyn Hermes-



Schaffer

Bud was born in Pampa on February 18, 1936, to Curmeyer on February 4, 1978, in Pampa. Bud worked at

Celanese for 38 years while ranching and farming. For many years, he served as a trustee at the First United Methodist Church in Groom, president of the Jericho Cemetery Association and as president of the Clarendon College Ex-Student: Association and was designated as a Distinguished Alumnus. Bud lived a full and wonderful

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Schaffer of Jericho; eight sons, Donnie Schaffer of Dallas, Tony Schaffer and wife Sheila of Austin, Jerry Schaffer and wife Kelly of Jericho, James Kuehler and wife Sue of Amarillo, Keith Kuehler of Austin, David Kuehler and wife Kenney of Dallas, George Kuehler of Huffman, and Dale Kuehler and wife Tammy of Jericho; his younger sister, Marlene Morgan and husband Morris of Pampa; 23 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be at the Funeral Home on Tuesday,

April 26, 2011, from 6 to 8 p.m.

the 1000 block of N. Sum-

the 600 block of N. Ward.

ed at Finch and Frost.

A follow-up investiga-

An alarm was reported in

A burglary was reported

An alarm was reported in

the 800 block of W. Fran-

A stolen vehicle was re-

N. Hobart.

of N. Hobart.

N. Nelson.

of N. Duncan.

of N Wells.

Russell.

of W. Kingsmill.

900 block of S. Banks.

A suspicious person was

Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 1200 block

in the 1400 block of N.

Sunday, April 24

block of S. Varnon Dr.

of N. Terrace.

of S. Finley.

of Varnon Dr.

N. Starkweather.

of W. Kingsmill.

of N. Frost.

1400 block of N. Russell.

A stolen vehicle was re-

the 500 block of N. Rus-

Burglary of a motor ve-

2800 block of N. Charles.

N. Nelson.

sell.

reported in the 900 block

in the 1300 block of N.

of W. Kingsmill.

Christine.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to one of Bud's favorite organizations: Jericho Cemetery at Box 1356, Pampa, TX 79066, First United Methodist Church of Groom at Box 489, Groom, TX 79039 or City of Groom Ambulance Service at Box 217, Groom, TX 79039.

For the record

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls over the weekend.

Police officers reported 99 traffic-related incidents and three accidents.

Pampa EMS reported 20 ambulance calls.

Animal Control Officers reported 25 animal-related. incidents.

The Pampa Fire Department reported five medical-related incidents and one investigation call.

The Lefors Volunteer of S. Hobart. Fire Department responded to four medical-related

The Lefors Volunteer cal-related calls.

Thursday, April 21

ported in the 100 block of of W. Kingsmill.

ported in the 800 block of Hobart. An information call was of W. Kingsmill.

reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill. A violation of city ordi- of W. Kentucky.

nance was reported in the 900 block of E. Denver.

Theft was reported in the of W. Kingsmill. 200 block of E. Kingsmill. A follow-up investigation was reported in the

600 block of N. Hobart. A violation of city ordinance was reported in the

1000 block of N. Duncan. Fraud was reported in the 1200 block of N. Hobart.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of N. Hobart.

A follow-up investigation was reported in the 1200 block of W. Oklahoma

A threat was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill.

A program was presented in the 800 block of E.

A threat was reported in the 800 block of N. Nel-

follow-up investiga-

tion was reported in the 200 block of N. Faulkner. A follow-up investiga-

tion was reported in the 100 block of N. Price Rd. An information call was

reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill. A follow-up investigation was reported in the

2200 block of N. Sumner. Two information calls were reported in the 200

block of W. Kingsmill. Criminal trespass was reported in the 1400 block of W. Alcock.

A suspicious person was reported at Alcock and Faulkner.

Disorderly conduct was reported at 23rd and Rus-

sell. Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 200 block of N. West.

Theft was reported in the 2800 block of N. Charles. A domestic disturbance

block of S. Reid. was reported in the 900 block of E. Browning. A suspicious vehicle was 300 block of S. Finley.

reported in the 100 block of E. Harvester. Friday, April 22 of N. Dwight.

A welfare check was reported in the 800 block of

An escort was provided in the 700 block of W. Browning.

Theft was reported in the 1200 block of N. Hobart. Theft was reported in the

200 block of N. Kingsmill. in the 1100 block of N. A suspicious person was reported in the 1600 block of N. Faulkner.

Harassment was reported in the 1600 block of N.

Theft was reported in the 600 block of N. Hobart. An information call was 1100 block of N. Christine. reported in the 1200 block

A runaway was reported in the 1100 block of N. Christine.

Disorderly conduct was EMS reported three medi- reported in the 700 block of N. Frost.

An information call was A 911 hangup was re- reported in the 200 block

Burglary was reported in A motorist assist was re- the 900 block of S. Wells. An information call was reported in the 200 block

> Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2300 block

Phone harassment was wood Ln. reported in the 200 block

A sewer choke was reported in the 1500 block of

N. Hobart. An alarm was reported in the 1300 block of N. Ho-

A 911 hangup was reported in the 1300 block of

N. Duncan. A welfare check was reported in the 800 block of

N. Nelson. An information call was reported in the 200 block

of N. West. Harassment was reported

in the 1700 block of N. Chestnut Dr. A suspicious person was reported in the 1100 block

reported in the 1600 block of N. Faulkner. A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 800 block of E. Locust. A prowler was reported

in the 2300 block of N. Dogwood Ln. Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 700 block of E. Locust. A follow-up investiga-

tion was reported in the 1100 block of N. Christine. A prowler was reported in the 300 block of S. Fin-

Saturday, April 23 A threat was reported in the 700 block of N.

Dwight. A domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of N. Lefors.

An agency assist was reported at Alcock and Nel-

An alarm was reported in the 1600 block of N.

reported in the 500 block

A prowler was reported i

22nd. A suspicious vehicle was A motorist assist was rereported in the 1600 block of E. Hwy. 60.

ported in the 1000 block of S. Prairie Dr. Disorderly conduct was An information call was reported twice in the 600

reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill. A follow-up investiga-Disorderly conduct was

tion was reported in the reported in the 900 block of E. Francis. Disorderly conduct was Disorderly conduct was

> reported in the 1000 block of S. Nelson. An informatic call was

reported in the 1300 block of W. 22nd.

Theft was reported in the An information call was 200 block of W. Kingsmill. reported in the 400 block An escort was reported in of S. Graham.

A 911 hangup was reported in the 1400 block of A runaway was reported W. Ripley.

An information call was A hit and run was reportreported in the 1100 block of S. Bond. An information call was

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 200 block reported in the 700 block of E. Christy. A stolen vehicle was re-

ported in the 1500 block of tion was reported in the Found property was rethe 2300 block of N. Dun-

ported in the 500 block of N. Nelson. A follow-up investiga-

tion was reported in the 200 block of W. Kingsmill. A welfare check was reported in the 1900 block of

N. Hobart. A suspicious vehicle was ported in the 1400 block of reported in the 500 block

of N. Rose. Monday, April 25

A suspicious person was A stolen vehicle was rereported in the 600 block ported in the 2200 block of Theft was reported in the N. Dogwood Ln. A hazmat call was report-

ed in the 1900 block of N. Theft was reported in the 2900 block of N. Rose- Hobart. A suspicious vehicle was

A 911 hangup was re- reported in the 1100 block ported in the 800 block of of W. Carter.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests over Easter weekend.

Friday, April 22

An information call was Sarah Elaine Parr, 23, reported in the 200 block was arrested by police on charges of failure to appear. A prowler was reported Saturday, April 23

Jesus Silva, 40, was arrested by police on charges of driving while intoxicat-A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100

Harvey Chester Green, 50, was arrested by po-Disorderly conduct was lice on theft charges out of Wise County. Eddie Gene Pickett, 33,

Disorderly conduct was was arrested by deputies on reported in the 1200 block charges possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to Disorderly conduct was appear. reported in the 1000 block

Sunday, April 24 Travis Glenn Mask, 19, A welfare check was rewas arrested by police on ported in the 800 block of charges of assaulting a family member. Theft was reported in the

Luis Salas Flores, 56, was arrested by police on charges of driving while inported in the 1100 block of toxicated.

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

Monday, April 25 An information call was Schuyler Bond Danner, reported in the 200 block 27, was arrested by police on charges of tampering Disorderly conduct was with evidence. reported in the 500 block

Tuesday, April 26 Juan Carlos Silva, 37,

A runaway was reported was arrested by deputies in the 1300 block of W. on a warrant in connection with a bond surrender on charges of manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance over four grams but less than 200 grams.

Martha Leah Towler, 49, was arrested by deputies on warrants in connection with bond surrenders on charges of forgery of a financial instrument, credit card abuse and criminal

Man used scam money to wed

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GREENVILLE (AP) - A North Texas man who used money from an oil and gas investment scam to help pay for his wedding is going to prison for fraud.

A judge in Greenville on Monday sentenced Chad Michael Hays of McKinney to 25 years in prison. A Hunt County jury last week also convicted Hays of multiple counts of selling unregistered securities and acting as an unregistered agent.

Authorities say the case involved the sale of nearly \$400,000 in fraudulent oil and gas investments linked to Mack Diamond Energy LLC of Wolfe City.

Securities investigators say Hays failed to tell investors that money raised for a previous drilling project was diverted to other uses, including his nuptials and other personal expenses.

Settlement over abortion refusal

AUSTIN (AP) — A bus driver for a Central Texas public transit company who sued after being fired for not taking two women to a Planned Parenthood clinic has won a settlement.

Edwin Graning of Kyle will receive \$21,000 to settle his federal lawsuit against the Capital Area Rural Transportation System.

The lawsuit, filed on religious grounds, says Graning in January 2010 refused to drive the women because he was "concerned that he might be transporting a client to undergo an abortion."

Graning on April 1 notified the court of the settlement. Terms were obtained Monday by the Austin American-Statesman under the Texas Public Information Act.

The transit system serves Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Burnet (BER'-net), Blanco, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays and Lee counties.

Further details on the two women were not immediately available.

All clear after refinery outages

TEXAS CITY (AP) - Officials say they've lifted an order for residents to stay inside after power outages shut down three Houston-area refineries and a chemical plant. Homeland Security coordinator Bruce Clawson says a

"shelter-in-place" order for Texas City was lifted early Tuesday afternoon. Residents had been advised twice since Monday night to stay inside after power failures shut down a Dow Chemical plant and three refineries, including a BP unit

where a 2005 explosion killed 15 people. Officials say there have been no immediate reports of hazardous emissions. It's not yet known what's caused

Storms cause scattered damage

DALLAS (AP) - Authorities say they have been surveying damage a day after thunderstorms spawned more than a dozen tornadoes that hit widely scattered areas of mostly rural Texas.

More storms were forecast Tuesday.

No injuries were reported in Monday's storms, which also brought hail and high winds.

Houston County Fire Marshal David Lamb said the storms damaged six homes and an unoccupied mobile Houston. He says it's unknown whether tornadoes caused the damage.

Authorities say tornadoes were reported as touching down in portions of North Texas, but the twisters were relatively weak. They mostly struck open country south of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Texas senate passes bullying bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate has passed a bill that would allow Texas schools to prohibit bullying, both in person and online.

Houston state Sen. John Whitmire's bill requires schools to develop a policy to prohibit, prevent and punish students who bully others. The bill passed on a 30-1 vote.

The proposed law defines bullying as any effort to harass or intimidate a student in person or using the

The bill follows recent high-profile cases where public school children committed suicide after being bullied. Schools would also have to explain to students what is

considered bullying and possible punishments, if the bill becomes law.

The Senate bill will now go to the House for consider-

Bank to help light bridge

CORPUS CHRISTI, (AP) - A bank is the source of a \$300,000 donation so a well-known bridge in South Texas can get a new look in lights.

The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported Tuesday that the money, added to \$1.9 million budgeted for the Harbor Lights project, will come from American Bank.

The Corpus Christi-based bank offered to close the funding gap after the initial cost estimate came in higher than anticipated.

City leaders on April 19 approved increasing the contract for the lighting project to accept the contribution. The donor was not immediately made public.

Bank president Al Jones says you can't travel to Corpus Christi without seeing the "iconic" Harbor Bridge.

The city, the Port of Corpus Christi and the state are sharing costs to install and maintain the LED lights.

LCRA to divert water to lake

AUSTIN (AP) — The state has given the Lower Colorado River Authority permission to divert nearly as much Colorado River water each year as Lake Buchanan can hold.

The LCRA on Monday announced approval has been granted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. LCRA applied for the permit in 1999, leading to years of studies and negotiations with environmental groups and water rights owners.

The permit opens the way for the LCRA to build reservoirs in Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda counties.

The LCRA will be allowed to capture up to nearly 854,000 acre-feet of water annually during floods and other high-flow times. The water will be stored in reservoirs off the main channel of the Colorado River in the three counties.

AFTERNOONRUSH Dollar suffers from shutdown debacle

TERRY SAVAGE Creator's Syndicate

Embarrassing. That's the only word to apply to the fiasco in Washington, D.C., recently. I watched most of the debate from Europe, arriving home in time to sèe the late-night showdown and mutual surrender.

Financial respect for America went sliding down the drain, along with the dollar. That was glaringly apparent as dollars bought less every day when changed into euros. In the past 10 months, the dollar has fallen 14 percent against the euro, much of it coming in recent days.

Even as the European Union faced headlines about weakness in its banking system, and about Portugal's need for a bailout, its currency increased in value against the dollar. Showing its dedication to fiscal sanity, the European Central Bank raised interest rates a quarter of 1 percent.

But despite relatively good economic news about growth and jobs in the United States, the dollar fell in value amidst the budget squabble.

You can blame the past week's dollar decline on the global news broadcasts showing the inability of America's elected leaders to pass a budget for our nation. We looked ridiculous in the eyes of the world. Even the Italian sex scandal over Premier Silvio Berlusconi's escapades with a minor took a back seat to the congressional battle over funding Planned Parenthood.

We don't watch global exchange rates in our daily lives here. We think in dollars, get paid in dollars and plan for retirement in dollars. But the U.S. dollar is the center of the world's financial system. And when the world loses respect for America, it shows its displeasure by selling dollars.

Where does all that money go when dollars are sold? For starters, it turned to gold, which made new highs, closing Friday at \$1,475 an

The Savage on money

ounce. That's a trend long predicted in this column, as the global money markets seek diversification from the dollar. Where will it all end? Unless fiscal sanity is restored, it can only end with much higher gold prices, and perhaps even with the United States making the dollar convertible into gold again - at substantially higher prices - in order to regain respect for our currency.

Another market that shows a direct correlation with loss of respect for the future value of the dollar is the oil market. Oil is priced globally in dollars. When the dollar is worth less and less, oil prices move higher to compensate. So crude oil prices soared to nearly \$113 a barrel.

No matter what your beliefs about how the United States budget should be managed, there must be a better way of getting to some fiscal consensus. This was just the opening battle in a war that will escalate during the next month when Congress must vote to raise the ceiling on the national debt.

If the world thought it amusing that our government might be shut down for a few days, they'll not take it so lightly when the next debate calls into question our ability to pay interest on all those IOUs the United States has spread around

That's what's at stake in the debt ceiling battle - our ability to pay interest on our current debt and to pay our bills by borrowing more. That discussion will have an even greater and more immediate impact on the value of the dollar.

You may think this is all economic jargon, and that it somehow will be "worked out" as it always has. But this time, we're nearing the edge. Two words, "dollar" and "default," should never be used in

the same sentence. You're about to feel the impact personally.

The combination of the Fed's recent round of credit creation and the very public, political wrangling over the budget and debt ceiling will continue to affect the value of the dollar. Here's how it will impact you:

· Higher interest rates. The world will demand higher interest rates on U.S. debt to offset the risk of dollar devaluation. That means higher interest rates ahead could impact the cost of mortgages, the financing for businesses and the value of bonds in your portfolio (when interest rates rise, bond prices fall). Of course, it could also mean better returns for savers.

 Higher energy prices. You've already seen the impact at the gas pump, but that was from supply fears during the Libyan crisis. The next round of higher oil prices will come as a result of the falling dollar. And rising oil prices will affect not only your commute to work but the airline fares you pay. As well, it will affect the price of stuff you buy, since every product has a transportation cost component.

· A slowing economy. All of those added costs will be a drag on the economic recovery. People who have to pay more to drive to work won't be able to shop for other goods and services. That leads to bleak prospects for job creation.

All of this is bad news for you, and bad news for the American economy. This time, the blame must be placed squarely where it belongs: on Congress - both sides of the aisle - and on the president. Maybe we need a little more "parental planning" to put some grownups in charge of America's future. And that's The Savage

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. She is the author of the new book, "The New Savage Number: How Much Money Do You Really Need to Retire?"

Bowers

cont. from page 1

The Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District home in the East Texas about 130 miles north of is proud to name Charles Bowers as its Conservation Farmer of the Year for 2011. Charles was born into a farming family and started farming on his own when be was about 20 years old in the Grandview School area.

Charles and his wife Janyth have lived in Gray County about 8.5 miles northeast of Groom since 1981 where they have raised three sons, Chandler, Collin and Chance, who are now actively involved in the family farming and ranching business.

Charles has been a leader in the Gray County area in the conservation of our natural resources for many years. He has a progressive and innovative attitude toward improving his operations to maximize yields while being a good steward of his soil and water resources.

One of his most important achievements has been to hand his knowledge and experience in conservationminded land management on to his three sons.

Charles' farming operation includes both irrigated cropland and dryland on owned and rented property in Gray, Carson and Armstrong counties.

All irrigation on Bowers' property is done with sprinklers to maximize efficient use of the Ogallala Aquifer. Bowers has made use of the NRCS's EQIP program in converting pivots to higher water use efficiencies and in replacing old, worn out sprinklers. Irrigated acres are usually planted to a rotation of corn, cotton and wheat, while dryland acres are normally rotated between cotton, wheat, and milo and fallowed ground.

Bowers' commitment to the conservation of our natural resources led him to accept a position on the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District Board of Directors in 1990. He became secretary of the Board in 1992, vicepresident in 1994, and served as president of the Board of Directors from 2002 until 2007.

He is still an active board member today, and has done an excellent job through his years of service in developing and carrying out policy aimed at conservation of the Ogallala Aquifer while meeting the needs of irrigated production agriculture in the seven counties included in the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District.



The Pampa News



submitted photo

Charles Bowers will be recognized by the Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District as its 2011 Conservation Farmer of the Year

Pampa Realty Inc. 669-0007 Pampa MLS & Amarillo MLS



Jim Davidson (BKR/OWNR) 662-2190 Rebecca Akins. 898-8510 Katrina Bigham. Donna Courter 440-2314 John Goddard (BKR) 595-1234 Linda Lapacka 662-9611 664-0312 Zeb Sailors Sandra Schuneman (BKR) Andrea Walling 664-6227

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Vijay K. Mohan, MD, FACS 104 E. 30th Suite 2 Pampa, TX 79065



manner.

We are now open for consultations and office-based surgery, which includes removal of moles, skin cancers and other dermatological procedures. Please call 669-3303

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 26, the 116th day of 2011. There are 249 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 26, 1986, a major nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine (then part of the Soviet Union) as an explosion and fire caused radioactive fallout to begin spewing into the atmosphere. At least 31 people died fighting the plant fire, but the number of other deaths resulting from the disaster remains in dispute.

On this date:

In 1607, English colonists went ashore at present-day Cape Henry, Va., on an expedition to establish the first permanent English settlement in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1785, American naturalist, hunter and artist John James Audubon was born in present-day

In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Bowling Green, Va., and killed In 1909, Abdul Hamid II was deposed as sultan of the Ottoman Empire.

In 1937, planes from Nazi Germany raided the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit the first of his 61 home runs during a 162-game season (compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season) as he hit a roundtripper off Paul Foytack at Tiger Stadium.

In 1968, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1.3 megaton nuclear device called

Ten years ago: Ukraine's communist-dominated parliament dismissed reform-oriented Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and his government, plunging the nation into political chaos.

Five years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld paid a surprise visit to Iraq, where they embraced the country's fledgling leaders as independent and tocased on the future.

One year ago: A Haitian judge dismissed kidnapping and criminal association charges against 10 American missionaries who'd been detained for trying to take a busload of children out of the country after the Jan. 2010 earthquake, but said that Laura Silsby, the last of the 10 still in jail, would

Today's Birthdays: Actress-comedian Carol Burnett is 78 Rhythm-and-blues singer Maurice Williams is 73. Songwriter-musician Duane Eddy is 73 Singer Bobby Rydell is 69. Rock musician Gary Wright is 68 Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 53. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 51. Actress Joan Chen is 50. Rock musician Chris Mars s 50. Actor-singer Michael Damian is 49. Actor Jet Li (lee) is 48. Rock musician Jimmy Stafford (Train) is 47. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 46. Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts) is 40. Actor Jason Earles is 34. Actor Leonard Earl Howze is 34. Actor Tom Welling is 34. Actress Jordana Brewster is 31. Actress Marnette Patterson is 31. Actor Channing Tatum is 31. Actor Aaron Weeks is 25

Thought for Today: "Perfect order is the forerunner of perfect horror," - Carlos Fuentes, Mexican

A Friendly warning from the rating agency... STANDARD& POOKS REPUBLICANS CUTTING TAXES FOR THE RICH - "STANDARD"!

'Fast and furious' White House gun control

JEANNIE KEVER Hearst Newspapers

The political transformation of Texas is almost complete, as power follows the population to the cities and suburbs, leaving vast stretches of rural West Texas and the Panhandle with fewer representatives in Austin and Washington, D.C

"The voice for anything west of Interstate 35 has diminished every time there is a redistricting," said Pete Laney, a Democrat from Hale Center who spent 34 years in the Texas House, including a decade as

Most of the discussion during the current round of redistricting redrawing political boundaries based on the 2010 Census - has been centered around translating the state's growing Latino population into more Latino local, state and national

But West Texans worry that, after producing generations of political leaders, they are being shut out of decisions that will shape their

"We are small, rural West Texas, but the education of my children is just as important as any child in Texas," said Guillermo Mancha, superintendent of the 475-student Culberson County-Allamore Independent School District. "I already feel under-represented. The representatives I do have represent more communities. That translates into less voice.

The changes, in the making for decades and sure to accelerate with redistricting, reflect the shifting reality of Texas, a state that is increasingly urban and suburban.

"Texas is no longer the open range and the cowboy herding cattle," said Renie Cross, associate director of the Hobby Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston.

"That image of West Texas is his-

The people left behind are bracing for the fallout: less money for small schools that must transport children long distances, pressure to consolidate school districts and even counties, fewer highway improvements and reduced funding for health care and other services.

The current budget cuts will affect all parts of the state, of course, but West Texans worry that future decisions will be made primarily by people with little connection to the barren scrublands where the consequences will play out.

"It's very concerning," said John Benham, superintendent of the Wink-Loving Independent School District. The district takes in \$14 million in property taxes, generated by the currently booming oil and gas fields, but sends more than half to the state, to be redistributed to 'property-poor" districts elsewhere.

"We don't think that's fair," Benham said, noting that small districts have challenges that urban areas do not. "But if you live in Houston, you think, 'Why are they able to keep all that money?"

Increasingly, rural areas will be linked with suburban or urban areas

in ever-larger districts. Different in the past

"It's the passing of an influence, as districts that only represent rural Texas are becoming fewer," said Tyron Lewis, R-Odessa, who also represents rural Andrews and Winkler counties.

He said there are 19 House members from west of Interstate 35, a number expected to drop to 17 or 18. Harris County, by comparison,

It hasn't always been this way.

"For decades, we've had more power in rural areas than their population has necessarily warranted," Cross said.

Laney served as speaker from 1993 until 2003, followed by Tom Craddick of Midland.

But efforts to win the post by a third West Texan, Warren Chisum of Pampa, fizzled earlier this year, as Joe Straus, who represents San Antonio, one of the largest urban areas, was re-elected to a second

The ranks of possible successors

Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, "is probably the only one on the horizon right now," Laney said. And Duncan's district almost cerbei

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tainly will be larger in the future. His colleague, Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, said it's possible to rep-

resent disparate interests, but it isn't

His district encompasses 26 counties in the Panhandle and the Permian Basin, including the cities of Amarillo, Midland and Odessa. It has 17,108 fewer people than in 2000, indicating it will gain even more counties in redistricting.

Common goals

Still, Seliger said, rural districts share some goals with their urban and suburban counterparts.

'We want kids to have a good public school system, whether they live in the city or the country," he said, listing nursing homes and services for children with developmental disabilities as other common goals.

Jim Henson, director of the Texas Politics project at the University of Texas at Austin, said common interests will allow rural politicians to remain coalition players in the Legislature.

But inevitably, there are going to be fewer of them," he said.

And the iconic larger-than-life Texas figure will continue to fade to a more generic, modern version.

No more Wilsons

Laney and Craddick "are the soul of what it means to be Texan, the 1950s Hollywood version," said Sean Theriault, a government professor at UT.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, on the other hand, "personifies this businessmanlaw-and-order Republican," he said. "You can imagine John Cornyn representing Minnesota or Iowa."

And that's the point, Theriault

"Texas politics is going to look a whole lot more like John Cornyn than (colorful longtime East Texas congressman) Charlie Wilson," he said. "The days of Dick Armey and Tom DeLay are gone."



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Fax: 806-669-2520

Randall Pribble Publisher

rpribble@thepampanews.com

ReDonn Woods

Advertising Manager rwoods@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

aglover@thepampanews.com Marijane Kent Composing

Arnie Aurellano

Editor

editor@thepampanews.com

David Bowser

Reporter

dbowser@thepampanews.com

Andrew Glover

Reporter

Marcus Elkins

composing@thepampanews.com

Press Supervisor press@thepampanews.com

Chico Ramirez

Circulation Manager

Circulation2@thepampanews.com

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Your 2011 City **Commission Candidates** Ward 1 Cleo Meaker John Studebaker Gary Winton Ward 2 **Becky Holmes** Mike Price * Ward 3 Incumbent Robert Dixon is unopposed. **Forum** cont. from page 1 She said that they want to raise their families here.

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said, "they want to come back."

"This town has so much potential," Combs said.

She attacked her opponent for supporting the water park being built in Pampa. She also accused Pingel of raising

"If elected mayor," Combs said, "I will change all that." Pingel said he was elected commissioner from Ward 1 in 2005 and since then, he's learned a lot about Pampa.

He recited his resume. He's married and has two daughters and works at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors and is part owner of Top of Texas Monument.

Pingel said he's also president and founder of WheelTimes, Inc., a recreational sports group.

He's active in the Lions Club, Meals on Wheels and in

Pingel says he enjoys his volunteer work.

"My vision for Pampa is to see Pampa grow," Pingel

Ward 1 is one of two City Commission races this spring with three candidates vying for a seat on the City Commission. Pingel is vacating the seat to run for mayor. Cleo Meaker, one of the Ward 1 candidate for City

Commission, is a lifelong resident of Pampa. He said his opponents are good people, but Meaker believes that he is more qualified than they are to run for the City Commission.

"City government is as close to the people as it gets," Meaker said. "We should all work for the betterment of

John Studebaker, another candidate for the City Commission for Ward 1, said he is from Nebraska. He came to Pampa to work for Titan Industries 16 years ago. He is now their Information Technology manager. He is married with two children.

Studebaker said he would like the opportunity to serve the community on the City Commission.

Gary Winton, the third candidate for City Commission for Ward 1, also a life-long resident of Pampa, is a retired firefighter from the Pampa Fire Department and is involved in real estate in Pampa.

"I've enjoyed living in Pampa all my life," Winton said.

He has four children.

Winton said he comes from a long line of homebuilders. His grandfather and uncles were homebuilders in Pampa. He said he wants Pampa to progress, move forward and prosper

Winton said he would like to see Pampa attract new business to fill up some of the empty homes in town. Ward 2 also has three candidates for City Commissioner.

Rebecca Holmes said she has spent her career in accounting. She is married and has two daughters. She works for Rick Leverich.

She was appointed to fill out the rest of the term for the late Bill Allison as City Commissioner.

Holmes said she's excited about the proposed industrial park at the old Celanese plant west of town and would like to see Pampa grow and be a nice place to live.

Ed Copeland is one of Holmes opponents for City Commissioner in Ward 2.

He's married with two children.

Copeland said he's proud of his family's tradition of public service.

"My father's been in law enforcement for close to 50 years," he said. "My mother's worked for Pampa Junior High for 27 years.

Copeland said he's worked for the Pampa Fire Department, the Gray County Sheriff's Office and as a probation officer.

Election

cont. from page 1

also voting on whether or not to issue \$1,000,000 worth of bonds towards the renovation of school buildings and to levy a tax for the bonds' payment.

Voters within the Lefors and McLean ISDs will also be electing trustees for their respective school boards. There is no school board election for the Pampa ISD; all candidates (including write-in candidate Richard Qualls) are running unopposed.

Lewis said that Grandview-Hopkins, Lefors and McLean voters may also avail of early voting at the Gray County Courthouse.

The voter registration deadline has already passed, Lewis said, but voters can still apply to submit their ballots by mail. To qualify for this option, a voter must either be over 65, out of the county during the election,

or incapacitated or disabled. For more information, call Lewis at the election office at 806-669-4003 or contact her via e-mail at linda.lewis@graycch.com. Applications for ballots by mail must be received by the election office by Friday, May 6.

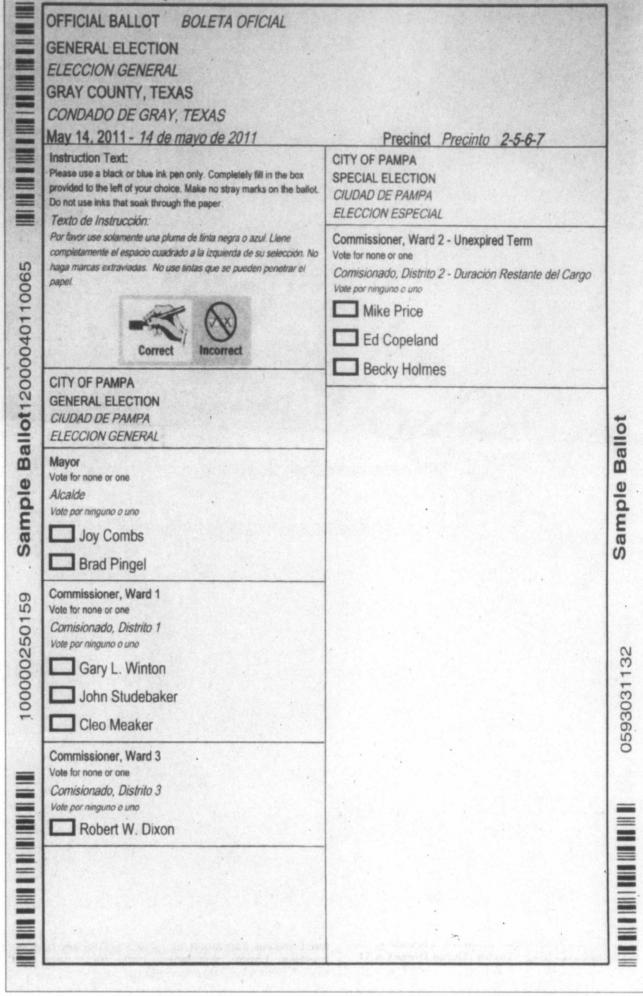


image courtesy of Linda Lewis/Gray County Election Office

Above is the sample ballot with the candidates' names listed for the upcoming city elections. City elections tions are set for Saturday, May 14. Early voting begins on Monday

He says there's a need for volunteers in the community. from Ward 2, said he's been a Pampa resident for 47 of Pipelines his 57 years.

"I feel very fortunate, very blessed, to be a Pampa resi- Early voting begins May 2. dent," Price said. "I come from good stock."

Federal Credit Union board, the Top of Texas Livestock scheduled to run in The Pampa News later this week. Association, 4-H and FFA

"In all honesty," Price said, "I don't have a platform or an agenda or an ax to grind.

He said that he feels that he is now at a point in his life

where he can give more time to the community "That's a desire I've always had," Price said. "Pampa's been good to me, and I'd like to give back to the com-

Robert Dixon is the incumbent City Commissioner for Ward 3. He is running unopposed.

"This is my 12th election," Dixon said.

He said he's won 11 and lost one. This year, he said, he'll complete 20 years of public

Dixon said it is very important to get out and vote. Richard Qualls will take his place on the Pampa

Independent School District board of trustees. He is unopposed. "Since 1999 to 2009," said Qualls, "employment has swelled by 70 percent in Texas schools.

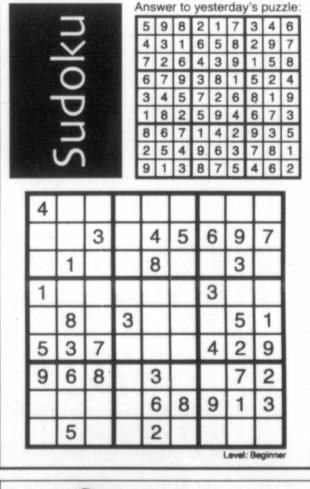
cent, he said.

The student population, however, has grown by 34 per-The reason for the faster growth in employment, Qualls said, is due to government regulations. BANANAGRAMS Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, the path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM. Yesterday's Answer: BLOOD/ANNEX: LADLE/DECAY; FRAUD/VALET

"I think those are some things that need to be looked at," Mike Price, the third candidate for City Commission said Qualls, a construction superintendent for Enbridge

The city elections are scheduled for Saturday, May 14

He said he served on several committees, on the Pampa Editor's Note: Profiles of the individual candidates are





Professional April 21
Professional April 21

Since 1952, the International Association of Administrative Professionals has honored office workers by sponsoring Administrative Professionals Week. Today, it is one of the largest workplace observances outside of employee birthdays and major holidays.

In the year 2000, IAAP announced a name change for Professional Secretaries Week and Professional Secretaries Day. The names were changed to Administrative Professionals Week and Administrative Professionals Day to keep pace with changing job titles and expanding responsibilities of today's administrative workforce.

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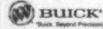
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Nest Heads



HAPPY RIRTHDAY for Wednesday.

April 27, 2011:

This year, you get a new beginning. In June, you enter a new life and luck cycle. Often, the first year of this period draws unusual events - some longed for, and others unexpected. During this period of expansion, if you're not careful, you could gain some weight, as expansion also refers to your waistline. No matter -- you will land on your feet like a cat with nine lives. If you are single, you could meet someone of significance this year. What role this person plays will be determined by you. If you are attached, the two of you seem to exchange happiness rays between you. PISCES can be counted on.

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)

** You might want to assume a less dominant profile. A change from activist to observer will draw more information and insight. What you see could alter your mental perception. Test this view on those you trust. Tonight: Get some much-needed

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You might want to take a stand and revise a project or plan. Sometimes you don't say enough and allow the collective to run with your idea. If it goes haywire, who is really to blame? Tonight: Get tickets for a ballgame.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** You will want to visualize more of what you want. Work on conveying these abstract ideas in a more concrete manner. You will need supporters, and they need to understand more. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: Go till the wee hours. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take an overview rather than get into a catfight. Details might count, but not as much as the concept. Look for unity instead of problems. The little details can be negotiated if you are on the same page. Tonight: Let your imagination flow. Go

with an idea. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** You move from one situation to the next. Understand that your flexibility is unique. Some people get stuck. Allow others to get more involved, though you might need to rework the schedule or let go of an

Daniel for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ You might not have the strength

or power you want to make an imprint on an issue. Rethink a decision. Others approach you with various requests. Pick and choose by what appeals to you. Tonight: Defer. Everyone likes to think he or she has the final say.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Honor what needs to happen between you and an associate. Though you might be uncomfortable with your role, you will follow through. Your creativity funnels into a daily situation, making it more interesting. Tonight: Easy works.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) *** Your imagination might be difficult to ignore, as you have so many crazy thoughts. Let in someone who cares. Allow greater give-and-take between you and a neighbor or sibling. A change might be needed. Tonight: Only where you can

enjoy yourself. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Consider how you might be able to spend more time at home. Perhaps a home-based business could work, or simply working more from home. A major change could be in the offing. Tonight: Be honest with yourself about

what you want. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** A change of pace or different lifestyle needs to get greater attention. You might not be as sure of yourself as in the past. Part of the issue is that you are walking in your old shoes and need ones that fit and suit you better. Tonight: Call a friend

and make plans. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Understand what is happening behind the scenes. What is for sure is that much more than you realize is occurring. Though at first you might be uncomfortable with what you hear, trust that you will adjust. Know that there is something better ahead. Tonight: Keep your own counsel.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** A meeting brings about a different message than individual talks would. Understand what is going on between you

and another person - is that coloring your

interactions? Be willing to process an at-

titude. Tonight: Where your friends are.

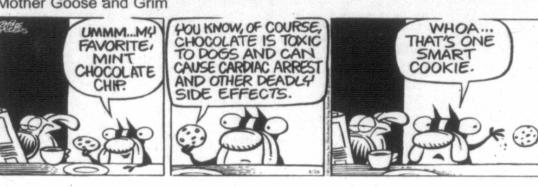
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



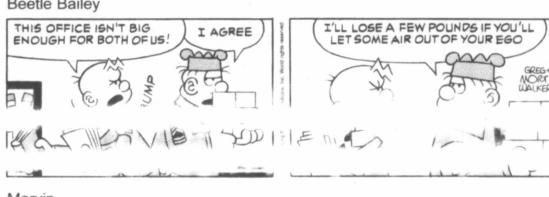
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



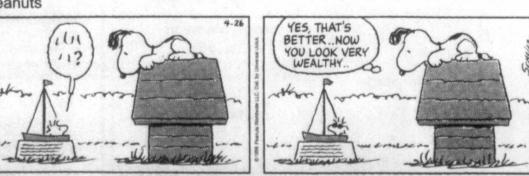
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Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

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Pampa ISD will hold meeting concerning the planning of Federal Title and Special Educa tion IDEA Funds for profit and non-profit 14g Elec. Contr. school Thursday May 5, 2011 RUSSELLCROW Elec at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Conference Room of 665-0878, 440-1171. the Carver Administration Center in Pampa interested Anyone should call 806-669 4700 and speak to Rob ert Rumph, Director of Federal Programs, Pam pa ISD 299.9563

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4-26

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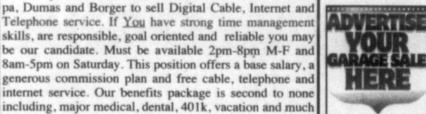
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Sports

JV team development key to future varsity success

The varsity may be the team that gets the press, but I would bet a good number of those varsity players were on junior varsity at one point in their careers. Though the junior varsity doesn't draw the crowds or attention that varsity does, the development of those players are key to a varsity's success.

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The success of a JV team is measured differently than varsity. Win-loss record doesn't necessarily define how good a JV team is; it's the development of players. In 2009-2010, seniors Brandon Chairez, Greg Cabrales and Joseph Mechelay and sophomore Derrek Pollard played for a JV basketball team that went 5-18 and didn't win a district game. This year, they helped lead the Harvesters to the regional finals. Those four players became better

players during the course of the season

and the offseason.

ers Jesus Cabrales, Jonathan Cox. Laketon Harris and Trey Teel motivation for next season. This shows that the success of a JV team

With the success of

the varsity had, I'm

sure it gave JV play-

ANDREW doesn't carry over to varsity. Though there **GLOVER** are exceptions: The JV softball team went

26-5-1. Junior Heather Coffee, and sophomores Tiffany Britton and Martecia Alexander helped this seasons varsity to a 26-7 record. A JV team is successful if their players improve from the beginning of the season.

This season there were several JV play-

ers who made an immediate impact on varsity. Junior Ramie Hutto was one of the leaders in kills and helped the Lady Harvesters to a district championship and regional quarterfinal appearance. Junior Reid Miller was first-team All-District quarterback and could make ESPN's top 150 recruits. Coffee and Britton have done well in the pitching circle in their first varsity season as they have a combined record of 22-4. This season, sophomores Tyler Powell and Jordan Lemons are already making an impact on varsity after starting the season on junior varsity.

The JV baseball team's offense this season will be welcome on varsity next season as some will likely get playing

Some of the teams had small senior classes. This gives those players another year to mature and improve when they

make varsity in 2012-13. The volleyball team only graduated one but has six seniors next year. The girls basketball team graduated two but has six seniors next year. The softball team graduated three but could have six next year. With some of these teams having small senior classes, it will make offseason competition tough to get a spot on the 2011-12 varsity squads.

The varsity softball team has developed a strong winning tradition. If you look at the names on their signs at Lady Harvester Field, several of them were on JV in a previous season. Behind every great varsity team is a solid JV team that is developing players for future varsity

Andrew Glover is The Pampa News sports reporter. He can be reached by email at aglover@thepampanews.com



Grizzlies grab first 3-1 series lead over top seeded Spurs

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The Memphis Grizzlies are one win away from more franchise history, and Shane Battier is expecting quite a fight from the San Antonio Spurs.

The Grizzlies routed the Spurs 104-86 on Monday night and need just one victory to become the second No. 8 seed to knock off the top seed in a best-of-seven series in the NBA playoffs.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in San Antonio, and Battier is trying to prepare his younger teammates for what lies ahead.

"It's a very difficult situation," he said. "These guys know this could be it. They are going to fight as hard as they have ever fought before as a group. We have to be able to match that intensity and surpass it.'

The Spurs won 61 games in the regular season and only lost the NBA's best record by dropping the final two games. But the four-time NBA champs are on the verge losing their opening playoff series 4-1 for the second time in three years.

Battier thinks that makes Wednesday night very dangerous.

'I'd feel better if it was against someone other than the Spurs," he said. "They are very capable of winning three straight in a playoff series. All we've done is held

home court." Memphis made franchise history by winning the series opener for its first playoff victory, then added its first playoff win at home. A win Wednesday night would put the Grizzlies alongside the 2007 Golden State Warriors as the only No. 8 seeds to eliminate the top team since the NBA expanded to a best-ofseven series.

"I know a lot of people didn't expect us to be here," Grizzlies guard Mike Conley said. "It's not like we were expected to be up 3-1 at this point. In our locker room, we're just playing it game by game. We want to come into San Antonio looking to end it there. We're focused and want to be able to move onto the next round."

The Spurs now are placing their hopes in making a stand Wednesday night on their home court. Coach Gregg Popovich pulled his starters with 5:43 left to start resting them for that game.

"They'll need their juice for the next game," Popovich said.

Conley had 15 points and seven assists. Darrell Arthur added 14 points for Memphis. Tony Allen scored 12, and Zach Randolph and O.J. Mayo each had

Tony Parker scored 19 of his 23 points in the first half for the Spurs, but also had seven turnovers. Manu Ginobili had 14 points, Gary Neal finished with 11, and George Hill and Tiago Splitter had 10 apiece. Splitter, a rookie from Brazil, had not played in the series previously

Tim Duncan had six points for the Spurs on his 35th birthday.

'Obviously, the whole team is very frustrated," Parker said. "I mean we go through a whole season and get that first seed, and now we're just one game away to be eliminated so it's most important for us to focus on Game 5. That's the most important thing to get Game 5 and try to get another chance to get a win

San Antonio led 50-48 for its first halftime lead of the series, and Memphis coach Lionel Hollins ripped his team at the break

The Grizzlies responded with a 14-0 run to begin the third quarter. Marc Gasol's two free throws at 11:04 put Memphis ahead to stay at 52-50, and Sam Young capped the surge with a dunk. The Spurs missed their first five shots, had seven turnovers in the quarter and put Memphis on the line early with foul

"Everybody started to smell blood," Conley said. "I think we started to realize a couple more punches, and we got them. A couple more stops, a couple more

layups, a couple more steals.' The Grizzlies had every fan up and

waving a rally towel, cranking up the

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noise with every Spurs miss or mistake. Arthur ended the quarter by hitting a pair of jumpers to put Memphis up 78-65.

Battier made a 3-pointer to give Memphis a 94-75 lead with 5:43 left, starting the party in earnest in a town desperate for an NBA winner in the Grizzlies' 10th year here.

"They put their foot on our neck and they never let up," Popovich said. "They did a great job.

The Grizzlies had just their sixth sellout crowd of the season, and the fans couldn't have been more electric. They buzzed with a sense of expectation instead of mere hope for a win over the same team that swept Memphis out of the playoffs in its first postseason trip in 2004.

Duncan, Parker and Ginobili were on that team, and they're still with the Spurs. Ginobili was asked if they are feeling old right now.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

Carolina" (March 18), who on: feels guilty using address labels, calendars and notefor donations I received. Abby, the total was 532 them. I sent all of them letnored my request. One donations. asked how often I want in-

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COLLINS, COLO. DEAR plaining about charitable LAND, N.Y. donation requests with can imagine the mail I asking you to indicate if

ABBY: I'm have received in response you would like to be taken writing in response to to the one I printed from off their mailing list. It's "Feeling Guilty in North "Feeling Guilty." Read worth the 44 cents to return

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DEAR ABBY: There's nothing "free" when organizations try to guilt us into sending money. My solution for all this junk is, use the labels and anything them; they just want to do ing home, local children's them in a jar and give them DEAR ABBY: Many to my church. - CLAIRE

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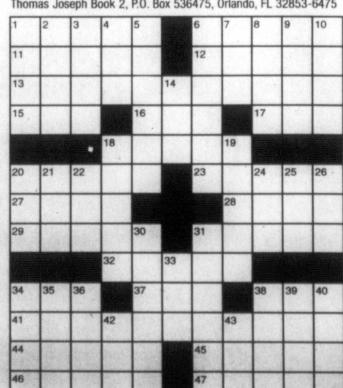
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Sports

Regional track qualifiers prepare for upcoming meet

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The regional track meet is May 2 and 3 at Texas Tech. Pampa's regional qualifiers are getting prepared.

The Harvester and Lady Harvester qualifiers competed at the regional qualifier meet in Panhandle Thursday. Regional qualifiers from 4A to 1A competed. Sophomore Samuel Smith finished fourth in the 200-meter dash (23.23). Trent McAnear placed sixth in the mile (5:00.60) and sixth in the 800-meter run (2:10.18), though he won't compete in the event at regionals. Junior Reid Miller finished second in the 110-meter hurdles (15.49).

Miller said he is looking forward to regionals, though he is a little nervous.

"Our times keep getting better and better." Miller said. "Who knows we could crack the finals. I'm really looking forward to it to say the least."

Pampa finished sixth in the 800-meter relay. The Harvesters also qualified in the 400-meter relay.

For the Lady Harvesters, Kristin Ladd finished fifth in the 200-meter dash (27.44), though she won't compete in Troxell tied for fourth in the high jump with a distance of 4-10.

Head coach Gene Valentine said the meet went OK and everyone improved their times.

"We put kids in different events to work differently as far as seeing their times and let them run something different then they had been," Valentine said. "Everyone that ran their times are still getting better. Their mindset and us knowing we are still improving and obviously with us being so young that's the biggest deal that they continue to see improvement."

The Lady Harvesters were missing sophomore Maddie Fatheree (back) and freshman Savanna Hulsey (illness). Both should still compete in regionals and are looking forward to it.

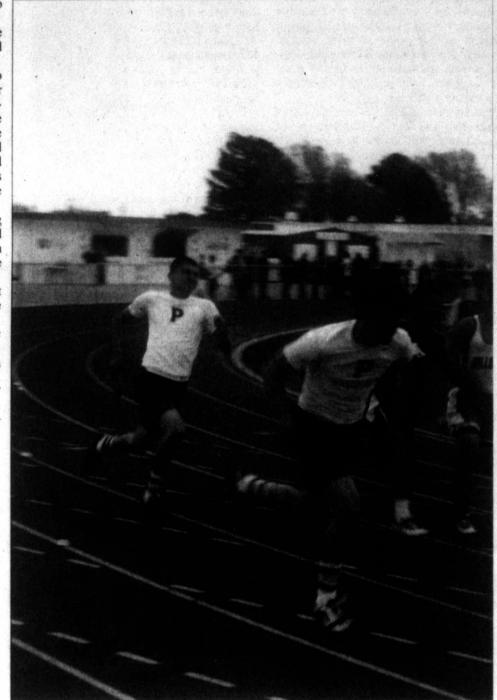
"I'm still completely ready and haven't got to the nervous point yet," Fatheree said.

"I'm kind of nervous but I'm really ready," Hulsey said.

In her first regionals. Hulsey has set a high goal.

"I'm going for first place on hurdles," Hulsey said.

this event at regionals. Junior Kailyn state.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Junior Reid Miller sprints while Jose Vizcaino prepares to hand off the baton during the 400-meter relay at the district meet April 13-14. Miller will compete in the 110-meter hurdles and the 400 and 800-meter relays at the regional meet May 2 and 3 at Texas Tech.

Pampa Regional Qualifiers

Lady Harvesters

- Kristin Ladd-100-meter dash; 800-meter relay; 1600-meter relay \\
 Francheska Bridwell 400-meter dash; 400-meter relay; 1600-meter relay
- · Joleen Pittman-800-meter run; 1600-meter relay
- J'Cee Holmes-1600-meter run; 3200-meter run
- Savanna Hulsey-100-meter hurdles; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
- Maddie Fatheree-Triple Jump; 400-meter relay
 Laylor Giles-400-meter relay; 1600-meter relay
- Faylor Giles-400-meter relay; 1000-meter relay;
- · Kailyn Troxell-800-meter relay; High Jump
- · Madison Joyce-800-meter relay

Harvesters

- Samuel Smith-100-meter dash; 200-meter dash; 400-meter relay
- Zane Robles-100-meter dash; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
 Frent McAnear-1600-meter run; 3200-meter run
- Trent McAnear-1600-meter run; 3200-meter run
 Reid Miller-110-meter hurdles; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
- Joseph Vizcaino-300-meter hurdles; 400-meter relay; 800-meter relay
- Joseph Vizcaino-300-meter hurdles, 400-meter relay, 800-meter relay
 Keenen Odell-800-meter relay
- · Jonathan Cox-High Jump

NEL LOCKOUT

NFL LOCKOUT

NFL players can return to work

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) The NFL is long way from playing football again even if players are welcomed back to work with no lockout to stop them.

Notice the players' request for an enumerion to lift the lockout on Monday, ending the NEL's work stoppage in its 48th day but prompting an immediate house from the league that it will appeal.

And players? They were told to show ap ready for work or workouts — on Lucsday

Carolina Panthers kicker John Kasay was holding a sheet of paper when he arrived at Bank of America Stadium on Thesday morning. Kasay, who served as the team's union player representative before decertification on March 11, spent about 10 minutes inside the facility.

Asked why he showed up, Kasay said: We're just walking through the process. He declined to answer further

Bills safety George Wilson confirmed that the NFLPA emailed players after Nelson's ruling suggesting they show up at team facilities. He said players were told if they are denied access that teams would be in violation of the judge's ruling

"We have received inquiry from a number of players and agents. We have simply responded and told them we don't see anything wrong with it," NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Players are organizing stuff on their own."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said any player who shows up at team facilities will be allowed in and "treated courteously and with respect."

"As soon as Judge Nelson lifted the lockout this afternoon, a number of my teammates called and asked me if they could return to work," Browns linebacker Scott Fujita said. "Basically, I told them I don't see why not."

Others weren't ready to go that far.
"The ruling created more questi

"The ruling created more questions than answers," said Kyle Vanden Bosch, a Detroit Lions player representative. "It seems like the dust still has to settle over the next couple of days."

Vikings linebacker Ben Leber, a free agent and one of the nine NFL players who are plaintiffs in the still-pending antitrust lawsuit against the league, said he was assured by NFLPA leadership that

liability should not be a concern.

"We should feel free to try to get workouts in and try to resume any sort of normalcy that we had before," Leber said.

Things will be anything but normal — Leber called it the "Wild West" — for a while.

The NFL has filed a notice of appeal questioning whether Nelson exceeded her jurisdiction, seeking relief from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis. It also wants Nelson to put her ruling on hold to let the appeals process play out.

If the injunction is upheld, the NFL must resume business in some fashion.

It could invoke the 2010 rules for free agency, meaning players would need six seasons of service before becoming unrestricted free agents when their contracts expire; previously, it was four years. The requirement for restricted free agents would be four years rather than the three years before 2010. There also was no salary cap in 2010, meaning teams could spend as much — or as little — as they wanted.

All of this was in the background for this week's draft, which has a weird feel as teams prepped for picks without free agency or the ability to swap personnel.

Jim Quinn, an attorney for the players, said the pressure is on the league.

"They better act quickly, because as of right now there's no stay and, presumably, players could sign with teams," Quinn said. "There are no guidelines as of right now, so they have to put something in place quickly."

Nelson's ruling was another rebuke of the NFL in the federal courts in Minnesota, which was established years ago as the venue for the league's collective bargaining system. Three weeks ago, NFL attorney David Boies suggested to Nelson that she shouldn't have jurisdiction over a dispute with an unfair bargaining accusation against the players pending with the National Labor Relations Board.

In her ruling, Nelson rejected that contention and recognized the NFL Players Association's decision to "de-unionize" as legitimate because it has "serious consequences" for the players.

Nelson even referenced her colleague, U.S. District Judge David Doty, who has frequently ruled for the players in the past.

