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The PAMPA NEWS

TODAY IN SPORTS



Golden girls

Stephens named MVP; six others on first team

Page 8

inside:

Multiple or Junque?



Page 5

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Volume 107 • No. 32

75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

2011 Best of Gray County

FLOWER POWER



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Carolyn Simpson (from left), Donna Caskey, Brandon Richards, Misty Hatfield and Henry Palacios make up the staff at Brandon's Flowers, which was voted Best Florist in Gray County by the readers of *The Pampa News*.

Brandon's Flowers voted best florist

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

Brandon Richards of Brandon's Flowers found his calling early in life.

"When I was like six years old, I decided I want to be a florist," he said. "I wrote 'Brandon's Flowers' on everything... I followed my dream."

"It all kind of started with growing plants and flowers in the yard, seeing my mom and grandparents and such have flowers. I was amused with being able to take a stem of ivy,

root it in a jar of water and start a new plant."

Apparently, he's doing something right. Brandon's Flowers was voted by *The Pampa News* readers as the best local florist of 2011.

"It's an honor," Richards said. "I always say to other fellow florists, 'We are a business, but we're also a service to the community'... When people recognize you for that, it makes you feel really good."

Brandon's Flowers has served Pampa since March of 2003, the culmination of Richards'

forementioned childhood dream.

"When I was really young, I started working over (with Roberta Pugh)," Richards said. "I actually volunteered there when I was 17 to try to learn the business, and I worked there for several years."

Now, Richards has a Master's certificate in design, although he said that the foundation of his own business stems — pun intended — from the attention they put into everything they prepare.

BRANDON'S cont. on page 2

Pampa High School prom on Saturday

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

With the prom coming up on Saturday, Pampa High School's seniors are looking forward to one of their last big activities as a class before graduating in May.

"I think the kids are really excited," said Lisa Gibson, student council advisor at Pampa High School. The student council is responsible for prom fundraising and ticket sales.

It was a pretty good year for prom preparations, according to Gibson.

"We're going to break even, which is good, because sometimes we don't break even," Gibson said. "We've done pretty good. We're selling a few more tickets, and we'll be doing that today and tomorrow."

As of Thursday morning, **PROM** cont. on page 2

Pampa PD to host bicycle rodeo May 21

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Police Department and Pampa EMS will be hosting a Bicycle Rodeo this month.

Wal-Mart will be giving away a new bicycle, according to Police Officer Stormy McCullar.

She said the Bicycle Rodeo would be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 21, in Central Park.

McCullar said their will also be a number booths at the park.

In addition to the police department and EMS, there will be **RODEO** cont. on page 5

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

one of these things is not like the others...



staff photo by David Bowser

Pampa Mayor Lonny Robbins (seated center) is surrounded by motorcycle enthusiasts as he proclaims May "Motorcycle and Bike Safety Awareness Month." According to the proclamation, more citizens are riding motorcycles and bikes than ever before and safety campaigns have helped reduce injury and deaths involving motorcycle and bikes.

Chamber Luncheon

Tuesday, May 17 • Noon • \$10/person
 200 N. Ballard • MK Brown Room (Kingsmill entrance)
 Program and meal sponsored by Relay for Life
 Catered by Red River Steakhouse
 RSVP to Chamber at 669-3241 or admin@pampachamber.com
 by noon, May 16

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PAMPA FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
High 70 Low 42	High 71 Low 43	High 71 Low 46

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 42. Windy, with a north wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Breezy, with a north northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. East wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Northeast wind around 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. East northeast wind around 10 mph.

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Dems: Big oil doesn't need tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats challenged leading oil industry executives Thursday to justify generous tax breaks at a time when people are paying \$4 a gallon for gas.

With the CEOs of the five largest oil companies sitting before the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon played a video of a 2005 congressional hearing in which oil company executives said they didn't need generous tax breaks because oil was selling at \$55 a barrel. As the hearing commenced, the price per barrel hovered just below \$100.

"You all said you didn't need them in 2005," Wyden said. "You seem to be telling a different story today."

Chevron Corp. chairman and CEO John Watson said the companies don't want special tax benefits — just the benefits that other industries get.

But what the oil company chiefs had to say was not the goal for majority Democrats eager to demonstrate before the 2012 election that they stand with consumers against oil companies recording large profits with the help of

billions of dollars in tax breaks.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, referred to a large portrait of a dog sitting on a pony to illustrate his thoughts of the proceedings.

"All this hearing is about is providing a justification for tax increases," Hatch said.

"For the president and some of my colleagues," he said, "the answer is always raise taxes. Government spends too much? Raise some taxes. Health care too expensive? Raise some taxes. Gas prices too expensive? I've got it... Let's raise some taxes."

Democrats acknowledged that a bill to repeal the tax breaks for the companies testifying Thursday would not bring down the price of oil at the gas pump. And no one suggested that the legislation has a future beyond a talking point. Republicans have enough votes to block it in the Senate and the House is controlled by the GOP.

But Democrats insisted that allowing a hugely profitable industry to continue taking billions of dollars in tax breaks is as credible as the notion

of a unicorn galloping into the hearing room.

"The issue is who shares" the burden of economic recovery, said Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont.

Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., the author of a bill that would repeal the tax breaks for the companies testifying Thursday, demanded an apology from ConocoPhillips CEO James Mulva for a press release from the company that said in the headline that the tax cut proposals were "un-American."

Mulva refused, saying that no personal offense was intended.

"Our industry and company are already taxed heavily compared to other industries in the United States," Mulva said.

Thursday's marquee hearing featured the CEOs of Shell Oil Co., ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, BP America and Chevron Corp., five companies that booked profits totaling \$36 billion during the first quarter. The Democrats say that with profits that high, the big oil companies wouldn't miss tax breaks that average \$2 billion a year.

Prom

Gibson said that they have sold exactly 200 tickets.

The prom will go at 8 p.m. to midnight at the commons of Pampa High School. The kids will start arriving at 7:15 p.m. and will be announced as they arrive.

This year's theme is "Atlantis: The City Under The Sea."

To accommodate the promgoers' arrivals, Randy Matson Avenue in front of the high school will be closed from noon until 10 p.m.

The commons parking lot will also be closed, as a group of volunteer dads will be using the lot to provide valet parking service to the kids.

The commons will be open for public viewing from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Gibson said. Commons parking will be blocked off during this time, so Gibson suggested parking on Charles or Harvester and walking to the commons.

cont. from page 1

Brandon's

"I would say that we just strive for consistency and quality in everything we do," Richards said. "Hopefully, we've proven that over the years."

He thanked a diligent staff for helping make Brandon's Flowers an award-winning florist.

"I've got a great staff. There's six of us that work all the time, and we've got a great group of people

here." He added that his current staff has 100 years of combined experience in the florist trade.

Richards, a Pampa native, said that he enjoys providing his service to his hometown, which he described as a caring community.

"It's always amusing to see the ones that send the flowers the most. Pampa's always been a kind town, a real close-knit town. It's part of being in a small community. There's al-

ways the handful of real popular people who, when they're sick, they'll get 10 or 12 bouquets."

Even as a small town florist, he said, you have to be ready for anything.

"One of the strange things that came up years ago were the little small casket sprays for dogs, for the death of a dog or a cat, but we haven't done that in a while... We're here for people regardless of what's going on in their lives.

"You're serving people

at the time of their happiest moments, when they're getting married or during the time of a birth, but you're also there all throughout life, through birthdays and broken arms and broken legs, all the way up until death. Especially as a small town florist — sometimes, I'm down here on Christmas Day or New Year's Day doing funeral work so that someone is able to have flowers at their funeral. Whatever's happening, 24-7."

cont. from page 1

Obituaries

Ronald Timothy "Tim" Woods, 64

DENVER, Colo. — Ronald Timothy "Tim" Woods, 64, formerly of Pampa, died May 3, 2011, in Denver, Colo.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at New Hope Baptist Church in Pampa, with the Rev. Darren Willis officiating. Tim was born August 1, 1946, to Hubbard and Alberta Woods. He attended Pampa schools. He was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church. He served in the U.S. Army with an honorable discharge.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and one brother.

He is survived by his partner and friend Daffany of Denver, Colo.; five sons, Todd Hardridge of Dallas, Steven "Rabbit" Hardridge of Nebraska, Eric Woods of Dallas, Ronald W. "Bootsey" Woods of Dallas and Courtney Nickleberry of Amarillo; one daughter, Rhonda Woods; two sisters, Peggy McKinnon and husband Mo of Wellington, and Warnza Faggins of Amarillo; one brother, William K. "Sonny" Woods and wife Virginia of



Woods

Denver, Colo.; 10 grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Tim was loved by all, always had a kind work for everyone. Affectionately called "Uncle Son" by the family, he will be greatly missed by everyone.

Ernest Bradley Fletcher, 83

Ernest Bradley Fletcher, 83, died May 11, 2011, in Amarillo.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Fletcher was born May 17, 1927, in Granite, Okla. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1948. He married Louise Goodman on July 7, 1948, in Wellington. She preceded him in death on June 6, 2005. He worked for Northern Natural Gas as a measurement technician for 36 years, retiring on January 1, 1986. Ernest was a member of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ and was a veteran of the U. S. Army. He was the first manager of the Glo-Valve Optimist Baseball team and a former scout master.

Survivors include a son, Mark Fletcher and wife Rhonda of Amarillo; a brother, Donald Fletcher of Oklahoma; two sisters, Claudine Carlos of Pampa and Delsi Gridner of Stillwater, Okla.; two grandsons, Bradley Fletcher and wife Jamie and Jarrett Fletcher and wife Alyssa, all of Amarillo; three great-grandchildren, Michael Fletcher, Emalee Fletcher and Graeclyn Fletcher, all of Amarillo. He was preceded in death by two sisters and one brother.

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AFTERNOON RUSH House approves bill on fracking fluids

Texas: violence underreported

WASHINGTON (AP) - Texas officials testifying in Washington say crime rates along the border underreport the extent of spillover violence from the Mexican drug war.

Texas Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw on Thursday told a congressional panel that statistics don't reflect "what's going on to the ground." Crimes rates in many Texas border cities are generally low and declining, but McCraw said that doesn't account for incidents such as extortion and attempted kidnappings.

Since January 2010, DPS has linked at least 22 murders and 24 assaults to what the agency considers spillover violence.

Federal officials dispute the bleak picture. Homeland Security Department spokesman Adam Fetcher said there are now "unprecedented" levels of border personnel and resources, and pointed toward border community crime rates dropping or holding steady over the past decade.

West TX rancher shoots 2 people

EL PASO (AP) - Authorities say a West Texas rancher shot and injured two alleged trespassers then drove them to a fire station for help.

The El Paso Times reports that the shootings occurred Wednesday in the same community where Hudspeth County Sheriff Arvin West last year told farmers to "arm yourselves" in response to drug violence spilling across the border.

El Paso County sheriff's officials said the rancher alleged the two men were trespassing.

Norangel Velez told KISM-TV in El Paso that he and his father were looking for land to buy when they took a wrong turn in their truck and the rancher began shooting without warning.

Velez was shot once and his father three times. It's unclear if the rancher will face charges. The Texas Rangers are investigating.

Shots exchanged across border

MISSION (AP) - Authorities on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border are investigating after U.S. Border Patrol agents traded gunfire with an unidentified man who fired at them from across the Rio Grande.

Border Patrol spokeswoman Rosalinda Huey tells The Monitor of McAllen that U.S. agents were near an RV park in the lower Rio Grande Valley city of Mission just before midnight Tuesday when they saw smugglers trying to bring marijuana across the river on rafts.

Huey says the agents tried to stop the smugglers, heard several shots, saw a man on the Mexican side of the river pointing a handgun at them and returned his fire. Huey says the agents aren't sure if they wounded the gunman, but the gunfire stopped. The smugglers abandoned their rafts and swam back to Mexico.

North Texas damaged in storms

DALLAS (AP) - Savage thunderstorms unleashed hail and damaging straight-line wind gusts that damaged roofs, downed tree limbs and power lines, smashed sheds and toppled trailers across North Texas.

The storms moved through the area Wednesday afternoon, leaving damage reports in their wake and about 20,000 people in the dark.

Wise County Fire Marshal Marc Dodd says lightning struck and ignited an oil tank battery, which was quickly extinguished. He says winds reported as high as 70 mph toppled four recreational vehicles at a Decatur lot, blew two mobile homes from their foundations and smashed some lightly built sheds and barns. No injuries were reported. Similar storms raked the Panhandle early Wednesday morning, causing minor damage.

Corporal punishment limit nixed

AUSTIN (AP) - House Republicans have defeated a bill to require schools to get parental permission before applying corporal punishment.

The proposed law by Democratic state Rep. Alma Allen would have required schools to contact parents before using any kind of physical punishment. She said parents should have the right to determine how their children are punished.

Under current law, school districts can each set their own rules and procedures for corporal punishment. Allen said her bill would set statewide standards.

Republicans state Rep. Wayne Christian spoke against the bill, saying it would tie the hands of teacher and school administrators. Republicans defeated the bill on 69-73 vote.

House okays payday loan rules

AUSTIN (AP) - Payday loan providers would be required to post the terms, interest rates and fees for their services under a bill approved by Texas lawmakers.

The measure by Southlake state Rep. Vicki Truitt also requires loan companies to provide contact information for the Consumer Credit Commissioner and the consequences of extended refinancing of short-term loans. Truitt said she spent hours striking a delicate balance between industry interests and consumer protection.

Proponents say the bill will require loan companies for the first time to disclose the full costs to the consumer.

Opponents say the bill puts undue regulation on the industry. State Rep. Gary Elkins, who has a payday loan business, said the consumer already has enough information and that the new regulation would be burdensome.

Senate votes for 'pork choppers'

AUSTIN (AP) - The Texas Senate has voted to allow hunters to take to the skies to shoot down feral hogs and coyotes.

A bill approved Wednesday allows landowners to rent seats on helicopters to hunt the animals. Some estimates say Texas has more than 3 million feral hogs that destroy crops, trample fences and cause other damage.

The House has passed a similar version. The measure must go back to that chamber for a final vote.

The state already allows some helicopter hunts by contractors. Renting seats on the choppers to hunters would help landowners pay for such trips.

Bobcats, red foxes, wild dogs and non-native "exotic" animals can also be hunted from the skies under the current program.

AUSTIN (AP) - The Texas House on Wednesday approved what would be the nation's first law to require drilling companies to publicly disclose the contents of fluids used in hydraulic fracturing.

Dozens of companies pump fluid into shale formations to break up the rock in order to extract natural gas, a process known as fracking. Most companies presently keep the chemical composition of the fluid secret.

Under the bill approved Wednesday, natural gas drillers would have to report the content of the fluid to the Texas Railroad Commission. If the company believes the recipe

is a trade secret, they can request that the commission keep the contents confidential. The attorney general would then decide if the claim of a trade secret is legitimate under the legislation.

The Republican-controlled House approved the measure on a voice vote. After one more procedural vote, the bill goes to the Senate for consideration.

Some landowners have expressed concern that hydraulic fracturing may contaminate groundwater with toxic chemicals, a contention that gas companies reject.

"This will make Texas the first state to require the public disclosure of

the composition of the fluids used for hydraulic fracturing," said state Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Granbury. "Although there have been no cases of the process contaminating groundwater in Texas, the people say they want to know the contents of the fluid used in the process."

The Environmental Protection Agency recently shut down a hydraulic fracturing operation in North Texas out of concern that the groundwater was being contaminated. The Railroad Commission disputed that finding, insisting the drilling had

nothing to do with the contamination.

The matter is still under investigation.

Cyrus Reed, the conservation director with the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, called the bill a good first step, but hoped for a stronger bill before it is finalized. The organization wants anyone to be allowed to challenge what fluids can be kept confidential as trade secrets.

"We hope the House and Senate will consider strengthening amendments to make the bill a true model bill for the nation," Reed said.

Texas Senate releases proposed voting map

AUSTIN (AP) - The Texas Senate on Wednesday released a proposed map of new voting districts for the 31-member chamber, prompting complaints from some Democrats that the new districts would be unfair to them.

The Legislature draws new maps every 10 years after the release of updated census information. The procedure typically becomes a partisan fight and a personal battle between incumbent lawmakers trying to hold onto their districts and avoid getting forced into voting areas dominated by the rival party. Republicans hold a 19-12 majority in the Senate.

Key changes targeted Democrats Wendy Davis of Fort Worth and Judith Zaffirini of Laredo.

Davis' new district would push her deeper into Republican voter territory, stripping it of Hispanic and black voters. Davis defeated Republican Ken Brimer in 2008.

In a letter to Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, chairman of the Senate redistricting committee, Davis said the map would violate minority protections in the federal Voting Rights Act.

Seliger said he believes the map is "fair and legal"

and would withstand any court challenge.

"It's not whether you go to court, it's whether your work will stand up in court," Seliger said.

Zaffirini's district would stretch from Laredo, around the outskirts of San Antonio and push into downtown Austin.

Zaffirini, who has served in the Senate since 1987, was dismayed at the changes and said the district would not be fair to voters in Laredo or Austin. Zaffirini said she also lost two of the largest bases of support in Zavala and Atascosa counties.

"It makes no sense," Zaffirini said. "Where's the community of interest? They didn't have to make that many changes. I don't understand the motivation. I don't think the people of Travis County, I won't take it personally, would want someone from Laredo to represent them."

The map also would carve Austin into four districts. The city currently is represented by two senators - a Democrat and a Republican.

Seliger said he plans to hold a public hearing on the map Thursday and hopes for a full Senate vote by early next week.

The legislative session ends May 30.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, May 12, the 132nd day of 2011. There are 233 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 12, 1937, Britain's King George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey; his wife, Elizabeth, was crowned as queen consort.

On this date:

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the besieged city of Charleston, S.C., surrendered to British forces.

In 1930, Chicago's Adler Planetarium first opened to the public.

In 1932, the body of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the kidnapped son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was found in a wooded area near Hopewell, N.J.

In 1943, during World War II, Axis forces in North Africa surrendered.

In 1949, the Soviet Union lifted the Berlin Blockade, which the Western powers had succeeded in circumventing with their Berlin Airlift.

In 1958, the United States and Canada signed an agreement to create the North American Air Defense Command (later the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD for short).

In 1970, the Senate voted unanimously to confirm Harry A. Blackmun as a Supreme Court justice.

In 1978, the Commerce Department said hurricanes would no longer be given only female names.

In 1982, in Fatima, Portugal, security guards overpowered a Spanish priest armed with a bayonet who attacked Pope John Paul II. (In 2008, the pope's longtime private secretary revealed that the pontiff was slightly wounded in the assault.)

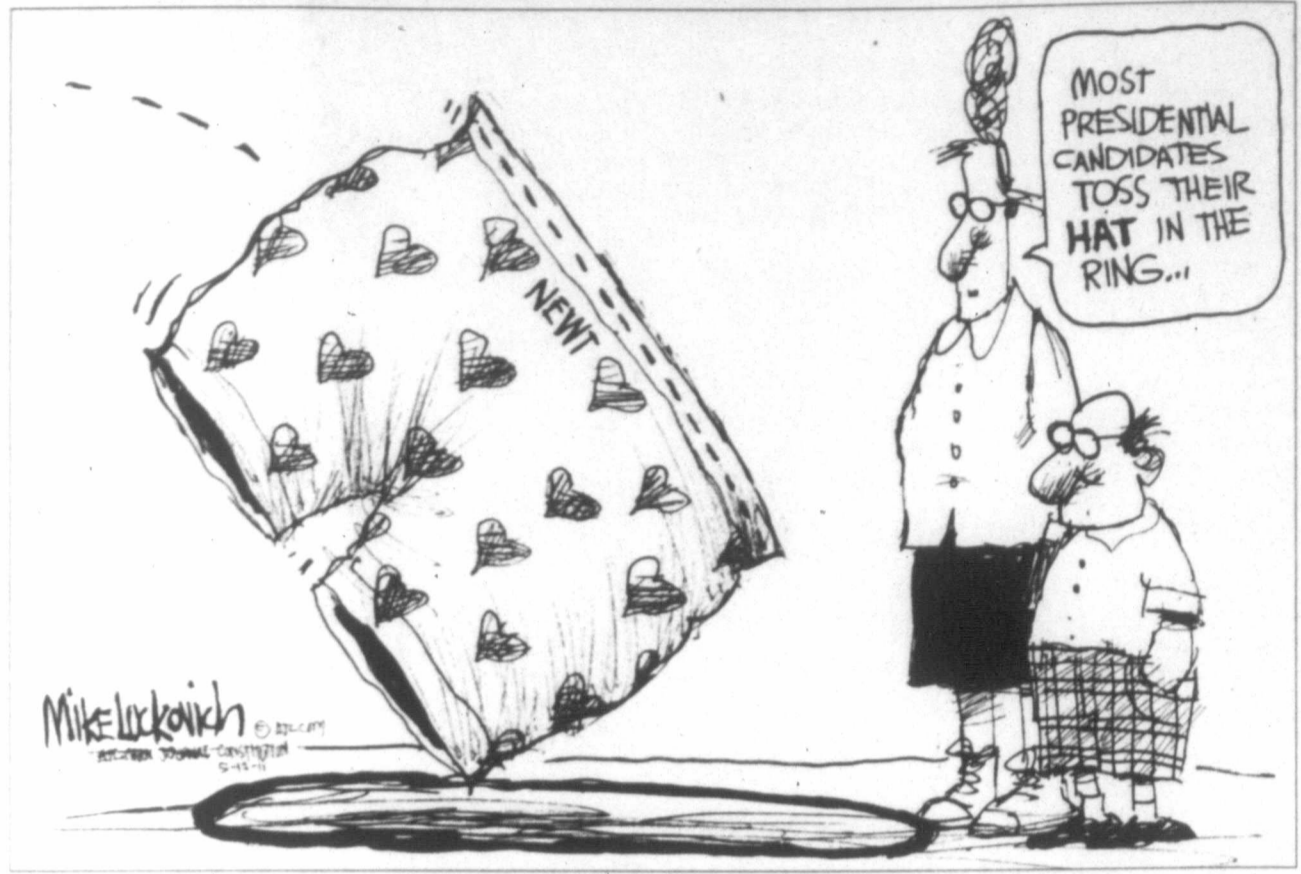
Ten years ago: Singer Perry Como died in Jupiter Inlet Colony, Fla., at age 88.

Five years ago: A ruptured gas pipeline in southwestern Nigeria exploded as villagers were collecting fuel, killing up to 200 people.

One year ago: An Afriqiyah Airways Airbus A330-200 jetliner plunged into the Libyan desert less than a mile from the runway in Tripoli after a flight from Johannesburg; a 9-year-old Dutch boy was the sole survivor of the crash that killed 103 people.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra is 86. Critic John Simon is 86. Composer Burt Bacharach is 83. Actress Millie Perkins is 73. Actress Linda Dano is 68. Actress Lindsay Crouse is 63. Singer-musician Steve Winwood is 63. Actor Gabriel Byrne is 61. Actor Bruce Boxleitner is 61. Singer Billy Squier is 61. Actress Kim Greist is 53. Rock musician Eric Singer (KISS) is 53. Actor Ving Rhames is 52. Rock musician Billy Duffy is 50. Actor Emilio Estevez is 49. Actress Vanessa A. Williams ("Melrose Place") is 48. Actor Stephen Baldwin is 45. Actress Kim Fields is 42. Actress Samantha Mathis is 41. Actor Christian Campbell is 39. Actor Mackenzie Astin is 38. Actress Malin Akerman is 33. Actor Jason Biggs is 33. Actress Emily VanCamp is 25. Actors Sawyer and Sullivan Sweeten ("Everybody Loves Raymond") are 16.

Thought for Today: "Life is to be lived. If you have to support yourself, you had bloody well better find some way that is going to be interesting. And you don't do that by sitting around." - Katharine Hepburn, American actress (born this date in 1907; died 2003)



Romney, Gingrich mark a turn in GOP race

DAVID ESPO
Analysis — AP special correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A health care speech by Mitt Romney and a formal announcement that Newt Gingrich is running mark a turn toward the substantive in the Republican presidential race.

The change can't happen too soon for the GOP after a series of events that did little to suggest the party is ready to take on President Barack Obama, who is now benefiting politically from the U.S. commando raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

The Donald Trump-for-president boomlet that overshadowed the candidates is going if not gone, and a televised debate in South Carolina that several GOP hopefuls skipped is history.

The polls indicate that even the Republican rank and file is less than enthused about the party's potential contenders, although they are unhappy, as is the rest of the electorate, about 9 percent national unemployment and \$4-a-gallon gasoline.

Not even the party's national chairman, Reince Priebus, could hide his annoyance at Trump's signature issue, the persistent questioning of Obama's country of birth.

"I don't think it's an issue that moves voters. It's an issue that I, personally, don't get too excited about," Priebus said at one point.

The debate in South Carolina was somewhat sparsely attended by the candidates. Herman Cain, Texas Rep. Ron Paul, former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty participated.

A businessman who has never held office and a black man in a party that is overwhelmingly white, Cain was widely judged to have helped himself. If so, it came at the expense of the professional politicians on stage in the state that will hold the first southern primary in 2012.

Romney and Gingrich, both certain to run, stayed home.

Nor were Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, former Arkansas Gov.

Mike Huckabee, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin or Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann there. All are considering candidacies.

A former state party chairman, Henry McMaster, tried to look on the bright side.

"These are mostly new faces," he said of those who debated. "That's what we need to see. We've seen the old faces."

Priebus said the debate was early in the campaign, suggesting that was a reason so many had skipped it.

"This is the beginning of the debate, but as we all know there are numerous other candidates who are looking at it, and thank God, because we have a country that needs to be straightened out and we have an economy that we need to get back on track," Priebus said.

Until recently, these events took place in something of a political vacuum, with the economy beginning to produce jobs but the country still struggling to emerge from the Great Recession. Obama grappled with a string of foreign crises.

The political landscape changed 10 days ago, though, when bin Laden was killed in Pakistan and the president embarked on what amounted to a week-long national victory lap.

A dramatic Sunday night announcement at the White House, a stop at ground zero in New York City and a visit to Fort Campbell in Kentucky led into a network television interview deemed so positive that the president's campaign emailed supporters urging them to watch.

"Justice has been done," Obama said in announcing bin Laden's death after a decade on the run. The spontaneous celebrations that broke out near the White House, in New York and on college campuses that night were a prelude to at least a temporary rise in Obama's poll numbers.

Voters may well see those images again in the fall of 2012.

Against that backdrop, a health care speech by Romney and Gingrich's three-day announcement

tour on social media, television and in person hardly count as game changers.

Yet because of their experience, fundraising potential and stature within the party, both men have legitimate chances to win the nomination, and their public appearances in the next few days suggest the race is becoming more serious.

Romney's speech Thursday in Michigan is designed to surmount an obvious difficulty. As governor of Massachusetts, he sought and signed a health care bill that requires state residents to purchase health care. It's a forerunner of Obama's individual mandate that Republicans loathe.

Gingrich, 67, isn't without difficulties of his own in a party in which social conservatives and tea party activists hold power.

He is married for a third time. As speaker of a Republican-controlled House more than a decade ago, he made the sort of deals that current conservative activists say they disdain: creation of a new health care benefit program as part of a balanced budget agreement with President Bill Clinton, for example.

Yet it's unlikely that either man will spend much time speculating this week about the country of Obama's birth.

And any praise of the president for the take-down of bin Laden is likely to be perfunctory.

"There are some people who don't mind if America becomes a wreck as long as they dominate the wreckage," Gingrich said in a video released Wednesday in which he announced his candidacy and displayed his combative side at the same time.

"But you and I know better. ... There's a much better America ahead with more jobs, more prosperity; a better health care system" and more, he added.

Romney, on his campaign-in-waiting website, says: "Across the nation, over 20 million Americans still can't find a job, or have given up looking. ... President Obama's policies have failed."

The PAMPA NEWS

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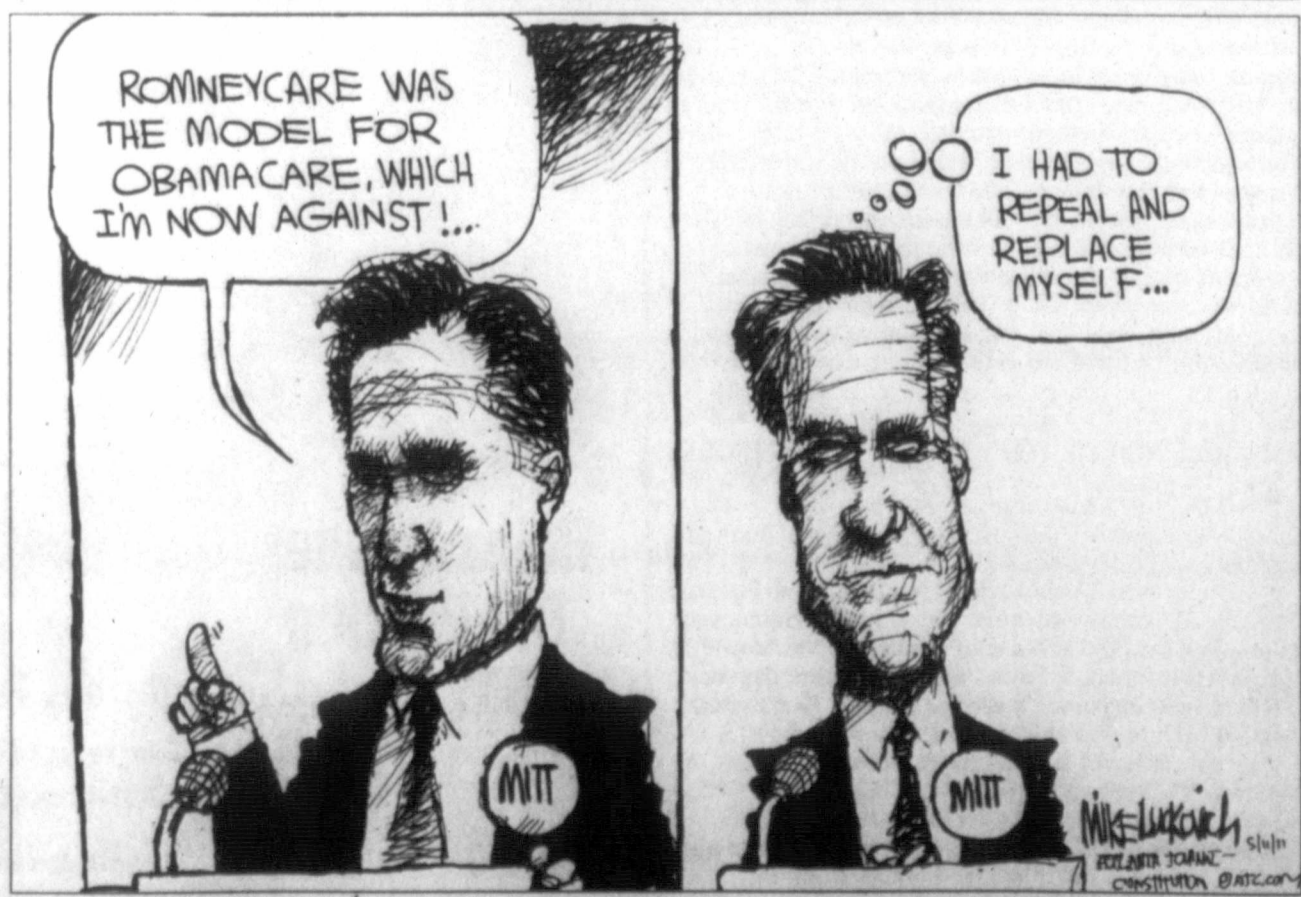
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The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News,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

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California desert flowers inspired pattern

ANNE MCCOLLAM

Q: I recently bought the pictured compote for \$45 in an antiques mall. Standing 8 inches tall, it's unmarked and in perfect condition. There is a mark on the base, but it's blurred and I can't make it out. What can you tell me about the maker, age and value of my compote?

A: Made by Gladding, McBean and Co., your compote is an example of Franciscan Ware Pottery. They were located in Los Angeles from 1875 to 1984. The pattern is "Desert Rose," which was introduced in 1941. Franciscan Ware has been produced in England by Josiah Wedgwood and Sons.

The hand-painted pink rose blossoms were inspired by the California desert flowers. The design became one of the most popular earthenware patterns in the United States.

Your compote was made in the United States around 1960, and you paid a fair market value.



Desert Rose dinnerware was made by Gladding, McBean and Co.

bowl is 8 inches in diameter. It is in mint condition with no chips or cracks.

Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated and kept for the next generation.

A: Used by several different porcelain factories, this mark is referred to as a beehive mark. It is actually a shield mark or a coat of arms, but over the years, people have seen it as a beehive shape. The mark was originally used by the Imperial and Royal Porcelain Manufactory of Vienna, Austria, around 1744. Since several factories used this mark, it can be difficult to identify the manufacturer.

Similar pieces can be seen in antiques shops in the range of \$100 to \$125.

Q: I have six plates that are decorated with a scene of a cowboy with a lasso riding a horse that is rearing up. They are 10 inches in diameter

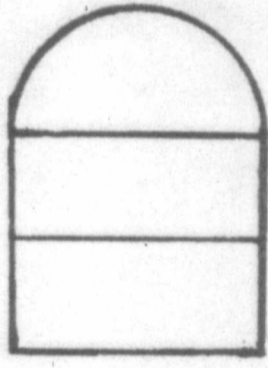
and still in mint condition. Marked on the back of each plate, there's an image of the sun with a covered wagon. Below that are the words: "Rodeo Pattern — made in Calif. USA — Wallace China." Also, the name "Till Goodan" is signed on the front of each dish.

What are my plates worth?

A: From 1931 to 1964, Wallace China Co. was located in Vernon, Calif. Your stoneware plates are part of the "Westward Ho Rodeo" series of dinnerware that was designed by Till Goodan, a Western artist. This series was made from 1945 to 1964.

Each plate would probably be worth \$125 to \$135.

If you have any antique inquiries, address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Items of a general interest will be answered in this column. Due to the volume of inquiries, she cannot answer individual letters.



The beehive mark actually represents a shield.

Q: I found this mark on the bottom of a porcelain bowl that has been in my family for generations. According to family history, it was a wedding gift to our great-grandparents in 1915. Decorated with a classical scene and gold trim, the

BANANAGRAMS!

Each set of 12 tiles below contains two common six-letter words. The letters of the first six-letter word are adjacent, but not in order. Find them and rearrange them to spell a word. Cross out those letters and imagine that the six remaining letters are now consecutive. These remaining letters can now be rearranged to spell the second word.

LEVEL

D S S A E E M U W I N N

L H U E D N N O A E E R

O R S A R S U Y G H U D

Yesterday's Answer:

C A B B A F B
A M I D I M I D I
E G I G A E G G
E I C A F E

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips



DEAR ABBY: Our daughter, "Julie," came home for the weekend so we could meet her new boyfriend, "Scott." He's a delightful young man, and my daughter is clearly smitten.

When I suggested Scott sleep in the guest room, Julie and my wife gave me this perplexed look as though I'm from a different planet. In the end, I was deeply disappointed that they shared a bedroom. After 30 years of marriage, this created the first disagreement between my wife and me in a long time.

I'm no prude. My wife and I had our share of premarital mambo, but we always slept in separate rooms while visiting our families before we were married. It was about respect for our parents' feelings.

Julie spends a lot of time with Scott's family where they share a room. My wife is afraid if we don't provide common accommodations in our home, our daughter will be less inclined to visit.

I welcome your thoughts, Abby. Is expecting some sense of propriety being a curmudgeonly father? — STUMPED AND TRUMPED IN OHIO

DEAR STUMPED AND TRUMPED: You didn't mention how long Julie and Scott have been involved, or whether

they're living together — which might have had some bearing on this. However, I keep coming back to the fact that under your roof, guests should abide by your rules. If you prefer that unmarried couples sleep apart in your home, then your feelings should have been respected. And for your wife to wimp out for the reason you stated is just sad.

DEAR ABBY: I work for a company that processes orders from a store at a local mall. I handle these orders and have run into an embarrassing problem. Our customers come from every imaginable ethnic background. When I take a look at some of the names on the work orders, I can't even begin to pronounce them.

It's my job to call these customers back to verify details and schedule installations, so what should I do? Is it more polite to try to sound out the name and wait to be corrected, or to apologize right off the bat and ask the proper pronunciation? — TONGUE-TIED IN ST. PAUL, MINN.

DEAR TONGUE-TIED: To lead off the conversation by stating that you don't know how to pronounce someone's name could be extremely off-putting. It would be better to sound it out, syl-

lable by syllable, and try to pronounce it -- adding, "If I have mispronounced your name, please correct me." (It probably won't be the first time the person has heard it.)

DEAR ABBY: I have several old Bibles that are literally falling apart. What's the proper way of disposing of Bibles? It seems wrong to just throw them in the trash or burn them. — ROBERT IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR ROBERT: The answer to your question depends upon the religion to which you belong. According to my experts, Protestants can dispose of an old Bible by giving it to someone or by throwing it away if they're comfortable doing that — the paper and ink are not "holy." Old Bibles can also be given to a Bible bookstore or Bible book society for refurbishing or disposal.

Catholics can either burn or bury old Bibles.

Jewish people should call a temple or Jewish cemetery and ask if it has a "genizah" — a special place to bury books with the name of God in them. (When the genizah is filled, it will be closed and buried.)

Persons of other religions should consult their religious authority governing the accepted manner of disposing of holy books.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Book

1 Diamonds, parts

e.g. 45 Sports

5 Geogra-

phy aids

11 Writer

Rice

12 Run

13 Bread

with a

pocket

14 Get satis-

faction for

15 "Hurry

up!"

17 Retina

part

18 Shoplift

22 Social

group

24 Sharp-

ened

25 Brewpub

product

26 — chi

(martial

art)

27 Farm

units

30 Watchful

32 Big

singing

group

33 Kids' card

game

34 Copier

problem

38 Nebraska

river

41 Designer

Wang

42 Ventilate

43 Trick tak-

ers, often

DOWN

1 Easy

targets

2 Meter or

liter

3 Cross

4 Brewing

need

5 Fed

6 Sumptu-

ous

7 Ring

combo

8 Outlaw

9 Mayo

ingredient

10 Take in

16 Lyric

poem

19 Offer a

comment

20 Still-life

fruit

21 Fix copy

22 Guitar

bar

23 Tina's TV

co-star

28 Continued

39 Gloss

spot

29 Park art

30 Reverent

wonder

31 Caterpil-

lars, e.g.

35 Cats and

dogs

36 Vicinity

37 Schooner

feature

38 — de

deux

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	
11					12						
13					14						
15					16						
					17			18	19	20	21
22	23						24				
25											26
27				28	29			30	31		
32								33			
				34		35				36	37
38	39	40							41		
42									43		
44											45

Rodeo

cont. from page 1

booths for CASA, Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers, Dunk-a-Cop, the District Attorney's office, PAWS, State Farm Insurance, the Frisbee Golf Association, Pampa Girl Scouts, Create-

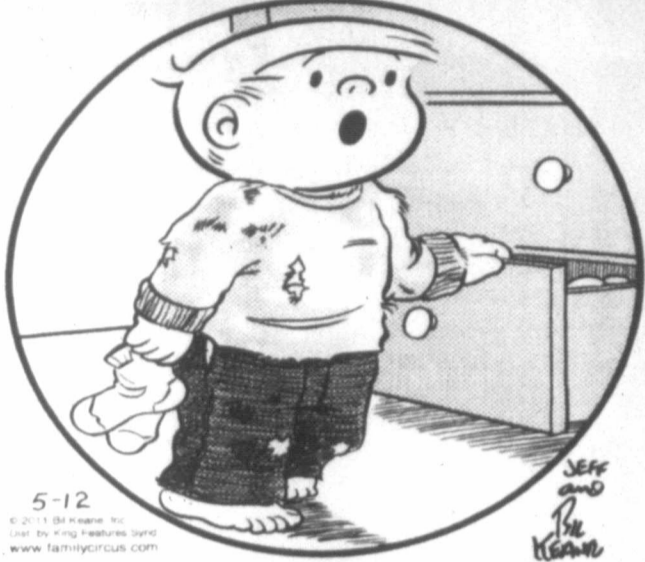
A-Beat and the Pampa Fire Department. Trinity Fellowship will have a rock-climbing wall.

There will also be a pie-throwing booth, McCullar said.

check us out online @ www.thepampanews.com

comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



5-12
© 2011 Bil Keane, Inc. Used by King Features Syndicate. www.familycircus.com
"Mommy, which goes better with this outfit — blue socks or white?"

Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



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daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 13, 2011:
This year, you express your feelings much more. The end result will be that many people are more comfortable and open with you. Insights that come forth will surprise you. You also might change your perspective about different issues. Travel, in-laws and education could come to the forefront as a priority. If you are single, a relationship could be a bit rocky until next winter. You could meet someone quite special at that time. If you are attached, your openness adds to the interaction between you as a couple. You will smile more often. LIBRA has a similar attitude but is more cerebral.
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 start the day in work mode, but by noon, many of you are thinking of the upcoming few days. Realistically, there is a lot to be done, and you see that clearly. Dig in now. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You can express a lot of creativity. You draw more work because others appreciate your gift. Understanding will evolve in a new direction if you can relax with someone you consider to be rather high-brow. Tonight: Choose something relaxing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could be surprised by a friend and his or her ideas. At the same time, you start looking forward to the weekend even more. You might need to disappoint a friend or loved one in order to complete what you feel is necessary. Tonight: Put on your dancing shoes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Talk about what is on your mind, and learn more about where others are coming from. You easily could over-react to someone's statement, making a situation more difficult. Try to detach. Tonight: Home is where your heart is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Don't hold back. You might be surprised by what you really want to say. When you turn on the tap, you'll gain an unexpected insight — perhaps into yourself. A change in plans might not be desired but is inevitable. Once decided, other opportunities float in. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Try to indulge and relax a little. Often, because you are so practical, you can get wound up about a money issue. Let go and enjoy what is happening with a close friend. Accept an invitation even if you need to make an adjustment. Tonight: Don't be surprised when a loved one throws a tantrum.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Move with your feelings. You could see a situation topple over when you least expect it. Open up to new ideas and preferences. You might feel like a domestic matter is dragging you down. Try to rethink your perspective. Tonight: Do your thing. Know, however, that sooner or later a discussion will be necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Know that you might need some time alone, especially if you feel your nerves tightening over an unexpected development. Though you might disappoint someone by changing your plans, it could be very necessary. Don't allow someone to bully you into doing what he or she wants. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You gravitate toward groups, and today is no exception. A child or new attachment could create an uproar when you least expect it. Honor who you are, but know that you cannot tell this person how to feel. Go where you are comfortable for now. Tonight: Use care with your finances.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Try to avoid making commitments or plans until later today. Many unanticipated surprises could surround you. Turn away from an investment for now if it involves property. Honor your needs first. Tonight: Choose what's most relaxing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep a conversation open. You might be startled by what someone shares and have a strong reaction. Your ability to detach counts, allowing greater give-and-take. Honor who you are more openly than in the past. Don't let a fear or an automatic reaction ruin the moment. Tonight: Meet friends where there is music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Others seem to possess the control you seek. A meeting exposes some issues, perhaps in a manner you had not yet considered. Tonight: A welcome break with a friend or loved one.

Tundra



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Shoe



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Mother Goose and Grim



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Zits



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Garfield



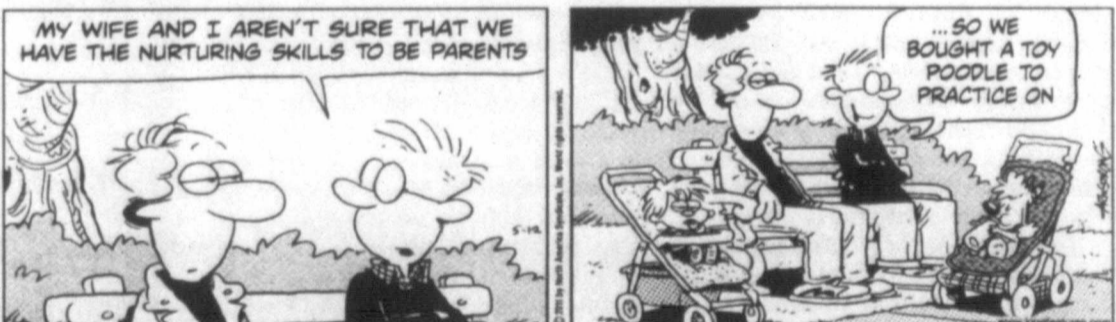
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Beetle Bailey



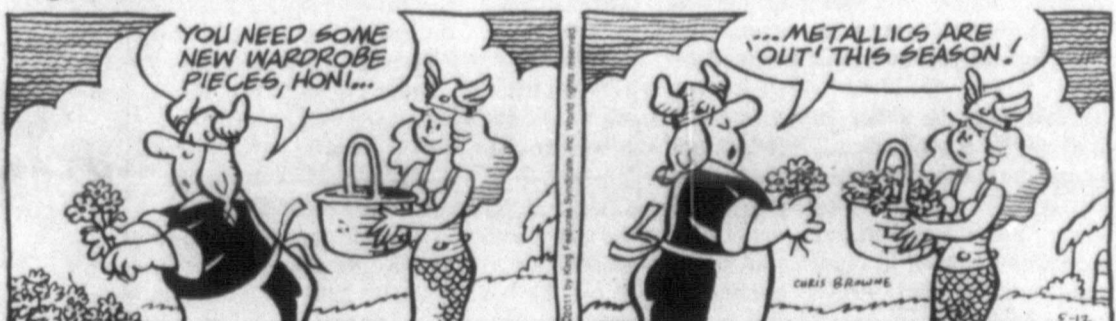
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Marvin



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Hagar The Horrible



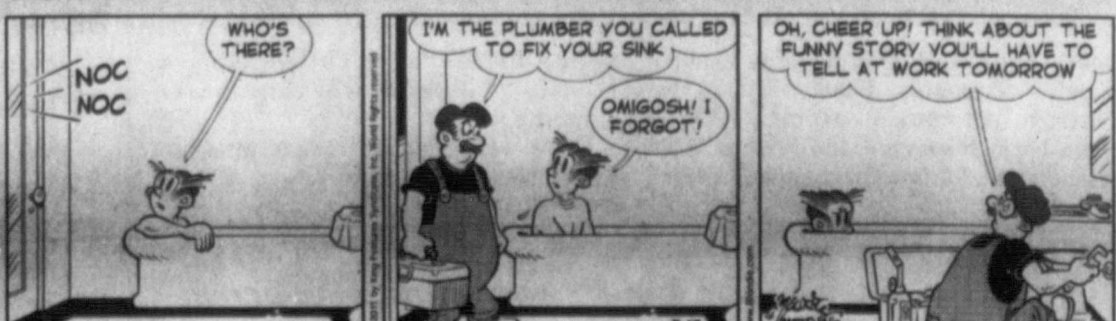
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Blondie



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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Billy Ray Reeves, Deceased, were issued on May 9, 2011, in Cause No. 9836, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: Lynna Dell Reeves.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the

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.

5-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

EZPUHQ Z REUTK UG GDYCTW
AEC SNGA ICZDAUODTTW
UYYZAUNHZT ZRA AEZA ABN
JCNJTC UH TNPC RZH RNSSUA.

IUTT RNGIW
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HOW MANY CARES ONE LOSES WHEN ONE DECIDES NOT TO BE SOMETHING BUT TO BE SOMEONE.
— GABRIELLE "COCO" CHANEL

1 Public Notice

manner prescribed by law.
Vanessa G. Buzzard
Attorney at Law
208 N. Russell St.
Pampa, TX 79065
DATED the 9th day of May, 2011.

Vanessa G. Buzzard
Attorney for
Lynna Dell Reeves
State Bar No.:
03547900
208 N. Russell St.
Pampa, TX 79065
Telephone:
(806)665-7281
Facsimile:
(806)669-0972
A-17 May 12, 2011

3 Personal

ADOPT: Former Movie Director & Executive year for 1st baby to LOVE, adore, devote our lives! Expenses paid. Jeremy & Robin 1-800-561-9323

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10 Lost/Found

FOUND sm. Maltese at Hobart & 18th. Has collar-no tags. Call & identify collar. 681-2840

FOUND puppy, 1300 bl. of Mary Ellen. Call 665-1234 to describe.

14d Carpentry

CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. New Homes & Additions. Shawn Deaver Const. 806-662-2977.

14d Carpentry

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14h Gen. Serv.

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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.

14s Plumbing

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14w Air Cond/Heat

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

19 Situations

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.

CLASS A CDL driver-needed. 1 yr exp. DOT physical drug screen required. 806-665-2451

NEED someone to do brick work and repair cement steps. Call 665-1875 Mon-Fri 9-5pm

21 Help Wanted

GRAPHIC Designer w/ experience in AutoCAD and an Estimator. Please call 669-0158.

OILFIELD MANAGEMENT

Petco Petroleum is looking for an Experienced Person to oversee their Panhandle production consisting of 300 wells, 26 employees and related equipment.

Good Salary with Excellent Benefits. A college degree is helpful but not required.

Fax Resume to 630-325-5170

FOLLOWING OPENINGS FOR EMPLOYMENT

1 PRN-RN
1 PRN-CNA
If interested please contact Rebecca Varr 1-214-245-3263

10 Odyssey

TEXAS Rose Steak house is now hiring for servers. Apply in person. No phone calls!

EXPERIENCED

Oilfield Pumper wanted. Apply in person, 11805 W. McCullough, Pampa

Oilfield Communications Field Tech / Sales

Global Energy Services USA, Inc. is looking for qualified and experienced individuals for field / sales in western OK / TX panhandle area. Need to have VSAT, inter-computer exp., good driving and safety record. Having SafeLand USA certification a plus.

Email resumes to resume@global-energyusa.com

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Apply in person only 403 W. Atchison Pampa, TX Mon.-Fri.

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21 Help Wanted

TOP Pay for Experienced general oilfield work, roustabout work & relief pumping. Must have good driving record & be able to pass drug test. Call LeJan, Inc. 806-665-0627 for application.

69 Misc.

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

NEW Mattresses, Low Prices! Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes. Open ca. Sat. Call anytime. 665-2767.

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

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FOR Sale: Exercise equipment - In very good cond. Bow Flex \$675 & Nordic Track Treadmill \$450. 806-662-2344

GREAT Deal!! 2 computer desks-need more space, \$20 ea. Other misc. 806-440-1962

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69a Garage Sales

FRI, 7am-? 1133 Sandwood Jars, headboard, material, sewing machine, clothes, Coke decor, home decor, rug, curtains, misc.

FRI. & Sat. 2132 Mary Ellen, 8am-? Couch & futon, 0-6mo. Like new baby girl clothes, misc.

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77 Livest./Equip.

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Sports

Stephens MVP, six on first team for PHS

ANDREW GLOVER
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After winning District 1-3A with an undefeated record, the Pampa Lady Harvesters earned plenty of recognition on the All-District team as junior Alanna Stephens was named MVP and six others were selected to first team.

Stephens said she was surprised to earn the honor.

"I expected a senior to get it," Stephens said. "I have a chance to get selected twice and that'll be exciting."

Stephens hit four home runs in her first season as a starter including two in district.

Junior Heather Coffee was selected as a pitcher in her first varsity sea-

son. Coffee said she was really excited.

"It's a great honor," Coffee said. "I want to thank my coaches and teammates for helping me."

Coffee finished her first season with a 14-3 record including 7-0 in district.

Freshman Krysten Miller was selected as a designated player adding that her hitting landed her the selection.

"I was doing good at the plate," Miller said. "I had good pitch selection."

Miller was one of the leaders in RBI in district play and was the first Lady Harvester to hit for the cycle in four years.

Sophomore center fielder Claire Hopkins was selected to the first team. In her first full varsity season, Hopkins said

she was excited about the selection.

"It's awesome having this chance to move up," Hopkins said. "I was second team last year. I feel like it's an accomplishment."

Hopkins was the lead-off batter and was a solid slapper. The sophomore was a threat on the bases with her speed.

Sophomore Bailey Beck (shortstop), junior McKinlee Stokes (second baseman) and senior Jordan Mayhew (third baseman) also were selected to the first team.

Head coach Bobbi Gill said she was happy for her kids were given the opportunity to be recognized.

"It's great credit to them," Gill said.

Hopkins said it's awesome they had the chance

to get so many named to first team.

"It's a great team thing," Hopkins said.

Stephens said it was expected.

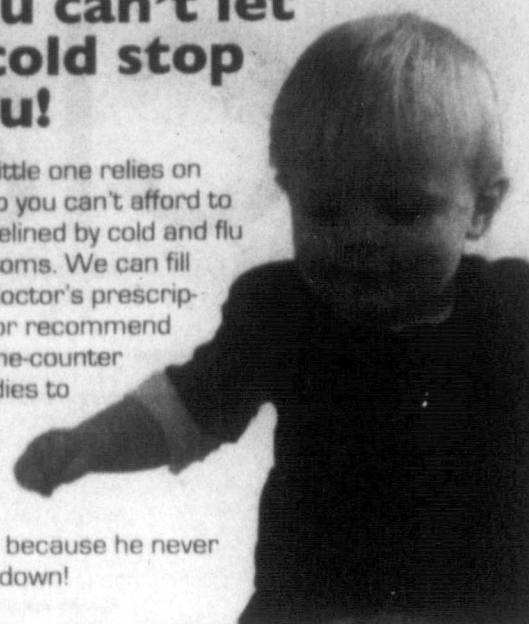
"We have the best infielders," Stephens said.

Sophomores Tiffany Britton (pitcher), and Martecia Alexander (outfield) and seniors Shanna Keown (outfield) and Madi Shults (designated player) were selected to the second team.

The Lady Harvesters finished 26-9 and reached the area round.

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District 1-3A Softball 1st Team All-District

Position	Player	Class	School
District MVP	Alanna Stephens	Jr.	Pampa
Pitcher	Heather Coffee	Jr.	Pampa
Pitcher	Courtney Dovel	So.	Dalhart
Catcher	Molly Kruse	Sr.	Dalhart
First Base	Alex Lopez	Jr.	Borger
Second Base	McKinlee Stokes	Jr.	Pampa
Shortstop	Bailey Beck	So.	Pampa
Third Base	Jordan Mayhew	Sr.	Pampa
Outfield	Claire Hopkins	So.	Pampa
Outfield	Brittney Thomas	Sr.	Borger
Outfield	Kristina Watson	Jr.	Perryton
Designated Player	Krysten Miller	Fr.	Pampa
Utility	Stacey Johnson	Sr.	Perryton

District 1-3A Softball 2nd Team All-District

Position	Player	Class	School
Pitcher	Tiffany Britton	So.	Pampa
Pitcher	Taylor Hickman	Fr.	Borger
Catcher	Alexie Fleming	Sr.	Borger
First Base	Benju Romero	Sr.	Dalhart
Second Base	Shelby Skaggs	Jr.	Perryton
Shortstop	Lyndsey Barrow	Sr.	Borger
Third Base	Kylie Boyd	Sr.	Borger
Outfield	Martecia Alexander	So.	Pampa
Outfield	Shanna Keown	Sr.	Pampa
Outfield	Joanne Jones	Sr.	Borger
Designated Player	Madi Shults	Sr.	Pampa

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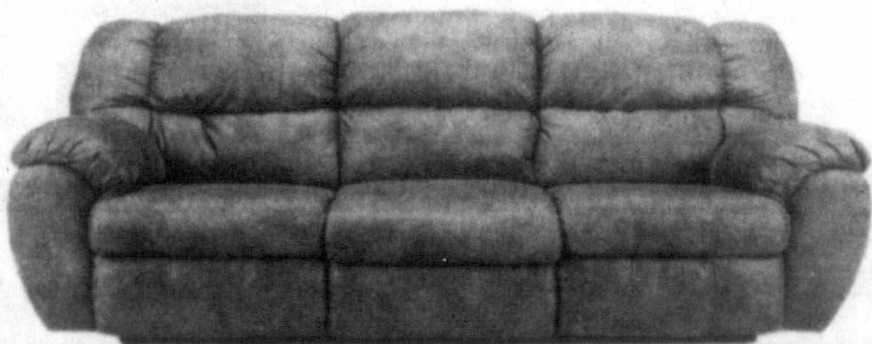
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