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The PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, December 28, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 219 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

2011: THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



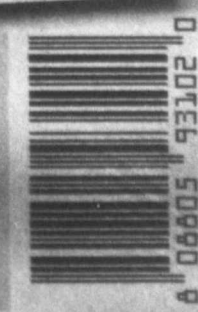
Our favorite shots from 2011

1 Graduating senior Danielle Zuniga gets a hug from PHS Principal Tanya Larkin. 2 Presley Guy digs into some ice cream at Burnin' The Bricks as father Daniel Guy watches. 3 Macy Cochran competes in pole bending at the Top O' Texas Rodeo. 4 Grandview Hopkins Superintendent Bryan Hanna gets a pie in the face from Madison Mendoza. 5 Ron Eccles tends to his hot rod during a car show at First Bank Southwest. 6 Outgoing mayor Lonny Robbins smiles with newly-elected mayor Brad Pingel in May at City Hall. 7 Zach Murray and Jonathan Polasek celebrate a PHS basketball postseason win. 8 Sharon Wampler levels off the re-cemented flagpole at the Pampa Post Office. 9 Mary Lee Bolin collapses into Tyrel Bolin's arms after a jury delivered a "not guilty" verdict in her trial. 10 Keith Black of VFW Post 1657, flanked by a pair of WWII reentractors, carries Old Glory during a Memorial Day ceremony. 11 Jildardo Arias maps out the center line of a Pampa alley. 12 Senior Madi Shults embraces head softball coach Bobbi Gill after playing her final game at PHS. 13 Clay Ray comes down a slide at the H2O Water Park. 14 Alex Fairbanks lets Kennan Rigoulot, Mason Bagwell, Tristan Black and Jackson Bagwell inspect his bagpipes. 15 Steve York auctions off a quilt at an August benefit held by the VFW for their comrades in Childress.




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Have you made yours yet?
Nominations for Citizen of the Year and Business of the Year
 are due by 4pm this Friday



PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
High 48 Low 30	High 59 Low 31	High 58 Low 33

Today: Sunny, with a high near 48. Wind chill values between 14 and 24 early. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 22 and 27. Breezy, with a west wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 59. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 31. West wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 58. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 33. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.

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Obituaries

Opal Pauline King Hall, 89

Opal Pauline King Hall, 89, died December 25, 2011, in Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 29, 2011, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Mike Watson, pastor of Hobart Baptist Church, Rev. Jon Watson, pastor of Caprock Baptist Church of Amarillo, officiating.

Burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery with Rev. Steve Cox, pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Hall was born September 30, 1922, in Stigler, Okla., to Roy Virgil and Nettie Francis Killion King. She had been a resident of Lefors since 1930, graduating from Lefors High School in 1940. She married Carl Chadwick (Babe) Hall on June 15, 1941, in Lefors. He preceded her in death on April 7, 2002, after 60 years of marriage. Opal served as a volunteer on the Lefors Federal Credit Union Audit Committee for 23 years. She was a member of the Lefors Art and Civic Club for 40 years, serving in every office during that time and as president three different terms. She also served on the Top of Texas District Board for several years. Opal was a member of the United Methodist Church of Lefors where she served as treasurer numerous years and also as the board secretary. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Bernice King Higgins in 1990; and her brother, Bobby Ralph King in 1999.

Survivors include three nieces, Kaye Higgins, Kristy Higgins Finley and Shannon King Birchum; two nephews, Wesley King and Kirk King; sister-in-law, Patricia King; and brother-in-law, Leon Higgins.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.



Hall

cherished life and the rewards of hard work. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; two children, Robert Charles Preston and Mary Annette (Net) Barton-Elkins; five brothers, Erving, Robert, Jr., Gerald, Wiley and Buddy; and three sisters, Louise, Sue and Barbara Ann. She completed her life's journey on earth and entered her rest with her Lord and Savior, and she had long anticipated being reunited with her family.

Survivors include a son, Mark Preston and wife Rita of Pampa; a daughter, Joan Eccles and husband Larry of Pampa; a brother, Frank Chase and wife Laverne of Comanche; a sister, Diane Chase-Corcoran and husband Ray of Pampa; 14 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Cassandra Preston of Amarillo; five sisters-in-law, Christine Walls of Dallas, Vera Preston of Paris, Maxcine Chase of Pampa, Elaine Lapp of Lakewood, Wash. and Clara Chase of Claude; and many nieces and nephews.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Elna Mae Cox, 78

Elna Mae Cox, 78, died Monday, Dec. 26, 2011 in Amarillo.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Cox was born Aug. 17, 1933, in Gracemont, Okla., and attended Gracemont High School. She was married to Raymond Cox, Sr. for over 60 years. She came to Pampa following her marriage and had lived here ever since.

Mrs. Cox was a member of Hobart Baptist Church, and she was a homemaker. In her spare time, she enjoyed sewing and crafts. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and she will be greatly missed. In the last few years, she became attached to Raymond, Jr.'s dog "Buddy." She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, J.C. Dyer, Carl Dyer, and Jim Dyer; and by a sister, Neomi Van Brocklin.

Survivors include her husband, Raymond Cox, Sr. of the home; two sons, Mike Cox and wife Sherry and Raymond Cox, Jr. and wife Melinda, all of Pampa; three brothers, Junior Dyer and wife Edith of Colorado Springs, Colo., Bob Dyer of Lawton, Okla., and Virgil Dyer and wife Judy of Houston; a brother-in-law, H.M. Killough of White Deer; three grandsons, Raymond Cox, III and fiancée Alicia, Brandon Cox, and Jon Cox, all of Pampa; two granddaughters, Michelle Shedd and husband Logan and Jennifer Petroski and husband Bobby, all of Pampa; four great grandchildren, Christopher Shedd, Bryson Cox, Ashton Shedd, and Madison Petroski, all of Pampa.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 415 W. 8th Ave., Suite 300, Amarillo, TX 79101 or Hobart Baptist Church, 1100 W. Crawford, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.



Cox

Mary E. Preston, 87

Mary E. Preston, 87, died December 26, 2011, in Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, December 29, 2011, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Albert Maggard, pastor of First Pentecostal Holiness Church, and Rev. Scott Barton, pastor of Harvest Church of Perryton, officiating.

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

Mrs. Preston was born on April 20, 1924, in Commerce, to Robert Lee and Susie Marie Chase, the third of 11 children. She married Fannie M. Preston on June 29, 1940, in Paris. They moved to Pampa in 1951 and raised four children, with Mary supplementing the family income as a professional housekeeper. There was never a lack of situations to be found as Mary was by nature a perfectionist in cleanliness and tidiness, not to mention the speed with which she could get a task accomplished. She was a member of First Pentecostal Holiness Church where for several years she taught Sunday school classes for children. Mary loved the Lord and her family. She

For the record

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the five day period ending Tuesday, December 27 at 7 a.m.

Thursday, December 22
Billy Bob Stowers, 26,

was arrested by DPS agents for driving with an invalid license.

Friday, December 23

Roy Brent Burnett, 41, was arrested by DPS agents on charges of driving while intoxicated and failure to appear in court regarding

nonpayment of child support.

Rodney Aaron Fisher, 18, was arrested by police for unlawful carrying of a weapon in a weapon free zone.

Robert Edwin Johnson, 40, was arrested by police for capias pro fines times two.

Saturday, December 24
Dana Zaiontz, 43, was arrested by DPS agents for driving while intoxicated.

Brett Seratt, 41, was arrested by DPS agents on charges of driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana in an amount less than two ounces.

Wendy Marie Word, 25, was arrested by police on charges of public intoxication and capias pro fines times four.

Debra Lynn Rawls, 39, was arrested by deputies for assault causing bodily injury.

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MORNINGRUSH

Consumer confidence index surges

68,000 Texans HIV-positive

VICTORIA (AP) - An estimated 68,000 Texans have the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS, about an 8 percent increase over the past two years.

That's according to numbers from the Texas Department of State Health Services. The Victoria Advocate reports about 4,200 people tested positive for HIV over the past few years. The health department says about a third of those diagnosed with HIV in Texas between 2003 and 2009 had a late diagnosis, meaning they got an AIDS diagnosis within a year of their first positive HIV test.

The health department says the largest number of HIV-positive patients treated in Victoria County were male, Hispanic, between ages 45 and 64 living in the city of Victoria.

Lost ring returned after 23 years

ABILENE (AP) - An Arlington teacher has been reunited with a ring marking his football championship at Abilene's McMurry University more than two decades after he lost it.

A Fort Worth man bought a desk at a thrift store and found the ring in a drawer. David Garcia contacted the university, which tracked down alumnus Kelly Bonner, a defensive end on the team that won the 1983 Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association title. Bonner forgot the ring was in the ashtray of his truck when in 1988 he traded it in.

Garcia told the Abilene Reporter-News he was motivated to find the owner because his son was on a championship high school football team. Bonner says he got teary-eyed and he didn't realize how much it meant to him until it was returned.

Fake cops attempt robbery

HOUSTON (AP) - Two men have been arrested and three others are being sought after authorities say they broke into a home while dressed as Houston police officers.

A neighbor told Houston television station KHOU he heard a loud noise Monday and called police. The officer who responded to the call thought a legitimate police raid was in progress when he pulled up to the home near downtown, but then the fake officers began scattering.

A police helicopter and dogs were brought in, leading to the capture of two of the burglars.

Police recovered a pistol and a taser gun. The phony officers also left behind an SUV that had been fitted with police lights and a siren.

Flyer finds \$10,000, returns it

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, Colo. (AP) - A Colorado man who found \$10,000 before boarding a flight in Las Vegas says he returned the money to the owner because he wanted to show his children it was "the right thing to do."

Greenwood Village resident Mitch Gilbert told KUSA-TV he found two unmarked Caesar's Palace envelopes at the airport and realized there was money inside when he arrived home. The television station reported Monday that Gilbert called the airport and eventually got in touch with a man from El Paso, Texas, who reported the money missing.

Gilbert says he deposited the money in the man's bank account two days before Christmas. The man told the television station he won the money gambling and dropped it while running to catch a flight.

Couple dead after Laredo fire

LAREDO, (AP) - The deaths of a couple found Christmas Day at their Laredo home have authorities puzzled.

An apparent fire at the home never prompted a 911 call from the occupants or neighbors. Laredo Fire Capt. Eloy Vega tells the Laredo Morning Times that when authorities showed up Sunday night after getting a call about a dead person in the house, the fire already was out.

He says a relative of the victims, identified only as a couple in their 50s, went to the home after calls there weren't answered and reported finding a body. Police then discovered there were two.

NEW YORK (AP) - Americans are gaining faith that the economy is on the upswing.

An improving job outlook helped the Consumer Confidence Index soar to the highest level since April and near a post-recession peak, according to a monthly survey by The Conference Board.

It marked the second straight monthly surge and coincided with what's wrapping up to be decent spending for the holiday shopping season.

The rise in confidence jibes with a better outlook for the overall economy. According to an Associated Press poll of three dozen private, corporate and academic economists, the U.S. economy will grow faster in 2012 - if isn't derailed by upheavals in Europe.

But confidence is still far below what's typically seen in a healthy economy. And Americans' mood could sour again if they start to feel more nervous if the debt crisis in Europe deepens and spreads to the U.S. On top of that, shoppers still face big obstacles: higher costs on household basics and a still-slumping housing market.

"This is encouraging. It's good to be talking about improvement," said Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo. "But there is still a lot of room for trouble."

The New York-based Conference Board said Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index rose almost 10 points to 64.5 in December, up from a revised 55.2 in November. Analysts had expected 59. The level is close to the post-recession peak of 72, reached in February.

The surge in December builds on a big increase in November, when the index rose almost 15 points from October. That month's reading was the lowest since March 2009, when the index was 26.9, having begun a fitful recovery from its all-time low the month before of 25.3.

One component of the index that measures how shoppers feel now about the economy rose to 46.7, up from 38.3 in November. The other barometer, which measures how shoppers feel about the next six months, rose to 76.4, up from 66.4.

In particular, shoppers' assessment of the job market improved, according to preliminary results of the survey, which was conducted Dec. 1-14. Those anticipating more jobs in the months ahead increased to 13.3 percent from 12.4

percent while those anticipating fewer jobs declined to 20.2 percent from 23.8 percent.

Economists watch the confidence numbers closely because consumer spending - including items like health care - accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

Americans have more reason to be optimistic as the year ends. The economy has produced at least 100,000 new jobs for five months in a row, the longest such streak since 2006. The number of people applying for unemployment benefits has dropped to the lowest level since April 2008.

According to the AP poll of economists, conducted from Dec. 14 through 20, the U.S. economy is

expected to grow 2.4 percent next year. In 2011, it likely grew less than 2 percent. The economists expect the country to create 177,000 jobs a month through Election Day 2012. That would be up an average 132,000 jobs a month so far in 2011.

But shoppers still face many hurdles. In fact, while the job market is steadily improving, unemployment - at 8.6 percent - is still high. And housing remains wobbly. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index of home prices, also released Tuesday, dropped in October in 19 of the 20 cities it tracks. It was a second straight declining month, further evidence of a bumpy housing recovery

Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center, noted renewed fears about a second recession hurt confidence last summer.

"While consumers are ending the year in a somewhat more upbeat mood, it is too soon to tell if this is a rebound from earlier declines or a sustainable shift in attitudes," Franco. "Have we rebounded from a summer lull or are we turning the corner?"

In fact, even with the increase in confidence, shoppers have been focused on deals this holiday season. Shoppers, enticed by expanded hours and bargains, packed

INDEX cont. on page 5A

Oil price climbs above \$101

The price of oil climbed above \$101 a barrel in light holiday trading on growing consumer confidence and prospects for stronger demand.

Benchmark crude rose \$1.52 on Tuesday to \$101.19 per barrel in New York. Brent crude rose \$1.21 to \$109.17 per barrel in London.

Prices have risen in the past week as encouraging U.S. economic news pointed to stronger future demand. A private survey released Tuesday showed consumer confidence this month surged to levels not seen since April and was near a post-recession peak.

The New York-based Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index rose almost 10 points from November, to 64.5. The increase was surprisingly strong, with most

analysts expecting a reading of 59.

Higher confidence is in line with retail reports of a decent holiday shopping season. Retailers saw a surge of shopping the week before Christmas as consumers took advantage of better discounts. The National Retail Federation now expects a 3.8 percent increase in holiday sales, up from its original forecast of 2.8 percent made in September.

Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of the U.S. economy, so an uptick in spending could boost growth and demand for oil. Consumers have cut back in recent years because of uncertainty about the economy, fed by a weak jobs mar-

ket and a stagnant housing market. Gasoline demand has been steadily declining since spring.

Tensions in the Middle East have also boosted oil prices. Sectarian violence in Iraq and a diplomatic standoff over Iran's nuclear ambitions have stoked worries about crude supplies in the region.

Iran is the world's fourth largest oil producer, according to the Energy Department, and Iraq ranks 12th. Disruptions of supplies from either source could lead to higher prices, although crude continues to flow from both countries.

Average retail gasoline prices in the U.S. were unchanged from Monday at a national average of \$3.23 per gallon.

Cinema 4

Movies Showing
Friday, December 23 through
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The Adventures of Tintin (PG)
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Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00
Mon/Thur 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30


We Bought A Zoo (PG)
Fri 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:15
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:15
Mon/Thur 2:00 4:30 7:15 9:45

Sherlock Holmes (PG-13)
Fri 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Thur 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00

Chipmunks (G)
Fri 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
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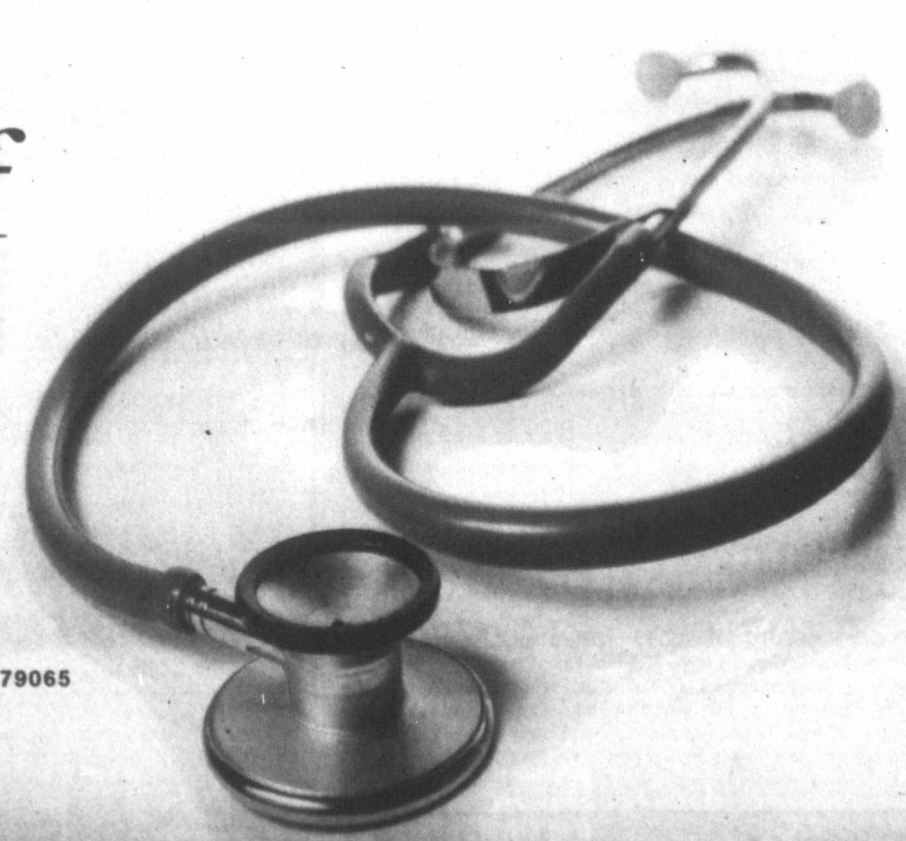
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 28, the 362nd day of 2011. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

On this date:

In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after more than five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down because of differences with President Andrew Jackson.

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton, Va.

In 1908, a major earthquake followed by a tsunami devastated the Italian city of Messina, killing at least 70,000 people.

In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published "A Neglected Anniversary," a facetious, as well as fictitious, essay by H.L. Mencken recounting the history of bathtubs in America.

In 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

In 1961, the Tennessee Williams play "Night of the Iguana" opened on Broadway. Former first lady Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, the second wife of President Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington at age 89.

In 1971, film composer Max Steiner ("Gone with the Wind," among many others) died in Hollywood at age 83.

In 1981, Elizabeth Jordan Carr, the first American "test-tube" baby, was born in Norfolk, Va.

In 1991, nine people died in a crush to get into a rap celebrity basketball game at City College in New York.

Ten years ago: The National Guard was called out to help Buffalo, N.Y., dig out from a paralyzing, 5-day storm that had unloaded nearly 7 feet of snow.

Five years ago: President George W. Bush, at his Texas ranch, worked on designing a new U.S. policy in Iraq. Saddam Hussein's lawyer made a last-ditch effort to impede his client's execution.

One year ago: Eight young people were killed in a fire that swept through an abandoned New Orleans warehouse (some of the victims were squatters who had been living inside the building). Agathe von Trapp, the real-life inspiration for eldest daughter Liesl in the musical "The Sound of Music," died in Towson, Md., at age 97.

Today's Birthdays: Comic book creator Stan Lee is 89. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 82. Actor Martin Milner is 80. Actress Nichelle Nichols is 79. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 77. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 73. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 65. Actor Denzel Washington is 57. Country singer Joe Diffie is 53. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 53. Actor Chad McQueen is 51. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 51. Actor Malcolm Gets is 47. Actor Mauricio Mendoza is 42. Comedian Seth Meyers is 38. Actor Brendan Hines is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer John Legend is 33. Actress Sienna Miller is 30. Actor Thomas Dekker is 24. Actress Mackenzie Rosman is 22. Pop singer David Archuleta is 21.

Thought for Today: "There is no luck except where there is discipline." - Irish proverb



Medicaid cuts affect patients, providers

SHANNON McCAFFREY
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Just as Medicaid prepares for a vast expansion under the federal health care overhaul, the 47-year-old entitlement program for the poor is under increasing pressure as deficit-burdened states chip away at benefits and cut payments to doctors.

Nearly every state has proposed or implemented a plan in its current budget to rein in costs, and many are considering additional cuts in the year ahead.

For the tens of millions of poor and disabled who rely on the program — approaching nearly one in five Americans — the cuts translate into longer waits for doctors, restrictions on prescription drugs, a halt to vision and dental care, staff cuts at nursing homes and dwindling access to home health care.

Ruth Wohlforth, 70, is among those feeling the effects.

Her \$700 monthly income qualifies her for both Medicare and Medicaid, but she says her benefits have been reduced, she's being forced her to make co-pays for the first time on prescription drugs, and she now has to drive about 30 minutes from her home near the southern tip of New Jersey to see a doctor. Some of her friends have been assigned to doctors in Philadelphia.

She said she feels lawmakers are not aware of the real-world consequences of their spending cuts.

"I've seen so many people in tears, and they don't know what to do," Wohlforth said. "People that are older than I am, and are in worse shape, they get befuddled by the whole thing. They don't know where to go for help; they just feel they're not being listened to."

States are reshaping the Medicaid landscape even as the need has grown along with joblessness during the recession.

The \$427 billion-a-year program, a combination of state and federal funding, also had been targeted for additional cuts at the federal level this year as members of Congress sparred over how to reduce the nation's debt. But funding seems safe for now after a special committee failed last month to reach an agreement on how to cut overall spending.

Already, many changes at the state level have been dramatic and are testing the legal bounds of what Medicaid must provide:

- Arizona, for a time, eliminated life-saving transplants for Medicaid patients, and hospital officials in the state blame at least one death on the halt in coverage. Gov. Jan Brewer restored transplants but is prohibiting thousands of low-income, childless adults from entering the program and has added fees on those who smoke and the obese.

- New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is pushing a plan under which only the poorest would qualify. A parent of two making more than \$103 per week would no longer be eligible for coverage.

- The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether California has the right to continue cutting payments to physicians and other Medicaid providers to help close the state's ongoing budget deficit.

Cuts to provider fees, as in California, have been the most frequently used tactic by states to save Medicaid costs. A recent survey by the National Association of State Budget Officers found that 33 states wanted to reduce provider rates and another 16 sought to freeze them.

California was granted permission by federal officials to make broad cuts to reimbursement rates to its Medicaid program, known as Medi-Cal, in October. The cuts include a 10 percent reduction to payments for outpatient services for doctors, clinics, optometrists, dental services, medical equipment and pharmacy. They are intended to save the state an estimated \$623 million.

A coalition of trade associations representing doctors, pharmacists and chain drug stores has filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the cuts. Doctors who care for Medi-Cal patients say they already have been subjected to multiple pay cuts, and some say they no longer will be able to serve the state's neediest patients.

About 70 percent of Dr. Douglas Tolley's practice in Yuba County is covered by Medi-Cal. The 64-year-old obstetrician, who practices in a largely agricultural region about 40 minutes north of the state capital said he is the old-school sort of doctor who "was brought up in a time when doctors took care of all comers."

Yet he has seen his income steadily drop over the last 18 years — down one-third from what it was when he started.

"Everybody understands that doctors are basically small business people, and we have to meet our cost plus make a living," Tolley said. "Just meeting our cost doesn't mean staying in business."

Even more state cuts could be on the horizon. In Maine, Gov. Paul LePage recently proposed removing 65,000 residents from the program citing a state Medicaid shortfall estimated to reach \$221 million through mid-2013. The Republican governor says he will not consider tax

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The PAMPA NEWS

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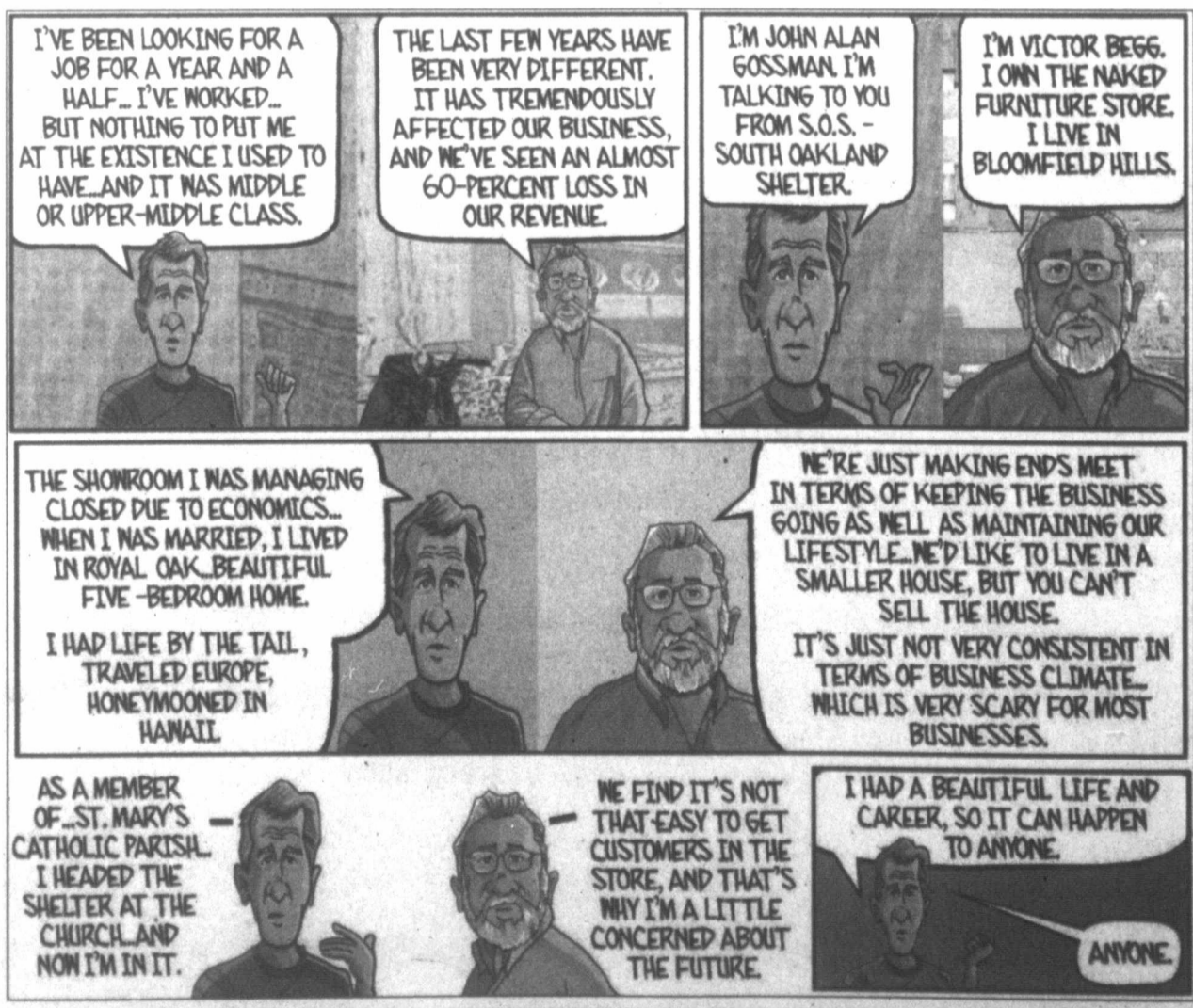
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Medicaid

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increases to make up the difference.

State officials, who are required to balance their budgets, argue they have no choice but to cut into Medicaid after four straight years of budget deficits. With state and federal funds combined, Medicaid makes up 22 percent of total state spending, the largest single portion of most state budgets, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

Critics say the moves are shortsighted. Joan Alker, co-executive director of the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University, said slashing Medicaid will not stop the sick from seeking care, sending them to emergency rooms and ultimately inflating private medical insurance premiums.

"At the end of the day, for the children, the individuals with disabilities, the seniors in nursing homes, their health care needs are not going to go away just because someone cuts the Medicaid program," Alker said.

Jerry Kemmer, a former Democratic state assemblyman in New York, said Medicaid has long been an issue lawmakers did not want to touch. Now, they simply have no choice.

"It's ballooned to the extent that it's just become a budget-buster," he said.

Six million people have joined the Medicaid rolls since the recession began in late 2007. Enrollment nationally topped 50 million for the first time in June 2010, a number that is projected to keep rising, especially as the nation's unemployment rate remains high.

Billions of dollars from the federal stimulus program helped avoid deep Medicaid cuts through the worst of the recession, but the last of that money dried up this year.

In Florida, Medicaid reimbursement rates were reduced this year by 12 percent for most hospitals, although rural and children's hospitals were cut just 3 percent, and rates for nursing homes were cut 6.5 percent.

But the start of the next legislative session in January already has some people worried about additional cuts.

Debra St. Fleur, 25, of Miami, is covered by Medicaid, along with her 1-year-old son. Many of her neighbors in the city's Little Haiti section are on Medicaid, too, and she worries what would happen if services continue to be eroded.

"It's really scary," she said. "If they can't get their medicine, what's going to happen? They're going to die."

The Obama administration is concerned enough about the widespread Medicaid provider cuts that it has introduced a rule that would make it harder for states to slash the rates. The move is designed to ensure that those eligible for Medicaid are not denied access due to a shortage of health care resources.

Medicaid reimbursement rates already trail those physicians receive for treating Medicare patients and those with private insurance. A study by the nonpartisan Center for Studying Health System Change found that on average, Medicaid would reimburse a doctor \$39 for 45 minutes for a new patient hospital visit, compared to \$63 for Medicare.

Physician groups say that has left more and more doctors declining to see Medicaid clients. Some providers are trying to find other ways to make up for the cuts.

In Columbia, S.C., Julie Ann Avin, executive director of the private, nonprofit Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc., has decided not to fill staff vacancies and also cut back on some rehab services because of Medicaid's new authorization process. The center serves about 650 people annually, close to 60 percent of whom are on Medicaid.

"We accept folks regardless," Avin said. "Everything that we do is not based just on a reimbursement."

Molly Collins Offner, director of policy development for the American Hospital Association, said emergency rooms must accept Medicaid clients, as well as those without insurance.

"More and more, you are seeing ER's becoming primary care docs," she said.

She said deep cuts rippling through the Medicaid system will only exacerbate that.

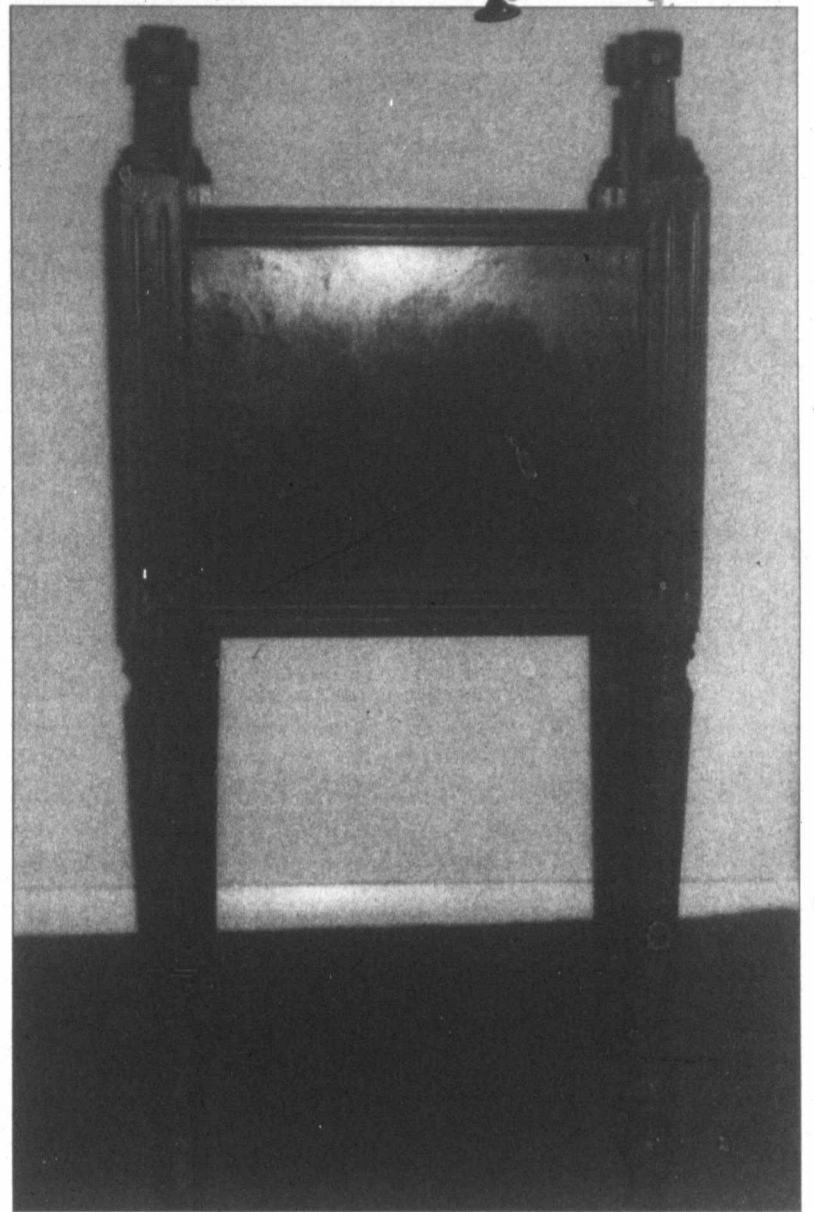
Vintage humidors humored husbands

Q: Enclosed is a photo of what I believe is a humidor. The entire cabinet is 29 inches tall and 13 inches wide. The door opens to reveal a copper-lined interior, the handle is not brass and there is not a manufacturer's mark. I purchased it at a consignment shop for \$22. Initially, I thought it was a telephone stand, but when I discovered the copper lining, I realized it must be a humidor. Although it needs refinishing, the structure is in good condition.

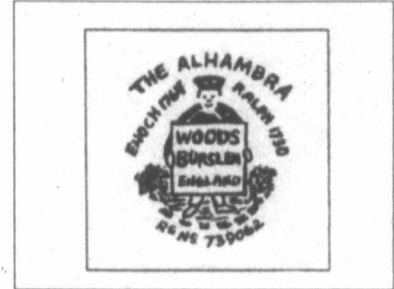
Any information you can give me will be appreciated.

A: You are correct; it is a humidor. In the first half of the 20th century most homes had humidors in their living rooms. A homemaker usually placed one next to her husband's favorite chair. Smokers stored their tobacco and smoking accessories in the copper lined cabinet. The copper lining helped keep the tobacco fresh.

Your humidor was made around 1930 and would probably be worth \$75 to \$100.



Humidors were popular additions to early 20th century living rooms.



Enoch and Ralph Woods Factory was founded in 1865.

Q: This is the mark on the bottom of an antique-covered dish that I inherited from my great aunt. The dish is decorated with blue, rust and white flowers against a white background, and it is trimmed in gold. The lid has a raised knob handle and there are handles on either side of the dish. My great aunt always kept it in her china cabinet in the dining room and only used it for holiday dinners.

I treasure the dish and would never want to sell it, but I would like to know more about it and its value.

A: Enoch and Ralph Woods made your covered vegetable dish in the early 1900s. They made earthenware in Burslem, Staffordshire, England, from 1865

to 1982. At that time, the Yorke family bought the factory, and it is still in business. "The Alhambra" is the name of the pattern; the number "739062" shows the pattern was registered with the British government in 1928. The pattern name was inspired by the 14th century, Moorish Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain.

Your covered vegetable dish would probably be worth \$75 to \$100.

Q: I have a Brownie Hawkeye Flash Camera that includes the flash attachment. It is in good

working condition. What is its current value?

A: Kodak introduced their Brownie Hawkeye Flash camera in 1949. It has a molded plastic body and can be used with or without the flash.

Today, they can be found on the Internet selling anywhere from \$25 to \$60.

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.

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stores for the start of the holiday season, resulting in discount-fueled record spending, but then retreated for a few weeks to wait for better deals.

Based on a stronger-than expected start and rising optimism that more spending was to come in the finale, The National Retail Federation upgraded its holiday sales growth forecast to 3.8 percent, from the original forecast of 2.8 percent made in September. More data will be released

this week that will help quantify the last-minute sales surge.

Of course, the big question is how all the discounting will affect stores' profit margins. But in one good sign, Roxanne Meyer, a retail analyst at UBS Investment Research, says that overall post-Christmas markdowns were not as deep as expected, with less than half of major retailers increasing promotional offers from last year.

Final goodbye: Roll call of some who died in 2011

(Continued from yesterday's issue)

ATLANTA (AP) - They lived by the sword, both inspiring fear and acts of bloodshed around the world. And in the end, they both suffered violent deaths befitting their fearsome reputations. Perhaps no two deaths in 2011 transfixed the world more than those of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden and Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

Bin Laden became the most wanted man in the world after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that killed almost 3,000 people. Nearly a decade later, he was shot dead by U.S. commandos in May after being tracked to his hideout in Pakistan. His body was buried at sea. For Gadhafi, the end came after he was captured by rebels, his final moments shown in gruesome, shaky handheld video that was seen

across the globe.

If relief and even celebration by many greeted their demise, the deaths of other notables in 2011 brought reflection on lives of achievement.

Garret FitzGerald, 85. A beloved figure who as Ireland's prime minister in the 1980s was an early architect of peace in Northern Ireland. May 19.

Randy "Macho Man" Savage, 58. A larger-than-life personality from professional wrestling's 1980s heyday known for his raspy voice and brash style. May 20. Car crash.

JUNE:
Jack Kevoorkian, 83. Defiant proponent of doctor-assisted suicide who said he oversaw the deaths of 130 gravely ill people. June 3.

James Amess, 88. An actor who towered over the American television landscape for two decades as righteously Dodge City lawman Matt Dillon

in "Gunsmoke." June 3.

Lawrence Eagleburger, 80. The only career U.S. foreign service officer to rise to secretary of state and whose exuberant style masked a hard-driving commitment to solving tangled foreign policy problems. June 4.

Jorge Semprun, 87. A writer and politician who chronicled his own experience in the Nazis' Buchenwald death camp, struggled against dictatorship in his native Spain and later became that country's culture minister. June 7.

Clarence Clemons, 69. The saxophone player for the E Street Band who was one of the key influences in Bruce Springsteen's life and music. June 18. Complications from a stroke.

Peter Falk, 83. The American stage and screen actor who became

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Worship

How does God guide your decisions?

"I talk to him and ask him what to do and what college to go to," says Abraham, 8. "God helps me make a decision like if I should hit my brother."

Decisions, decisions. If you'd like to enter college in one piece, you would be wise to refrain from hitting your brother. Hit mine instead. Just kidding.

"One day I wanted to beat up my sister, but God told me not to do it," says Jonathan, 8.

I'm glad you listened, Jonathan. Never, ever hit a girl. Don't even think about it. Some boys who hit girls grow into men who hit women. I hesitate to use the word "men" because real men don't hit women. Only cowards resort to this kind of violence.

If you want to make life easier for yourself, decide in advance to follow God's standards. Then when occasions arise, there will be fewer things to decide. You can act without hesitation upon your convictions. In a culture where morality is relative, you'll have to swim against the stream. Just make sure your convictions are biblically based.

"When I had a new dog, I had to choose if I wanted to keep him or give him away," says Ambee, 11. "I had a pool in the back yard, so he didn't have any room to play. So that night, God told me to give him to Mr. Carol. He had three acres. I did, and the dog is still alive and running happily."

Ambee's story is a great example of discovering God's will. Nothing in the Bible says that if you have a dog in a small back yard, you should give it to someone with three acres. However, promises abound for those who depend on God for guidance.

One of my favorites is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Don't think God is too busy to direct you in small things. Notice that God promises guidance to those who trust and acknowledge Him in everything.



CARY KINSOLVING

KIDS talk about GOD

God's revealed will is in the Bible. The mind is a beautiful thing, but never use it to rationalize away God's revealed will. We must obey God, even if our feelings scream and our minds imagine logical reasons for disobedience.

There is probably no greater area for rationalizing away God's will than in a troubled marriage. Yet God has revealed his will regarding all marriage essentials: Jesus said marriage is a lifetime covenant where two people become "one flesh" (Mark 10:5-9). God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). With sexual immorality being the exception (Matt. 19:9), separated or divorced Christians should reconcile or remain single (1 Corinthians 7:10-11) until one of them dies (Romans 7:2-3). Jesus said a man or woman who divorces and remarries commits adultery (Mark 10:11-12).

Think about this: Walking by faith means believing God more than our feelings. Desires and emotions can change, but God's Word remains the same. Obey God's revealed Word and trust Him for everything else.

Memorize this truth: "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:4-5).

Ask this question: Are you delighting yourself in the Lord to the point where you can trust Him to work out things in His own way and time?

Cary Kinsolving is an experienced public speaker, syndicated newspaper columnist, author, and producer. Many of Kinsolving's feature articles have appeared in The Washington Post and other major newspapers.

GOD'S GOOD NEWS

Don't be a circus elephant

Jim Donovan, author of "This is Your Life, Not a Dress Rehearsal," wrote about his trip back stage during an appearance by the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus.

"I was able to walk around looking at all the circus animals," he wrote. "As I was passing the elephants, I suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from their bonds, but for some reason they did not."

"I asked the trainer, 'Why? When they are very young and much smaller, we use the same rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them,' he said. 'As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never break free.'"

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging on to a belief that we cannot do something



DAVID BOULTER

simply because we couldn't do it before?

We are given great encouragement by the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

This is no idle boast, but is the testimony of a man walking with Christ and experiencing the power of God to meet the circumstances of life that would try and tie him down.

The call of God to any task or trial you may face is always accompanied by the divine enablement to be triumphant. But remember we do not conquer in our own strength, but rather through the strength of Christ.

David Boulter is a pastor at Highland Park Baptist in Chattanooga, Tenn.

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Goodbye

identified as the rumped detective title character on "Colombo," which spanned 30 years in primetime U.S. television. June 23.

JULY:

Otto Von Habsburg, 98. The oldest son of Austria's last emperor and head of one of Europe's most influential families. July 4.

Manuel Galban, 80. An award-winning Cuban guitarist who rose to international fame as a member of the Buena Vista Social Club musical collective. July 7.

Betty Ford, 93. The former U.S. first lady whose triumph over drug and alcohol addiction became a beacon of hope for addicts and the inspiration for her Betty Ford Center in California. July 8.

Juan Maria Bordaberry, 83. Former president-turned dictator whose coup launched more than a decade of military rule in Uruguay. July 17.

Lucien Freud, 88. A towering and uncompromising figure in the art world for more than 50 years known for his intense realist portraits, particularly of nudes. July 20.

Elliot Handler, 95. With his wife, he grew Mattel Inc. from a small home-based picture-frame business into the largest U.S. toy maker and created the Hot Wheels brand. July 21.

Amy Winehouse, 27. A dazzling, versatile singer who produced bitterly honest lyrics but who made headlines because of drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders and destructive relationships. July 23. Alcohol poisoning.

John Shalikashvili, 75. A retired U.S. Army general who was the first foreign-born chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and counseled President Bill Clinton on the use of troops in Bosnia and other trouble spots. July 24.

AUGUST:

Bubba Smith, 66. Former NFL star and actor best known for playing Moses Hightower, the soft-spoken officer in the "Police Academy" films. Aug. 3.

Marshall Grant, 83. The last surviving member of Johnny Cash and the Tennessee Two who helped change the future of American music and popular culture with their boom-chicka-boom beat. Aug. 7.

Albert "Doc" Brown, 105. A survivor of the Bataan Death March, a harrowing 65-mile (105 kilometer) trek in which 78,000 prisoners of war were forced to walk from Bataan, a

province near Manila, to a Japanese prisoner camp. Aug. 21.

Frank Dileo, 63. An American music industry executive, who managed Michael Jackson's career in the 1980s and returned as his manager in the superstar's final days. Aug. 24.

David "Honey Boy" Edwards, 96. An award-winning American musician believed to be the oldest surviving Delta bluesman, in Chicago. Aug. 28.

SEPTEMBER:

Cliff Robertson, 88. Actor who portrayed President John F. Kennedy in the film "PT-109" and won an Oscar for playing a mentally disabled man in "Charly." Sept. 10.

John Calley, 81. He ran three Hollywood studios that made such hits as "The Exorcist" and "Spider-Man." Sept. 13.

Robert Whitaker, 71. A photographer who shot some of the most famous - and infamous - images of The Beatles. Sept. 20. Cancer.

Phillip Matthew Hannan, 98. The popular former New Orleans Roman Catholic archbishop who sought to console a grieving U.S. with his eulogy for slain President John F. Kennedy. Sept. 29.

Anwar al-Awlaki, 40. An American-born Muslim preacher and savvy Internet operator, who became a powerful al-Qaida tool for recruiting in the West. Sept. 30. Killed in what was believed to be a U.S. airstrike in Yemen.

Ralph Steinman, 68. A pioneering cell biologist who was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for his discoveries about the immune system. Sept. 30. Pancreatic cancer.

OCTOBER:

Arthur C. Nielsen Jr., 92. He led the company that grew into an international firm that produces the TV ratings known as "The Nielsens." Oct. 3.

Steve Jobs, 56. The Apple founder and former chief executive who invented and master-marketed ever sleeker gadgets that transformed everyday technology, from the personal computer to the iPod and iPhone. Oct. 5.

Robert Galvin, 89. He was Motorola's chief executive for 29 years and took it from maker of police radios and television sets to one of the world's leading electronic companies. Oct. 11.

James Van Doren, 72. The co-founder of Vans canvas shoes that were embraced by the skateboard culture

and became a sensation in the U.S. when Sean Penn wore a checkerboard pair in the 1982 film "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." Oct. 12. Cancer.

Dan Wheldon, 33. Race car driver who moved from his native England to the United States with hopes of winning the Indianapolis 500 race and went on to do so twice. Oct. 16. Wreck at the Las Vegas Indy 300.

Moammar Gadhafi, 69. The last of the old-style Arab strongmen who ruled Libya for nearly 42 years with an eccentric brutality. Oct. 20. Died after being captured by rebels in Libya.

Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, 80. Crown prince of Saudi Arabia who as defense minister closed multibillion-dollar deals to establish the modern Saudi armed forces. Oct. 22.

NOVEMBER:

Dorothy Rodham, 92. Mother of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton's mother-in-law. Nov. 1.

Norman Ramsey, 96. Shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in physics for his research into atomic energy levels that led to the creation of the atomic clock and imaging machines. Nov. 4.

Andy Rooney, 92. The curmudgeonly commentator who spent 30 years talking about the oddities of life on American television. Nov. 4.

Joe Frazier, 67. One of the great heavyweight boxers of his era who was forever associated with three bouts he had with Mohammad Ali, including the "Thrilla in Manila." Nov. 7.

Bil Keane, 89. Creator of the comic strip "Family Circus," which entertained readers with a mix of humor and traditional family values for more than a half century. Nov. 8.

Evelyn Lauder, 75. An executive at cosmetics giant Estee Lauder Cos. who helped create the pink ribbon campaign for breast cancer awareness. Nov. 12.

Karl Söver, 93. One of the last surviving actors who played one of the Munchkins in the 1939 classic film "The Wizard of Oz." Nov. 15.

Anne McCaffrey, 85. Her vision of an interstellar alliance between humans and dragons spawned the science fiction "Dragonriders of Pern" novels. Nov. 21. Stroke.

Tom Wicker, 85. The former New York Times political reporter and columnist whose career soared

after his acclaimed coverage of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Nov. 25.

Ken Russell, 84. An iconoclastic British director whose daring films blended music, sex and violence in a potent brew seemingly drawn from his subconscious. Nov. 27.

DECEMBER:

Patricia Dunn, 58. The former Hewlett-Packard chairwoman who authorized a board room surveillance probe that ultimately sullied her remarkable rise from investment bank typist to the corporate upper class. Dec. 4. Ovarian cancer.

Harry Morgan, 96. An actor best known for playing the fatherly Col. Sherman Potter on the TV show "M-A-S-H." Dec. 7.

Jerry Robinson, 89. A comic book industry pioneer who helped create Batman sidekick Robin the Boy Wonder and their arch-nemesis The Joker. Dec. 7.

Joe Simon, 98. He co-created Captain America along with Jack Kirby and was one of the comic book industry's most revered writers, artists and editors. Dec. 14.

Christopher Hitchens, 62. An author, essayist and polemicist who waged verbal and occasional physical battle on behalf of causes left and right. Dec. 15. Complications from esophageal cancer.

Kim Jong Il, 69. North Korea's mercurial and enigmatic leader whose iron rule and nuclear ambitions dominated world security fears for more than a decade. Dec. 17. Heart attack.

Vaclav Havel, 75. Czech dissident playwright who led the 1989 anti-communist "Velvet Revolution" and went from prisoner to president. Dec. 18.

BANANAGRAMS!

There is one letter that when added to all of the five-letter words below can be used to form new six-letter words. Find the letter that works for all four words, add it to each word, and then rearrange each set of letters to form a new word.

LEVEL

FARCE GRAVE

AMINE COIFS

COMMON LETTER

Yesterday's Answer: TOMATO, FAUCET, WALRUS, BEHIND, ZEALOT, WARMTH

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Intermediate

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

40 Storage spot

1 Book unit

5 Perfume ingredient

9 Wipe clear

11 Inferno describer

12 Stunned

13 Mayflower name

14 Playwright Burrows

15 City structure

17 City structure

19 Santa — winds

20 Tennis setting

21 Hwys.

22 Hit's counter-part

24 Sunbeam

26 Plane features

29 Decline

30 City structure

32 City structure

34 Prevaricate

35 Bakery output

36 Soda fountain orders

38 Arrested

39 Fencing swords

DOWN

41 Whirlpool

1 Brake, for one

2 Middle East language

3 Shady shelter

4 Jargon suffix

5 Shopper's place

6 Zombies

7 Boat backs

8 Nairobi's nation

10 Mystery awards

11 Tyne of TV

16 Skilled performer

18 July birthstone

21 Peruse

23 "Gracious!"

24 Enthusiastic

25 Milestone birthday

27 Worked the soil

28 Apt units

29 Rating units

30 Lee of comics

31 Cluttered fame

33 Surrounded by

37 King Kong, for one

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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	



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My marriage has been on the rocks since 2008, when I caught my husband talking to other girls online. He swore he would never do it again and I trusted him, only for it to happen again and again. We have a 2-year-old and I'm pregnant with our second child.

He has now placed another ad online stating that he's a single dad. I am torn. He keeps telling me he loves me and wants only me, and he doesn't know what's wrong with him. He is bipolar and not taking meds for it. He promised this time he will get help and try to get better.

This is the fifth time he has placed an ad or chatted with other girls online. I don't know if I should call it quits or keep trying. I love him and want us to be a family, but I don't know how much more I can take. — TORN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR TORN: Because you still love your husband, make his taking his medication a condition of your continuing the marriage. He needs to be willing to prove to you that he wants you to stay. If he won't do that, then you will have to decide if this is the way you want to spend the rest of your life.

And please, for your sake and that of your kids, don't have more children with him until you're sure your marriage is on solid ground.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an independent, never-married woman who has been holding out for the right man. I finally found him in "Wayne," a 49-year-old widower with two adult daughters.

Wayne and I have been together for a year — living together for six months — but his daughters still refuse to meet me. Wayne says they need time because they lost their mother only two years ago and aren't ready to accept anyone else in his life. The rest of his family has been welcoming and sweet. I'm invited to some family functions, but allowed to attend only those that Wayne's daughters won't be at.

I feel like I am able to share only part of his life and nothing will move forward until his children accept me. I love Wayne. I have searched my whole life for someone like him. How long is long enough to wait? What if they never do? — ON THE SIDELINES

DEAR ON THE SIDELINES: You have assessed your situation correctly.

You ARE sharing only part of Wayne's life, and won't be moving forward until his adult daughters accept you OR Wayne asserts himself. Wayne should be ashamed of himself. He should have introduced you to his daughters when you started living together. As his partner, you should not have been excluded from any family functions. As long as Wayne does nothing, nothing will change.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have worked hard and spent our money carefully. We are almost ready to pay off our home. I would love to have a "mortgage-burning" party, but I'm worried about showing off in this uncertain economy. Can we have this party, or should we just make our last payment and be quiet? — THRILLED IN SAN JOSE

DEAR THRILLED: Taking into consideration that many people have not been as fortunate as you in spite of the fact that they too worked hard, lived frugally and followed all the rules, my advice is to have a quiet celebration with your husband and forgo the party.



The Pampa News'

Classifieds

Beverly Taylor - Classifieds

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

Winter Classified Line Ad Specials
 4 Lines, 4 Days **\$18.50**
 8 Lines, 4 Days **\$21.50**

Does not include Last Minute Ads
 Prices Good Dec., Jan, Feb.

5 Special Notices

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

10 Lost/Found

FOUND 2 Chihuahua-male & female. Male has tags. Call 662-1801

FOUND male red-brown / white, possible Husky mix Dec. 24. 665-3228, 440-2730

14d Carpentry

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

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

14e Carpet Serv.

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

14g Elec. Contr.

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

14h Gen. Serv.

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

14h Gen. Serv.

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

CERAMIC tile work, stucco, cement. Remodeling, floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

TILED Floors, Showers, Backsplashes, Cabinet Tops, etc. Stone & Ceramic. 25 Yrs. Exp. Keith Taylor 874-1779 lv. msg.

14d Carpentry

LET M&S help you w/ your concrete needs. Free Est. Doc or Mike 669-6990, 664-2009

14s Plumbing

JACK'S Plumbing 715 W. Foster 665-7115

14w Air Cond/Heat

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

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

14w Air Cond/Heat

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for the following: Welder-Fabricators w/ welding test. Maintenance Tech w/electrical, mechanical exp. & good driving record. Drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa, Tx.

21 Help Wanted

SWINE GENETICS COMPANY
 Smithfield Premium Genetics, (SPG), the leader in world class swine genetics is seeking to fill positions at our facility East of Pampa. SPG's primary focus is on producing quality breeding stock for the swine industry. We are a state-of-the-art swine genetics company seeking qualified people for the following position.

Production Personnel (Herdsperson)

The ideal candidates will have a steady work history, be reliable and have the desire to work in a progressive, quality oriented, modern agricultural production operation.

We offer a starting wage of \$9 / hour with an excellent benefit package to include paid vacation and holidays, paid sick leave, pension plan, 401(k), medical / dental, vision, life and LTD insurance and more.

21 Help Wanted

Qualified candidates can apply in person at:

Smithfield Premium Genetics
 11 miles east of Pampa on Hwy 60 between the hours of 10am and 3pm. Monday thru Friday

Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer m/f/d/v EO 13201

21 Help Wanted

Local CPA Firm is searching for an experienced **TAX ACCOUNTANT**

(prefer Certified Public Accountant or candidate for CPA license) with 2 to 5 years experience. Degree in Accounting is necessary. Job will be for a Full-Time Employee, US citizen or US legal resident. Position requires full-time and over-time commitment. Reply to

BOX 17
 Pampa News
 Po Box 2198
 Pampa, Tx 79066
 or bring by
 403 W. Atchison
 M-Fri 8am-3pm

NOW taking applications for all positions, managers, line & prep cooks. Apply in person between 2pm-5pm. Chubby's Burrito Company. 1328 N. Hobart.

OPERATOR II

for Frontier Field Services, responsible for all processes and duties necessary to ensure optimum plant performance. This position is located in Wheeler, Texas. High School diploma and or equivalent; and 6 months experience working in operations or mechanical maintenance in a natural gas processing plant, refinery or similar industrial facility.

Closing Date: 5:00pm 12/31/11 For additional info www.sugf.com/jobs.asp

21 Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED Cook needed. Apply in person at Granny's Home Cookin', 328 E. Frederic. No Phone Call Please.

MURPHY USA is searching for qualified, motivated and team oriented **STORE MANAGERS ASSISTANTS & CASHIERS**

All interested & potential applicants must apply online at: www.murphysusa.com/careers

INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD SOON!

Management Resumes can be faxed to 1-866-454-2688. Benefits incl: Salary / Hourly Compensation, Tuition Reimbursement, Medical / Dental Ins. and Paid Vacation. **APPLY TODAY!**

\$1000 Sign-On Bonus

PAMPA NURSING CENTER

MAINTENANCE MAN

Applicant must be self motivated with a knowledge of plumbing, minor equipment repairs, painting, life safety regulations & record keeping.

Apply in Person 1321 W. Kentucky EEOE / ADA

NEEDED! Full Time Cook! Apply at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle or call 537-3194. Experience Preferred.

EXPERIENCED Heavy Equipment Mechanic wanted. Apply in person 315 S. Price Rd.

21 Help Wanted

FAMILY Owned Local business is looking for full time customer service/light office duties person. Paid medical insurance, holidays, & vacation included. Ref. req. Send resume to Box 18 c/o The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066.

PART TIME INSERTER

About 25 hrs. per week. Must work every Sat., have driver's license & be 18 yrs. old or older.

Apply in Person 8am-3pm Mon-Fri

The Pampa News
 403 W. Atchison Pampa
 No phone calls please

RN WEEKEND SUPERVISOR

Licensed Required If you're a compassionate caregiver, we are looking for you to join our team! EOE. For more info, please call (806)665-5746 or apply in person.

CORONADO HEALTHCARE CENTER
 1504 W. Kentucky Pampa

ASPLUNDH Tree Expert Co. is seeking Trimmers to work in the Texas Panhandle. Qualified applicants must have a valid D.L. and be able to pass a background check. (Full-Time/Year-Round Employment) In order to be considered an applicant, you must complete a pre employment application. Interested applicants should contact Truman Beck at (806) 544-6894 between 8 am & 5 pm Monday thru Friday. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE EOE:AA-M/F/V/D

MILL Manager & a Mill-Feeding Hand: McLean Feed Yard is looking for goal-oriented individuals. Salary is dependent upon previous experience & referrals. All interested people should apply at the feedyard, 4 mi. south of McLean on Co. Rd. 273, or contact Ty Hays 806-206-5440. McLean Feedyard offers a competitive salary & insurance for all employees.

69 Misc.

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

NEW Queen Mattress Sets! Sale Price \$246. Red barn, 1424 S. Barnes, 665-2767

80 Pets & Suppl.

FOR ADOPTION Siamese, Calico, Orange, Tabby, Gray, Spayed / Neutered & shots. Call 665-4901 lv. msg.

89 Wanted To Buy

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

We Buy & Sell Houses Call us today!! 665-1875

95 Furn. Apts.

NO transportation, not a problem. These large 1 bdr. apts. w/ appliances, are in walking distance to everything you need. 665-4274.

SCHNEIDER Apartments. Call for special rates. Short term lease. Business people welcome. 665-0415

97 Furn. Houses

FULLY Furnished Executive Home. previously rented by oil company in Pampa. 3 bdr., 2 ba., 2 car gar., 2 liv areas. C/h/a, \$1500 mo + utilities. Call 972-468-6111

98 Unfurn. Houses

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

SMALL 3 room house. Perfect for single. \$250 mth, \$300 dep. 665-8550, 662-4675

SMALL 3 room house. Somerville st. Clean! Avail now. Dep & ref. required. 663-0760

1 bdr. \$300 mo., 2 bdr. \$450, 3 bdr. \$750, 5 bdr. \$1500. Call 662-7557

99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

102 Bus. Rental

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

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

96 Unfurn. Apts.

ALL BILLS PAID 1 Bedroom Apts.
 (817)909-4766

APTS. Houses Duplexes. K&B Properties. Ref. & dep. req. Lakeview Apts. 669-4386

CAPROCK APARTMENTS

1, 2 and 3 bedrooms with rent starting as low as \$395 / mo. Pool and on-site laundry, W/D hookups in all 2 & 3 bdrms. 665-7149

MINUTES from downtown-efficiencies. Short term leases avail. 806-665-4274.

1 and 2 bdr. avail. now at the Gwendolen Apts. Largest square footage in Pampa. 665-1875

120 Autos

LEFORS ISD will be accepting bids on a **2008 Thomas C2 71 Passenger Bus.** MBE 900 (210 hp) engine, air brakes, A2500 automatic transmission, 20,000 mile range. Features: 160 amp alternator, rear ride suspension, Bendix AD-9 air dryer with heater, 100 Watt engine block heater, cruise control, tilt / telescopic steering column, air operated entrance door, air driver's seat, full length acoustic headliner, 78" headroom. Heated exterior mirrors, plywood floor, dual rear wheels, 11R22.5 tires, tow hooks, tinted windows.

This bus will include: *Mechanical and cosmetic refurbishing *Seats and foams repaired or replaced (no rips or tears) *Completely serviced: lube, oil and filters *90 Day drive train warranty / 30 day bumper to bumper *Black top driven only equipment *50% or better tires and brakes *Custom lettering to schools' specifications *New exterior paint Mail Bids to Lefors ISD, P.O. Box 427 Lefors, TX 79054. 806-835-2533. Bids will be opened January 3, 2012

SMALL 3 room house. Somerville st. Clean! Avail now. Dep & ref. required. 663-0760

1 bdr. \$300 mo., 2 bdr. \$450, 3 bdr. \$750, 5 bdr. \$1500. Call 662-7557

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

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

OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

128 Aircraft 25% Membership in Cessna 172 for sale. Call 440-1347 for details.

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.

12-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

MNPHDZ ZSD CUGZ — ZSD
 MWZWPD XQYY HQT D ENW
 CYDLZE ZN XNPPE UINWZ.

— HDNPHD UYYDL, GP.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I HIGHLY RECOMMEND WORRYING. IT IS MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE THAN DIETING. — WILLIAM POWELL

ALLIED CUSTOM GYPSUM

NOW HIRING! HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS
 Needed at our Hefley Mine in Twitty, TX
 (5 mi. north of Shamrock, Tx)
 Full-Time & Part-Time Heavy Equipment Operators
**** Competitive Pay & Benefits ****
 Please Fax resume to 806-256-2020 or
 Apply in person at Quarry Office; 5 mi north of Shamrock, TX on Hwy 83 then 1/2 mi West on County Road V

MILL Manager & a Mill-Feeding Hand: McLean Feed Yard is looking for goal-oriented individuals. Salary is dependent upon previous experience & referrals. All interested people should apply at the feedyard, 4 mi. south of McLean on Co. Rd. 273, or contact Ty Hays 806-206-5440. McLean Feedyard offers a competitive salary & insurance for all employees.

99 Stor. Bldgs. TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

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

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We feature name brand car and truck accessories and a state-of-the-art collision center. Whether it's repairing your vehicle back to its factory look or adding automotive accessories, our professionally trained staff will take care of you.

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 806-655-3094

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Flea Market

Jim's Tradin' City Flea Market

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 806-665-3620
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Appliances • Furniture
 Antiques • Tools
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900 S. Hobart • 665-2509
 (806-290-4205 after hours)
 9-6 M-F, 9-2 Sat.

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- Reliable, easy-to-drive trucks
- Boxes and moving supplies
- Friendly service to help you

We offer: Furniture Pads, Hand Trucks, Car carriers, Tow Dolly

Pumping Serv.

REED'S PUMPING SERVICE

Let Reed's Meet Your Needs!

Septic Cleaning & More!
806-669-3682

To place an ad in The Pampa News' Shopper's Square, call us at 806-669-2525! Get Noticed. Get Results.

SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Sports

A look back at 2011 in Pampa HS baseball, softball

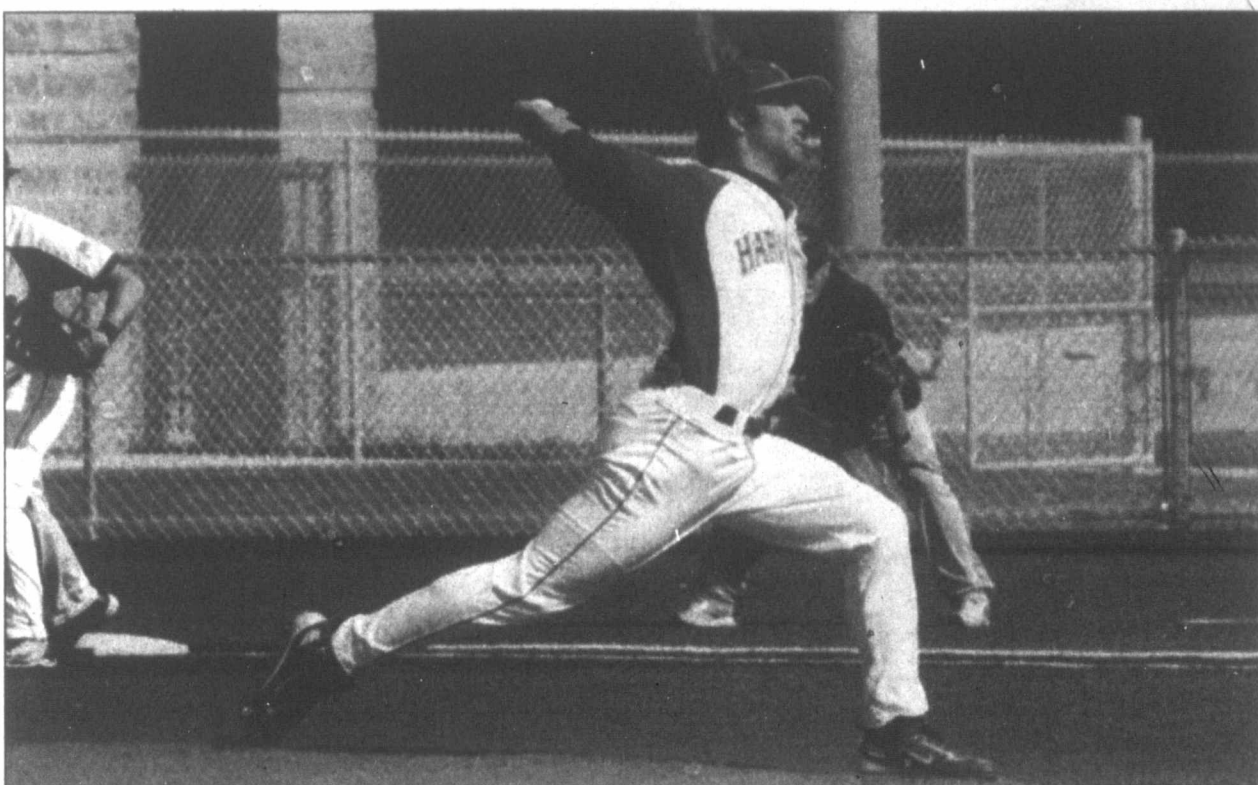
ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The drop to 3A was beneficial for the Harvesters' baseball team.

In head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves' second season, Pampa won 13 games and had a chance to win district on the last day of the season. Pampa ended up finishing third but qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 2007. The Harvesters were swept in the bi-district round by Lubbock Cooper. Then-seniors Garrett Ericson, Brent Green and Tyler Malone earned first team All-District. Then-juniors Jared Lusk and Cole Engle, then-sophomores James Thompson and Tyler Powell were selected to the second team. Ericson and Malone played in the Greater West Texas Baseball Coaches Association All-Star game.

Dropping to 3A, on the other hand, didn't change anything for the Pampa Lady Harvesters' softball team. Pampa finished 2011 with a 26-9 record and went 9-0 in district. The Lady Harvesters finished second place in two tournaments. Head coach Bobbi Gill reached 200 wins with Pampa's victory over Salado. Pampa finished the regular season on a 14-game winning streak. Despite their success in the regular season, the Lady Harvesters had an early exit in the playoffs as they were ousted in the area round by Midland Greenwood. It was the earliest exit for Pampa since 2004.

Then-junior Alanna Stephens was named district MVP. Then-senior Jordan Mayhew, then-juniors Heather Coffee and McKinlee Stokes, then-sophomores Claire Hopkins and Bailey Beck and then-freshman Krysten Miller were selected to first team All-District. Then-seniors Shanna Keown and Madi Shults and then-sophomores Tiffany Britton and



Garrett Ericson throws a pitch in Game One of the bi-district playoffs against Lubbock Cooper. The baseball team made the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

Martecia Alexander were selected to second team. Mayhew and Shults played in the Greater West Texas Softball Coaches Association All-Star game.

Swelling subsiding on QB Romo's hand

IRVING (AP) — All the negative tests on quarterback Tony Romo's bruised throwing hand are positives for the Dallas Cowboys.

Coach Jason Garrett said Monday that the swelling is going down and that a number of different tests have confirmed the original diagnosis of nothing being broken in Romo's right hand. The Cowboys are hopeful that he can practice Wednesday.

"It looks like it is getting better. All the X-rays and tests that have come back are negative," Garrett said. "We hope in the next couple of days with treatment he'll be able to take a snap and hold a football and throw it the way he needs to."

When asked if Romo could grip a football, the coach responded, "He has a relatively firm handshake."

All indications are that Romo will be ready for Sunday night's game at the New York Giants that will determine who wins the NFC East and goes to the playoffs.

"I believe in Tony," safety Abram Elam said. "I know it's going to take a lot to keep him from playing in this game."

The Cowboys (8-7) will be without starting left guard Montrae Holland, who was put on season-ending injured reserve Monday with a partially torn left biceps sustained in the 20-7 loss to Philadelphia on Saturday.

"I got caught in a position where I tried to catch a guy and try to pull him

back in front of me, and it didn't work," Holland said Monday. "It wasn't the right position to be in."

Veteran guard Derrick Dockery will likely start in Holland's spot.

Dallas has lost three of its past four games since sweeping through its four games in November to take over the division lead. That slide includes a 37-34 loss at home to the Giants on Dec. 11, when New York overcame a 12-point deficit with two touchdowns in the final 3½ minutes.

The rematch determines the NFC East champion, with the loser missing the playoffs at 8-8.

"For us, things have gone our way enough to give us this chance," Garrett said. "You can look back at the successes that we had that maybe we shouldn't have had and maybe some of the disappointments we've had that maybe we shouldn't have had. That's the Giants. That's every team in this league."

When the Giants wrapped up their victory against the New York Jets on Saturday, not long after Romo banged his hand on the helmet of a defender in

the opening series against Philadelphia, the outcome of the Cowboys' game was rendered meaningless in determining the division title.

Romo never returned to the game, though he has since said he will play against the Giants in the winner-take-the-division game. He didn't appear in the locker room Monday when it was open to reporters.

Running back Felix Jones, who started against the Eagles after missing practice all last week with hamstring tightness, was out of the game soon after Romo got hurt and the Giants had won.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones was even on the sideline in the first quarter of Saturday's game speaking with Garrett.

The coach said it was about the plan they already had for the players that came into the game banged-up, as well as Romo, based on the outcome of the Giants game.

"My understanding is he came down to see how Tony was doing and then got the information about what the result was of the Giants and Jets game and

told me. It's not a big issue to me at all," Garrett said Monday.

"We are a team. We are a team as players, coaches and personnel people and certainly our general manager and owner. And we communicate. ... We just wanted to be on the same page in that situation."

The coach said he thought the Cowboys handled things right in not risking further injury to Romo or Felix Jones. The running back could practice this week.

Garrett said it's not complicated what he wants to see this week from Romo. The coach wants to make sure Romo can take a snap, grip the ball, throw it and hand it off.

"Quarterbacks that have had injuries in the past, and really, it's a functional type thing," Garrett said. "(The snap) is the first thing you have to evaluate, and then how's he gripping it? How accurate is he when he's throwing it? Does everything have to be perfect for him to throw it well? Because as you know, that position is a spontaneous one, and he's certainly a spontaneous quarterback."

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