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# The PAMPA NEWS

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TODAY IN SPORTS



Friday, Feb. 3, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 107 • No. 249

**75¢** Home How-To Pick the right kind of wallboard for your project | p3  
 Welcome to the neighborhood Realignment to bring River Road to Pampa's district | p11

## R&B artist Jones to perform in Pampa next week

Canadian singer to spin soul versions of familiar rock, pop, country hits

MOLLIE BRYANT  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Sean Jones, a soul and R&B singer from Canada, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9 at the M.K. Brown Auditorium.

Jones was a member of "In Essence," an R&B group that earned two hits, the 2002 Juno Award for R&B Recording of the Year and the 2003 Much Music Video of the Year Award. Now he has segued into a solo career, touring with a full band.



Jones

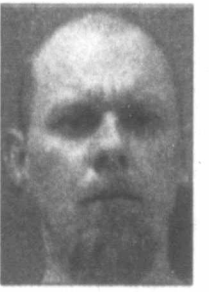
Jones first began performing in high school, when he sang in front of his French class. "I don't know what got into me, because I was a shy kid, but I went to the front of the class to sing, and I saw the girls' eyes light up," said Jones. "In a sense, it turned into something I am very passion-

ate about." While you may not associate soul with Canada, Jones described the country as being very multicultural, with many musical influences. "There's a lot of soul in Canada," he said. "Toronto is three hours away from Detroit, so the influences have always been there. My parents always played that music, but they played a lot of everything. Coming from Canada, you get a lot of different kinds of music. I grew up on **JONES** cont. on page 6

## Two arrested by GCSO for possession

MOLLIE BRYANT  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Two people were arrested for possession of a controlled substance following a traffic stop performed by Gray County deputies.



Mears



Mize

Around 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1, a vehicle was stopped for a traffic violation, and deputies conducted a probable cause search after smelling an odor believed to be marijuana. Deputies located drug paraphernalia and less than one gram of methamphetamine during a pat search of the driver, Zachary Lee Mears, 31, of Pampa. Also during a search, deputies found drug paraphernalia on the passenger, Danasty

Dawn Mize, 26, of Lefors.  
**DRUGS** cont. on page 6

## TOTS ON THE BIG STAGE



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Kennedy Woods and Sara Beth Laurence (facing camera, from left) from Pampa's TOT (Teams of Tomorrow) march to the music Wednesday at Amarillo Civic Center during halftime of the Harlem Globetrotter's basketball game. TOT classes from Pampa, Amarillo and Canyon performed.

## RAISING THE ARCHES



staff photo by Arnie Aurellano

A construction crew from Amarillo's Grant Construction pours the cement for the new McDonald's building's foundation at the Coronado Center on Thursday.

## United Way thanks donors, touts campaign at luncheon

ARNIE AURELLANO  
 editor@thepampanews.com

The Pampa United Way held its 2012 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, and while the organization has yet to reach its fundraising goal for the campaign season, United Way officials are optimistic that that day isn't too far on the horizon.

"I feel it's going to be fine," said Katrina Bigham, United Way executive administrator. "We've got some more things here that are going to happen soon, and we have some people who are still working hard at bringing money in. We still are on track. I feel like it will all come in."

The drive currently stands at \$271,936, or 87.7 percent of its \$310,000 target. Bigham said that there is no definite timetable as to when the United Way expects that goal to be reached. The public can keep track of the United Way's progress, she said, by looking at the four big United Way "thermometer" charts around town. The charts are located at the south window of the Salvation Army Thrift Shop on N. Cuyler, The Plaza restaurant at the Coronado Center, United supermarket and the north entrance to Walmart.

Part of the difficulty in this year's campaign, Bigham added, stemmed from a computer issue that **UNITED** cont. on page 6

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### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
		
High 50 Low 29	High 43 Low 24	High 45 Low 25

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 50. Breezy, with a west wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northwest between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. Blustery, with a north northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 43. Breezy, with a north northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 24. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southwest.

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## Juarez cops leave homes after slayings

**CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)** — Every one of the 2,500 police officers in this Mexican border city has been ordered to leave home and stay in a hotel after the killing of five officers by a local drug cartel.

The gang threatened a week ago to kill one policeman a day unless Police Chief Julian Leyzaola resigns.

Juarez Mayor Hector Murguía said Wednesday that the attacks carried out since the warning are a response to toughening police action against drug cartels in the city across from El Paso, Texas.

The mayor said there is no way Leyzaola is stepping down. He said most of the officers are "angry because of the attacks," but are deeply committed to fighting crime.

Police spokesman Adrian Sanchez said officers were ordered to stay away from their houses after Monday's shootout between assailants and policemen. That assault and previous attacks happened as officers were going to or from home.

The city's government said it has secured 26 million pesos (\$2 million) to house officers in hotels but did not specify how long that would last.

A policewoman who moved to a hotel in downtown Juarez said Wednesday that officers feel "more like soldiers, living in barracks than police officers." Still, she said, "I don't want my family to become collateral damage if I become a target."

The officer, a single mother of two, agreed to discuss the matter only if not quoted by name because she was violating department rules that bar her from talking to jour-

nalists.

Sanchez said the police department will assess the results of the measure after a month and then decide whether to continue.

"So far it's been successful," Murguía said.

At least 10 banners bearing threats to Juarez's police chief appeared around the city last week. The messages were signed by the New Juarez Cartel, an offshoot of the La Linea or Juarez Cartel, a major target of law enforcement actions in recent months.

Some of the banners accused Leyzaola, a former Mexican army lieutenant colonel, of favoring a rival cartel, while other messages called for his resignation.

"We pay no attention to the banners. If we did, we wouldn't even get out of bed," the mayor said.

The five slain officers were killed in three different attacks, bringing the number of officers slain in January to eight.

The latest attack happened Monday, when several officers were ambushed at a gas station. Three assailants were killed and three other policemen were wounded.

Murguía said moving the entire police force to hotels was not a setback in the city's fight against crime. Nearly 8,900 people have been killed in drug-related violence in the city since 2008.

In 2009, a police chief quit after being threatened.

Last year, after hiring Leyzaola, the city saw a decline in reported crimes. More than 1,900 people were killed in Ciudad Juarez last year, compared to more than 3,000 in 2010.

## Obituaries

### Jerry Thomas Boggs, 79

**LEFORS**—Jerry Thomas Boggs, 79, died January 31, 2012, in Lefors.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, February 3, 2012, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel in Pampa, with Bishop Bob Kirk of Priest Park Church of God, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, February 4, 2012, at Sunset Memorial Park in Albuquerque, N.M., under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Boggs was born April 20, 1932, in Borger. He was an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He retired from Enron Corporation after 26 years of service.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Geraldine Boggs of the home; three sons, Gary Boggs and wife Barbara of Rio Rancho, N.M., Kevin Boggs and wife Adina of Missoula, Mont., and Jason Boggs of Amarillo; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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



Boggs

### Wanda Spelce Barbee, 79

Wanda Spelce Barbee, 79, of Pampa, formerly of Borger, passed away, Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

Wanda Lee Taylor Barbee was born Sunday, August 7, 1932, in Pampa, to Albert and Lula Mae (Renfro) Taylor. She was a homemaker. Wanda was formerly married to Bill R. Spelce in 1951, and then married Jack Barbee on September 28, 1984.

She is preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Jack.

Survivors include one daughter, Sabrina Pope and husband Lou of Sugarland; one brother, Travis Taylor and wife Judy of Pampa; two sisters, Vickie Willis and husband Gerry of Roanoke, Va. and Doris Johnston of Pampa; two grandchildren, Ryan Helfenbein and wife Lauren of Louisville, Ky. and Hayley Helfenbein of Sugarland; and one great-granddaughter, Victoria Grace Helfenbein of Louisville, Ky.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 4, 2012, at the First Baptist Church Chapel in Borger, with Ryan Helfenbein officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa.

Mrs. Barbee will lie in repose at Brown Chapel Of The Fountains in Borger, on Thursday, February 3, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, February 3, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Send personal condolences to [www.brownfuneral-directors.net](http://www.brownfuneral-directors.net).

## For the record

### Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, February 2 at 7 a.m.

Pampa PD reported 10 traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents and the Pampa PD reported nine animal related incidents.

Pampa EMS and the Lefors Volunteer EMS responded to six medical calls.

**Wednesday, February 1**  
A burglary of a motor vehicle occurred at the 1900 block of North Hobart.

A threat occurred at the 100 block of South Sumner.

A violation of a protective order occurred at the

900 block of East Francis.

A burglary occurred at the 1200 block of South Christy.

An assault was reported.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at 25th and Duncan.

A suspicious person was reported at the 100 block of South Nelson.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1100 block of North Perry.

A theft occurred at the 2800 block of North Charles.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 1100 block of North Rder.

Thefts occurred at the 1200 block of South Finley and the 2800 block of North Charles.

Criminal mischief was reported.

Suspicious vehicles were reported at the 2500 block of North Aspen and the intersection of Lefors and Allen.

A theft occurred at the 700 block of North Christy. Suspicious vehicles were

reported at the 1100 block of South Huff and the 2500 block of North Perryton.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 2100 block of West Montagu.

A suspicious person was reported at the 500 block of East Foster.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 400 block of North Magnolia.

An accident occurred at Cuyler and Francis.

**Thursday, February 2**  
A suspicious vehicle was reported at 25th and Cherokee.

A threat was reported.

A suspicious vehicle was reported at the 100 block of South Sumner.

A domestic disturbance occurred at the 2600 block of North Hobart.

### Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Thursday, February 2 at 7 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 1**

Carl Allen Hinds, 28, was arrested by police for violation of a protective order.

Danasty Dawn Mize, 26, was arrested by deputies on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Zachary Lee Mears, 31, was arrested by deputies on charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and no valid driver's license.

Bear Julius Raymo, 23, was arrested by deputies for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Richard James Ivey, 30, was arrested by police on charges of possession of marijuana, failure to appear in court, failure to maintain financial responsibility and capias pro fine for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Erica Dawn Helms, 27, was arrested by police on charges of failure to appear in court and capias pro fine, regarding possession of drug paraphernalia.

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

Shoshana Williams

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# MORNINGRUSH

## Meteor lights up TX, OK skies

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration says a bright, streaking light seen in the skies over parts of Oklahoma and Texas likely was a meteor.

FAA spokesman Lynn Lunsford said late Wednesday the agency had received reports from people who saw the object about 8 p.m. as far north as Oklahoma City and as far south as Houston.

Lunsford said FAA officials knew it wasn't an airplane people were seeing, and a meteor was the likely candidate.

## Suspect indicted in '86 slaying

GEORGETOWN (AP) — A Central Texas grand jury has returned a capital murder indictment against the new suspect in a 1986 murder case that wrongfully sent a Texas man to prison for nearly a quarter-century.

The indictment from the Williamson County grand jury accuses Mark Alan Norwood of fatally beating Christine Morton in bed at her home just north of Austin in August 1986.

Norwood is in Williamson County Jail in Georgetown without bond. His attorney, Russell Hunt, didn't return a call Wednesday night. However, he's said previously that Norwood says he is innocent.

Morton's husband, Michael Morton, was sentenced to life in prison for the death but was released in October after tests showed DNA of his wife and another man on a bloody bandana found near the Mortons' house.

## New hearing for death row man

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has thrown out the death sentence of a convicted killer because jurors couldn't adequately consider evidence of his difficult childhood when they were deciding his punishment.

Rodney Rachal has been on death row since March 1993 for the robbery and fatal shooting of Charles Washington at a Houston apartment complex in 1990.

Rachal's trial in October 1992 came during a time before guidelines covering punishment phases of capital murder trials were refined by rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court.

The appeals court in 2009 asked his trial court to review the case. The Austin court's decision Wednesday backed the findings of the trial court that the 41-year-old Rachal deserves a new punishment hearing.

There was evidence that Rachel was a troubled and impoverished youth.

## Judge delays Fort Hood trial

FORT HOOD (AP) — A military judge has delayed the murder trial for the Army psychiatrist charged in the Fort Hood shooting rampage until June.

Attorneys for Maj. Nidal Hasan argued Thursday they didn't have all the evidence they need to be ready for the March trial. Prosecutors insisted they didn't need more time, noting one defense expert was hired nearly two years ago.

The defense had asked for a July trial, but the judge settled for June.

Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder for the November 2009 attack at the Texas Army post. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

The 41-year-old Hasan remains jailed. He's paralyzed from the waist down after being shot by police the day of the rampage.

## Stanford 'intimidating' boss

HOUSTON (AP) — The ex-chief financial officer for Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford's business empire tells jurors the financier ran his companies through a mix of flattery and fear.

James M. Davis worked for the Stanford Financial Group Co. for more than 20 years. He testified Thursday at the financier's fraud trial in Houston.

Davis described Stanford's management style as charismatic but also dictatorial.

Prosecutors allege Stanford used money from those who bought certificates of deposit from his bank in Antigua to pay for his businesses and for his billionaire lifestyle.

Stanford's attorneys contend he was a savvy businessman whose financial empire was legitimate. They have suggested that Davis is the true culprit behind the alleged fraud.

Davis has pleaded guilty in the case as part of an agreement with prosecutors.

## Remittances up in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The amount of money Mexican migrant workers sent home in 2011 increased by 6.86 percent over the year before, the first major rebound in remittances since the 2008 economic downturn, Mexico's central bank announced.

Remittances totaled just over \$22.7 billion in 2011, up from \$21.27 billion in 2010, the bank said Wednesday. The 2010 figure represented an increase of just 0.12 percent over the \$21.24 billion sent home in 2009.

There had been a precipitous 15.5-percent drop in remittances between 2008 and 2009.

"The growth is due to a recovery in U.S. employment, especially among the Latino sector and especially among Mexicans," said Victor Corona, a migration and remittances expert at the Autonomous University of Zacatecas.

# Select the proper wallboard type

## HOME HOW-TO

**Dear Pat: I am planning to do some projects around my new house. I am trying to decide if I should use plywood, medium density fiberboard, particleboard or oriented strand board. Which is best? — Stephanie P.**

Dear Stephanie: You must have visited your home center store recently and done your research. Those are the basic four materials to use for flat structural members, and each is best for specific applications.

If you are ever unsure about a specific project, plywood is always an acceptable choice, but not always the best or the least expensive. Actually, there are many different grades of plywood available, and the properties and prices vary greatly among them. When you buy plywood, first discuss your project with the lumber salesperson so you get the proper grade.

Medium density fiberboard (MDF) is made of fine wood fibers from waste wood and resins to hold them together. Since it is made from waste wood, it is an earth-friendly material to use. It is a high-quality strong product, and is typically used for furniture, shelving, molding and cabinets. It is often finished with a laminate or veneer surface or just painted.

MDF is easy to work with using standard woodworking tools and is particularly good for holding screw threads and resisting tear-out. It is usually available in 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick sheet that are slightly larger than standard 4-by-8-foot sheets. It is also available in precut shelving sizes for easy installation.

Particleboard is slightly different in that it uses waste sawdust mixed with resins. It also is strong and heavy and will not warp or bow, as plywood sometimes does. It is primarily used for furniture, underlayment and a base for countertops. It does not hold up well in wet locations where it may swell from excessive moisture. Consider the likelihood of heavy moisture in a location before using it.

Like MDF, particleboard is easy to work with. Since both these materials use resins, it is wise to wear a breathing mask when sawing them. Particleboard does not have as high a tear-out strength as MDF. It is finished with laminate or veneer, but seldom just painted. You can find it

plywood does, OSB is made from small 1-by-4-inch flakes of wood that are bonded together by resins.

The strands in the chips in each thin sheet all go in one direction. Each successive thin sheet is rotated 90 degrees from the one below it. This creates a multilayer working sheet that is extremely stable and will not warp or bow.

The surface of OSB is not typically finished because it always covered with some other material (siding, flooring, shingles, etc.). It can be easily cut with a power saw, but it is not generally shaped or sanded, as MDF and particleboard are.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com).

in standard 4-by-8-foot sheets, and the home center store will usually cut it down for you for free.

Oriented strand board (OSB) is a completely different material than the previous two mentioned. It is primarily used as sheathing and underlayment for house construction and remodeling projects. It is ideal for exterior wall sheathing, roofing base and floors inside your house.

OSB is produced somewhat similar to plywood in that it is made from several layers of thin sheets. Instead of using thin sheets of solid wood as

## HOME HOW-TO

### Manufactured Board

The most common types of manufactured board are plywood, particleboard and fiberboard. Each has its advantages and disadvantages.

**Oriented Strand Board (OSB)**  
The panels are formed from layers of large chips of wood that are glued together and pressed.

- Reacts fairly well to moisture (waterproof glues in the exterior grade).
- Resists splitting when nailing.
- Popular in sheathing and underlayment applications.
- Not suited for finish work.

**Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF)**  
Waste wood product that is made with fine wood fiber which is then glued and pressed together.

- Good material for furniture, shelving, cabinetry, molding.
- Easily milled with all power tools.
- Resists tear-out.
- Laminate, veneer, paint.
- Easy to split with nails.
- Good strength and stiffness characteristic.

**Particleboard**  
Made from tiny pieces of wood, sawmill shavings or sawdust, which are glued together and pressed into sheets.

- Furniture, underlayment, substrate for countertops.
- Can be milled with all power tools.
- Moderate tear-out.
- When exposed to moisture or water, it can swell and become unstable.

**Plywood**  
Layers are glued together with adjacent plies having their grain at right angles to each other for greater strength. Plywood usually comes in three, five or seven plies.

- More resistant to shrinking, twisting, warping and cracking.
- Available in many thicknesses, finishes and species of wood.

Source: [www.lowes.com](http://www.lowes.com)

Creators.com/Bob Kast

# Fired A&M exec hired by DPS

AUSTIN (AP) — A close friend of Gov. Rick Perry's who was fired as a Texas A&M University System executive after brandishing a pocket knife has a new job — assistant director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Jay Kimbrough, 64, is the new second-in-command at the DPS, the Austin American-Statesman reported. Director Steve McCraw said Kimbrough will oversee homeland security at the state's police agency.

McCraw said he recruited the Perry confidant because he had served as the state's homeland security director after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He said he created the new position to help manage and coordinate the growing homeland security functions in Texas, and chose Kimbrough from among 29 applicants. Kimbrough's salary will be \$147,500.

"There was nobody who was even close to as qualified as he is," he said.

A&M System Chancellor John Sharp ousted Kimbrough from his

\$300,000-a-year deputy chancellor's job last fall. System attorneys say Kimbrough brandished a pocket knife after they told him of his termination. No charges were filed, but police escorted him from the building.

McCraw told the American-Statesman that the A&M incident did not influence his decision one way or the other.

"We just stuck with the facts" that no crime was committed, McCraw told the American-Statesman. "We made an evidence-based decision."

Kimbrough is a longtime friend of and troubleshooter for Perry, a former Texas A&M student. He served as Perry's chief of staff in 2008-09, deputy chief of staff in 2002 and 2004-05, and as Perry's homeland security director in 2003-04.

Kimbrough was Perry's special adviser to the A&M System Board of Regents in 2009-11, then served as deputy chancellor and interim chancellor after Mike McKinney stepped down as chancellor in early July. He relinquished those duties when Sharp was installed.

## Cinema 4

Movies Showing  
Friday, February 3 through  
Thursday, February 9.

**Chronicle (PG-13)**  
Fri 7:00 9:45  
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45  
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00  
Mon/Thur 7:00

**Women in Black (PG-13)**  
Fri 7:30 9:45  
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45  
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30  
Mon/Thur 7:30

**One for the Money (PG-13)**  
Fri 7:00 9:45  
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:45  
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:00  
Mon/Thur 7:00

**Man on a Ledge (PG-13)**  
Fri 7:30 9:45  
Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 9:45  
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30  
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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Friday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2012. There are 332 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 3, 1959, rock-and-roll stars Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson died in a small plane crash near Clear Lake, Iowa.

### On this date:

In 1783, Spain formally recognized American independence.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate Vice President Alexander H. Stephens held a shipboard peace conference off the Virginia coast; the talks deadlocked over the issue of Southern autonomy.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution, providing for a federal income tax, was ratified.

In 1924, the 28th president of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, died in Washington, D.C., at age 67.

In 1930, the chief justice of the United States, William Howard Taft, resigned for health reasons. (He died just over a month later.)

In 1943, during World War II, the U.S. transport ship Dorchester, which was carrying troops to Greenland, sank after being hit by a German torpedo; of the more than 900 men aboard, only some 230 survived.

In 1959, An American Airlines Lockheed Electra crashed into New York's East River, killing 65 of the 73 people on board.

In 1966, the Soviet probe Luna 9 became the first manmade object to make a soft landing on the moon.

In 1971, New York City police officer Frank Serpico, who had charged there was widespread corruption in the NYPD, was shot and seriously wounded during a drug bust in Brooklyn.

In 1998, Texas executed Karla Faye Tucker, 38, for the pickax killings of two people in 1983; she was the first woman executed in the United States since 1984.

**Ten years ago:** Former Enron chairman Kenneth Lay backed out of testifying before Congress about the collapse of the energy giant.

**Five years ago:** President George W. Bush designated four central Florida counties disaster areas in the wake of tornadoes that had ripped through the region, leaving 21 dead.

**One year ago:** Tens of thousands of protesters staged unprecedented demonstrations against Yemen's autocratic president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, a key U.S. ally in battling Islamic militants, as unrest inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia spread further in the Arab world.

**Today's Birthdays:** Comedian Shelley Berman is 87. Actress Bridget Hanley is 71. Actress Blythe Danner is 69. Singer Dennis Edwards is 69. Football Hall-of-Famer Bob Griese is 67. Singer-guitarist Dave Davies (The Kinks) is 65. Singer Melanie is 65. Actress Morgan Fairchild is 62. Actress Pamela Franklin is 62. Actor Nathan Lane is 56. Rock musician Lee Ranaldo (Sonic Youth) is 56. Actor Thomas Calabro is 53. Actor-director Keith Gordon is 51. Actress Michele Greene is 50. Actress Maura Tierney is 47. Actor Warwick Davis is 42. Actress Elisa Donovan is 41. Musician Grant Barry is 35. Singer-songwriter Jessica Harp is 30.

**Thought for Today:** "The path of civilization is paved with tin cans." — *Elbert Hubbard, American author and publisher (1856-1915).*



## Romney faces tough opponents in long war

Mitt Romney's impressive victory Tuesday makes it very likely that he will look back on the Florida primary as the contest that determined the 2012 Republican nomination.

To be sure, the campaign fight will go on, and Romney is by no means assured of a sweep of the relatively few February contests.

Newt Gingrich has vowed to run all the way to the convention, whatever the odds. He has shown similar determination in the past.

He ran and lost twice for Congress before he was first elected in 1978. He saw his party lose seven straight elections for the House before he led it to its first majority in 40 years in 1994. Gingrich sees himself as a world historical figure, whose destiny should not be forestalled by a few weeks of negative ads and a couple of subpar debate performances. He's also pumped up by anger.

Rick Santorum has shown similar determination, in Pennsylvania and in this cycle. He made hundreds of campaign appearances in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina with no perceptible impact in the polls until he hit double digits in Iowa at Christmastime, two weeks before the caucuses. Santorum sees himself as a principled leader, unafraid to take political risks.

It would be severely out of character for either to withdraw. And neither has any other commitments on his calendar.

As for Ron Paul, he believes, not without cause, that his message of abolishing the Federal Reserve, legalizing marijuana and withdrawing from much of the world has been gaining resonance and attracting followers. He doesn't expect to be president anyway, so why not take advantage of this

chance to get the message out even more?

The first February contest is the Nevada caucuses on the fourth. Romney won easily four years ago, thanks in part to the high turnout of his fellow Mormons. But the Nevada caucuses had never been held before, and turnout was a low — 44,000 in a state of 2.7 million people.

It's likely to be higher this time, with a lower Mormon percentage, and in a state where Republican primary voters chose Sharron Angle in 2010.

The Maine caucuses start, but don't finish, on Feb. 4. Romney forces are confident there, but Maine Republicans nominated and elected a very conservative governor in 2010.

Three days later, on Feb. 7, come the caucuses in Minnesota and Colorado. Romney won both in 2008, when he was the only Republican candidate with much of a caucus organization.

Maybe not this time. In state elections, Minnesota Republican caucus-goers have tilted far to the right, with many strong right-to-lifers — a group more likely to favor Santorum or Gingrich than Romney. Colorado's caucuses have a lesser conservative tilt and look pretty safe for Romney.

Those caucuses are non-binding; so is Missouri's primary on the same day. Missouri was a tight three-way race last time, and Romney did well in the two big metro areas that cast about half the vote. Gingrich is not on the ballot, so Santorum has a chance to shine in the rest of the state where



MICHAEL BARONE

Romney ran weakly.

Finally there are the Michigan and Arizona primaries on Feb. 28. Michigan is Romney's native state, where his father was elected governor when he was in 10th grade, and he won there in 2008.

A Michigan poll taken in the days after South Carolina showed Romney leading Gingrich by only 5 points. There's no recent polling in Arizona.

Many analysts see February as a Romney sweep month. I'm not so sure. We may see among Republicans a phenomenon apparent in the 1980 and 1992 Democratic cycles: When a candidate who is not hugely popular seems to have a nomination clinched, people with qualms start voting for whoever else is still campaigning.

Romney is seeking to lead a party fired up by opposition to the Obama Democrats. He has campaigned with a feisty spiritedness that is at odds with parts of his record and often with his temperament.

He has succeeded in large part because the only ideologically pure candidate, Michele Bachmann, lacked stature, and his more experienced rivals lacked purity.

In Florida, Romney showed fire, drive, energy and a willingness to attack, and carried just about every segment of the electorate. Unlike his rivals, he has maintained competitive general-election numbers in this largest of target states.

Florida provided a benchmark win, but more tests lie ahead.

*Michael Barone, senior political analyst for Washington Examiner (www.washingtonexaminer.com), is a resident fellow at American Enterprise Institute, a Fox Channel contributor and a co-author of The Almanac of American Politics.*

## The PAMPA NEWS

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## We welcome your letters

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- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.

## Man held over Texas crime spree allegedly kills 2

TEXAS CITY (AP) — A suspect in a Central Texas crime spree has now been accused of a double slaying in Texas City.

Dominique Alonzo Stokes of Galveston was in the Travis County Jail on Thursday with bond topping \$2.3 million.

Texas City police Wednesday served capital murder warrants on Stokes over the Nov. 21 fatal shooting of Jorge Vargas and his 15-year-old daughter, Miranda.

The Galveston County Daily News reports Stokes was arrested Dec. 9 in Austin in a stolen vehicle. Police say ballistic tests on a gun Stokes had matched a pistol used in the killings.

Online jail records had no attorney listed for Stokes, who's also accused of December home invasions in Austin and Temple.

Stokes faces multiple counts, including kidnapping, aggravated robbery, drug possession and parole violation.

## Farmers Insurance set to increase rates in mid-March

AUSTIN (AP) — Farmers Insurance will raise homeowner premiums by nearly 10 percent after Texas regulators declined to object to the increase.

The Dallas Morning News reported Wednesday that the rate hike, set for mid-March, will apply to about half of the Farmers Insurance policyholders across Texas. Nearly 350,000 affected customers have either a Texas Family Home Policy or a Next Generation Home Policy.

The rate request was filed last October with the Texas Department of Insurance. Company officials have said the higher rates are needed due to increased claim costs.

Farmers last raised home insurance rates in Texas in March 2011, an increase of nearly 4 percent.

## Retail gasoline prices jump 13 cents across Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — Retail gasoline prices have jumped 13 cents across Texas.

AAA Texas on Thursday reported the average price at the pump statewide was \$3.38 per gallon.

The association says nationwide gasoline prices increased 7 cents, to settle at an average \$3.45.

Texarkana and Dallas have the most expensive gasoline statewide, at \$3.40 a gallon. Amarillo has the least expensive in the latest survey, at \$3.17 for per gallon.

AAA Texas spokeswoman Sarah Schimmer says Texans are paying about \$2 more to fill up than they did last week or about \$47 on average for a 14-gallon tank.

# 2 US missionaries slain in Mexico

EL CERCADO, Mexico (AP) — The bodies of John and Wanda Casias came one last time to the Baptist church they founded in a violence-plagued region of northern Mexico as mourners paid homage Thursday to the Texas couple who were discovered strangled in their home.

More than a dozen mourners passed to view the open caskets, one an American who came from Texas because John Casias officiated at his wedding. He did not want to give his name for security reasons.

Shawn Casias said he discovered the body of his mother at about 4 p.m. Tuesday when he went to their home in the town of Santiago to pick up a trailer.

He said she was lying on the floor with an electrical cord around her neck and a gash from a blunt object on her head.

The house had been ransacked and was missing a couple of computers, a plasma television and a safe that had been chiseled out of the wall.

The couple's Chevrolet Suburban was also missing, and Casias said he initially thought his father had been kidnapped.

But about four or five hours later, he said, a forensic investigator informed him that the body of his father had been found in a storage room of a small building on the property. His father also had an electrical cord around his neck.

John and Wanda Casias were originally from Amarillo, Texas, but relatives said they moved to an area outside the city of Monterrey in 1983 and later founded the First Fundamental Baptist Church.

Fighting between the Zetas and Gulf drug cartels has brought a surge of violence and other crimes to Monterrey and the surrounding region since 2010. In poorer suburbs, entire blocks have been held up by gunmen and young people snatched off the streets.

Another son, John Casias, said his parents had devoted 29 years of their lives to their ministry in Mexico and spent each day in prayer and saving souls.

They were well aware of the violence around them and the risks, but were so secure in their faith that they did not fear it, he said.

They spent Christmas with him in San Diego, and Casias said he told them, "It's getting kind of rough there" and offered to let them stay at his home for awhile. They refused.

"We were called to Mexico," Casias said his mother told him. "These are our people."

Casias said he hoped the bodies would return to the U.S. later Thursday. He was organizing a service to be held at their home church in Lewisville, Texas.

Shawn Casias said a sister-in-law in Dallas had spoken to their mother around 11 a.m. Tuesday and everything was fine. So he believes there was about a five-hour window when the killings could have occurred before he showed up.

He said the killers did not take everything they could have, leaving two of the three TV sets. He said perhaps they were warned that he was coming, because anyone watching the winding road approaching the home

could have alerted them. "They're scum. They're not sophisticated," he said.

Speaking from his parents' home, about 95 miles (150 kilometers) southwest of the Texas border, Casias said the house was burglarized two years ago when the couple were on one of their periodic visits to the United States to talk at churches about their work in Mexico.

"We're convinced that it's somebody he knew," Casias said of the killers. He said authorities had some leads based on people seen around the home.

John Casias was 76. He had recently priced a knee replacement because he couldn't walk more than 100 yards (100 meters) without having to sit down, Shawn Casias said. Wanda Casias was 67.

Casias said his parents held services and prayer meetings at a church about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from their home.

The couple maintained a website, [www.casias.org](http://www.casias.org), with details of their lives and their missionary work.

"The only hope for the Mexican people today is Jesus in them, the HOPE of glory," they wrote in one dispatch from last summer. "I confess that it's getting easier to wit-

ness to the wealthy, at least they are listening. The wealthy are fleeing to Canada and the USA for protection. The only problem is that when they return to renew their visas the cartel is waiting, and either kill them of (sic) kidnap them for thousands of dollars, in some cases millions. The cartel has NO mercy or value for life. They are ruthless murderers!"

It was the second slaying involving American missionaries in a year in the Mexican region bordering Texas.

In January 2011, a Texas couple who had been doing missionary work in Mexico for three decades were attacked at an illegal roadblock in one of the country's most violent areas.

Nancy Davis, 59, was fatally shot in the head while her husband, Sam, sped away from suspected drug cartel gunmen who may have wanted to steal their pickup truck, authorities said.

The Davises were driving along the two-lane road that connects the city of San Fernando with the border city of Reynosa in the state of Tamaulipas, which borders Nuevo Leon.



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## Dallas area first in Texas to leave drought

HOUSTON (AP) — The rain that started trickling into Texas in the fall may finally be making a dent in Dallas, but the rest of the massive state is still a long way off from being out of a historic drought, and climate experts are warning against any premature partying.

"It's still a very tenuous situation," said National Weather Service meteorologist Victor Murphy. "Water concerns are a high priority. If we have a dry spring and a hot summer it will be a very perilous situation."

The good news comes from the U.S. Drought Monitor map, a weekly analysis of dryness in the country. It indicated Thursday that the Dallas-Fort Worth region and a swath of North Texas stretching to the state's border with Oklahoma and Arkansas are officially out of drought for the first time since July. As a result, about 6.4 million people in the nation's fourth most-populous urban area will enjoy fuller lakes and greener trees.

But this makes up less than 5 percent of Texas, and the downside is that the same data shows that parts of the state still in severe or exceptional drought has actually increased in the past week by 2 percent to 27.36 percent. In addition, almost 60 percent of the state is in some form of severe drought.

"Texas is so big you can't talk about the whole state in generalized terms," said Brian Fuchs, a climatologist with the National Drought

Mitigation Center who helps draft the map. "As you go into summer again some of these areas are still very prone because of the damage that's been done."

The Drought Monitor is a map that is compiled by the University of Nebraska's National Drought Mitigation Center in cooperation with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and several other agencies. Meteorologists and climate experts look at everything from rainfall to soil saturation to create the map, and sometimes look at information dating back

months and years, Fuchs said.

The trend in Dallas is encouraging, he said, but he noted North Texas was the last area of the state to fall into drought, so recovery was easier.

"Does it help? Yes, it does. But does it mean conditions are where they were pre-drought? No," Fuchs said.

The drought in Texas, parts of Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana began about a year ago, and some areas have been getting less than half the normal amount of rainfall.

For Texas, the situation has been especially dire

because of its size. The state makes up nearly 7 percent of the land mass of the Lower 48, and the drought's severity has impacted everything from cattle numbers to bird migration and the health of the Gulf of Mexico.

**DROUGHT** cont. on page 6

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# Paul gambles on caucus states to amass delegates

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Ron Paul is rolling the dice on Nevada and other caucus states like Minnesota, Kansas and Washington, hoping to keep his non-traditional presidential campaign alive by amassing Republican delegates rather than notching outright wins.

The presidential hopeful came in dead last in Florida's primary, fourth in South Carolina's primary and third in Iowa's caucuses. His strongest showing so far was in New Hampshire, where he placed a distant second behind Mitt Romney in the opening primary of the 2012 campaign.

Undeterred with just four delegates so far, Paul and his advisers say they are sticking to a strategy that avoids major commitments in expensive winner-take-all primaries, like Florida's and Arizona's, in favor of lower-cost states that proportionally allocate their delegates.

"Our goal is to win. And you win by getting the maximum number of delegates," Paul said at a news conference

Wednesday in Las Vegas, where he is campaigning ahead of Saturday's Nevada caucuses. "I'm delighted Nevada makes it fair, where we can compete for the votes. When we get the delegates and build up momentum, we can win."

It's a tall order for Paul by any measure, even though 46 states have yet to vote and just 6 percent of the delegates have been won so far.

A candidate must win 1,144 delegates to secure the GOP nomination. Romney's victory in Florida has already helped him jump out to a substantial lead — he now has 87 delegates compared with 26 for Newt Gingrich and 14 for Rick Santorum. Those numbers include endorsements from Republican National Committee members who will automatically attend the party convention.

Romney's deep-pocketed campaign is also built to last, with strong organizations across several states, including Nevada, whose caucuses the former Massachusetts

governor won in 2008. Paul placed a distant second in Nevada that year, and his advisers are cautiously predicting a victory on Saturday.

The campaign has been running television ads in the state for three weeks and several top Republican county activists are Paul supporters. The Texas congressman's diehard band of supporters is expected to show up at caucuses, while many less committed Republicans are likely to stay home.

"A lot of people care about liberty here," said Paul's chief strategist, Jesse Benton. "There's a strong independent spirit. We feel like we have the numbers."

Nevada's 28 delegates are allocated proportionally, meaning no one candidate can take them all.

Eric Herzik, a political science professor at the University of Nevada-Reno, predicted Romney would win the caucuses but Paul would come out strong.

"Nevada has a libertarian streak in poli-

tics. Our economy is based on gambling and drinking and low social service provision," Herzik said. "That speaks to this kind of limited government, individual liberty approach to politics that Ron Paul favors."

After all but skipping Florida and South Carolina, Paul is signaling a seriousness of purpose in Nevada.

He discussed immigration policy with Hispanic voters in Las Vegas and has laid out a five-point plan for revitalizing the state's weak economy with proposals like ending the taxation of tips. The campaign estimates that about 20 percent of the state's workers hold jobs that generate income from tips.

From Nevada, Paul will head to Minnesota, for caucuses Tuesday, as are Colorado's. Minnesota has 40 delegates, with 37 at stake in its caucuses. Colorado has 36 delegates, with 33 up for grabs in its caucuses.

cont. from page 5

## Drought

Ranchers have culled their herds, likely driving up future beef prices, while a devastated hay crop in the south has caused hay prices to spike.

The drought's impact will be felt for years, Fuchs said. In Texas, for example, ranchers reduced their herd size by an average of 38 percent — or between 600,000 to 800,000 head of cattle — causing a 12 percent to 16 percent drop in the nation's supply. It will take several years of calving, restocking and importing cattle to get the numbers back up.

Nebraska, meanwhile, had a good hay crop this year. Farmers there are trucking their hay south to sell for a high price, leaving some of the state's own ranchers high and dry, Fuchs said. In Missouri, there are reports of cattle farmers selling off their herds because they can't buy hay at the steep prices driven by the southern dilemma, he added.

"And now you start looking at how it trickles through the country, not only the region," Fuchs said.

Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon

said it's encouraging that the North Texas soil is now saturated, and he thinks the region's hay crop could be decent this season. But in parts of West and Central Texas, where some rain helped with an initial planting of winter wheat, an onset of drier conditions and dust is harming the crop, another key ingredient for ranching.

"I think things are going as well as we could hope for," Nielsen-Gammon said, but added, "The key going forward is to manage our supplies under the assumption that we're going to have a second year of drought."

## United

cont. from page 1

forced her to re-input several numbers into the United Way's database.

Campaign chair Kenny Rigoulot declined to go into specifics, but he said that he is hopeful that some key contributors within Pampa have yet to come through with donation funds.

"Two well-respected companies in our companies that have given in the past have yet to have their rallies, and so we hope to do a presentation at both locations soon," Rigoulot said. "Once those two places are in, we hope to be close enough to the goal that we can have one last push to focus our community to consider giving."

Traditionally, this week's luncheon has taken a celebratory tone after campaign's goal has been reached, but with fundraising still under way, the luncheon took on more of a motivational message with the finish line in sight. Still, Rigoulot said, it was important to note the donors and participants in this year's campaign, as well as to recognize the good that the United Way's 18 beneficiary agencies in Gray County do in their community.

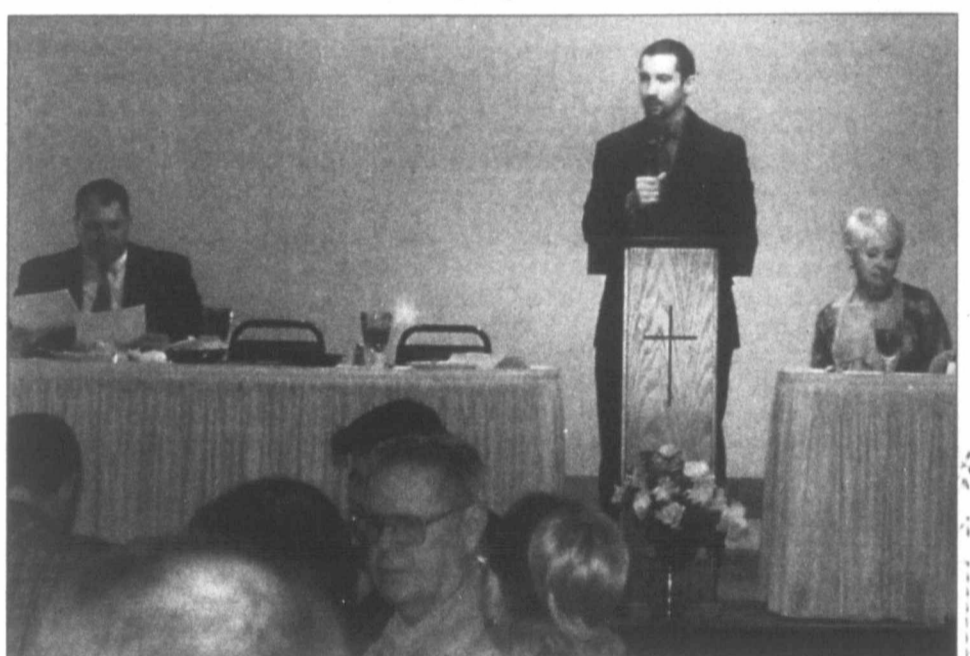
"(The luncheon) is really when we try

to say thank you to our 18 agencies for all that they do," Rigoulot said, "both for the community and for their participation and involvement in the United Way. Each of the agencies has volunteers to help go to rallies and give presentations, so we wanted to thank them for their help."

"A lot of the folks (present at the luncheon) are also either board members or people being recognized for their donation," he added. "A lot of folks really do give a lot, so we wanted to recognize them and give them and their company a boost, promote them the way they have promoted the United Way and the agencies we serve."

The key to finally reaching the United Way's target, Rigoulot said, will be continuing to convey the community benefit of the groups that receive money from the campaign.

"The big thing is communication," Rigoulot said. "As the campaign chairperson, I would have loved to have gotten these two big presentations done earlier in the year so that we'd have a better understanding of where we stand now.



staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Kenny Rigoulot, United Way campaign chair, thanks the many participants and donors in the 2011 United Way fundraising campaign. The United Way held its 2012 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon on Tuesday.

But we've got time and we've got lots of talented people who are ready to share the message. ... All these programs are there to make sure that people don't fall

through the cracks and that we take care of our community. If these (beneficiary agencies) were not there, our community would not be what it is today."



## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Over the years I've stayed in touch with my childhood best friend, "Claire." We talk a few times a year and I attended her wedding 10 years ago.

In the intervening years, her husband, "Kirk," has cheated on her multiple times and was once arrested by an undercover cop when he tried to meet a 14-year-old for a sexual liaison. Despite it all, Claire has chosen to stay with him. I have made peace with the fact that it is her decision and, because she lives in another state, it hasn't affected my life in any practical way — until now.

I am being married next year, and Claire has expressed excitement at attending my wedding. I'd like to invite her, but not Kirk. I think he would be too much of a distraction for me. There will be enough people keeping an eye on the kids, but I know if I see him talking to my niece or nephew, it will make me extremely uncomfortable. God forbid, if he did something inappropriate, it would end my friendship with Claire.

Am I worrying too much? I don't want to hurt my friend, but I also don't want to put any child in harm's way or have my memory of the day marred with scanning the crowd to make sure Kirk isn't doing anything suspect. Your opinion would be helpful. — APPREHENSIVE BRIDE-TO-BE

DEAR APPREHENSIVE: You need to be up front and sort this out with Claire before issuing an in-

vitation. It is possible that her husband is legally enjoined from having contact with minors and could not attend your wedding even if invited. If you prefer that he not attend, you need to have the courage to say so. It probably won't be the first time she has heard it. But safety of the young people, not to mention your peace of mind, must come first.

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago I joined a small church. It had a sign-up sheet for people to bring food to an event. The information requested included my name and email address. The person in charge of the church email added me to the announcements list, and sent every email as a cc instead of a blind copy. Now people I never gave my email address to (and would not have given it to) are replying "all," sending messages to everyone and emailing me directly. It bothers me that they do this. I'm not sure how to approach them about this problem. I guess the rest don't have issues with it, but I do. — E-PEEVED IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR E-PEEVED: You have two choices: Go through the hassle of changing your email address and notifying your friends and family — or simply hit "delete" when one of those emails pops up. I vote for the latter. As you stated, it's a small church.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with "Danny" for two years. He's smart, charming and funny,

However, after we argue I'm always the one to start talking to try to come to a solution or a compromise. Danny never takes the initiative. I think he has a problem communicating with me about his feelings. What should I do? — TALKER IN PORTLAND, MAINE

DEAR TALKER: If after two years your boyfriend is unwilling or unable to resolve disagreements in an adult fashion, you should suggest couples counseling. It could avert serious problems in the future if you decide to invest more time in this relationship.

## Jones

cont. from page 1

rock, but soul has touched my heart."

During Jones' performance, you can expect some unconventional ballads, including a soul version of Patsy Cline's "Crazy."

"Some of the songs on the set we've taken and adapted into soul

songs," he said. "We've taken rock tunes, pop and even country songs, and spun them into nice soul songs."

Jones' concert, just in time for Valentine's Day, will run through the joy and pain of romance, narrating a love story.

"The concert will show

the journey of a relationship," he said. "It will begin when you meet the person, then fall in love, to a full-on break up, and then it will take you to love back again, using songs to tell the story. There will be a lot of energy and a lot of passion."

## Drugs

cont. from page 1

Mears was arrested at 6:15 p.m., and charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and not having a valid driver's license. His bond was set at \$5,000.

Mize was arrested at 5:35 p.m., and after being transported to Gray County

Jail, deputies discovered less than one gram of methamphetamine on her person. She was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. Mize bonded out on a \$5,000 bond.

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We are open 7 days a week • 8 am - Midnight EST • Sunday 9 am - Midnight EST • Offer only good to new DISH Network subscribers • See table required. Offer ends 2/15/12. Restrictions apply. Call for details. Int'l. SVU charges a one-time \$49.95 non-refundable processing fee. Ind. C.D. Reg. No. 15, 40-0006.

### Actos BLADDER CANCER?

FDA Reports Increased Risk of Bladder Cancer with Extended Usage

The Type 2 diabetes drug, Actos®, has been reported to increase the risk of bladder cancer to patients with extended usage and increased cumulative dosages. Bladder cancer symptoms may include painful urination, blood in urine, frequent urination and other blood effects.

If you or a loved one have taken ACTOS®, ActosPlus MET®, or Actoplus MET XR®, and have been diagnosed with bladder cancer, then call us about your legal rights. No Legal Fees or Expenses charged unless we make a recovery.

\* If you have any medical questions, Talk to your Doctor.

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

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PERSONAL INJURY TRIAL LAWYER  
TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

DAVID P. WILLIS - ATTORNEY AT LAW

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CALL FOR A FREE CASE REVIEW

**Do you take VIAGRA or CIALIS?**

**SAVE \$500!**

**Get 40 100mg/20mg pills for only \$99.00**

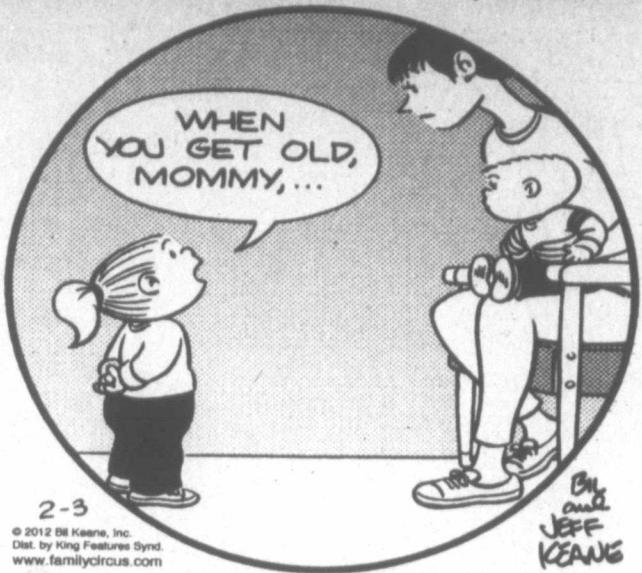
**BUY THE BLUE PILL NOW!**  
call **1-888-395-8456**

CALL NOW AND GET 4 BONUS PILLS FREE!

**SATISFACTION GUARANTEED**

# comics PAGE

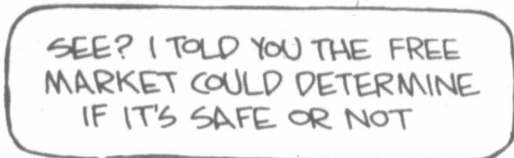
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



2-3  
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www.familycircus.com

By Bil Keane  
JEFF KEANE

### Non Sequitur



### LIBERTARIAN ICE FISHING

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### Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012:

You are unusually caring and nurturing to those in your day-to-day life. Often you are startled by people's reactions. Your personal and home life anchors you, allowing you to flex with the many odd situations you might come into contact with. Learn not to challenge others, as they could become defiant just to be defiant. If you are single, you'll meet someone in your daily travels. Take your time getting to know each other. If you are attached, the two of you grow closer through taking on a mutually interesting hobby. **CANCER** can be a little sloppy.

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)**  
★★★ A recent disagreement could be worked out, if you so choose. Let go of a power play, knowing full well what is possible. Invest a little cash in a situation; most people will come out smiling. Tonight: Entertain at home.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★★★ Reach out for others. You could be confused by everything that you hear. Step back and determine what suits you. Make it OK to adapt to a changeable person. He or she simply might be quirky. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★ You might feel as if you must follow through on a situation and make the best of it. Laughter surrounds a friendship. Be more direct and sure of yourself. Listen to feedback from a somewhat judgmental person. Be appreciative, even if you dislike his or her idea. Tonight: Your treat.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★ Relate directly to a loved one who is difficult; however, don't get pulled into a power play. You might want to try another approach. Make it OK to go in your own direction on a project or idea. Tonight: The only answer is yes.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★ Whether you are bored or simply not inspired, you will tend to stay close to home. Quite a few people would like your company -- you simply aren't interested. Whatever you are doing is a high priority. In some fashion, you are experiencing a completion. Tonight: Play it low-key.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ Opt to be with friends or out and about. Don't be alone. You have a unique opportunity to meet someone very different or partake in an eye-opening event. A friend unintentionally puts you between a rock and a hard place. Tonight: Where the fun is.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★★ Take a stand and be willing to control a situation in a different way or style. Your sense of humor comes out when dealing with a roommate or family member who wants it his or her way. Your good mood only creates more defiance. This person is coming from a feeling place. Tonight: In the spotlight.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★★ Detach, especially if you are in an either/or situation. You might not be as sure of yourself as you might like. Too much questioning could create a degree of insecurity. Yes, it is wise to carefully reflect on an issue, but detaching works even better. Tonight: Where there is music.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★★ Money and emotions all are involved in a partnership decision. You could find that the best decision is to lie back a little, walk in the other person's shoes and then pull back and detach. Trust that you will come up with an appropriate decision. Tonight: Go along with a request.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★ You could be more oppositional and defiant than you realize. Stop and take a hard look at a situation. Are you being controlling or reactive? Only you know for sure. Relax and handle this issue perhaps at a later date. Choose to have fun. Tonight: Acting like it is the weekend.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★ You plunge into a task or project, sure of yourself. By the end, you might be questioning the original decision. Stop and give some thought to which direction might be the best to go in. Tonight: Whatever you do, it's easy!

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★★★ Join a child or loved one, and make the most of the moment. Clearly your ideas and another person's do not match. Go along with the other person's. You will enjoy him or her even more if you do. A friend could be upset. Tonight: This, too, will pass.

### Tundra



### Shoe



### Mother Goose and Grim



### Zits



### Garfield



### Beetle Bailey



### Marvin



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



### Blondie



# SELL IT FAST! IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

## BANANAGRAMS!

Use the 15 tiles in this bunch to create words that fit into the grids below. To get you started, a few tiles from the bunch have been placed and the BANANA BITES provide hints. Reuse the 15 tiles in the bunch for each grid.

**LEVEL**

X O G I O I P B  
T S I R E T O K

**BANANA BITE:**  
One word means "young child."

**BANANA BITE:**  
One word means "slimy substance."

Yesterday's Answer: HECTIC O P A Z H I C C U P R Y P T

## Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

Level: Advanced

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

39 Pricey  
40 Hot honorees  
41 Goes astray  
5 TV's Lauer  
9 Notions  
11 Had longings  
13 Wise saying  
14 Handle event  
15 Tipsy  
16 Gallery event  
18 Plots  
20 Switch settings  
21 Ready for bed  
22 Different  
23 Diarist Anaís  
24 Put down  
25 Be thrifty  
27 Billing date  
29 Valuable rock  
30 Sunday paper section  
32 Outdoor blaze  
34 Court divider  
35 Writer Zola  
36 Cost  
38 Indy entrant

**DOWN**

1 Instrument panel features  
2 Fiend  
3 Thomas Mann work  
4 Decline  
5 Ship staffs  
6 Great serves  
7 Thomas Mann work

M	A	V	S		S	H	A	R	E
A	L	O	U	D		W	A	D	E
R	O	D	E	O		A	R	O	M
I	N	K		S	A	M	P	R	A
A	G	A	S	S	I		I	K	E
				O	I	L	S		N
				M	O	P	E		P
				D	O	N		R	E
				U	S	A		R	A
				F	E	D	E	R	E
				F	L	A	R	E	
				E	L	T	O	N	
				R	E	E	S	E	
							T	O	E

**Yesterday's answer**

8 Wyoming range  
10 Tars  
12 Search for water  
17 Checkers side  
19 Niagara's source  
22 Pull in  
24 Cruise ships

25 Quite serious  
26 Frangrances  
27 Stole stuff  
28 Vacillate  
30 Impassioned  
31 Organ parts  
33 Bend  
37 Chowded down

**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					
18			19					20	
	21						22		
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25	26								28
29									31
32				33				34	
35						36	37		
38									
	40								
								41	

2-3



Beverly Taylor - Classifieds

The Pampa News'

# Classifieds

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

**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.

## THE PAMPA NEWS

We have issues. Subscribe! 669-2525

**1 Public Notice**

**NOTICE TO PROPOSERS**  
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed proposals in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 2:00 p.m., Friday, February 17, 2012 for Athletic Supplies and Equipment. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806)669-4700. B-57 Feb. 3, 5, 2012

**5 Special Notices**

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

**Subscribe Today! Call us at 806-669-2525**

**10 Lost/Found**

LOST on Foster & Lowry, 1 female golden retriever, tan, no collar, 1 female solid white, looks like retriever, no collar, 1 female black with white on belly, neck, tip of tail, no collar. Please call Kelly 898-9417.

**14h Gen. Serv.**

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

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

**14w Air Cond/Heat**

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

**19 Situations**

WILL do housecleaning Daily, weekly or bi-weekly. Call 806-670-5137.

**21 Help Wanted**

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

ST Ann's Nursing Home is hiring Director of Nursing and an MDS Coordinator. Contact Administrator at 537-3194. Good benefits. Position now available.

LVN'S and CNA's, come check out our benefits! We have immediate openings for Full-Time. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, 537-3194.

**21 Help Wanted**

**HSE SPECIALIST**  
This is an exciting and profitable career opportunity. The HSE Specialist will manage the company's safety, health, and environmental programs. Must have a high school diploma or GED, Pre-employment physical exam, drug screen, background check required. Competitive wage and benefit package including 401K. EOE. Contact: Hunting Titan 806/665/3781. [hr@titanspecialties.com](mailto:hr@titanspecialties.com) 11785 Hwy 152 Pampa, TX 79065

**21 Help Wanted**

P.T. Painter needed for 150 unit apt. community. Apply 1601 W. Somerville, 665-7149.

**FULL-TIME Insurance Specialist / Receptionist.** Busy retail optical office in Pampa needs Receptionist with some optical or medical billing exp. Will train the right person, but 1-2 years experience preferred. Please mail or fax your resume to: Panhandle Eye Group, LLP, 1916 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX 79065. Fax 806-669-3586.

**Mac Supply Inc. Electrical Contractors**

We are seeking an experienced individual in office management and accounting bookkeeping. Offering competitive salary & great benefits. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1157, Pampa, TX 79066 or email to: [service@macsupplyinc.net](mailto:service@macsupplyinc.net)

**MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Sonic Drive-In is on the grow - with exciting opportunities for fast food restaurant general managers, managers and assistant managers. Are you looking for a change? Sonic is a quick service food chain whose time has come again... on the grow with new ideas and innovations in the food industry. We want to take a few potential managers and provide them with the opportunity to achieve. If you have food service experience, operational and people skills, the willingness and stamina to follow through, a possibility of relocation, and a desire to work, then Sonic may be the place for you. We are a locally owned and operated franchise with 35+ years of success.

Please send resumes to:  
J. Howard  
217 Springfield  
Clovis, NM 88101

**JBS CARRIERS**

**Job Fair**  
February 7, 8 & 9th  
8 am - 5 pm each day

**Amarillo/West Hampton Inn & Suites**  
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- Exp. Cattle Drivers
- Exp. Tallow Drivers
- Dedicated Drivers
- OTR Drivers
- Utility Drivers
- Recent CDL A Graduates
- Fleet service

**JBS CARRIERS**  
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[www.jbscarriers.com](http://www.jbscarriers.com)

**14d Carpentry**

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.

**14s Plumbing**

JACK'S Plumbing  
715 W. Foster  
665-7115

**THOMAS AUTOMOTIVE, INC**

Our shop is an independent auto repair shop that has been in operation for over 40 years. We are well established with a loyal customer base and excellent reputation for high quality. We offer our employees competitive rates and benefit packages. At this time, we are hiring for the following positions:

**Apprentice Tech-** Minimum experience but highly motivated with a desire to learn and progress. Wheel Alignment experience a plus.

**Technician A/B-** Highly motivated individual with 3 to 5 years experience required. Ability to work on variety of makes / models in a fast paced environment a plus. Commission based on level of experience.

Please stop by Thomas Automotive at 217 E. Atchison, Pampa, to pick up an application. **Applicants will be required to pass a drug test upon employment.**

**COMAC WELL SERVICE & ROUSTABOUT**

**NOW HIRING RIG OPERATORS WITH CDL LICENSE RIG CREW MEMBERS & ROUSTABOUT w/ CDL**

All Must Have Experience!

- \*Paid Vacations
- \*Group Insurance
- \*Must Pass Drug Test
- \*Must Have Good Driving Record
- \*Must Have Good Past Emp. History

806-274-2259  
1100 Industrial Blvd., Borger, TX  
for Application 7:30am-4:30pm

**Mac Supply Inc. Electrical Contractors**

We are seeking an experienced individual in office management and accounting bookkeeping. Offering competitive salary & great benefits. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1157, Pampa, TX 79066 or email to: [service@macsupplyinc.net](mailto:service@macsupplyinc.net)



## FREE ADS

for Free Items!

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.

2-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

UL ID YFLO UAA NFBO GNE  
DXDEK SCZD INEC, LN YFLO  
ID UAA NFBO GNE DXDEK  
SCZD LSZDBAD. — VDBWUYSB

GEUBRZSB  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LIFE DOES NOT CEASE TO BE FUNNY WHEN PEOPLE DIE ANY MORE THAN IT CEASES TO BE SERIOUS WHEN PEOPLE LAUGH. — GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

### 21 Help Wanted

**R. Chester Trucking** is now hiring **HOT SHOT CDL DRIVERS** who take pride in their work and are not drug addicts or drunks. We offer competitive pay, monthly bonuses and we have steady work! Call Rick at 806-665-0379

**HEALTH and Human Services** has Texas Works Advisor I position available. Bilingual preferred, monthly salary \$2300.08. Applications must be submitted through <https://accesshr.state.tx.us>

**WAITRESS / Hostess** wanted. Must be 18 yrs. Apply between 11am-2pm, Mon-Fri. Dyer's

**MAINTENANCE Tech** needed. Small plumbing repairs, painting, texturing & some electrical. Apply at The Floor Store, 2110 Perryton Pkwy or 662-8615

### 21 Help Wanted

**NATURAL Gas Compressor Mechanic** needed. Exp. preferred but not necessary. Good driving record and drug test req. Competitive pay & benefits. Fax resume to 888-812-4114, Attn: Whitney Davis, email [whitney@flogistix.com](mailto:whitney@flogistix.com) or mail to P.O. Box 501, Pampa, TX 79066. Call 806-669-7499 for application.

**MATURE Individual** needed to work as Shelter Relief Manager for Tralee Crisis Center. Relief Shelter Manager must be willing to work flexible hours, including nights, holidays and weekends when needed on a part-time basis. Applicants are subject to background check and drug screen. Bilingual preferred. Send resume to P.O. Box 2880, Pampa, TX 79066. Resume deadline-Fri., Feb. 10. EOE

### 21 Help Wanted

**EXPERIENCED DIESEL MECHANIC** Must pass drug test. Salary depends on experience. Apply in person. No Phone Calls Please. Triangle Well Service, 129 S. Price Rd. Pampa, TX

**49 Pools/Hot Tubs**  
**FACTORY Reconditioned Demo Spa.** Priced to move! Call Morgan Spa, 806-358-9659.

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

**WASHER, dryer, table, chairs, refig, stove, rockers, china cabinets, freezer, etc.** 662-7557

**QUEEN or Full Mattress Sets** \$246, Twin \$146. New sets. Sale Price. Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes, 665-2767.

**69a Garage Sales**  
**INSIDE moving sale.** Wed-Sat 9-6, come give us a bid. Everything goes! 1612 N. Sumner.

**MOVING Sale:** 2510 Mary Ellen, Sat. 9am til it's all gone! Furniture, tv, clothing, filing cabinets, houseware, toys.

**HUGE Moving Sale** 9 a.m. Saturday 422 Powell

**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 \$5 for your house. Call us today, 665-1875

### 89 Wanted To Buy

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

### 95 Furn. Apts.

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**FURNISHED rooms** in White Deer, utilities and cable included. Weekly or monthly rentals. Call for details 665-1875.

**ROOM For Rent,** \$100 wk, all bills paid incl. cable. Private entrance. 806-661-8508

### 96 Unfurn. Apts.

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

**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

### 96 Unfurn. 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

### 98 Unfurn. Houses

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

**3 bdr., 2 ba, 2 liv areas,** 2 car gar. & privacy fence. \$900 mo. plus dep. 663-0058.

**HAMPTON VILLAGES AVAILABLE NOW!!** Rush In... Won't last Long!! 3 Bdrs & 4 Bdrs (Income Qualifications Apply) Application Fee Waived and Security Deposit in 2 payments if you apply and are approved. 1507 Alcock 806-440-0054

**3 bdr., 1 ba, 1 car gar.** \$650 mo. 1117 E. Foster. HUD ok. Avail. Feb 1st. 228-313-6047.

### 99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

**SAVE BIG!! SCRATCH & DENT MORGAN BUILDINGS** 8'x10', 10x12, 12x16, 12x20. Make Offer. 806-358-4559

### 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.

### 102 Bus. Rental

**FOR Rent** 1541 N. Hobart. Prime retail, 3000 sq. ft. Call 595-0234.

**CANADIAN, TX Office Building** For Lease. 800 sq. ft., open floor plan, HCAC., break area. 806-217-0465, evenings 806-323-5709.

### 103 Homes For Sale

**FOR Sale** 3/2/2, central heat/air, f.p. covered patio, corner lot. Call 817-682-1239.

**FSBO** 123 Walnut Dr 2246 s.f. Beautiful lrg corner lot, 4 2/2/4. Updated. 806-665-3524

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

**NEW LISTING!!** 2145 Aspen 3 bdr., 2100 Sq. Ft. MLS# 12-9271

**PRICE REDUCED!** \$105,000 1212 W. 21st Ave 3 bdr., 1 3/4 ba 4 car garage MLS# 11-9070

**LOTS OF SPACE!** 225 Dixie Dr. 4 bdr., 2395 sq. ft. Howardwick, TX OE (Listing Agent is Owner)

**Look up these listings at** [www.rodfindahome.com](http://www.rodfindahome.com) Anyone can sell you a house, let me find you a home!!

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### 104 Lots

**3 lots** Skellytown, \$2,100, suitable for mobile home. Gas, water elec. avail. 336-4824.

### 115 Trailer Parks

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

### 120 Autos

**07 Kia Sportage Lx.** Good economical vehicle & super clean. Low mi. \$11,465. 661-3561

**08 Subaru Tribeca Limited.** Brown with tan leather interior. Clean. \$20,940. 661-3561

**2010 Chevy Malibu LT2.** Leather interior. Sunroof. Like new! \$17,160. 661-3561

**FOR Sale** 1999 Windstar, see at 605 Hazel or call 665-1084, 662-0302.

**2003 Tahoe,** 5.3 V8, 3rd row seats, custom wheels. 1966 GMC. 806-669-3463

**FOR Sale** 1987 Buick, 76 K orig. miles, perfect condition \$1600 Call 663-2385

**FOR Sale** 2004 Nissan Pathfinder. Copper Bronze color, 4 door, new windshield, good tires, automatic, 56K, 6 disk cd changer, Bose Sound, tow package. Good condition, we're asking \$8,000. Call 806-346-8124.

### 121 Trucks

**RED** 2008 Nissan Frontier Nismo, 4 wd. Low miles. Off road special. \$20,350. 661-3561

**80 GMC** 3/4 ton, 350 eng., standard, engine has 15,000 mi., runs good, \$1000. 670-5137

# Price Reduced!



## 2209 N. Dwight \$66,900

MLS# 119244

Perfect Starter Home—3 bedroom (each with large double closets). Remodeled bathroom. Very large remodeled kitchen with disposal, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove and lots of cabinets. Recently painted—carpet in good condition. Lighted ceiling fans in every room. Central Air/Heat. Storm windows. Roof only 6 years old. Oversized garage with 8-man steel Storm Shelter in the floor—no need to go outdoors in the storm. Remote control garage door opener—Washer/Dryer hook-up in the garage. Large lot with new chain link fencing in front and back. Storage building. 12x15 covered patio. Low taxes. Walking distance to Travis Elementary. Beautiful lawn and landscaping—come take a look—you'll be glad you did.



# New & Pended

## 950 W. Crane Rd.

MLS# 12-9279

3 bedroom, 2 bath, with surround in living room, master and screened in patio all brick, nicely landscaped, 12x24 building, electric and another 12x24 storage. CHECK THIS ONE OUT TODAY

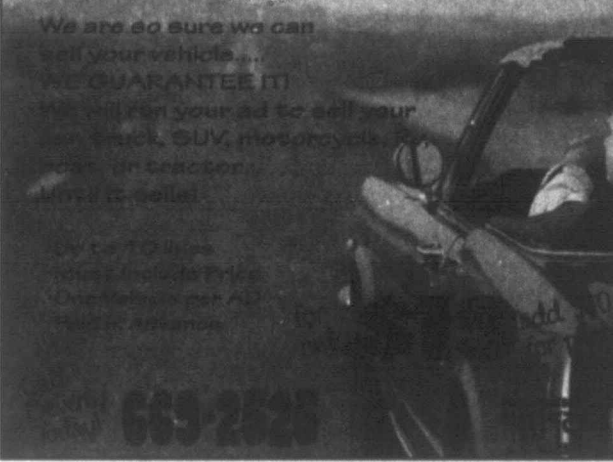


**HouseHunters Realtor**

**Linda Laycock** Broker BROKER\*, ABR, GREEN, SRES, e-Pro (806) 662-1312 [www.househunterspampa.com](http://www.househunterspampa.com)

**Tisha Holman** Associate (806) 440-4153 [www.househunterpampa.com](http://www.househunterpampa.com)

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Paid in advance

**\$69** per month for weekly AD

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Buy 11 months  
the 12 month FREE

Call Beverly Today! 669-2525

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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 it's factory look or adding automotive accessories, our professionally trained staff will take care of you.

**(806) 665-3500**  
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# NASCAR THIS WEEK

### ON THE TUBE

**Sprint Cup 2012**  
Daytona 500,  
Feb. 26, 1 p.m.

**Nationwide Series 2012**  
DRIVE4COPD 300,  
Feb. 25, 1 p.m.

**Truck Series 2012**  
NextEra Energy Resources 250,  
Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

### BURNING ISSUES

► Dr. Joseph Mattioli, who passed away last week, was one of NASCAR's friendlier and more accessible owners. Pocono Raceway, which he built, remains one of the sport's more unusual and original tracks.

► It was also a sad week for the sport's veteran journalists who remember the writing and camaraderie of Harold Pearson, who died last week in Chesterfield, Va., and Benny Phillips, who passed away in High Point, N.C.

► Ford unveiled the Fusion it will run in 2013, when NASCAR debuts new designs in the Sprint Cup Series. NASCAR President Mike Helton said, "We want our fans to know that brand identity is back."

► Officials cast the redesign almost as if generic cars had gotten out of hand, forcing NASCAR to step in. It was NASCAR, of course, who made the cars generic with its so-called Car of Tomorrow, partially introduced in 2007.

► Some have noted that the implementation of the COT coincided with a decline in attendance and TV ratings. NASCAR apparently noticed this phenomenon, too.

► Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart was gracious, relaxed and humorous on the Sprint Media Tour last week. Wonder how long that will last?

► Jeff Gordon and Stewart are both 40. Gordon said Stewart's remarkable title run gave him inspiration. Maybe it's not "a young man's sport," after all.

► Bill Elliott, 56, will help Walmart celebrate its 50th anniversary with a run in July's Coke Zero 400 at Daytona.

► A.J. Allmendinger was on the winning team at the Rolex 24 endurance race at Daytona. Michael McDowell was on the third-place team.

► Is this finally Kevin Harvick's year? He's finished third in the Chase two years in a row.

### LEGENDS AND LORE

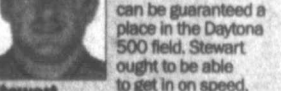
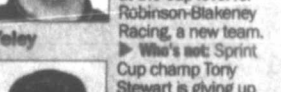
#### Scotty's Time To Shine

In 36 career races at NASCAR's highest level, Scotty Cain (1920-94) of Venice, Calif., managed to collect seven top-five finishes but never managed to win. His best finishes were a pair of runner-up finishes at Sacramento, Calif., in 1959 and '60. Eddie Gray won the former and Jim Cook the latter on the mile dirt track at the State Fairgrounds. Ron Hemady Sr., father of the famed Camping World Truck Series driver, finished fourth in the 1960 race. (Source: Racing-reference.info)

### WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

► **Who's hot:** Veteran Ken Schrader plans to run nine Sprint Cup races, beginning on March 11, at Las Vegas. ... J.J. Yeley will compete at the Cup level for Robinson-Stakeney Racing, a new team.

► **Who's not:** Sprint Cup champ Tony Stewart is giving up his owner points so that Danica Patrick can be guaranteed a place in the Daytona 500 field. Stewart ought to be able to get in on speed, of course, not to mention an ex-champion's provisional.



If you have a question or comment, write: NASCAR This Week, c/o The Gaston Gazette, P.O. Box 1538, Gastonia, NC 28053 or send an e-mail to [rdutton@gastongazette.com](mailto:rdutton@gastongazette.com). You can also send your NASCAR questions to Monte on Facebook at [Facebook.com/monte-dutton](https://www.facebook.com/monte-dutton) and at Twitter.com/MonteDutton. Please specify you are submitting them for the NASCAR This Week page.

### 2012 LOOK AHEAD



#### SPRINT CUP SERIES

The first of the season's two all-star events will be run for the 34th time and for the ninth consecutive year under the lights. In the years 1979-97, it was known as the Busch Clash. It was the Bud Shootout from 1998-2000 and became the Budweiser Shootout officially in 2001.

**Next up:** Budweiser Shootout, Daytona International Speedway (2.5 mi.), Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 18.

**Last year's winner:** Kurt Busch, Dodge.  
**Recent winners:** Busch (2011), Kevin Harvick (2009-10), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2003-08), Tony Stewart (2001-02, '07), Denny Hamlin (2006), Jimmie Johnson (2005), Dale Jarrett (2000, '04).



#### NATIONWIDE SERIES

For many years, Daytona hosted a National Sportsman race known as the Permatex 300 on the day before the 500, but this race's lineage officially began when what is now the Nationwide Series was founded in 1982. Dale Earnhardt won the first one and later captured five in a row from 1990-94.

**Next up:** DRIVE4COPD 300, Daytona International Speedway (2.5 mi.), 120 laps/300 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 25.

**Last year's winner:** Tony Stewart, Chevy.  
**Recent winners:** Stewart (2005-06, '08-11), Kevin Harvick (2007), Dale Earnhardt Jr. (2002-04), Randy LaJoie (1999, 2001), Matt Kenseth (2000).



#### CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

Trucks never raced at Daytona until 2000, when Mike Wallace won the crash-named debut of the series on a so-called restrictor-plate track. Toyota drivers have won the past five races, and, surprisingly, no driver has ever piloted a Chevy to victory. The first seven races saw Fords win four and Dodges three. A Toyota has valied victory lane in each race since.

**Next up:** NextEra Energy Resources 250, Daytona Int'l Speedway (2.5 mi.), 100 laps/250 miles, Daytona Beach, Fla., Feb. 24.

**Last year's winner:** Michael Waltrip, Toyota.  
**Previous winners:** Waltrip (2011), T. Pates (2010), T. Bodine (2008-09), J. Sprague (2007), M. Martin (2006), B. Hamilton (2005), C. Edwards (2004), R. Crawford (2003), R. Pressley (2002), Joe Ruttman (2001), M. Wallace (2000).

### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

DANICA PATRICK SPRINT CUP SERIES No. 10 GODADDY.COM CHEVROLET



John Clark/NASCAR This Week  
It's Danica for 10 races in the Sprint Cup Series this year. With Tony Stewart as her car owner, Patrick will look to find success in NASCAR's premier event. Greg Zipadelli will serve as her crew chief for those Cup appearances, which begin with the Daytona 500.

## Year Of The Danica

Patrick now focusing on NASCAR racing in 2012

**By Monte Dutton**  
NASCAR This Week

Danica Patrick, the trailblazing driver who became the first woman ever to win an IndyCar race, is finally concentrating on NASCAR racing.

This year she will compete in 10 Sprint Cup races but race the entire Nationwide Series season. Her Cup races will be with the current champion, Tony Stewart, a Chevy carrying No. 10. In Nationwide, she will continue to compete with Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s team, but this marks her first season going for the championship.

Of her relationship with Stewart, Patrick said: "I feel respected, and I feel like he's been very patient. Even the little things ... he doesn't look at me like I'm inexperienced. ... He investigates and, says, 'No problem, let's get it right' and makes me comfortable with that kind of stuff."

Another significant development is Stewart-Haas Racing's off-season hiring of Greg Zipadelli, who was Stewart's crew chief during his 2002 and '05 titles with Joe

Gibbs Racing. Zipadelli is now the team's competition director, but he will serve as Patrick's crew chief for her 10 Cup appearances, which begin with the Daytona 500.

"It really was a perfect opportunity for us because it's hard to get a really good crew chief hired to only run 10 races a year in the first year," said Stewart. "To have somebody like Greg, who has been working with Joey (Logano) and has been a crew chief for the last 13 straight years, he can come into this scenario, and the last two guys he had both were rookies when they came in."

Stewart won three Cup races with Zipadelli as a rookie in 1999.

Patrick's hometown is Roscoe, Ill., but she presently lives in Phoenix. She turns 30 on March 25.

"It's just like going to the first day of school," Patrick said. "You want to make a good impression; you want to do a good job ... It's finding your way around, finding my locker, literally."

"There's no combination for it, of course, but it is a locker that I needed to find, getting in sync with that."

### FEUD OF THE WEEK



#### CARL EDWARDS VS. BRAD KESELOWSKI

The rivalry between the two on track, once fierce, has subsided as each matured and earned respect. Now the rivalry is between public images. The two are naturally adept at all the off-track requirements facing modern drivers. Both are articulate, thoughtful and open. Edwards is more in demand because he has been around longer. Keselowski's stardom is emerging.

**NASCAR This Week's Monte Dutton gives his take:** "Edwards is sometimes honest to a fault. Keselowski's understanding of the sport and those who cover it is remarkable for a driver of his experience."

### Know Your NASCAR

1. How many races were run in the first season of what is now known as Sprint Cup?
  2. Who was the first driver to win the Cup championship with only one victory?
  3. Who was the first driver to win the Cup championship more than once?
  4. Who was the first Cup driver to win back-to-back championships?
  5. Who was the second to win back-to-back titles?
  6. Who was the third?
  7. Which driver holds the record for most Cup victories without a championship?
  8. Tony Stewart has 44 career victories, tying him with what other modern champion?
  9. How many times did Richard Petty win poles?
  10. What driver was nicknamed "Pancho"?
  11. What current driver's victory total matches his car number?
  12. Tony Stewart and Carl Edwards finished 1-2 in the final 2011 race and the Chase. Who finished third in the final race?
12. Martin Truex Jr.  
11. Greg Biffle (16)  
10. Marvin Parrett  
9. 123, a record  
8. Bill Elliott  
7. Junior Johnson (50)  
6. Joe Weatherly (1967-69)  
5. Lee Petty (1958-59)  
4. Herb Thomas (1953-57)  
3. Bob Thomson (1953)  
2. Bill Redford (1950)  
1. S.K. (1941)

### FAN TIPS

#### More Junior, More Monte

Jade Guss, who co-wrote "Driver No. 8" with Dale Earnhardt Jr., has now written "In the Red: The 2001 Season with Dale Earnhardt Jr." about his longtime associate. When Dale Earnhardt died on Feb. 18 of that year in the Daytona 500, it changed his son's life drastically. The book may be found in bookstores now or ordered at [www.octanepress.com/book/red](http://www.octanepress.com/book/red). Guss worked as Earnhardt Jr.'s publicist, through Budweiser, from 1999 through 2007.

Check out Monte Dutton's video blog on Ryan Newman, who discusses competing with his boss and teammate, Sprint Cup champion Tony Stewart. You can view his video blogs at [gastongazette.com/video](http://gastongazette.com/video). Check out his blog at [fromthescarpts.freedomblogging.com](http://fromthescarpts.freedomblogging.com).

## Owner Rick Hendrick loses all of the humility for 2012

**By Monte Dutton**  
NASCAR This Week

On most occasions, Rick Hendrick, NASCAR's most successful owner, is painstakingly humble.

Last year, though, Hendrick Motorsports failed to win the Sprint Cup championship, even though the driver who did, Tony Stewart, received considerable assistance from the four-car mega-team.

During the Sprint Media Tour, Hendrick came as close to smack talking as he ever does.

"I'm going to be really disappointed if we don't have all four cars (Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Casey Kahne) in the Chase, and I'm going to be really disappointed if we don't win the championship," Hendrick said. "I can't remember having four teams this solid, this strong, at the beginning of the year."

"I think we're as prepared as we've ever been, and if we don't get it, it's going to be our fault."

**A shot for Gaughan** — Richard Childress is not definitely cutting back from four to three teams. The team will field its No. 33 Chevy in at least the first five Cup races, with Elliott Sadler in the Daytona 500 and Brendan Gaughan in the four afterward.

Gaughan, who has competed in all three of NASCAR's major touring series, recognizes the importance of doing well.

"There are not many second chances in this sport given out," he said. "This is going to be my second chance and what I am considering the last chance, and a place to stay for a while."

### NUTS AND BOLTS

**One more awesome race** — Walmart has never sponsored a stock car, but that will change when Bill Elliott enters Daytona's July race, the Coke Zero 400, in a Chevy carrying No. 50 in honor of the chain's 50th anniversary.

Turner Motorsports will enter the car, which will get its engines from Hendrick Motorsports.

Elliott, of course, is one of a few drivers older than Walmart. He last won at Rockingham in 2003, the 44th victory of his career.

**How sweet it was** — Regan Smith continues to bask in the glow of the upset victory he scored at Darlington for the single-entry Furniture Row team.

"We sat here last year talking to everyone (on the annual Sprint Media Tour), and I said I felt like this team could win a race," Smith said. "Some of you agreed with me, and some of you looked at me like I had a third eye, but, at the end of day, I truly believed that. My win at Darlington helped elevate everyone's confidence, and we will continue to build on that success in 2012."

**Here and there** — Sam Hornish Jr., who won his first Nationwide Series race last year, will compete full-time in the series this year with Penske Racing ... Kurt Busch has no contract with Phoenix Racing. His one-year deal is based on a handshake with owner James Finch. "It reminds me of old-school racing and fun," he said. ... In the aftermath of last year's "Carmageddon," Kentucky Speedway has bought additional land for parking and upgraded



John Clark/NASCAR This Week  
Owner Rick Hendrick has big expectations for his four-car team in 2012. Hendrick says he'll be disappointed if all four are not in the Chase.

roads and traffic plans.

Kasey Kahne missed the Hendrick Motorsports visit on the Media Tour because he ... had jury duty. ... Roush Fenway president Steve Newman, on Carl Edwards' excruciating loss of the championship to Stewart: "I think the one lesson we learned at Roush Fenway Racing in 2011 was that every point matters. Our goal for 2012 is one more point. We need to get that last point at Homestead and be on that podium."

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# Sports

## Pampa stays put, River Road added to District 1-3A

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

After the 2010 University Interscholastic League realignment brought significant change for Pampa athletics in dropping down to 3A, the 2012 realignment didn't create much of a stir. The Harvesters and Lady Harvesters will stay in District 1-3A for two more years but will welcome the River Road Wildcats and Lady Wildcats to the district starting with the 2012-2013 athletics season.

"Everything went about the way we thought it would go from a district standpoint," head football coach and boys athletic director Heath Parker said.

Starting next year except for football, Pampa will play its district opponents twice inside of three times like the last two years. Head baseball coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said he's glad to not play teams three times.

"Any time you play someone three times, it gets old," Snelgrooves said. "With baseball you might play someone in a tournament and play them four times."

The baseball team played both Borger and Dalhart four times. In 2010 the volleyball team played Borger and Dalhart



H. Parker

four times.

Girls head basketball coach Gene Valentine said he's looking forward to playing an even amount of home and road games.

"It will be nice to not go to someone else's place twice," Valentine said.

River Road petitioned to move up to 3A and will depart District 1-2A Division 1. The Wildcats went 4-16 the last two seasons in football, including an 0-10 finish last season. Last year, River Road lost games by an average of 37 points. According to Lone Star Football Network, the Harvesters and Wildcats have never met. Parker said it will make the district more competitive.

"It's a very balanced district and has been in every sport," Parker said. "It was just four teams but all four were pretty equal."

In the last two seasons, all four teams made the playoffs at least once in football.

Parker said they are creating a junior high league that will feature just the five teams in the district.

"From a travel standpoint and a proximity of games and the same size of schools, that's a healthy deal," Parker said.

River Road has played Pampa's other district opponents in football. The



Valentine

Wildcats are 0-6 against Borger, with the last matchup ending 51-6 in 2005. River Road is 5-18 against Perryton, losing the last match 42-3 in 2005. Dalhart is 17-12 against the Wildcats, including a 33-0 victory in 2007.

As of press time, River Road is 9-19 in boys basketball. Head boys basketball coach Dustin Miller said he is looking forward to competing against River Road.

"It's another team that we definitely have the chance to compete with every time we take the floor," Miller said.

Pampa has competed in the River Road Tournament the last three seasons and beat the Wildcats 57-30 in 2009. Miller said he thinks his team will still compete in the tournament despite them being district opponents.

"Borger plays in (Lion's Club Tournament) and in (River Road)," Miller said.

In baseball, the Harvesters beat River Road 12-4 last season. In the past two seasons The Wildcats have competed in Pampa's Cavalier Classic at the begin-



D. Miller

ning of the season. Snelgrooves said having playing River Road will help in 2013. "We already have an idea of what we are getting in to," Snelgrooves said.

### Meet River Road

**Football:** The Wildcats were winless last season and could be a game that can help Pampa clinch a playoff spot.

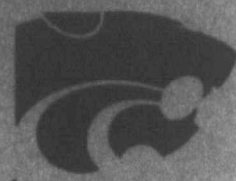
**Volleyball:** The Lady Harvesters swept River Road in the River Road Tournament last August. Will have to see how a younger Pampa squad handles them.

**Basketball:** The boys ranked in the bottom of 1-2A. Should be more competitive in District 1-3A, though they will be younger. Pampa shouldn't have an issue.

The girls aren't much better and should be one of the teams Pampa is ahead of next year.

**Baseball:** The Harvesters beat River Road last year, but the Wildcats should be competitive for Pampa.

**Softball:** The Lady Harvesters haven't played River Road the last few seasons. River Road will probably be on the outside looking in at playoffs.



## 3A is where Pampa belongs

After the 2010 University Interscholastic League realignment I was excited to see Pampa drop to Class 3A after playing a tough 4A district. Now after seeing the results of playing in 3A, I have to admit I was relieved to see the Harvesters and Lady Harvesters continue to play in 3A and continue to build on their success.

For one, I think the drop to 3A proved beneficial because our teams were more competitive. I remember during my first year when I would ask teams what their goals were for the upcoming season, their answer most of the time was to just make playoffs. These past two seasons, those answers have turned into winning district championships and going for deep runs in the playoffs.

In the 2010-2011 athletic season, only four sports didn't compete past district. This year, two of those four qualified for postseason in boys cross country and girls basketball. The basketball and volleyball team went at least three rounds deep in the playoffs in the first season. Just about all of our teams had a chance at the district title in the final weeks of the season.

Not having to play the tough competition that District 3-4A had has contributed to that. In 4A, just about every sport had a state powerhouse in its district. That put more pressure on our teams to win the games they were supposed to win because they already knew they could count on some of their games being losses. The last two seasons, Pampa thought most of our games were winnable I think that's the result of an improved confidence level.



ANDREW GLOVER

A district championship is a district championship no matter what letter precedes the "A." All 5A, 4A and et cetera mean is how large your school is. It doesn't make accomplishments less important. When our kids are succeeding, it's going to make them more motivated for the next season. Most of our athletes play multiple sports. If they are coming off of three-to-four round playoff runs, then they will bring that energy into the next sport they compete and then that team will get fired up. When our teams succeed, it brings more people to the game.

Staying in 3A allows us to keep our local rivalries alive. The games against Borger were much more intense and had a more competitive atmosphere battling them for a district title instead of being a warm-up for district. Two of Pampa's district opponents are within an hour, which has allowed Harvester and Lady Harvester squads to have stronger presence on the road.

There were rumblings at the start of the fall sport season, that maybe we were indeed going to return to Class 4A. If that happened, it would have had a devastating effect on our athletic programs.

If that change happened, it would put Pampa back to competing to just make postseason or, in some sports, be lucky to even win a district game. Several of Pampa's teams this year had large senior classes which would put a younger team trying to repeat the team's success against tougher competition.

Thankfully, that change didn't happen Thursday. We can continue to see our teams build on their success and develop an expectation to win.

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

## SUPER BOWL XLVI

### Wacky questions the norm at Super Bowl's media day

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Quick, Wes Welker, spell Bill Belichick. Hey, Osi Umenyiora, know any other Elis besides that Manning guy? Rob Gronkowski, what's your favorite song by Madonna?

Not exactly challenging questions about Sunday's Super Bowl between the New York Giants and New England Patriots. But that's media day, the NFL's annual version of the circus, minus the ringmaster.

With players and coaches penned into cubicles, mainstream reporters were joined Tuesday by a guy in a superhero costume, another in an old-time football uniform, kids with microphones and some women who wore dresses that left little to the imagination. They asked the Patriots and Giants anything that crossed their minds.

And we do mean anything. "This is crazy, man. It's crazy," said Patriots safety Patrick Chung. "I've never seen anything like this ever."

Actually, none of the players had. For the first time, the NFL let fans in on the act, too. For \$25 — or more, for those who waited until the last minute to buy their tickets — fans could sit in the stands at the stadium and listen to the interviews over a headset.

"We can't hear all of the questions, so we have to guess," said Lee Clifford, who brought his sons, 10-year-old Ben and 8-year-old Nick. "I guess lots of people can get a pass to a media event."

Even people who carry their own disco ball, as the camera crew from Telemundo did.

Media day has never been the stuff of Woodward and Bernstein.

But it's gone from off-the-wall to downright goofy in recent years, the tipping point coming four years ago when a reporter from Mexico's TV Azteca showed up in a wedding dress from a slasher movie in hopes of winning Tom Brady's heart.

Imagine asking Vince Lombardi if he could name three Kardashians. Gronkowski actually did pretty well — he got Kim and Khloe right away, but needed a few more seconds to come up with Kourtney. Or getting John Elway to salsa dance, as New York Giants receiver Victor Cruz did with singer Ciara.

There were no brides or proposals for Brady this year, although the fashion-conscious QB did talk about having his nails painted.

"They were pretty easy on me," Brady said when asked what it was like to grow up with three older sisters. "They dressed me up a few times in their clothes and painted my nails once, but it was nice."

Most of the players were good sports about the whole thing, knowing what

they were in for when they arrived at Lucas Oil Stadium. Even the normally dour Belichick managed a chuckle or two.

"It's kind of catching me off guard," Patriots cornerback Sterling Moore said. "I definitely thought he'd be a little more strict in his interviews."

He might have been a little more cranky if he'd heard Welker when the receiver was asked if he knew how to spell Belichick's last name.

"Tough one. B-E-L-I-C-H-I-C-K," Welker said, and then paused. "K. Wait, that right? Is it CK?"

Told Belichick's name ended in "CK," Welker smacked his head.

Umenyiora fared better with the other Elis, naming Plaxico Burress' little boy, Elijah. As for Gronkowski and Madonna, he wasn't crazy for that question.

Silly stuff, to be sure. But the fans loved every minute of it. Parents let their kids skip school — Zane Bishop, a high school senior, had his head buried in a book during the break, cramming for his AP Government exam Wednesday — and the tickets were in such high demand people were actually scalping them.

"It's such an intimate experience," said Nick Lowery, a Patriots fan who drove from Columbia, Mo. "This is really cool."

Unlike the NFL draft, when rowdy New Yorkers waste no opportunity to heckle picks and boo players, the fans were on their best behavior. Most in the crowd of 7,300 were Colts fans, with many sporting Peyton Manning's No. 18 jersey. But the fans greeted both teams with applause when they came in, and cheered when Eli Manning, Brady and Welker talked about how much they were enjoying Indianapolis and praised Colts fans.

They even set aside their hatred for the Patriots, the Colts' biggest rival.

"Our philosophy has been 'Fans first.' It's all about Hoosier hospitality," said Toni Meyer of Indianapolis.

Added Bill Burns, "The Patriots, we really don't like 'em here. But there hasn't been any animosity."

The only complaint was that fans wanted more. Though they could hear interviews with the head coach and four players on the headset, they were restricted to the stands. No autographs, no photographs with their favorite players.

"I kind of wish we'd been on the field, but I understand," said Burns, who wore a hat with a "Press" card on the side and carried a toy purple microphone. "It probably would have been a bit of a madhouse."

Too late. It passed that threshold years ago.

**athletes**  
of the **week**

**Makayla Hampton**  
Pampa High School

**Latigo Collins**  
Pampa High School

Pampa High School junior tennis player Makayla Hampton is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Hampton finished second in girls singles at the Lubbock Tournament Saturday. Hampton's performance helped Pampa finish sixth. This is Hampton's first athlete of the week honor in 2011-12.

Pampa High School senior basketball player Latigo Collins is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Collins led the team in scoring against Perryton in Dalhart.

# Sports

## Harvesters hope to send many to regionals at district

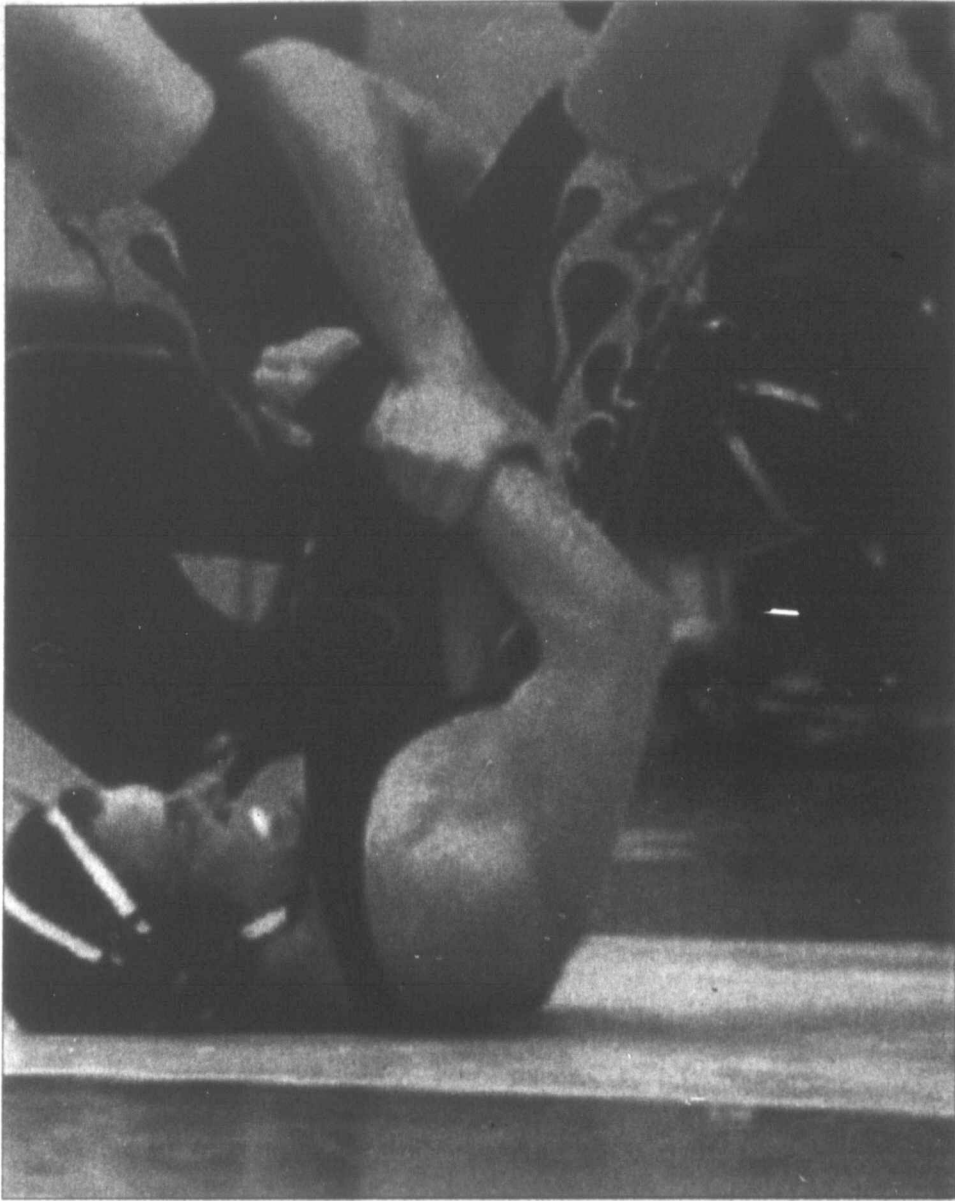


photo courtesy of Leah Pearson

Senior Robert Radke upends a Dumas wrestler during the district duals at Boys Ranch Jan. 21. Radke said Pampa should be improved.

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

After getting a preview of its competition two weeks ago, the Pampa Harvesters wrestling team hopes to leave district with plenty of hardware when it competes in Borger 10 a.m. Saturday.

"We got the pairings and we are in an awesome place," head coach Michael Stovall said.

Pampa competed in the district duals at Boys Ranch on January 21, finishing third. Senior Robert Radke said he feels good about where the team stands.

"We should do pretty good," Radke said. "We should get top two. We should beat Boys Ranch and have a pretty good shot at Dumas."

Pampa lost to Dumas and Boys Ranch at the district duals. Radke said the team should do better Saturday.

"(Dumas) cheated us some on their weight classes," Radke said. "We should do better because there will be an official weigh-in."

Dumas has won the last 13 district titles. Stovall said competing against Dumas showed his team what it wants to become.

"(Dumas) has numbers," Stovall said.

"The kids work hard. When our kids came back, they said 'that's what we want to be like.'"

Junior Bella Wilson said the Lady Harvesters should do well.

"We got more experience," Wilson said. "Last time (district opponents) didn't win as much. We should come out on top."

Wilson said having a week in between tournaments was helpful.

"We've practiced hard," Wilson said. "We've gotten time to heal from the last meet."

Stovall said he will be looking for his team to step up.

"These kids get to wrestle and the top two go to regionals," Stovall said. "I feel confident that we should take pretty good numbers to regionals."

Radke and Stovall said they are excited about going to district with a full team. Radke was one of four team members that were left when the team competed in district last year under then-coach Billy Smith.

"All my other years, we finished out with a couple of people," Radke said.

"To be at where we are now compared to where we were last year is a huge difference," Stovall said.

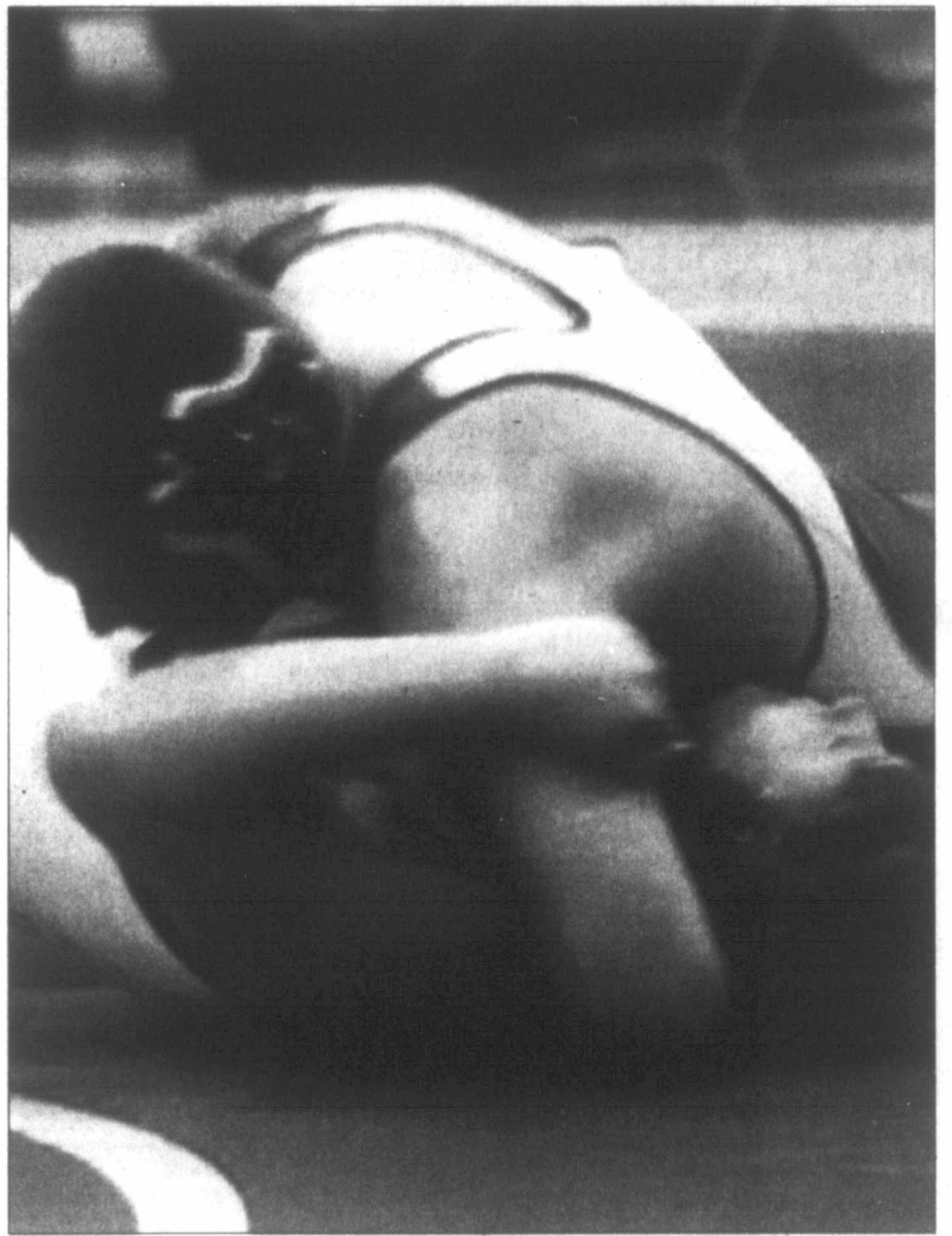


photo courtesy of Leah Pearson

Senior Ryan Pearson holds down a Borger wrestler during the district duals on Jan. 21 at Boys Ranch.

### NFL DRUG TESTING

## NFL Union's Smith says league won't bully players on HGH

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The head of the NFL Players Association insists the league won't "bully" its way to a test for human growth hormone.

At his annual Super Bowl news conference, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said talks continue in a bid to resolve the impasse over adding HGH to the NFL's testing program — six months after the labor deal ending the lockout included a provision to allow checking for that performance-enhancing drug once players approved the process.

Originally, the league hoped it could start testing for HGH as soon as Week 1 of this season. Now there's no certainty it'll happen by the beginning of next season.

"No one will bully us into a test," Smith said Thursday. "No one will force the players to accept something that's unfair. How could we?"

The union has raised questions about the detection methods and appeals process.

"We are going to continue to fight and ensure that due process is something that is not thrown away at the expense of just having the test," said Smith, who is up for re-election in March.

A year ago this week, he fielded question after

question about then-ongoing negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement. Eventually, there would be a lockout — NFLPA spokesman George Atallah referred Thursday to the "L word" — before a new 10-year labor deal was signed.

"We have had a tumultuous and event-filled year in the business of football, but it is a great feeling to stand here today knowing that the conversations about our business and our union will not be about how to save them but about the agenda we are looking to set so we can grow them together," Atallah said.

Smith said the issues of most concern now are current players' health and safety, health care for former players, and painkillers, a topic not frequently discussed in such settings.

Smith spoke about confronting the "issue of painkillers and the use of painkillers, not only on game days and practice days, but how that issue of using painkilling drugs continues to be an issue for our players and our men and their families long after football is over."

Asked about last month's announcement that the St. Louis Rams would play one game in London in each of the next three seasons, Smith said that plan "raises some significant

concerns about the health and safety of the players, given the transportation, given the jet lag. ... One significant issue for our players is the length of time they have to travel in planes before and after games."

He said he thought the London games should be discussed by the NFL and NFLPA.

Smith also did not rule out the possibility of returning to a discussion of an 18-game regular season, something the NFL pursued at the outset of labor negotiations.

"The lesson from the ... lockout and the labor fight was that it is important to consider everything," Smith said.

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