

IN SPORTS

2195 BRITANNIA BLVD STE 102 SAN DIEGO, CA 92154-6290 Ndooddaalldaladallaaddladlaaddaallaalalld

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012

www.thepampanews.com



No primary until May 29?

Harvesters sweep Rangers

Judge advises Texas to plan on new date | p3A | Pampa edges Perryton in tightly secured gym | p2B

City Commission hears fire, racial profiling reports

Number of fire responses average for 2011; arrests up, accidents down

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

City commissioners heard reports from the police and fire departments at its meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Chief Kim Powell delivered the fire department's annual report, which found that the department responded to 158 fires and 166 hazardous conditions last year. The bulk of its calls, 44 percent, were rescue or emergency medical calls.

"That's generally where we are annually, even before we changed ambulance services a couple of times," said Powell.

Chief Kelly Rushing of the Pampa Police Department delivered an annual racial profiling report that also provided a summary of 2011 for the department. Out of all of the traffic stops performed by Pampa PD last year, officers pulled over 1,716 Caucasians, 737 Hispanics, 176 African Americans, four Middle Easterners, four Native Americans and one Asian.

"As has been the case ever since I've been around here, it pretty much follows our population breakdown," said Rushing.

During 2011, arrests went up slightly, and traffic citations increased to 6.462 from 4,265 in 2010. At the same time, accidents went down by more than 100 during 2011.

"We were shorthanded for most of (2010), and the number of citations was down for the year, but they were back up to a pretty normal level for last year," said Rushing. "The extra traffic enforcement, I believe, has a direct bearing on CITY cont. on page 8A

TOUGH DRAW



Sophomore Hayley Burnett is impeded by Shallowater's Allison Maldonado in the bi-district round at Wayland Baptist's Hutcherson Center in Plainview. The Lady Harvesters lost 70-39. Full story in **SPORTS**, page 1B.

County takes no action on runway rehab

MOLLIE BRYANT

mbryant@thepampanews.com

County Commissioners took no action on a potential project to rehabilitate the runway at the Perry Lefors Airport.

Including engineering costs, the project would cost the county about \$440,000 with a grant through the Aviation Division of the Texas Department of Transportation.

The commission also approved an annual racial profiling report from the Sheriff's Office. According to the report, of 662 traffic stops performed during 2011, the majority of individuals (70 percent) were Caucasian, while 14 percent were Hispanic and 9 percent were African American.

In other business, commissioners:

· paid bills and salaries as approved by the county auditor; approved the treasurer's report;

· approved the county clerk's report; allowed Commissioner Joe Wheeley

to replace an employee;

· recognized the continuing education of the county treasurer and the Justice of the Peace of precinct 4.

New dispatcher Grotts settling in at Pampa Police Dept.

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

Vickie Grotts has worked as a dispatcher with the Pampa Police Department for about a month, and this mother of four is happy to be learning the ropes.

"There's all kinds of protocol and procedure that goes into answering the phone and definitely answering 911, and learning those steps you go through to help the people that call," she said.

Before starting her job with the police department, Grotts worked as a stay at home mom and an accounting administrator. Now she is busy working in a position that demands a certain kind of flexibility.

"I think in the dispatch position, you wear several hats, because you're not just the person who answers the 911 line," said Grotts. "You're the person that the officer talks to in the field when he's performing whatever task he's performing, whether it's talking to a motorist or dealing with a suspicious



person in a neighborhood or (he's) called on a burglary. Whatever the call is, I'm his contact that keeps up with him and makes sure he stays safe, as best I can from my position."

Grotts lived in Arkansas before moving to Pampa in June, but after spending about 30 years in Dallas, she said Texas feels like coming home.

"Culturally, (Dallas and Pampa are different), but as far as the people, the people are the same," said Grotts. "There's just a certain personality that Texans have. It's warm and friendly GROTTS cont. on page 8

Culturally, (Dallas and Pampa) are different, but as far as the people, the people are the same. There's just a certain personality that Texans have. It's warm and friendly and helpful.

– Vickie Grotts

Pampa Police Department dispatcher (and longtime Dallas resident) on living in Pampa



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PAMPA FORECAST



Friday



Low 31

Low 30

High 47 Low 27

Today: Increasing clouds, with a high near 48. Wind chill values between 16 and 26 early. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 51. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east southeast.

Friday Night: A slight chance of rain showers before midnight, then a slight chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a low around 30. East southeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47. North northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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101 S. HOBART

PART TIME help need-

NO NEWSPAPER or Mail

Delivery on Mon., Feb. 20,

ed, Julie's Hallmark, 125 W.

Kingsmill, Pampa.

Tues, Feb 21, 8am.

Ron Lilley, Broke

806-665-3500

NEED MORE room, better

3333 or 669-3684.

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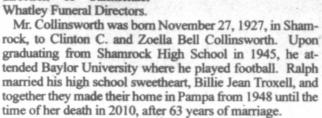
The family will receive friends from 6-7:30 PM Friday,

Ralph Bell Collinsworth, 84 Ralph Bell Collinsworth, 84, died February 12, 2012,

in Amarillo. Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, February 18, 2012, at First United Methodist Church with John Curry, officiating. Private burial will be in Fairview Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites courtesy of Top of Texas Masonic Lodge #1381 AF& AM. Ar-

Obituaries

rangements are under the Collinsworth direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Ralph owned and operated Oilwell Operators, Inc. for 28 years. He also had ranching and farming interests in Wheeler County. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, and was a member of the Top of Texas Masonic Lodge #1381, as well as the El Paso Scottish Rite Consis-

Ralph enjoyed traveling with his wife, playing poker with the Friday night gang, hunting, fishing, golfing and ranching. He adored his children and grandchildren.

Survivors include two daughters, Cathy Carter and husband Charles of Monahans and Melinda Curtino and husband Joe of Muscat, Oman; a son, Michael Collinsworth of Plano; a brother, James Collinsworth and wife Gay of Big Spring; a brother-in-law, Bobby Troxell and wife Mary of Amarillo; six grandchildren, Erica Krucke and husband Chris of Honolulu, Jason Carter of Borger, Tyson Carter of Lubbock, Meredith Curtino of Katy, Megan Curtino of College Station and Mariah Curtino of Muscat, Oman.

Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981, or Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis,

February 17, 2012, at Carmichael-Whatley funeral home. Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

Margie Prestidge, 80

Margie Prestidge, 80, died February 12, 2012, in Canyon.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, February 17, 2012, Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel, with Rev. Jim Powell, retired Baptist minister, officiating.

Burial will be at Memorial Heights Cemetery in Lefors, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Church of Lefors.

Mrs. Prestidge was born March 16, 1931, in McLean. She was a lifelong resident of Gray County and served as Justice of the Peace, Precinct #2, for 24 years. She served as president of the West Texas Justice of the Peace Association from 1980-1981, and served on the board of directors in the 1980's. She was a former manager of Tralee Crisis Center and worked for the Salvation Army. She was a member of First Baptist

Prestidge

Survivors include a son, David C. Prestidge and wife Kathe of Amarillo; two brothers, Douglas Smith of Pampa and Carroll Smith and wife Dorothy of Kerrville; four sisters, Judith Robertson and husband Bob and Sylvia Johnson, all of Amarillo, Leta Wischkaemper of Shamrock, and Christine Smith of White Deer; seven grandchildren, Justin Prestidge and wife Carolyn, Talea Prestidge and Trystyn Prestidge, all of Bridgeport, Shawn Prestidge of Happy, Cpl. Niki Baldwin and husband Sgt. Sean of Virginia, Felisha Prestidge of Fort Worth, and Ashley Fronterhouse of Canyon; 10 great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Beverly Prestidge of Canyon. Margie was preceded in death by her parents, Roger and Clara Smith; a son, Ken Prestidge; two brothers, Bruce Smith and J.T. Smith; a sister, Lillian Nance Smith; and a granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to American Lung Association, P.O. Box 26566, Austin, TX 78755.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.

The family suggests memorials to First United Methodist

For the record

ast Minute Ads Cont. from Tues. Harassment occurred at The Pampa News is not responsible for the content

the 1100 block of North Perry and the 100 block of North Sumner.

PAMPA HOMECOMING A suspicious vehicle was June 23rd, Food Vendors reported at the 1000 block of Needed, Norris Pavillion, Sirroco.

Sheriff's Office

2012. Pampa News office location? See 109 N. Cuyler. The Gray County Sheriff's will also be closed. Open 25'x90', next to Rheams. 669-Office reported the following arrests for the 72 hour period ending Monday, February 13 at 7 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 10

We help you Dustin Ray Langley, 24, was arrested by deputies for buy or sell a violation of a protective order. your home!

> was arrested by police on a capias pro fine warrant for no rabies vaccine.

Trevor Dwayne Lane, 23,

Brenden Chase Flores, 18, was arrested by police on capias pro fine warrants of expired motor vehicle inspection and running a red light.

Johnathon Wayne Teel, 31, was arrested by deputies on charges of assault causing bodily injury, forgery of a financial instrument and theft by check.

rested by police for interfering with public duties.

Calvin Clay Schaffer, 26, was arrested by DPS officers for driving while intoxicated.

Whitney Gracie Marie Jenkins, 22, was arrested by DPS officers for driving

Andrew Jimenez, 17, was arrested by deputies for minor in possession of alcohol. Tyler Blane Roberts, 17,

was arrested by deputies for possession of drug parapher-Dillon Johnson, 19, was

arrested by deputies for theft of property by check, in an amount greater than or equal to \$20 but less than \$500.

Saturday, Feb. 11 Jesus Wisdom Guevara,

21, was arrested by DPS agents for driving while intoxicated.

Yvonne Frances Lopez, 26, was arrested by DPS agents for tampering with government records and public intoxication.

Andrew Shane Keeton, 27, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled can substance, in an amount less than one gram.

Melinda Ann Moreno, 42, was arrested by deputies for possession of a controlled substance, in an amount less

than one gram. Latisha Morgen Martin, 30, was arrested by DPS agents for property theft, in Christina Avila, 50, was ar- an amount equal to or greater reported at the 1300 block of

> than \$20 but less than \$500. Walter Carl Everson, 21, was arrested by deputies for 23rd and Duncan. evading arrest with a vehicle.

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following block of West Craven. incidents for the 24 hour period ending Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7 a.m.

Pampa EMS, the Pampa

Fire Department and the Lefors Volunteer Fire Depart- Banks. ment responded to 15 medical calls. Pampa PD reported 15 traffic related incidents.

Animal Control agents

incidents. Monday, Feb. 13 Accidents occurred at the

intersection of Starkweather and Francis and at the 1600 block of North Nelson. Disorderly conduct occurred at the 4000 block of

North Bad Cattle Company. A burglary occurred at the 2200 block of North Dun-

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 100 block of East Francis.

A violation of a protective order was reported.

A runaway was reported at the 600 block of North Frost. A vehicle fire occurred at the 100 block of Hampton. A suspicious person was

North Russell.

An accident occurred at

A hit and run occurred at the 300 block of East Brown. A threat was reported at the 1200 block of North Wells. A burglary of a motor ve-

hicle was reported at the 200 Driving while intoxicated

was reported at the 600 block of East Frederic.

Harassment was reported at the 700 block of North

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 500 block of North Frost

Tuesday, Feb. 14 Suspicious persons were reported five animal related reported at the intersection of

Francis and Gray and at the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24 hour period ending Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 13

Martin Junior Avila, 21, was arrested by deputies for duty on striking fixture or highway landscape.

Rebecca Irene Drinkard, 30, was arrested by police on warrants of failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure to appear in court, and on capias pro fine warrants of expired motor vehicle insurance, failure to maintain financial responsibility, failure to appear in court and expired motor vehicle insurance.

James Dean Lee, 31, was arrested by deputies on a warrant for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.



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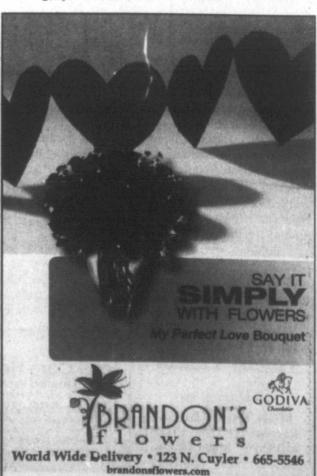
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Lobbyists earned over \$300 mill

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lobbyists collected up to about \$345 million to influence lawmakers while the state Legislature was in session last year.

But Texans for Public Justice says that's only a small mcrease from a maximum near \$344 million spent on lobbying during the last legislative session in 2009.

In a report released Wednesday, the watchdog group said it's difficult to pinpoint exact values for lobbying contracts. Still, 1,836 lobbyists collected a minimum \$169.1 million and maximum \$345.4 million from 2,908 clients in 2011.

In 2009, 1,690 lobbyists got between \$167.4 million and \$343.6 million from 2,866 clients. Dallas-based AT&T has long been the top spender on

Texas lobbying and paid up to \$10.6 million in 2011. Dallas-based Energy Future Holdings Corp. was second, spending a maximum \$2.6 million.

Drought killed millions of trees

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Experts say the 2011 Texas drought has killed about 5.6 million trees in urban

The Texas Forest Service offered the preliminary estimate Tuesday.

Foresters spent the last month doing the survey, including use of satellite images to count live and dead trees in randomly selected areas.

All cities and towns in Texas were part of the study, except the Trans Pecos region, where tree mortality was determined to be a result of February 2011 cold weather.

Researcher Pete Smith says trees continue to die from the drought and a final number may never be known. The agency in December estimated Texas had a total

tree population of about 4.9 billion. Recent rains helped ease parts of Texas, including the Dallas-Fort Worth area, out of the drought.

Man declared innocent, released

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas man released after spending 14 years in prison for murder and attempted murder has been declared innocent of those crimes.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals determined "actual innocence" Wednesday in Richard Miles' case. He's been free on his own recognizance since a district judge recommended that he be declared innocent in October 2009

Miles was released after an advocacy group found evidence implicating another man hadn't been handed over to the defense when he was convicted in 1995. However, Miles wasn't cleared of the crimes and entitled to state compensation until the appeals court ruling.

Miles' attorney, Cheryl Wattley, says her 36-year-old client will now seek compensation under the Tim Cole Act, which provides those wrongfully convicted with \$80,000 for every year of incarceration.

Stanford prosecution rests

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys for jailed Texas tycoon R. Allen Stanford on Wednesday were expected to begin their defense in his fraud trial after prosecutors rested their case following three weeks of testimony in support of their claims the financier was behind a massive Ponzi originally scheduled to be part of next month's Super scheme that took billions from investors.

The presentation of Stanford's defense did not immediately begin as his attorneys were given an hour by U.S. District Judge David Hittner to decide how they would proceed.

"We've been in discussions with our client on what is wise, what the next step would be," said Robert Scardino, one of Stanford's attorneys. Scardino had initially asked for the rest of Wednesday to discuss trial strategy with Stanford but Hittner only gave them an hour.

The request by Stanford's attorneys came after Hittner denied their motion to dismiss all charges against the financier because prosecutors had failed to prove their case. Such motions are typically argued after prosecutors finish presenting a case and are usually denied.

Gang leader sentenced to life

EL PASO (AP) — Officials say a Barrio Azteca gang leader in West Texas has been sentenced to life in federal prison after pleading guilty to participating in a racketeering conspiracy.

Federal prosecutors say Roberto Angel Cardona was the Barrio Azteca leader in El Paso. Authorities say witnesses testified that he ordered extortions, kidnappings and assaults. He was sentenced Tuesday.

Cardona and other 35 gang members were indicted last March, and 18 have pleaded guilty. Some of the defendants are accused of the March 13, 2010, murders in Ciudad Juarez of U.S. a consulate employee and others.

Court documents say the Barrio Azteca gang is involved in drug trafficking, extortion and kidnapping on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border and within the Texas penal system.

Mexico says warning 'ridiculous'

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's top domestic security official says a U.S. State Department travel warning on almost half of Mexico's states is "ridiculous" and "out of proportion.

Interior Department Alejandro Poire says million of tourists visit Mexico without incident.

Poire told a news conference Tuesday that he believes 'these alerts overstate or misstate the standards and security situation that exists in our country.'

The State Department issued an updated travel warning Feb. 8 urging travelers to "defer nonessential travel" to 14 of Mexico's 31 states due to drug-related violence that has cost more than 47,500 lives since 2006.

The warning notes "millions of U.S. citizens safely visit Mexico each year" and resort areas are generally



Porcelain condiment set serves as heirloom

Q: I have in my possession the porcelain set that is seen in the enclosed photo. The set consists of a tray, a covered sugar bowl with a matching porcelain spoon and two shakers. The round tray measures approximately 7 inches in diameter. They are all decorated with hand-painted pink roses, green leaves and gold trim. The set is in pristine condition. Each piece is marked with the words "Hand Painted - Nippon - M." I did some research and learned that this mark indicates that the pieces were imported by the Morimura Brothers. There is a note in the sugar bowl that says the set belonged to my grandmother in the year 1919.

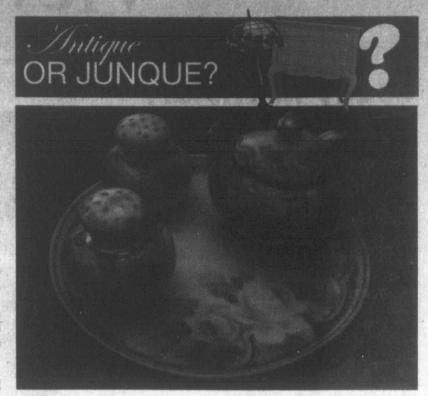
Any information you can give me about this set, its actual age and the value it might have will be appreciated.

A: Nippon is the Japanese word for Japan and was used in marks on porcelain from 1891 to around 1920. The Morimura Brothers were distributors who exported porcelain from Japan to the United States. Your set is a condiment set and the bowl with spoon/ladle is for serving mustard. Toothpick holders were often included in these sets.

Style, design and the manufacturer's mark are the basis for determining age. Based on that, your condiment set was made sometime between 1891 and 1910.

Similar sets are selling on the Internet at \$75 to \$125.

Q: This mark is on the bottom of a pitcher that we inherited. It belonged to my husband's aunt, who died in England 10 years ago at the age of 90. Also included in the mark is the name "Rhead." We were told his name is Frederick Rhead and he was an English ceramic artist. The pitcher is 7



Condiment set made in Japan.

inches tall and in mint condition. It is decorated with a tan-and bittersweet-colored, stylized design.

We would love to know the approximate age of the piece as well as its value.



Charlotte Rhead was a leading designer for Crown Ducal.

A: Close, but no cigar! Your pitcher was made by Frederick Rhead's daughter, Charlotte, around 1933 for Crown Ducal in England. Frederick was an accomplished English potter and designer, but was not associated with Crown Ducal. His daughter was one of their most talented designers, and her work is highly collectible today

Your pitcher would probably be worth \$300 to \$500.

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

ludge: Texas should plan on May primary

Wednesday that Texas should plan on a late May primary, even as state officials and minority rights groups worked out a short-term compromise over one of its three disputed electoral maps.

GOP leaders expressed disappointment over the new instructions to aim for a May 29 primary. Texas was Tuesday contests, but as the state's primary date has slipped due to the redistricting battle, so too have its chances of influencing the Republican presidential race.

The grim news of another likely primary date came after the Texas attorney general's office and attorneys for minorities in the Fort Worth area reported some progress in their negotiations.

They told the court they had reached a deal on state Senate maps that would apply only to the 2012 election, however separate challenges to the Texas House and congressional maps remained unresolved. The congressional maps are critical because Texas is adding four seats next year and who wins them could decide which party controls the U.S. House.

U.S. Appeals Court Judge Jerry Smith did not officially set May 29 as the primary date, but he told party leaders to instruct candidates and their campaigns to plan as if that is when Texas voters can finally cast their ballots. An ongoing battle over Republican-drawn voting maps has derailed two previously scheduled primary dates, including April 3.

"Based on all the things going here, it's extremely unlikely there will be a primary in April," Smith said. Steve Munisteri, the state's GOP chairman, said Texas could still wind up as "kingmaker" on the back end of the primary calendar if Mitt Romney does not clinch the nomination early.

Texas has 155 delegates, second only to California. Yet Romney, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich have

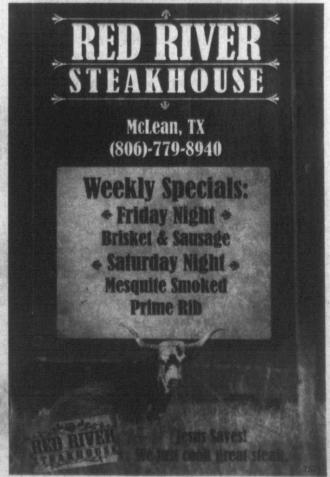
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A federal judge advised so far ignored Texas while campaigning in other early primary states.

Only six other states have primaries later than May 29, including California, which has the most delegates

"I'm very surprised at the lack of attention to Texas," PRIMARY cont. on page 8A







Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2012. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1862, the Civil War Battle of Fort Donelson in Tennessee ended as some 12,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered; Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant."

On this date:

In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its independence from the Russian Empire. (Lithuania, which was occupied by the Soviet Union, then Nazi Germany, then the Soviet Union again during World War II, renewed its independence in 1990).

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt by English archaeologist Howard Carter.

In 1937, Dr. Wallace H. Carothers, a research chemist for Du Pont who'd invented nylon, received a patent for the synthetic fiber.

In 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II. In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba a month and a-half after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1961, the United States launched the Explorer 9 satellite.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated in Haleyville, Ala. In 1977, Janani Luwum, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda, and two other men were killed in what Ugandan authorities said was an automobile accident.

In 1987, John Demjanjuk went on trial in Jerusalem, accused of being "Ivan the Terrible," a guard at the Treblinka Nazi concentration camp. (Demjanjuk was convicted, but the conviction ended up being overturned by the Israeli Supreme

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus A300-600R trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, en route to a three-nation tour of Asia, stopped off at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska, where he told hundreds of cheering U.S. soldiers that "America will not blink" in the fight against terrorism and Osama bin Laden. Authorities in Noble, Ga., arrested Ray Brent Marsh, who'd been operating a crematory where hundreds of decomposing corpses were found stacked in storage sheds and scattered in the woods behind it. (Marsh later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.) Former Cabinet member and Common Cause founder John W. Gardner died in Stanford,

Five years ago: The Democratic-controlled House issued a symbolic rejection of President George W. Bush's decision to deploy more troops to Iraq, approving the nonbinding resolution by a vote of 246-182. An Italian judge indicted 25 suspected CIA agents and a U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel in the alleged kidnapping of an Egyptian terror suspect, Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr. (Twenty-three Americans were later convicted in absentia along with two Italians.)

One year ago: Bookstore chain Borders filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and said it would close nearly a third of its stores. (Borders closed all of its remaining stores in Sept. 2011.) Huge crowds called for a political overhaul in Bahrain, and leaders appeared to shift tactics after attempts to crush the uprising stoked protesters' rage.

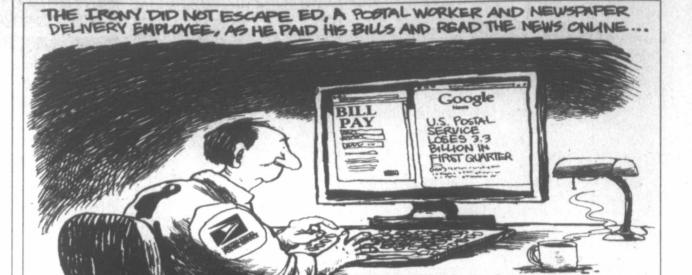
Today's Birthdays: Singer Patty Andrews is 94. Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 67. Actor William Katt is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer James Ingram is 60. Actor LeVar Burton is 55. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 54. Actress Lisa Loring is 54. International Tennis Hall of Famer John McEnroe is 53. Rock musician Andy Taylor is 51. Rock musician Dave Lombardo (Slayer) is 47. Actress Sarah Clarke is 41. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foofighters) is 40. Olympic gold medal runner Cathy Freeman is 39. Singer Sam Salter is 37. Rapper Lupe Fiasco is 30. Pop-rock singer Ryan Follese (FAHL'eh-say) (Hot Chelle (SHEL) Rae) is 25. Actress Elizabeth Olsen is 23. Actor Mike Weinberg is 19.

Thought for Today: "I am content to define history as the past events of which we have knowledge and refrain from worrying about those of which we have none — until, that is, some archaeologist digs them up." — Barbara W. Tuchman, American historian (1912-1989).

We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- · Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity. All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be
- 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



Will Catholic bishops save Obama?

the

Health

Women's

Public Policy

Polling found

that 57 percent

of Catholic vot-

ers endorse the

Obama "com-

Care,

to

What is most striking about the showdown over contraceptive freedom is not the political victory that President Obama earned by standing up for women's reproductive rights, although his Republican adversaries are certainly helping him to make the most of it. Those adversaries don't seem to realize they have fallen into a trap, whether the White House set them up intentionally or not.

While the Catholic bishops and their allies on the religious right insist that this is an argument over the First Amendment, their true, longstanding purpose now stands revealed to the public. They would begin by imposing their dogma on every woman unlucky enough to work for an employer who shares it -- an agenda that is deeply unpopular even among the Catholic faithful, let alone the rest of the American electorate. Then they would impose it on everyone, as the theorists of the religious right suggest every time they deny the separation of church and state.

The bishops have nothing to lose except their flock, whose respect for the hierarchy has plunged anyway over its resistance to reform and its failure to punish abuses far graver and more sinful than contraception. If they had to stand for election not many of them would be left standing. And if they had to face a referendum on this current matter, they would lose resoundingly to the president, according to the latest survey data.



JOE CONASON

promise" that would ensure continued prescription birth control for women working in religious institutions, without requiring those institutions to pay directly for that coverage. Only 29 percent sided with the bishops, the religious right and the Republicans, while 5 percent actually think the religious institutions should pay for contraceptive coverage regardless of their doctrine. The cross-tabs of the PPP poll show that Latino Catholics, Catholic independent voters and Catholic women support the Obama solution by wide margins. (The most recent poll by Fox News Channel shows the same overwhelming approval for the president's position among the general public, with 61 percent of voters on his side versus only 34 nercent against)

Those statistics are no threat to the bishops, of course, but represent a profound problem for the Republican leaders and candidates who have signed up for this male geriatric crusade against modernity.

In a poll taken Mitt Romney, for instance, seems to last Friday for believe that by stoking evangelical paranoia about a supposed "war on Coalition Protect religion" by Obama, he will subdue evangelical paranoia about his Mormonism (which, by the way, expressly permits birth control). His pandering commenced when he announced his 2012 candidacy, but grew still more intense this week when he accused the president of perpetrating an "assault" on religion.

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Such tactics are unlikely to placate the prejudices arrayed against Romney — and even if they did, he will pay a very high price next fall for joining the angriest and most extreme culture warriors on this issue. Congressional Republicans will be courting the same danger if, as promised, they propose legislation that would overturn the Obama compromise and deprive women working for religious institutions of equal rights to contraceptive ser-

The president should hold fast. He has proved that it is possible to uphold the principle of full access to birth control, which has been the pro-family social policy of the American majority for half a century, while respecting the religious convictions of all Americans. The wild ranting of his enemies is only helping him now — and may yet ruin them in November.

Joe Conason is the editor-in-chief of

Is the White House a feminist lackey?

Proclaiming in a New York Times headline that "Obama Adjusts a Rule Covering Contraceptives," the pro-Obama media tried to dig the president out of the political hole he had jumped into. But calling Obama's revised rule an "adjustment" or an "accommodation" or another soft-sell word can't cover the fact that the revision is essentially the same as the original rule.

Barack Obama and his administration are the lackeys of the feminists. And furthermore, they must think the American people are too stupid to see through the deception he is trying to put over on us.

A big New York Times editorial cried out that Obama's action means "The Freedom to Choose Birth Control." Poppycock. Every American already has the right to choose birth control, but that shouldn't give them the right to have somebody else pay for it, and that's what ObamaCare demands.

The bottom line is that the ObamaCare insurance, which employers are mandated to provide and individuals are mandated to buy, will include birth control, the morning-after pill (an abortion drug) and sterilization. All this at zero cost to the individual and without any additional premium, co-pay, or out-of-pocket expense. And yes, this mandate does apply to religious hospitals, schools, colleges and charities, even though their religion teaches them that these acts are immoral and wrong.

Obama's original rule called for religiously affiliated institutions to pay for these controversial services, which even liberal commentators denounced as a gross interference with religious liberty. It was even denounced by Chris Matthews, E.J. Dionne and Democratic senators. The ever loquacious Joe Biden hid out in uncharacteristic silence.

The debate about this rule went on within the administration for several months. Obama eventually sided with the feminists (no surprise) against the



SCHLAFLY

warning of then Chief of Staff William Daley. After the firestorm erupted,

Obama may have thought he could get the Catholic bishops to go along with his accommodation (as a couple of liberal nuns did), but the bishops

saw through his duplicity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed out that the "adjustment" still includes a "nationwide mandate of insurance coverage of sterilization and contraception, including some abortifacients" and also that the many "self-insuring religious employers, and religious insurance companies, are not exempt from this mandate."

The accommodation orders insurance companies to pay the costs of these birth control/abortion services, but you can be sure insurance companies will price their products to make a profit. It's obvious that insurance companies will distribute and conceal the costs so nobody appears to be paying for the controversial procedures.

Since the insurance companies will not be permitted to charge different fees for different employees, all their customers will be paying something for the controversial services. In plain words, all religiously affiliated institutions and their employees will be paying for birth control/abortion drugs, but not "explicitly," as the Wall Street Journal delicately explained.

Congressman Chris Smith, R-N.J., summed up this issue: "The White House Fact Sheet is riddled with doublespeak and contradiction. It states, for example, that religious employers 'will not' have to pay for abortion pills, sterilization and contraception, but their

'insurance companies' will. Who pays for the insurance policy? The religious employer.'

The political donnybrook continues as many people are speaking out against Obama's rule, both the original and the revised version, because it is an outrageous interference with religious liberty. How dare Barack Obama and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius tell religiously affiliated institutions that they must do something that violates their moral code?

This issue has aroused people of all religious denominations to speak out. They now realize we have a president who made himself part of the organized attack on religion anywhere in the public square, an attack we see so frequently in the courts and in the schools.

One of the shocking parts of this charade is the fact that the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains sent an email to senior chaplains telling them that Archbishop Timothy Broglio's letter criticizing the Obama rule was not to be read from the pulpit. Has anti-religious bigotry become so extreme, even in the military, that a chaplain's sermon is expected to be banned or censored to conform to Obama's prejudices?

Lesson No. 1: This issue demonstrates that the Obama administration is participating full-strength in the ongoing campaign against religious liberty.

Lesson No. 2: This issue demonstrates that national health care involves so much more than health, and that all decisions, major and minor, will be controlled by federal bureaucrats, not by patients, not by doctors, not by taxpayers and not by any elected representatives, state or federal.

As Walter Cronkite used to say, "That's the way it is."

Joe Conason is the editor-in-chief of NationalMemo.com.



KEANG

"When I pick a job to have, I'm gonna pick one that doesn't wear ties."

Non Sequitur

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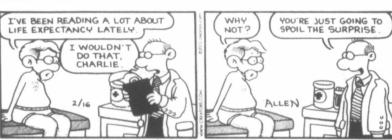
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Nest Heads



This year family becomes very important, yet you also demand enormous privacy. Juggling the various demands in your life takes talent. At first it might be difficult, but you will handle everything. Remain confident. If you are single, you could choose an emotionally unavailable person. Unless you are comfortable with this situation, the sooner you clear out, the better. If you are attached, you benefit from frequent weekends away together. That extra private time makes all the difference in your bond. CAPRICORN understands you nearly too

well ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Assume responsibility, even if you would like to proceed differently. Good will surrounds you. Emphasize gain, both financially and emotionally. Good communication transforms a project, allowing greater give-and-take. Schedule a meeting later today. Tonight: A must show.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your ability to move through an issue quickly after a jolt defines you as a person and demonstrates your strength. Your rebound results in possibilities. Suddenly the world seems positive. Open up to an offer, making sure at the same time that no strings are attached. Tonight: Try a new

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

**** A work associate or dear friend makes it clear that he or she needs and wants more time. Your resilience and ability to flex with changes emerges in order to make time. Count on being busy. A financial agreement is subject to change. Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Unexpected developments could toss your schedule into chaos. Communications take you in a new direction and help you move through a hassle. If you allow others to play a more dominant role, you will be much happier. Tonight: Surrounded by people.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

** Manifesting another's ideas proves worthwhile on several levels. You encourage others to go for what they want more often. Rather than being critical, demonstrate and teach through example. Trust that your message will be heard. Just the same, not being acknowledged as you Tonight: Celebrating.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Feb. would like to be could make a situation tougher. Tonight: Try mellow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** You might not be able to contain yourself, even if someone rains on your parade. Your vision also might be broader than many people's, as you look to growth and many changes. Understand others might have a fear of change. Tonight: Christen the weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** You could be far more in touch with your feelings than you want to acknowledge. Hunkering down and hiding them will only backfire in the long run. A family member or roommate has the gift of gab. Tonight: At home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Understand that there are many ways to approach a situation, even if you do not always or automatically see them. Someone easily could rebuff an idea or suggestion. Try expressing the thought differently. Revise plans if need be as the day ends. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ Be aware of what is said. The unexpected plays a major role in planning and at work. Maintain your traditional sense of humor, and you'll discover just how easy it is to move past a limitation. Use caution with your finances. Tonight: Whatever you

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Someone close to you decides to buck the status quo, particularly as to

do, you do it with grand style.

how it relates to you. Be willing to move in a new direction and incorporate different ideas without this person's support. Romance seems to be weaving through the air. Tonight: The world is your oyster. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

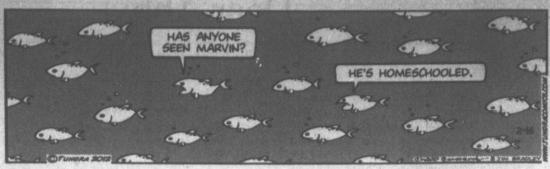
** Knowing when to cut your losses is important. If you do, others could be shocked by your actions and let you know in no uncertain terms. Your individuality

and independence come into play. Listen to

stions politely. Tonight: Perhaps with

a favorite perso PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Taking a risk financially could cause a situation to tumble one way or another. How you see this gamble might be very different from a partner's perspective. Meetings prove to be enlightening and significant. Follow through on a suggestion.

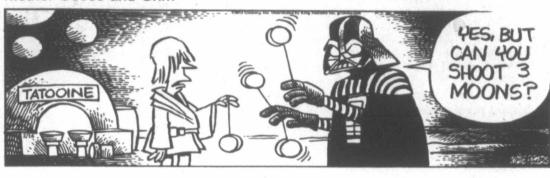
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Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



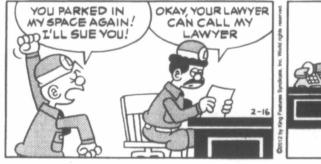
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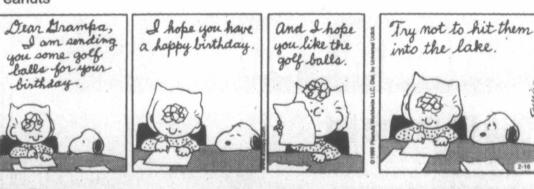


Hagar The Horrible





Peanuts



Blondie





Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Mild- readers comment: Mannered Motorist in Virers when he makes mistakes peace sign, then moved my more closely.

The peace sign, of **ER IN ARKANSAS**

DEAR READER: I assured "Mild-Mannered" that

DEAR ABBY: ginia" (Dec. 26) asked you New Yorkers have honed for a hand signal to indicate silent signals to a fine art. "I'm sorry" to fellow driv- When I'm at fault in traffic or other situations where I behind the wheel. Not long can't apologize verbally, I ago, I made a not-so-serious make eye contact, put my mistake that angered anoth- hand to my chest to accuse er driver. When I flashed a myself, and put my hands in a prayerful gesture to ask mouth in an "I'm sorry," the forgiveness. This almost alperson's frown changed to ways defuses the situation a smile. We then drove on on the spot. Add a smile with pleasant attitudes, and and you've made a friend as I tried to watch my driving well. - LORNA, IN THE

DEAR ABBY: I, too, course, is hand closed, fore- have made boo-boos while finger and middle finger driving and wish I could up as in a "V." I think the have said "I'm sorry," but whole world recognizes a the person is usually too me. - FAITHFUL READ- screaming what are obviously obscenities to notice. "sorry" gesture.

How about holding WRONG IN MAINE my helpful readers would one hand up with your

IN HOUSTON

DEAR ABBY: Why not use the American Sign Language symbol for "sorry"? Make a fist with your right hand, palm toward the body and place it over the area in small circles. Of course, ceed. the expression on your face pulls it all together. Sign language is used by many people, and the chance that the person you offended may already be familiar with this sign makes it a sentiment. - SIGN USER IN OLD LYME, CONN.

DEAR ABBY: If I think the other driver will be exaggerated, slow smack to my forehead - basical-

DEAR ABBY: "Mildoptions, my newspaper on the wheel. - CAROL coming lane by a car driven CAROLINA

by a young woman who was pulling onto the road from a parking lot. She didn't see me because of traffic in the lane to my right. Fortunately, there were no oncoming vehicles, and I was able to of your heart and move it return to my lane and pro-

At the traffic signal, I noticed the "offending" car was directly behind me. It continued following me and I started becoming concerned that I had a stalker. Turning into my neighborgreat way to convey the hood, I quickly drove up my driveway and into my garage. When I got out of the car, the young woman was walking up the driveway. able to see me, the gesture She then began profusely peace sign. It worked for busy shaking a fist and I make after a mistake is an apologizing for having caused a problem for me.

She had driven miles FAITHFUL I like the idea of a standard ly, my own Homer Simp- out of her way to offer her son "Doh!" - IN THE apology, which I gratefully accepted. Then we both thanked God for protectstep forward to offer sug- palm toward your face for Mannered Motorist's" letter ing us. I have never seen gestions for an "I'm sor- just a second? (As in "I'm reminded me of an incident her again, but I hope she ry" signal. And many, like ashamed of what I just a few years ago. Driving knows I respect her tremenyou, mentioned giving the did.") It's simple and lets home from work, I was dously. - PLEASANTLY peace sign. Offering more you keep your other hand forced to swerve into an on- SURPRISED IN NORTH

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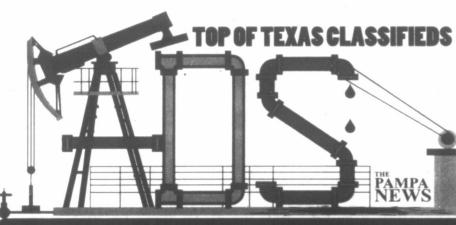
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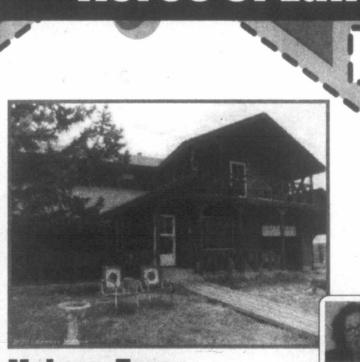
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NLFM. HTT L RFYG LQ GBHW L

BHJI GYZMQ CYZ. - TOMGLV

GLWWVIFQWILF Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT'S NOT THE VOTING THAT'S DEMOCRACY, IT'S THE COUNTING. TOM STOPPARD

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Primary

Munisteri said. "Maybe they just haven't done the

While the compromise was only a small step toward

Grotts

cont. from page 1A

and helpful."

Grotts said she is pleased with her new position in

"The staff that I work with are all professional and dedicated to serving the citizens of Pampa," she said. "Every one of them is serious about it, and to work in that culture is rewarding. It feels good to make a difference, to know that you're a part of a team. No one acts individually, but to know you're a team that makes a difference to the community feels very good."

City

cont. from page 1A

on the number of accidents we have.'

Animal Control saw improved numbers during 2011. Citations issued by the department decreased by almost 100 from the year before, and animals handled by Animal Control dropped from 4,077 to 3,237 last year.

"These numbers are generally down, and as a way of explanation, and this is more a personal opinion that anything, there's been a push to try to adopt more of our animals out of the shelter and provide alternative ways to deal with these animals, and I think the statistics show that, too," said Rushing.

City Attorney Leland Waters gave an update on election changes that have come about through Senate Bill

"Unfortunately, it had some unintended consequences, one of which was to make it very difficult for cities and schools to conduct elections as they had in the past," he said.

To comply with the legislation, the School Board decided in October of last year to go with four year terms for board members, with elections in odd numbered years. The city commission also decided last year to switch to four year terms for commissioners beginning in 2013, but this must be finalized by voter approval of a charter amendment that outlines the changes. An election including the amendment will take place on May 13.

The commission approved a contract with the Gray County elections administrator for the coordination and administering of elections held in 2012

"It's really a one year contract that we would need to look at every election year," said Waters. In other business, commissioners:

· approved minutes from previous city commission

· approved a fund balance policy;

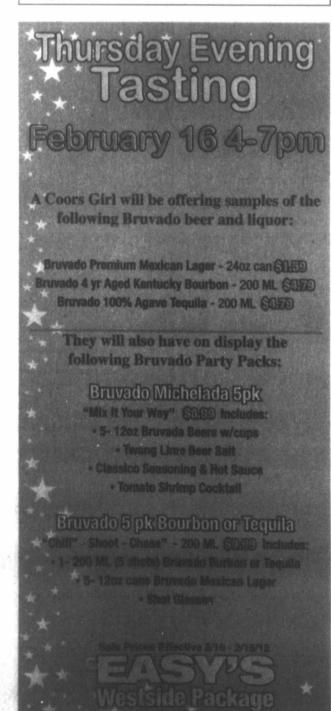
• approved the suspension of a March 13, 2012 date for Atmos Energy, Corporation's requested rate

· declared surplus property

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a deal, it represented at least some progress after months of legal jousting that has reached all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The two sides didn't exactly come back to the bargaining table on their own terms. U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia on Tuesday night ordered them to return the next morning with a deal, sounding as though he was losing patience with weeks of stalled talks despite repeated court-ordered negotiations.

The Republican-controlled Legislature drew the disputed Senate map in a way to make sure one incumbent Democrat, Sen. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth, was not re-elected.

It also divided up minority voters into districts dominated by whites, something forbidden under the Voting Rights Act.

The compromise restores the district largely to its previous boundaries with a similar racial make-up, a major victory for Davis.

The state House maps remained hung up Wednesday afternoon as lawyers for the minority groups argued that because 89 percent of the new residents in Texas were minorities, those people should have more districts that would allow them to elect a candidate of their choice. The attorney representing Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said the minority groups were more interested in benefiting Democrats than making sure minority voters were represented.

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By some counts, more than 50 of the state House's 150 districts remained in dispute.

The federal courts must redraw the maps created by the Republican-controlled Legislature because of two parallel lawsuits that have yet to be resolved.

Because Texas has a history of racial discrimination, any changes to electoral law must be approved either by the Department of Justice or the federal court in Washington. A three judge panel in Washington declined to approve the maps and the justice department said they discriminated against minorities.

Minority groups also brought a lawsuit against the state in San Antonio, asking the federal court to block the maps because they dilute the voting power of minorities. Pending an outcome of the Washington case, the San Antonio court must draw temporary

The judges in San Antonio have tried to force all the groups to compromise, but so far only the state senate maps have been resolved.



Shallowater's defensive pressure too much for Pampa

aglover@thepampanews.com

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PLAINVIEW - The Pampa Lady Harvesters came into Tuesday's bidistrict game hoping their success against Dalhart and Perryton would carry over against the No. 10 Shallowater Fillies.

Pampa was overwhelmed by the Fillies' press defense and fell behind early in a 70-39 loss at Wayland Baptist's Hutcherson Center.

"They had a spurt of 30 seconds that they got up six on us," head coach Gene Valentine said. "We could never get it back. We came out going toeto-toe with them. We just had a couple of letdowns early and they separated from us.'

Senior Caitlin Sieck said the team couldn't get shots to fall.

"We were able to get some of our shots to fall in the first half," Sieck said. "We couldn't get those to fall in the second half."

The game started close. Shallowater took an early lead. Pampa responded with a 10-2 run, to take its only lead at 10-7. Seniors Delaney Clendening and Sieck powered Pampa's run with three-pointers. The Fillies took momentum for good as they ended the quarter on a 13-4 run. Allison Maldonado led Shallowater with eight points. The Fillies led

20-14 after the first. The Lady Harvesters (14-16) struggled to beat Shallowater's press defense, having issues passing over the Fillies' long arms. The Fillies took advantage of Pampa's passes coming up short of the intended receiver and turned them into easy transition baskets. Valentine

defense.

"It's one of those deals that it's hard unless you play that style," Valentine said. "Sometimes it's hard to emulate in practice, so you're not ready for it. You know it's going to happen. Until you're up against it, it's a different thing."

Shallowater's ability to break Pampa's press also led to easy layups. The Lady Harvesters trailed by at least six the rest of the first half and trailed 32-21 at halftime. The Fillies made sure Pampa didn't get back in the game as they opened the third quarter on a 6-0 run. Pampa was outscored 38-18 in the second half. Sophomore Hayley Burnett said Pampa played sloppily in the second half.

"We came out in the second half and let them do what we knew they would," Burnett said. "We played like we didn't want to be there."

Clendening led the Lady Harvesters in scoring with 12 points. Burnett followed with eight. Bailey Pounds led the Fillies in scoring with 15 points and was a threat outside, hitting three three-pointers. Maldonado followed with

Pampa finished the season with its highest win total under Valentine. The head coach said it was a good season, adding he's happy with what his team accomplished.

"I told them there are a lot of teams that don't have this opportunity," Valentine said. "At least you had a chance. That's what it's all about. I challenged the underclassmen. You saw what it was, you saw what was done. What

said they tried to pre- are you going to do to pare for the Fillies' press make sure we get back make sure we get back here?"

> Fillies (25-5) The advance to the area round and will play District 3-3A champion Clint Mountain View.

This was the last game for seniors Kirsten Kuhn, Kailyn Troxell, Sieck, Clendening, Lindsey Brown and Elizabeth Terry. Sieck said she is excited for the future of the team.

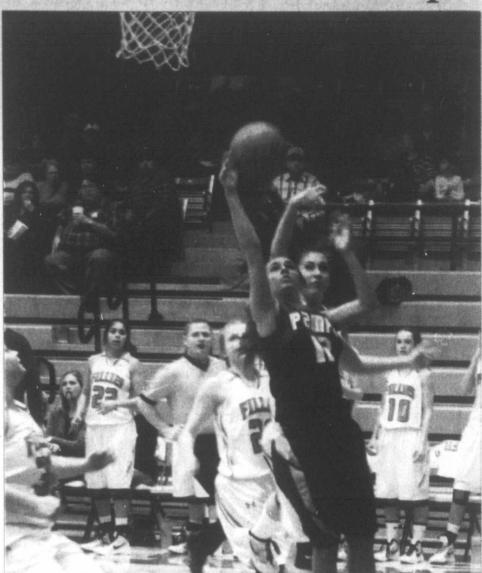
"We hope that this is something future teams

can build on," Sieck said. Valentine said he has to replace a lot of people but is hopeful about next year.

"We got experience with five of them this year," Valentine said. "The deal is I got to fill some spots with JVers. I brought three of them with me to see the experience. We will get it put together in the next couple of weeks and get those younger ones in. I think we are going to be pretty athletic.

Burnett said she hopes next year's team will make it back to the playoffs.

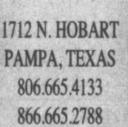
"I hope we can come together and show people what we are made of," Burnett said. "Hopefully we can make something happen that Pampa hasn't seen before."



Senior Caitlin Sieck has the ball knocked away from her by a Shallowater defender in the bi-district round at Wayland Baptist. Pampa lost 70-39.

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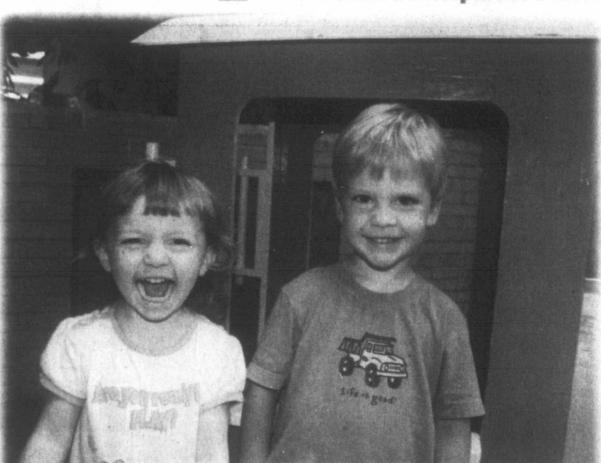
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Harvesters jump out early, hold off Perryton's rally

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The last time Pampa played Perryton, the Harvesters held a large lead and allowed Perryton to come back but won at the buzzer. Tuesday night was similar but the Pampa was able to hold off Perryton's rally in a 73-69 victory at Perryton.

"It was probably the most hostile so many security, environment we could have been in on the road and won," head coach Dustin where," Miller said. "It was kind of an

Miller said.

After the February 3 game had postincidents game involving Perryton fans, security was tighter. Miller said it sort of "felt like a prison yard."

"There was just armed people every-



awkward feeling."

The Harvesters (19-8, 6-3) led 22-7 after the first quarter and led 31-23 at halftime. Pampa led 49-42 after the third quarter. Miller said his team was in control until late in the fourth quarter.

"We just had to call some timeouts and assure the kids that we were in control," Miller said.

Senior Latigo Collins led the Harvesters in scoring with 26. Junior Derrek Pollard followed with 13. Russell Anderson led Perryton in scoring with 21 points.

Keeton Willeford followed with 15 and Blake Turner scored 14.

Pampa closes the regular season on a

five-game winning streak and will play Lamesa in the bi-district round of the playoffs 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Wayland Baptist's Hutcherson Center. Miller said he's happy about how his team is play-

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"We are playing our best basketball right now," Miller said. "Probably everyone else is as well. So we will go throw our punch and see what happens."

PHS boys soccer falls to PD

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Head soccer coach Byron May was hoping his team would compete with Palo Duro on Tuesday. His team was able to keep pace with the Dons, but fell 2-0 at Harvester Field.

'We went toe-to May toe with them the entire game and even

had a couple of shots that ricocheted of the post," May said. "But we were the ones who blinked first. Their team was clearly frustrated by our hustle and the fact that we challenged them for balls in the air, a facet of the game they are accustomed to dominating.

The game was scoreless until Palo Duro

scored in the second half at the 72nd minute. The Dons added an insurance goal two minutes later. May said he was proud of how his kids played especially against the depth Palo Duro has.

"We don't have the numbers on our varsity that PD does," May said. "Their ability to sub players in-and-out of five or six positions really wore us down. Anyone who appreciates soccer would have been proud of the game our kids played on Tuesday."

May said he was pleased with the effort of senior Chris Melindez.

'Chris Melindez is a senior who hasn't ever played school soccer before, and he had the game of his life," May said. "He did a masterful job defending their outside striker, and almost put in a score past their D-1 caliber goalkeeper.

The Harvesters visit Canyon 7 p.m. Friday at Kimbrough Stadium.

Pampa girls soccer downs Palo Duro to extend streak

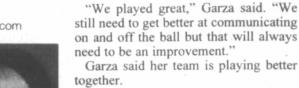
ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters soccer team followed up their first win of the season with a 3-2 victory over Palo Duro Tuesday at Harvester Field.

Samantha Woodruff scored one goal and Yesenia Soria

scored two. Head coach Libby Garza said the girls feel good about the victory.

Garza



"I am very happy for them," Garza

said. "They are working really hard at practice and realizing that the kind of work they put in is what they get out. I feel really good about the rest of season. I think we are gradually getting better with each game, I can't wait to see what we will end up like."

The Lady Harvesters (2-6-2, 2-2-1) visit Canyon 5 p.m. Friday at Kimbrough

OUT OF MY WAY



staff photo by Joe Murray

Shallowater's Allison Maldanado boxes out Pampa's Taylor Morgan during a free throw Tuesday. Shallowater gained several offensive rebounds.

YOUNG CHAMPS



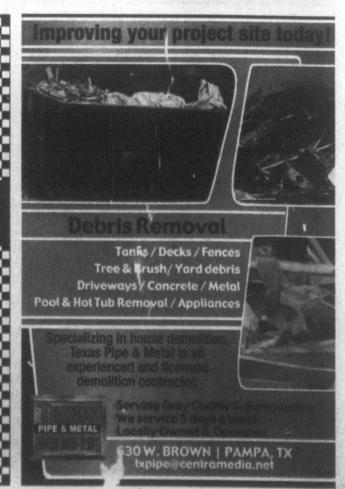
photo courtesy of Carily Hernandez

The Pampa Fury pose with their championship ribbons after winning a basketball tournament in Lefors at the beginning of February. The team competed against teams from McLean, Miami, Canadian and Valley. The Fury are a team made up of third and fourth graders. Team members are top row from left: Mallorie Petty, Georgie Sue Osborne, Maggie Hernandez and Tynaa Mojica, Middle row: Klaire Cambern, Chandler Petty, Shelbi Burrows. Coaches Jeff Warren and Kevin Burrows.









Texas Christian drug bust includes 4 football players

FORT WORTH (AP) Authorities arrested 17 students at Texas Christian University on Wednesday as part of a six-month drug sting, an especially embarrassing blow to the school because it included four members of the high-profile football

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Arrest warrants painted a startling picture of the Horned Frogs, with a handful of players who allegedly arranged marijuana sales after class or around practice and who told police that most of the team had failed a surprise drug test just two weeks

According to police, players sold undercover officers marijuana during the season and as recently as last week.

"There are days people want to be a head football coach, but today is not one of those days," coach Gary Patterson said in a prepared statement. "As I heard the news this morning, I was first shocked, then hurt and now I'm

The 17 people arrested were caught making "hand-to-hand" sales of marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy and prescription drugs to undercover officers, police said. They said the bust followed an investigation prompted by complaints from students, par-

ents and others. TCU has an enrollment of about 9,500 students, but the athlete arrests drew the most scrutiny. The bust came just one day after a thrilling overtime victory by the men's basketball team over a ranked opponent and less than 24 hours after TCU released its football schedule for next season, its first in the Big 12 Conference.

Three prominent defensive players on the team were arrested: linebacker Tanner Brock, the leading tackler two seasons ago, defensive tackle D.J. Yendrey and cornerback Devin Johnson. The other player is offensive lineman Ty Horn.

While school Chancellor Victor Boschini said he didn't think TCU had a "football problem," the arrest affidavits raise the possibility that other players were involved.

In November, a Fort Worth police officer was informed that Horn was selling marijuana to "college students and football players at Texas Christian." The officer allegedly bought marijuana that day, Nov. 3, two days before a road game at Wyoming, from both Horn and Yendrey.

Officers during the next several months allegedly set up drug deals with the players outside restaurants, a grocery store and other areas around campus. On Jan. 19, Brock allegedly sold an officer \$200 worth of marijuana after Yendrey ran out.

"After a short conversation about the marijuana, Brock and I exchanged phone numbers, telling me to come to him from now on instead of (Yendrey)," according to the affidavits.

Horn and Johnson scoffed at the Feb. 1 team drug test ordered by Patterson, police said. Brock allegedly told an undercover officer that he failed the surprise test "for sure," but that it wouldn't be a problem because there "would be about 60 people screwed."

Horn had looked through the football roster and "said there were only 20 people that would pass the test on the team," Brock said, according to the warrant.

And six days after the test, Johnson allegedly sold an officer \$300 worth of marijuana. Asked about the test, he said: "What can they do, 82 people failed it."

TCU released a statement late Wednesday afternoon that said the school tests its athletes for drug use "on a regular basis."

"The comments about failed drug tests made by the separated players in affidavits cannot be verified simply because they were made in the context of a drug buy," the school said. Patterson declined to answer questions beyond his prepared statement.

Phone messages left at the homes of Horn, Johnson and Yendrey were not immediately returned. Brock did not have a listed home number. All of the players are 21 except for Yendrey, who is 20.

Brock was being held on \$10,000 bond at the Mansfield city jail. Johnson and Horn were being transferred to the jail on Wednesday afternoon and Yendrey had not been arraigned.

Police said they had yet to determine if other football players were involved or would be charged.

Officials said the students had been "separated from TCU" and criminally barred from campus, but it wasn't clear if the players had been kicked off the team.

"I expect our studentathletes to serve as ambassadors for the university and will not tolerate behavior that reflects poorly on TCU, the athletics department, our teams or other student-athletes within the department," athletic director Chris Del Conte said. "Our student-athletes are a microcosm of society and unfortunately that means some of our players reflect a culture that glorifies drugs and drug use. That mindset is not reflected by TCU nor will TCU cont. on page 3

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. Reuse the 15 tiles in the bunch for each grid.

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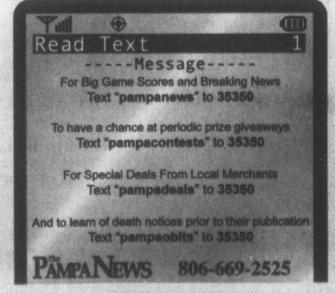
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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH **ACROSS** 45 A long

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NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to

Earhart

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Entry Form

Please attach the following form to your photos. Photos submitted without this information will not be considered. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish you photos returned. Mail completed form and photos to Photography

NameMailing Address	
Telephone # (
The names of people in the photo (if any) for	rom lefttoright, frontrow to back row
Description of photo	

Submission by email: Send the form information with the photo(s) attached to rpribble@thepampanews.com. Photos should be sent in high resolution, .jpg

Contest rules - Each photo submitted to the contest must be taken by the person submitting it and must have been sken since Jan. 1, 2011. The photos cannot have appeared previously in any other publication or contest. The Pampa News will publish all the winners, and many of the other submissions in our annual Pride issue in March

Texas asking fans for patience with Longhorn Network

AUSTIN When ESPN and the University of Texas announced their 20-year, \$300 million partnership for the Longhorn Network a year ago, they created the wedge that nearly split apart the Big 12.

The Big 12 is still going, with Texas A and Missouri on their way out the door and TCU and West Virginia coming aboard. But ESPN is still struggling to find wide distribution for a sports channel that is all Texas, all the time.

Texas officials are pleading with

Longhorns fans to be patient.

Since launching the network in August 2011, "delays in distribution have overshadowed the network many positive aspects and impact," Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds and women athletic director Chris Plonsky said in a joint statement last week.

"We ask our fans for patience and understanding," they said. "Distribution will happen, but the business negotiations process is painfully slow."

So slow that football season came and went without a major cable or satellite distributor. The same thing will likely happen with basketball, although both the men and women teams are struggling to build NCAA tournament-worthy

That an awkward start for a network that was supposed to be an unbeatable attraction for recruits. Texas A and Missouri felt the balance of power had tipped so far toward Texas that they left the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference and were willing to give up 100-year traditional rivalries with Texas and Kansas, respectively, in doing so.

So far, the LHN is anything but the behemoth it was predicted to be when ESPN officials joined Texas President Bill Powers, Dodds and Plonsky and others at Royal-Memorial Stadium to unveil the deal

The largest carrier to date is Verizon, which includes the LHN on its FiOS TV sports package with a potential reach of about 4 million subscribers in about a dozen states. The handful of other carriers are smaller providers that reach parts of the Austin, San Antonio and Houston markets, and smaller towns such as Bay City, Longview and Edna.

The nation biggest distributors, such as Time Warner Cable Inc., Comcast Corp. and DirecTV Inc. have stayed away.

"We continue to have active discussion with distributors to secure as wide a distribution as possible," ESPN said this week in a statement. "Our discussions are ongoing and productive.

Time Warner spokeswoman Maureen Huff said "negotiations are ongoing but there is no agreement at this time.'

A big challenge for the LHN is that

it serves a niche market, said Adam Swanson, a cable television industry analyst with SNL Kagan. While Texas is a big name with a famous logo and tens of thousands of alumni from coast to coast, it still just one school.

Major cable and satellite providers can look at regional or national networks such as the Big Ten Network, now called BTN, or the soon-to-launch Pac-12 Network and see more programming punch, Swanson said. Time Warner, Comcast, Cox and Bright House all have deals to carry the Pac-12 Network. Those carriers are in about 40 million homes. although the Pac-12 Network will only be on a sports tier outside the Pac-12 area.

"Having just one school to get content from ... they are not going to see the value across the country to carry a channel like that," Swanson said.

LHN lost valuable content when the NCAA banned school-affiliated networks from broadcasting high school games and the Big 12 banned even showing high school highlights, Swanson said.

The struggling economy also could be working against ESPN and LHN. ESPN has reportedly sought to have LHN included in basic cable packages and not as a premium add-on at a time when many customers are scrutinizing their monthly bills as a way to save money.

"Customers are more price sensitive

today," Swanson said.

The ability to create its own network was a major reason Texas balked at the idea of joining the Pac-12 or the Big Ten. ESPN promised that LHN would offer Texas fans unparalleled reporting on the program with behind-the-scenes coverage of one of the wealthiest, most prominent and successful athletic programs in the country.

The Longhorn Network broadcast two Texas football games, and by seasons end will have broadcast 26 men and women basketball games. More than 60 baseball and softball games will be on the LHN

It would be far too early to call the LHN a failure: Startup networks have to prove their value and the LHN is barely off the ground. For proof of tough negotiations can be, the NFL Network still isn on Time Warner cable systems eight years after it launched.

ESPN and Texas have invested a lot in the LHN. The network hired a staff of about 50 and built a studio close to the Texas campus.

Dodds has never wavered in his belief the LHN will thrive.

"Our coaches and student-athletes are ecstatic with LHN and they tell us it is helping in recruiting and will do so now in the future," Dodds and Plonsky said.

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WVU-Big East deal totals \$20 million

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia University must cut an \$8.5 million check by Friday to end officially end its legal dispute over leaving the Big East Conference.

The Charleston Gazette obtained a copy of the separation agreement and posted it online Wednesday. The agreement outlines a total settlement of about \$20 million, a figure previously reported by many media outlets

In exchange, WVU can join the Big 12 in July — in time for the fall football season — rather than wait two years as the Big East bylaws required.

WVU announced on Tuesday that it had struck a deal to settle competing lawsuits with the Big East, but Athletic Director Oliver Luck said the terms were confidential. The newspaper obtained the details under a Freedom of Information Act request.

WVU has already paid the Big East \$2.5 million, which is half of the \$5 million exit fee required in the bylaws. The agreement says the next payment is due Friday and will come from a \$10 million Big 12 Transition Fund established by the WVU Foundation, the university's private fund-raising arm.

A related settlement document says half of that \$10 million will be forgiven, and WVU will repay the other half over time and with interest.

At the end of the fiscal year on June 30, WVU also must forfeit a projected \$9 million in Big East revenue sharing, and make up for any shortfall that may occur.

Although WVU is shelling out money now, its new relationship with the Big 12 promises to be far more lucrative than its Big East membership. Luck said WVU should get about \$18 million to \$19 million a year in television payouts, about \$10 million a year more than what it now gets from the Big East.

Payments are being prorated for the first three years at 50 percent, 67 percent and 87 percent, he said, reaching 100 percent in the fourth year West Virginia makes its Big 12 debut Sept. 29 at

home against Baylor.

TCU

cont. from page 1

it be allowed within athletics."

Brock was the leading tackler for TCU as a sophomore during the 2010 season, when the Horned Frogs went 13-0, won the Rose Bowl and finished the year ranked No. 2. Brock started the season opener at Baylor last September, but aggravated a foot injury that required season-ending surgery.

Yendrey started 12 of 13 games this past season, when he had 39 tackles and three sacks. Johnson played in all 13 games, starting the last eight, and had 47 tackles with 2 1/2 sacks.

Brock likely would have been a starter again in 2012. Yendrey, who also started five guys as a junior, and Johnson both were juniors last season and had another season of eligibility. Horn appeared in 10 games this past season, making one start. He played in eight games as a freshman.

"Under my watch, drugs and drug use by TCU's student-athletes will not be tolerated by me or any member of my coaching staff," Patterson said. "I believe strongly that young people's lives are more important than wins or losses.

He added: "At the end of the day, though, sometimes young people make poor choices. The Horned Frogs are bigger and stronger than those

Boschini, the chancellor, called the charges against all the students "simply unacceptable." Fraternity members were among those arrested, though Boschini said he didn't think any whole fraternity houses were

"Today's events have changed the life of everybody

at TCU," Boschini said.

