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# The PAMPA NEWS

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**TODAY IN SPORTS**



Monday, Feb. 27, 2012 [www.thepampanews.com](http://www.thepampanews.com) Volume 107 • No. 268

**75¢** No relief for school budgets | Tough day for Pampa pitching  
 \$1.50 weekend Per student spending in Texas down | p4 Harvesters fall to Palo Duro to close Cavalier Classic | p7

## Library urges Pampanans to use web-based resources

### Online services available through Harrington Library Consortium

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

A library card and pin number through Lovett Memorial Library is the key to a wealth of resources, many of which can

be used from home. The Lovett Memorial Library is reminding Pampa residents that the Harrington Library Consortium (HLC), of which Lovett is a member, provides access to many web-based databases in libraries

across the Panhandle, including Pampa's. Several of these services offered through HLC provide educational opportunities for people of all ages. Atomic Learning offers computer lessons for Access, Excel, iPad, iTunes, Microsoft Word, Twitter, Photoshop and other programs, all of which can be done from home. People interested in studying up for their GED could check out Learning Express, which provides practice tests

for the GED, ASVAB, CDL tests, U.S. Citizenship and others. It also provides resources for all education levels. Tumble Books features stories for beginning readers, as well as games and quizzes. Another resource for students, On-line Homework, provides homework assistance through chat for students from first grade to early college. Another option to library cardholders is World Book, which offers access to **LIBRARY** cont. on page 10

## FIVE STAR SERVICE

staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

**Senior Delaney Clendening** serves against Plainview Saturday. Clendening won her doubles and singles matches. Pampa won both matches 16-3. Full Story in **SPORTS**, page 7.

## Deadline for CRP grazing tomorrow

**ARNIE AURELLANO**  
 editor@thepampanews.com

The 2012 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) emergency grazing deadline is tomorrow, and Matthew Street, director of the Gray County USDA Farm Service Agency, is reminding farmers to comply.

"Producers who took advantage of the emergency grazing provisions must remove all livestock from CRP acres by the Feb. 28 deadline," Street said. "Producers must also provide ending acreage and producer usage report certifications to the Gray County office as soon as possible."

Street said that any consequences for producers grazing past deadline would be up to an elected three-member panel of local farmers under the authority of the USDA.

"There would be a grazing penalty," said Street. "It's really a discretionary penalty issued by the (USDA) county committee. They would decide what the penalty would be for anyone who violates the deadline."

"We've never had a problem with (anyone grazing past deadline)," he added. "Gray County farmers have always been very aware and considerate of it." **CRP** cont. on page 10

## Economist: 2011 a strong spending year for Panhandle

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

An area economist is pleased with how the general financial picture turned out for the region in 2011 and suggests gradual improvement will continue.

With the release of the February 2012 sales tax data which reflects purchases made in December 2011, the general spending picture in the Panhandle region for last year is complete, and with encouraging results, according to Happy State Bank Economist Karr Ingham.

"Spending by households and businesses is a critical local and regional economic indicator, second only to employment in assessing cyclical growth and decline," said Ingham. "General spending according to sales tax receipts suggests taxable spending recovered to a significant degree in 2011, adding to the gains of 2010, and regaining virtually all that was lost during the sharp recession of 2009."

Actual (not adjusted for inflation) taxable spending in the Amarillo-Canyon metro area in 2011 was \$3.23

billion, up 7.8 percent compared to the 2010 actual total. In turn, actual taxable spending in 2010 was up 3.3 percent compared to the 2009 annual total. In addition, the \$3.23 billion total for 2011 moved beyond the pre-recession spending peak in 2008.

For the 32-county Happy trade region, including the Amarillo-Canyon metro area, actual spending in 2011 of \$5.17 billion was up by 9.0 percent compared to the actual 2010 total, which in turn was up by 4.1 percent compared to the 2009 annual total. When adjusted for inflation, real spending across the region as a whole in 2011 was up by 8.0 percent compared to 2010, which in turn was up by 2.2 percent compared to 2009.

Spending in both the Amarillo/Canyon metro area as well as the Happy trade region as a whole in 2011, adjusted for inflation (the correct measure of growth), remains down compared to the peak pre-recession real spending level in 2008. However, the margin of decline is now down to about 1 percent and the gap continues to narrow. When real spending surpasses all prior periods, that will mark the end of the "recovery phase" and

the move into a new round of growth.

"Spending activity by households and businesses in the Amarillo-Canyon metro area and across the entire region enjoyed a significant advancement in 2011, reflecting general economic growth and a clear continuation of the recovery that began in 2010," Ingham said. "The fact that real spending has yet to return to its pre-recession level of 2008 simply suggests that the recession was deep, and the recovery has been a bit drawn out."

General spending and other measures of metro and regional economic activity should continue to improve in 2012 and move into the "new growth" phase fairly early in the year, according to Ingham.

"The national economy appears to have strengthened moving into 2012, and the extraordinary drought across the region does not appear to have reversed the pattern of general economic growth and recovery," he said. "That could change should the drought conditions of 2011 be repeated in 2012, but the current trends point **SPENDING** cont. on page 10

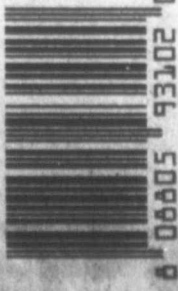
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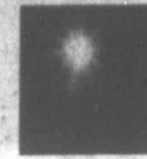
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**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Obituaries .....	2	Viewpoints .....	4
Local Record .....	2	Comics .....	6
Weather .....	2	Sports .....	7
Morning Rush .....	3	Classifieds .....	8,9
Social Security & You ..	3	Dear Abby/Puzzles ..	9



### PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Tuesday	Wednesday
		
30%	20%	
High 47 Low 43	High 59 Low 31	High 57 Low 31

**Today:** A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 47. Wind chill values between 19 and 29 early. East southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tonight:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy, with a low around 43. South southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Tuesday:** A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before noon. Mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 59. Very windy, with a south southeast wind 15 to 20 mph becoming southwest between 30 and 35 mph. Winds could gust as high as 50 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 31. Windy, with a west wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 57. Northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south.

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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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

Level: Beginner

## The PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065  
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**MEMBER**  
**2011**

## COMMUNITYcalendar

**Tuesday, Feb. 28**  
•Pampa City Commission meets, 4 p.m. at City Hall.

**Wednesday, Feb. 29**  
•Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K. Brown Room of the Chamber office.

**Thursday, March 1**  
•The Chamber of Commerce Annual Citizen and Business of the Year Banquet in the Heritage Room at the M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium, 7 p.m.

•Pampa Lions Club meets, noon at the First United Methodist Church.

**Friday, March 2**  
•Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

•Jam Session at the Woody Guthrie Center, 6:30 p.m., 320 S. Cuyler. Musicians are invited to bring their instruments and take part.

**Wednesday, March 7**  
•Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K. Brown Room of the Chamber office.

**Thursday, March 8**  
•Pampa Lions Club meets, noon at the First United Methodist Church.

**Friday, March 9**  
•Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

**Sunday, March 11**  
•Arlo Guthrie will appear at the M.K. Brown Civic Center.

**Wednesday, March 14**  
•Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K. Brown Room of the Chamber office.

**Thursday, March 15**  
•Pampa Lions Club meets, noon at the First United Methodist Church.

**Friday, March 16**  
•Pampa Kiwanis Club meets, noon in the basement of the First Methodist Church.

•Jam Session at the Woody Guthrie Center, 6:30 p.m., 320 S. Cuyler. Musicians are invited to bring their instruments and take part.

**Tuesday, March 20**  
•Chamber Luncheon, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Chamber office.

**Wednesday, March 21**  
•Pampa Rotary Club meets, noon at the M.K. Brown Room of the Chamber office.

**Thursday, March 22**  
•Pampa Lions Club meets, noon at the First United Methodist Church.

*If your nonprofit or community organization has an upcoming meeting or event, submit it to The Pampa News Community Calendar at least one week in advance by e-mailing to rpribble@thepampanews.com. Submissions should include only the date, time, location and contact number for the event. The Pampa News reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Items will be considered for the calendar solely at the discretion of the newspaper.*

## Public Meeting Agendas

**City Commission Meeting**  
4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28

All agenda items are subject to action. The City Commission reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session on any agenda item should the need arise and if applicable pursuant to authorization by Title 5, Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code.

**CALL TO ORDER**  
**INVOCATION**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Citizens who have signed a card to speak to the City Commission will be heard at this time. In compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, unless the subject matter of the presentation is on the agenda, the City Staff and City Commission Members are prevented from discussing the subject and may respond only with statements of factual information or existing city policy. Citizens are limited to three (3) minutes for their presentation to the City Commission.

**PROCLAMATION:**  
City of Pampa Centennial Anniversary - Mayor Brad Pingel

**PRESENTATION:**  
Animal Shelter - GH2 Architects

**DISCUSSION:**  
Aquatic Center Fees

**AUTHORIZATIONS BY CITY COMMISSION:**

1. CONSENT AGENDA - All Consent Agenda items listed are considered to be routine in nature by the City Commission and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Commissioner so request, in which event that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in normal sequence on the agenda. Information concerning Consent Agenda items is available for public review.

a. Consider approving the minutes of the February 14, 2012 Regular City Commission meeting as presented.

b. Consider awarding a bid in the amount of \$600.00 from Bruce G. & Brenda Madden for delinquent tax property located at Lots 19 - 10, Block 26, Wilcox Addition, commonly known as 840 & 842 E. Denver and Lots.

c. Consider awarding a bid in the amount of \$500.00

from Bruce G. & Brenda Madden for delinquent tax property located at Lots 29 - 31, Block 20, Wilcox Addition, commonly known as 939 E. Denver.

d. Consider awarding a bid in the amount of \$500.00 from Bruce G. & Brenda Madden for delinquent tax property located at Lots 29 - 32, Block 25, Wilcox Addition, commonly known as 727 & 735 E. Scott.

e. Consider awarding a bid in the amount of \$401.00 from Josh Shelton for delinquent tax property located at Tract F, Block 1, Crawford Addition, commonly known as a Lot on Wynne.

2. Consider approving the lease-purchase of 40 EZ-GO-RXV 2012 golf cars to replace the existing fleet of 2008 golf cars, authorizing the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to execute Lease-Purchase Agreement with PNC Equipment Finance, LLC, and approving Resolution and Certificate of Incumbency and execution thereof by the City Manager and Assistant City Manager.

3. Consider adopting on its first and only reading as an emergency measure, Ordinance No. 1563, an Ordinance of the City of Pampa, Texas adopting an amended Drought Contingency Plan.

4. Consider approving on first reading, Ordinance No. 1564, an Ordinance ordering and providing notice of a General and Special Election to be held on May 12, 2012 for the City of Pampa, Texas.

5. Consider all matters incident and related to ordering and holding a Bond Election for the City of Pampa, Texas, including the adoption of Resolution No. R12-003 pertaining thereto.

6. Consider adopting Resolution No. R12-004, a Resolution revising the general admission fees and season pass fees for the Pampa H2O Aquatic Center.

7. Consider approving the List of Disbursements dated January 31, 2012.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The City Commission will convene into closed session in accordance with Texas Government Code Subchapter D, Section 551.074 - Personnel Matters: City Manager's Evaluation

**RECONVENE** into open session with or without action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

## Obituaries

### Mary Dial McCrary, 96

Mary Dial McCrary, 96, died Friday, February 24, 2012 in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at Fairview Cemetery with Keith Feerer, minister of Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mrs. McCrary was born Sept. 19, 1915 in Miami where she was a graduate of



McCrary

Miami High School. She married Loyd R. McCrary on Feb. 14, 1940 in Sayre, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death in 1945. Mary was a member of Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ.

She is survived by a brother: Robert L. Dial of Borger; two nieces: Cathy Dial of Borger and Gena Petty of Greenville; four nephews: Leslie H. Dial of Charleston, S.C., Robert L. Dial, II of Rush Springs, Okla., Dallas D. Dial of Ferris, and J. J. Dial of Canadian; four cousins: Dona Cornutt and Kayla Pursley, both of Pampa, Adney Parker of Amarillo, and Mary of Okla.

Mary was preceded in death by three brothers: Dallas G. Dial, William S. Dial, and Gus Jerry Dial.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ, 1342 Mary Ellen, Pampa, TX 79065.

Sign the online register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com)


### Pastors, Church Leaders:

Act now to be a part of our 'Community of Faith' section in our annual Pride issue.

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### LAST MINUTE ADS

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# MORNINGRUSH

## Texan among dead in crash

AMARILLO (AP) - A Texan was among the seven Marines who died this week when two military helicopters collided.

The Amarillo Globe-News reported that Capt. Nathan W. Anderson graduated from Amarillo High School in 1998 and was a starting linebacker on the 1997 team that made the state quarterfinals.

Anderson and six other Marines died Wednesday when two military helicopters collided during a nighttime training exercise at the Yuma Training Range Complex near the Arizona-California border. It was one of the Corps' deadliest aviation training accidents in years.

## Oil boom in Permian Basin

DALLAS (AP) — The Permian Basin of West Texas is witnessing an oil boom, leading some of the region's top oilmen predict that Texas oil production to double within the next five to seven years.

Oilmen such as Scott Sheffield and Jim Henry have found that the dense, oil rock of the basin yields well to hydraulic fracturing, releasing lush yields. Total oil production last year in Texas averaged more than 1 million barrels a day for the first time since 2001.

Now, Henry tells The Dallas Morning News that they're shooting for 2 million barrels a day in the basin surrounding Midland-Odessa alone.

The cloud on the horizon is the persistent West Texas drought. Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," requires massive amounts of water to pump into the ground under high pressure.

## Oklahoma earthquake reported

WELLSTON, Okla. (AP) - A small earthquake has been reported northeast of Oklahoma City.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, a 2.6-magnitude quake was recorded about 3:15 a.m. Sunday five miles south-southwest of Wellston in Lincoln County. The sheriff's office received no reports of injuries or damage with the tremor.

Geologists say earthquakes with magnitudes of 2.5 to 3.0 are generally the smallest that are felt by humans.

## Romney not conservative?

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP) - The question of whether Mitt Romney is conservative enough to deserve the GOP presidential nomination is again taking center stage in the Republican contest.

Rick Santorum told Michigan voters Sunday that the former Massachusetts governor fails the test.

Santorum said Romney's record is virtually identical to President Barack Obama's on key issues, including mandated health coverage. He said the GOP needs a sharp contrast to Obama in November.

Romney said he is a solid conservative. He said he reduced taxes, enforced immigration laws, defended traditional marriage and opposed abortion in his four years as governor.

The Michigan and Arizona primaries are Tuesday.

## Dallas chef killed in showdown

DALLAS (AP) - A man shot and killed by Dallas special tactics officers was an award-winning chef.

Travis Henderson had helped the kitchen at The Place at Perry's in Dallas to national prominence, winning it the 2004 North American Restaurant Association Award of Excellence.

Dallas police Lt. Scott Walton says the 52-year-old chef was shot dead in a far north Dallas church parking lot after he pointed a handgun at officers. He didn't fire.

Police had searched for Henderson for about an hour after his wife reported that he had left their home in nearby Carrollton armed with a handgun. She expressed concern over his state of mind.

Carrollton police spokesman Jon Stovall told The Dallas Morning News that Henderson had a history of unstable behavior.

## Weekly rig count down to 1,981

HOUSTON (AP) - The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. is down 13 this week to 1,981.

The Houston-based oilfield services company Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday that 1,265 rigs were exploring for oil and 710 for natural gas. Six were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago this week Baker Hughes reported 1,699 active rigs.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas gained six, North Dakota picked up two and Louisiana added one.

Oklahoma dropped by 10 rigs, and Wyoming fell by four. Pennsylvania lost three, while New Mexico dropped by two. Alaska was down one.

## Conservative consultant dead

AUSTIN (AP) — Political consultant Reggie Bashur, a former journalist who advised the first two modern Republican governors of Texas, has died after a three-month battle with brain cancer. He was 59.

Bashur was a newspaperman with Dix Newspapers of Ohio before becoming press secretary for the Ohio Republican Senate Caucus. He later worked as press secretary and policy director for then-Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., before Bill Clements named him press secretary for his 1985 bid to reclaim the Texas governor's office.

After serving as press secretary in Clements' second administration, Bashur served as Texas communications director for then-Vice President George H.W. Bush, a consultant to George W. Bush's 1994 gubernatorial campaign and a deputy executive assistant to his administration.

# What's best for mom in a mom-and-pop business?

**TOM MARGENAU**  
Creator's Syndicate

Q: My wife and I are in our 30s. We're partners in a business that nets us about \$80,000 per year. What's the best way to report our income on our tax returns to maximize our Social Security benefits?

A: Even though you're asking about your future Social Security benefits, I don't like giving tax advice because I'm definitely not a tax expert. So your question really should be directed to a tax advisor or to someone at the Internal Revenue Service. But before you do that, I can give you some food for thought that comes from a potential Social-Security-benefit perspective.

I'll offer you a couple of examples that show how your Social Security benefits might play out, depending on how you report your business income to the IRS. Please bear in mind that the numbers I give in the examples (especially the benefit projections) are really generalizations. But at least they'll give you an idea of what I'm talking about.

PLAN A: You split the business income equally between you and your wife.

If you do indeed have a partnership and you and your wife are participating equally in the business, I believe this is the proper way to handle your taxes. In other words, both you and your wife would claim half (or \$40,000 each) of your \$80,000 net profit. The Social Security part of a self-employment tax return is called the Schedule SE. Each of you would file a Schedule SE reporting \$40,000 to your respective Social Security accounts.

That means that when you hit retirement age, both you and your wife should have roughly equal Social Security retirement benefits. (Of course, your actual benefit amounts could be impacted by other variables, such as your dates of birth and any other income each of you might have before or after your business venture.) But for the purposes of my example, I'm just

## Social Security and you

going to assume you're about the same age and your non-business incomes are about equal. So let's just say, using today's dollars, that you end up with \$1,500 per month each in a Social Security retirement benefit. Your total Social Security income would be \$3,000 per month.

PLAN B: You report all the business income on the Schedule SE under your name and your Social Security number.

Whether or not you can actually do this is a question for a tax expert. But I can tell you that in my long career with the Social Security Administration, I saw thousands of tax returns (submitted as part of a Social Security retirement claim) in which this was done.

When you reach retirement, you'd end up with a much higher retirement benefit (let's say \$2,400 per month). And because your wife has no Social Security on her own record, she would be due up to one-half of your benefit — or \$1,200 per month in dependent wife's benefits. Your total Social Security income would be \$3,600 per month.

So at first glance, you would say that's a no-brainer: filing your taxes as Plan B is the better choice — from a Social-Security-only perspective.

But from your wife's perspective, the Plan B scenario could turn out to be a big mistake. Over my 40-plus-year career dealing with Social Security issues, I've heard from thousands of women who were involved in a mom-and-pop business where Pop employed Plan B (i.e., he took all the Social Security credit on their tax returns). And in many of these instances, the couple ended up divorced.

And guess what happens to poor old Mom? She has little or no Social Security credit for all the

years of work she put into the business, which means she has little or no Social Security retirement. If Mom never remarries, there is a chance she might collect divorced spousal benefits on your account. But it often ends up being a meager return for her many contributions to the business.

However, let's say you can absolutely guarantee that you and your wife will remain in wedded bliss forever. There are still a couple other reasons why Plan B may not work out for you.

One is the issue of Social Security disability benefits for your wife. We all don't stay healthy until our golden years. There is a decent chance your wife might become disabled before reaching her mid-60s. Under Plan B, she would have absolutely no disability coverage from Social Security (because she wasn't paying into the system), whereas under Plan A, she would qualify for monthly Social Security disability benefits if something happens to her — and that could potentially be very valuable coverage for her and your family.

And speaking of family, you also have to consider the possibility that mom might die. For example, if she passes away in her early 40s and you have a couple of young kids still at home when that happens, Plan B would provide no monthly survivor benefits for the children. But Plan A would be like setting up a little life insurance policy — a policy that could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to your family.

As I said, many times over the years, I've seen Mom getting the short end of the Social Security stick in a mom-and-pop business because husbands and/or their accountants employed Plan B without thinking things through. So you and your wife need to talk things over and then consult a good tax advisor.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at [thomas.margenau@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.margenau@comcast.net).

# Settlement talks delay Gulf oil spill trial

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A judge has delayed the federal trial over the nation's worst offshore oil disaster by a week, saying Sunday that BP PLC was making some progress in settlement talks with a committee overseeing scores of lawsuits, according to people close to the case.

Two people close to the case told The Associated Press that the decision was made Sunday during a conference call between parties in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill case and U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the call.

They said the judge told those on the call that BP and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee were "making some progress" in their settlement talks. The steering committee is overseeing lawsuits filed by individuals and businesses following the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig on April 20, 2010, in the Gulf. The blast killed 11 workers and led to 206 million gallons of oil spewing from the blown-out well, soiling miles of coastline.

However, the judge did not mention the status of settlement talks between other parties, nor did he mention any figures being discussed, according to the people close to the case.

The brief order issued by Barbier on Sunday said only that the delay was granted "for reasons of judicial efficiency and to allow the parties to make further progress in their settlement discussions."

Among other things, the trial that is now set to begin March 5 is meant to determine the penalties that need to be paid by BP and other companies involved in the oil spill. Billions of dollars are at stake.

BP and the Plaintiffs Steering Committee confirmed in a joint news release that the trial had been delayed. It said the oil giant and the PSC were working to reach an agreement that would "fairly compensate people and businesses affected by the Deepwater Horizon accident and oil spill."

"There can be no assurance that these discussions will lead to a settlement agreement," the joint statement said.

Separately, BP has had discussions in recent days with the federal government and cement contractor Halliburton Energy Services Inc., according to several people close to the case.

If no settlement is reached, Barbier will preside over a three-phase trial that could last the better part of a year. The first phase is designed to identify the causes of the deadly blowout and to assign

percentages of fault to the companies involved in the ill-fated drilling project.

Financial analysts estimate BP could wind up paying anywhere from \$15 billion to \$30 billion over the lawsuits, and BP has estimated in regulatory filings that its total liability for the disaster is \$40 billion.

An AP analysis found that the company could conceivably face up to \$52 billion in environmental fines and compensation if the judge determines the company was grossly negligent.

The trial may not yield major revelations about the causes of the disaster, but the outcome could bring much-needed relief for tens of thousands of people and businesses whose livelihoods were disrupted by the spill.

Relatives of the 11 people killed in the Deepwater Horizon blast say they are hoping for something more elusive: justice for lost loved ones.

Sheryl Revette, whose

husband, Dewey, was among the 11 killed when BP PLC's Macondo well blew out and triggered an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, doesn't have anything to gain financially from the trial. She wants an apology from the oil giant, something she said she hasn't received yet.

"I've never heard a word from them," said Revette, 48, of State Line, Miss. "But an apology isn't going to bring my husband back."

Chris Jones, whose TRIAL cont. on page 10

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2012. There are 308 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 27, 1942, the Battle of the Java Sea began during World War II; Imperial Japanese naval forces scored a decisive victory over the Allies.

### On this date:

In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1911, inventor Charles F. Kettering demonstrated his electric automobile starter in Detroit by starting a Cadillac's motor with just the press of a switch, instead of hand-cranking.

In 1912, author Lawrence Durrell, author of *The Alexandria Quartet*, was born in India.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag, was gutted by fire. Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire as justification for suspending civil liberties.

In 1939, the Supreme Court, in *National Labor Relations Board v. Fansteel Metallurgical Corp.*, outlawed sit-down strikes.

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until May.)

In 1979, Jane M. Byrne confounded Chicago's Democratic political machine as she upset Mayor Michael A. Bilandic to win their party's mayoral primary. (Byrne went on to win the election.)

In 1982, Wayne Williams was found guilty of murdering two of the 28 young blacks whose bodies were found in the Atlanta area over a 22-month period. (Williams, who was also blamed for 22 other deaths, has maintained his innocence.)

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

**Ten years ago:** U.S. officials announced a \$5 million reward for information in the kidnapping of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. A mob of Muslims set fire to a train carrying hundreds of Hindu nationalists in Godhra, India; some 60 people died. At the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, Alicia Keys won five prizes, including song of the year for "Fallin'"; Irish rockers U2 won four Grammys, including record of the year for "Walk On"; album of the year went to the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" soundtrack. Comedian Spike Milligan died in Rye, East Sussex, England, at age 83.

**Five years ago:** A suicide bomber struck Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan during a visit by Vice President Dick Cheney, who was rushed to a bomb shelter. (Twenty-three people were killed; Cheney was unhurt.) The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 416.02 points, the worst drop since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

**One year ago:** "The King's Speech" won four Academy Awards, including best picture; Colin Firth won best actor for his portrayal of Britain's King George VI. Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I who'd also survived being a civilian prisoner of war in the Philippines in World War II, died in Charles Town, W.Va., at age 110. Duke Snider, 84, the Baseball Hall of Famer who helped the Dodgers bring their only World Series crown to Brooklyn, died in Escondido, Calif.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Joanne Woodward is 82. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 78. Opera singer Mirella Freni is 77. Actress Barbara Babcock is 75. Actor Howard Hesseman is 72. Actress Debra Monk is 63. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 58. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 55. Actor Timothy Spall is 55. Rock musician Paul Humphreys (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) is 52. Country singer Johnny Van Zant (Van Zant) is 52. Rock musician Leon Mobley (Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals) is 51. Basketball Hall-of-Famer James Worthy is 51. Actor Adam Baldwin is 50. Actor Grant Show is 50. Rock musician Mike Cross (Sponge) is 47. Actor Ron Logue is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chilli (TLC) is 41. Rock musician Jeremy Dean (Nine Days) is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Roderick Clark is 39. Country-rock musician Shonna Tucker (Drive-By Truckers) is 34. Actor Brandon Beemer is 32. Chelsea Clinton is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobby Valentino is 32. Singer Josh Groban is 31. Rock musician Jared Champion (Cage the Elephant) is 29. Actress Kate Mara is 29.

**Thought for Today:** "I am indeed rich, since my income is superior to my expenses, and my expense is equal to my wishes." — Edward Gibbon, English historian (1737-1794).



## No relief for shrinking school budgets

CHRIS TOMLINSON  
Associated Press

AUSTIN (AP) — The director of the Texas Legislative Budget Board tried to be as diplomatic as possible when he talked to lawmakers about public education spending.

John O'Brien, who retires from his non-partisan position in April, knew that some Republican lawmakers had bragged on the campaign trail about increasing school spending. He also knew Democrats were demanding a special legislative session to reverse the Legislature's decision last year to cut per-student spending for the first time in at least 50 years.

So which was side is right? "The answer depends on your perspective," O'Brien told the House Appropriations Committee last week, during a review of the state's finances.

O'Brien explained that compared to the previous two-year budget, the Legislature had indeed put an additional \$1.5 billion in the Foundation School Program, the account used to fund public schools in Texas. But the story doesn't stop there.

The Foundation School Program is only one part of state spending on public education, and in other areas of the budget the Legislature cut \$1.55 billion for schools and teachers, a little more than it put in. Republican lawmakers also rewrote the school funding formula to cut \$4 billion from the program. Meanwhile, the state added 160,000 new students.

When totaled up, that means per-student spending went down in the 2012-2013 budget, and schools will receive \$4 billion less in state money than they were expecting under the old

formula.

Texas per student spending is about \$8,908 per year, a \$538 drop compared to the last budget, and well below the national average of \$11,463, according to the National Education Association.

These complex calculations and their ultimate outcomes confused even some lawmakers. Rep. Debbie Riddle, R-Houston, asked committee Chairman Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, for an explanation.

"I thought last session, Mr. Chairman, that we funded public education \$3 billion more this biennium, even though per student dollar, if you will, was less because we had more students," Riddle said. "Is there something I'm not remembering?"

Pitts explained that she was thinking of the \$3 billion spent from the Rainy Day Fund to solve last year's budget deficit. By tapping the Rainy Day Fund, the Legislature was avoiding cutting public education by that much more in this budget, a classic example of the circuitous deals struck to make budgets balance.

Lawmakers last year also used the age-old trick of delaying payments to schools by one day in order to shift a \$2.3 billion check into the next fiscal year, again creating a savings on paper that will have to be paid back.

Nevertheless, some Republican candidates talk about the Foundation School Program to say they increased spending on Texas schools. Democrats continue to focus on the per-student spending figures and have asked Gov. Rick Perry for a special session on school finance.

When and how to tap the Rainy Day Fund remains one of the most partisan

issues in the Legislature. The fund exists to help the state during economic downturns and will have \$7.3 billion in it by the end of 2013.

"Why should our kids continue to bear the brunt of (the budget cuts)? I think we have an opportunity in this year, 2012, to meet the needs of Texas children," said Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston. "Why should we not come back to a special session now and answer the needs of our children now?"

But Republicans argue that more money does not mean better schools and they have called for more charter schools and reforms to the education system overall.

There is also the question of future budgets. Republicans fought against spending the entirety of the Rainy Day Fund last year because they warned it would be needed to cover future expenses.

O'Brien told lawmakers that they are facing a \$4.1 billion deficit in the current budget — mostly due to underfunding Medicaid — and lawmakers will have to increase spending on education by at least \$2.3 billion next year because the delayed-payment gimmick can't be used again next year. He also reported Medicaid may need an additional \$10 billion in next year's budget, a figure that Texas' growing economy will not be able to cover.

Whether O'Brien has settled the argument over whether or not the Legislature increased public education funding last year or cut it will probably remain a question of perspective and partisanship. But it is clear that school districts should not hold their breath waiting for any more state money.

## Romney, Santorum show differences in white Americas

If you were listening reasonably carefully to last Wednesday's Republican presidential candidate debate, you heard Rick Santorum say, "Charles Murray just wrote a book about this."

The question was about Santorum's remarks on contraception, but his answer addressed the broader issue of "the increasing number of children being born out of wedlock in America." That is indeed one of the subjects — but only one — of Murray's new book "Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960 to 2010."

Murray is a distinguished social scientist, a brilliant miner of data and a colleague of mine at the American Enterprise Institute.

He is no stranger to controversy. His 1984 book "Losing Ground" helped inspire welfare reform in the 1990s. His 1994 book "The Bell Curve" (co-authored by Richard Herrnstein) drew spurious charges of racism, which is perhaps one reason why he limited "Coming Apart" to whites.

"Coming Apart" tells us important things about America and, without intending to, sheds interesting light on the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

Murray's argument is that we have seen a significant decline among whites in what he considers America's founding virtues — industriousness, honesty, marriage and religiosity — over the last 50 years.

That decline has not been uniform among different segments of the white population, however.

Among the top 20 percent in income and education, Murray finds that rates of marriage and church attendance, after falling marginally in the 1970s, have plateaued out at a high level since then. And these people have been working longer hours than ever.

He labels this group Belmont, after

the upscale Boston suburb.

In contrast, among the bottom 30 percent of whites, those indicators started falling in the 1970s and have been plunging ever since, to historical lows by 2008, even before the onset of the recession and the current economic doldrums.

He labels this group Fishtown, after the Philadelphia neighborhood that has been the home of low-income whites since it was first settled in the early 19th century.

In Fishtown, he reports, one-third of men age 30 to 49 are not making a living, one-fifth of women are single mothers raising children, and nearly 40 percent have no involvement in a secular or religious organization.

The result is that the children being raised in such settings have the odds heavily stacked against them. Santorum made this point vividly, and Mitt Romney chimed in his agreement.

These findings turn some conventional political wisdom on its head. They tend to contradict the liberals who blame increasing income disparity on free-market economics. In fact, it is driven in large part by personal behavior and choices.

They also undermine the conservatives who say that a liberation-minded upper class has been undermining traditional values to which more downscale Americans are striving to adhere. Murray's complaint against upscale liberals is not that they are libertines but that they fail to preach what they practice.

What light does this shed on the



MICHAEL BARONE

Republican race? For starters, Mitt Romney is literally from Belmont, where he raised his family in a large house and now has a condominium, and where he helped build a large Mormon temple visible as you drive by on Route 2. He grew up in another Belmont, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

Rick Santorum, in contrast, describes himself as the grandson of an immigrant coal miner, a product of Fishtown. He often tells of getting his political start winning two House races in the steel mill suburbs of Pittsburgh.

When you look at where these two candidates are drawing their strongest support, you see a similar contrast.

Romney in 2008 and this year has run consistently strongest in the high-income, high-education Belmonts. Santorum has run strongest in areas with more downscale Republican voters.

Both trends are politically problematic. It is not attractive for Republicans (though it can be for Democrats) to advertise a candidate's appeal to affluent voters.

But it's also true that there just aren't so many voters in Fishtown anymore; voter turnout there is way down. Pittsburgh is our one major metro area with more deaths than births. There aren't as many neighborhoods filled with devout Catholics with large families as there were 50 years ago.

Republicans are choosing between a candidate from a Belmont that's doing just fine and one who claims ties with a Fishtown that isn't what it used to be. Not an ideal choice.

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

# Pressure builds for civilian drone flights in U.S., Texas

WASHINGTON (AP) — Heads up: Drones are going mainstream.

Civilian cousins of the unmanned military aircraft that have tracked and killed terrorists in the Middle East and Asia are in demand by police departments, border patrols, power companies, news organizations and others wanting a bird's-eye view that's too impractical or dangerous for conventional planes or helicopters to get.

Along with the enthusiasm, there are qualms.

Drones overhead could invade people's privacy. The government worries they could collide with passenger planes or come crashing down to the ground, concerns that have slowed more widespread adoption of the technology.

Despite that, pressure is building to give drones the same access as manned aircraft to the sky at home.

"It's going to be the next big revolution in aviation. It's coming," says Dan Elwell, the Aerospace Industries Association's vice president for civil aviation.

Some impetus comes from the military, which will bring home drones from Afghanistan and wants room to test and use them. In December, Congress gave the Federal Aviation Administration six months to pick half a dozen sites around the country where the military and others can fly unmanned aircraft in the vicinity of regular air traffic, with the aim of demonstrating they're safe.

The Defense Department says the demand for drones and their expanding missions requires routine and unfettered access to domestic airspace, including around airports and cities. In a report last October, the Pentagon called for flights first by small drones both solo and in groups, day and night, expanding over several years. Flights by large and medium-sized drones would follow in the latter half of this decade.

Other government agencies want to fly drones, too, but they've been hobbled by an FAA ban unless they first receive case-by-case permission. Fewer than 300 waivers were in use at the end of 2011, and they often include restrictions that severely limit the usefulness of the flights. Businesses that want to put drones to work are out of luck; waivers are only for government agencies.

But that's changing. Congress has told the FAA that the agency must allow civilian and military drones to fly in civilian airspace by September

2015. This spring, the FAA is set to take a first step by proposing rules that would allow limited commercial use of small drones for the first time.

Until recently, agency officials were saying there were too many unresolved safety issues to give drones greater access. Even now FAA officials are cautious about describing their plans and they avoid discussion of deadlines.

"The thing we care about is doing that in an orderly and safe way and finding the appropriate ... balance of all the users in the system," Michael Huerta, FAA's acting administrator, told a recent industry luncheon in Washington. "Let's develop these six sites — and we will be doing that — where we can develop further data, further testing and more history on how these things actually operate."

Drones come in all sizes, from the high-flying Global Hawk with its 116-foot wingspan to a hummingbird-like drone that weighs less than an AA battery and can perch on a window ledge to record sound and video. Lockheed Martin has developed a fake maple leaf seed, or "whirly bird," equipped with imaging sensors, that weighs less than an ounce.

Potential civilian users are as varied as the drones themselves.

Power companies want them to monitor transmission lines. Farmers want to fly them over fields to detect which crops need water. Ranchers want them to count cows.

Journalists are exploring drones' newsgathering potential. The FAA is investigating whether The Daily, a digital publication of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., used drones without permission to capture aerial footage of floodwaters in North Dakota and Mississippi last year. At the University of Nebraska, journalism professor Matt Waite has started a lab for students to experiment with using a small, remote-controlled helicopter.

"Can you cover news with a drone? I think the answer is yes," Waite said.

The aerospace industry forecasts a worldwide deployment of almost 30,000 drones by 2018, with the United States accounting for half of them.

"The potential ... civil market for these systems could dwarf the military market in the coming years if we can get access to the airspace," said Ben Gielow, government relations manager for the Association for Unmanned Vehicle

Systems International, an industry trade group.

The hungriest market is the nation's 19,000 law enforcement agencies.

Customs and Border Patrol has nine Predator drones mostly in use on the U.S.-Mexico border, and plans to expand to 24 by 2016. Officials say the unmanned aircraft have helped in the seizure of more than 20 tons of illegal drugs and the arrest of 7,500 people since border patrols began six years ago.

Several police departments are experimenting with smaller drones to photograph crime scenes, aid searches and scan the ground ahead of SWAT teams. The Justice Department has four drones it loans to police agencies.

"We look at this as a low-cost alternative to buying a helicopter or fixed-wing plane," said Michael O'Shea, the department's aviation technology program manager. A small drone can cost less than \$50,000, about the price of a patrol car with standard police gear.

Like other agencies, police departments must get FAA waivers and follow much the same rules as model airplane hobbyists: Drones must weigh less than 55 pounds, stay below an altitude of 400 feet, keep away from airports and always stay within sight of the operator. The restrictions are meant to prevent collisions with manned aircraft.

Even a small drone can be "a huge threat" to a larger plane, said Dale Wright, head of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association's safety and technology department. "If an airliner sucks it up in an engine, it's probably going to take the engine out," he said. "If it hits a small plane, it could bring it down."

Controllers want drone operators to be required to have instrument-rated pilot licenses — a step above a basic private pilot license. "We don't want the Microsoft pilot who has never really flown an airplane and doesn't know the rules of how to fly," Wright said.

Military drones designed for battlefields haven't had to meet the kind of rigorous safety standards required of commercial aircraft.

"If you are going to design these things to operate in the (civilian) airspace you need to start upping the ante," said Tom Haueter, director of the National Transportation Safety Board's aviation safety office. "It's one thing to operate down low. It's another thing to operate

where other airplanes are, especially over populated areas."

Even with FAA restrictions, drones are proving useful in the field.

Deputies with the Mesa County Sheriff's Office in Colorado can launch a 2-pound Draganflyer X6 helicopter from the back of a patrol car. The drone's bird's-eye view cut the manpower needed for a search of a creek bed for a missing person from 10 people to two, said Ben Miller, who runs the drone program. The craft also enabled deputies to alert fire officials to a potential roof collapse in time for the evacuation of firefighters from the building, he said.

The drone could do more if it were not for the FAA's line-of-sight restriction, Miller said. "I don't think (the restriction) provides any extra safety," he said.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, north of Houston, used a Department of Homeland Security grant to buy a \$300,000, 50-pound ShadowHawk helicopter drone for its SWAT team. The drone has a high-powered video camera and an infrared camera that can spot a person's thermal image in the dark.

"Public-safety agencies are beginning to see this as an invaluable tool for them, just as the car was an improvement over the horse and the single-shot pistol was improved upon by the six-shooter," said Chief Deputy Randy McDaniel, who runs the Montgomery drone program.

The ShadowHawk can be equipped with a 40 mm grenade launcher and a 12-gauge shotgun,

according to its maker, Vanguard Defense Industries of Conroe, Texas. The company doesn't sell the armed version in the United States, although "we have had interest from law-enforcement entities for deployment of nonlethal munitions from the aircraft," Vanguard CEO Michael Buscher said.

The possibility of armed police drones someday patrolling the sky disturbs Terri Burke, executive director of the Texas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The Constitution is taking a back seat so that boys can play with their toys," Burke said. "It's kind of scary that they can use a laptop computer to zap people from the air."

A recent ACLU report said allowing drones greater access takes the country "a large step closer to a surveillance society in which our every move

is monitored, tracked, recorded, and scrutinized by the authorities."

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, which focuses on civil liberties threats involving new technologies, sued the FAA recently, seeking disclosure of which agencies have been given permission to use drones. FAA officials declined to answer questions from The Associated Press about the lawsuit.

Industry officials said privacy concerns are overblown.

"Today anybody — the paparazzi, anybody — can hire a helicopter or a (small plane) to circle around something that they're interested in and shoot away with high-powered cameras as all they want," said Elwell, the aerospace industry spokesman. "I don't understand all the comments about the Big Brother thing."

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The names of people in the photo (if any) from left to right, front row to back row \_\_\_\_\_

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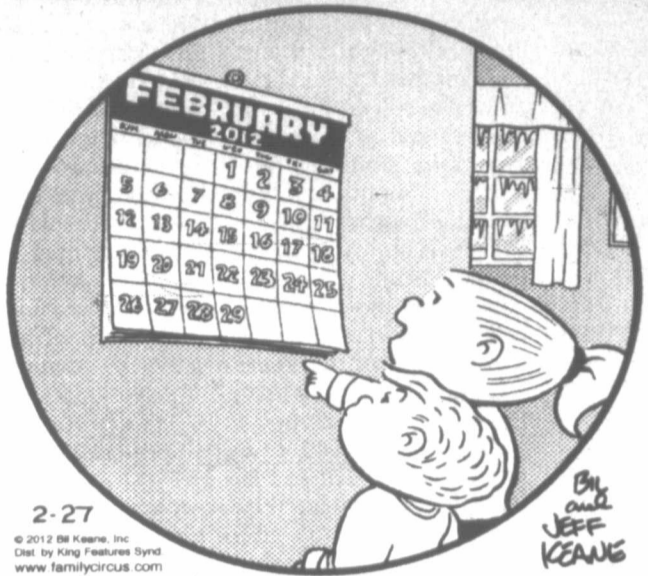
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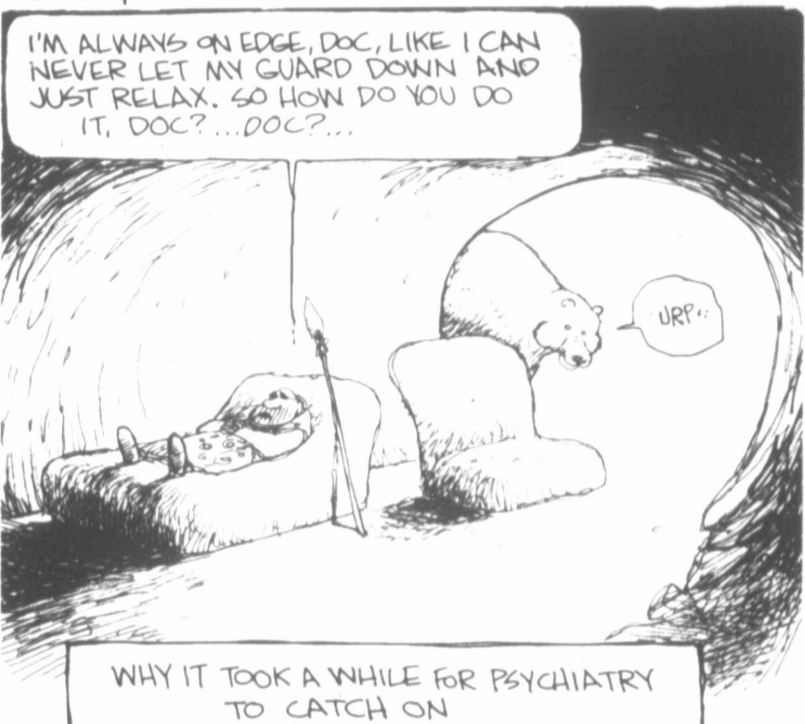


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"Winter gets to be one day longer this year."

### Non Sequitur



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### Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012:

This year you express an unusual openness to change, and you let go of the status quo. You can visualize better than you ever have. When you are inspired, you will express your vision well. If you are single, a unique person walks into your life. Do your best not to put this person on a pedestal, and remain realistic. If you are attached, the two of you share a common dream. Take the first step in making it so. GEMINI holds you back at times.

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)**  
 ★★ Your instincts serve you well concerning financial decisions. Focus on your goals and better communication. Not everyone needs to know the "how and why," but simply the end decision. Still, if asked, do answer. Tonight: Make time to visit and catch up on others' news.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Your ability to wow others and impress them emerges. You are surrounded by people who really do care. Though you might not need their support now, you might later on. When someone initiates a discussion, open up. Tonight: Do some shopping, if need be.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 ★★ Make it OK to feel down in the dumps right now. You might see a situation in a very negative light. What will it take to turn that perspective around? A boss or older friend has a lot to share. Learn from this person. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You express an unusual perspective and can communicate it well. Integrate new information for others so that they can see a new path. Others finally will be able to open up, if they so choose. Tonight: Play it low-key.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Assume your place in the limelight. An associate keeps whispering what he or she feels is important information to know. Listen, but also set limits to the conversation. Working as a team is fine, as long as you have space to be yourself. Tonight: Squeeze in some fun time.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ You might want to approach a situation differently. The feedback you are receiving points to another path. Get adequate feedback from another person. You could be surprised by what you hear. Once you feel secure, take action. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 ★★★★★ Work with individuals. You could hear radically different opinions, which makes it clear, once more, that you must go your own way. A discussion opens up possibilities left and right. You might be taken back by an unexpected insight. Tonight: Detach, then look at a situation.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Others challenge you, but know that it is simply a phase. On the other hand, you have the wherewithal to know when to hold your ground. Creativity plays a role in your interactions, work or whatever you might be doing. Tonight: Make time for a special person.

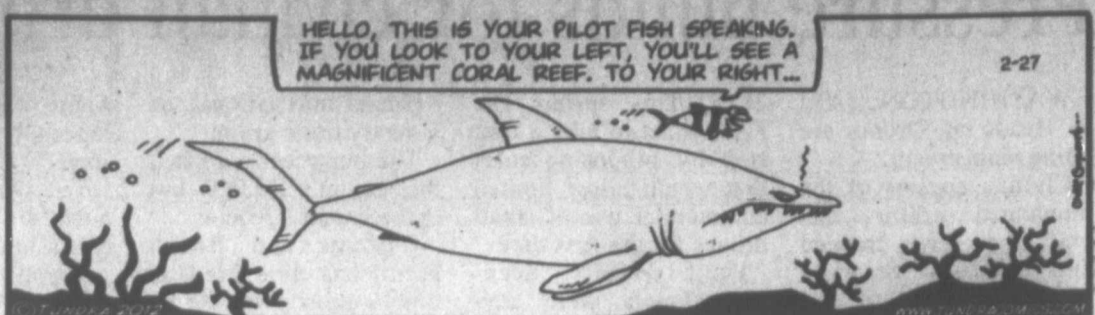
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 ★★★★★ Discussions and comments reveal much more about where others are coming from. Don't stop what you are doing to comment. Just be a good listener; you might be amazed. A call from a family member or roommate is informative as well. Tonight: Out.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 ★★★★★ No one knows how to stir the pot quite like you do. You might even do it unintentionally. Your very presence and how you deal with your life could incite some crazy responses. Allow your innate ingenuity to come out. Help others lighten up. Tonight: Try for an early bedtime.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 ★★ Family weighs on your mind. You are not always comfortable with what is going on, nor should you be. Discuss finances and an investment involving real estate not only with those it will impact, but also with those in the know. Tonight: What starts as serious evolves into fun.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 ★★★★★ Your way of saying "enough" works. Someone who does not like to hear you put an end to a certain topic could be trying to get your attention. If you are overwhelmed, just say so. Establish your own boundaries, and speak your mind more often. Tonight: Out and about.

### Tundra



### Shoe



### Mother Goose and Grim



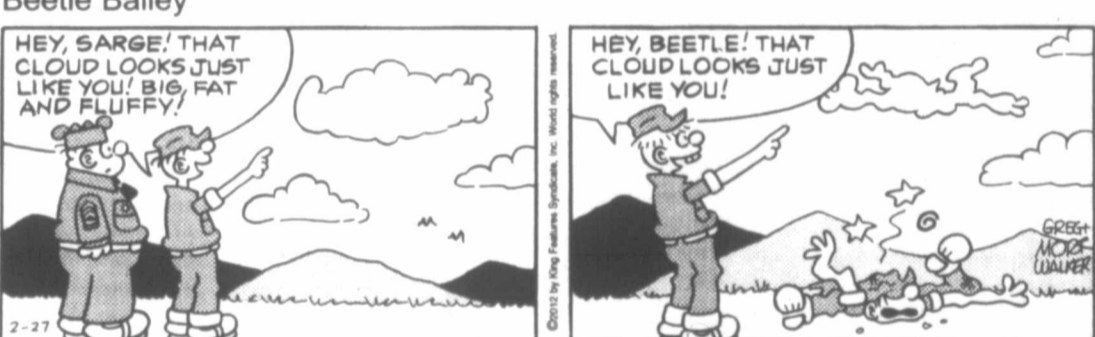
### Zits



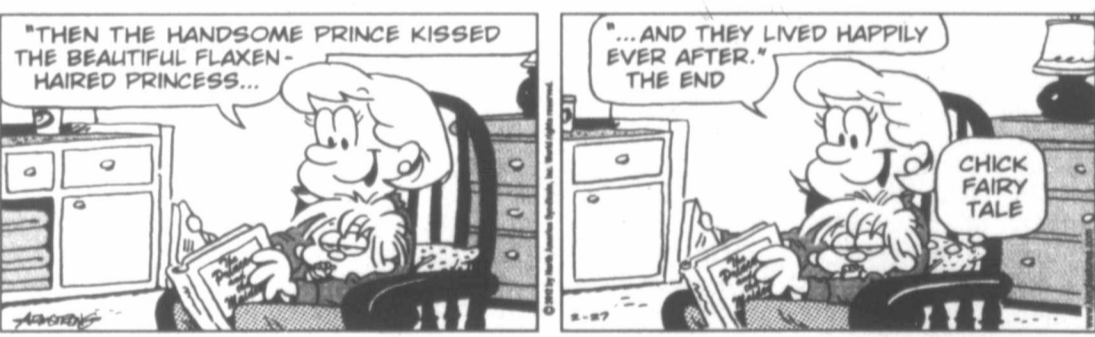
### Garfield



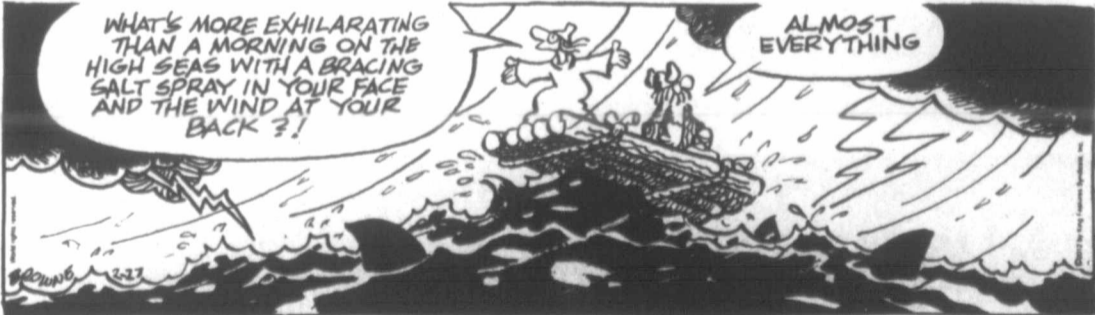
### Beetle Bailey



### Marvin



### Hagar The Horrible



### Peanuts



### Blondie



# Sports

## Harvesters' pitching struggles leads to loss vs. PD

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters' pitchers couldn't find the strike zone, as they walked 11 and hit seven. Pampa's bats couldn't get them out of an early deficit in a 16-10 loss to the Palo Duro Dons Saturday at Harvester Field.

"We got ourselves in a hole all day," head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said. "We didn't make plays behind our pitchers. We hit the ball pretty well. Everything we gained back, we gave right back."

Senior first baseman Collin Killgo said the team wasn't prepared.

"We didn't play our game," Killgo said. "We took it down to their level and did what we shouldn't have done."

The last time Pampa played Palo Duro was when they were in District 3-4A in 2010. The Harvesters won both games with the mercy rule being invoked.

"We overlooked them," sophomore Ryan Powell said. "We tried to not worry about them to much."

Junior Jordan Lemons started after pitching in relief Friday and failing to throw a strike. Saturday, Lemons' location woes continued, walking the first three batters. Palo Duro scored on a wild pitch before Trestin Washington hit a three-run home run to right field. Lemons struck out three to get out of the inning but was finished after throwing 41 pitches.

Lemons' struggles didn't stop on the mound. He struck out in all three at bats and recorded an error on a grounder while playing third.

Pampa rallied in the bottom of third trailing 6-0. Junior Taylor Woods led off with a single and senior Cole Engle walked. Junior James Thompson hammered a 3-1 pitch to right-center to cut Palo Duro's lead in half. Senior Jared Lusk followed with a homer to right.

The Dons immediately retook momentum. Powell relieved Lemons and set Palo Duro down in order in the second. Powell

allowed two runs in including hitting Troy Jackson with the bases loaded. In the fourth, Powell's struggles continued as he walked one and hit his third batter, loading the bases.

Engle took over on the mound and struggled to find the zone as he walked in two runs and allowed two more on hit batters. The Dons scored five runs on no hits and sent 11 batters to the plate.

Powell said he felt OK about his performance.

"I was pretty happy with the first inning that I threw," Powell said. "After that I kind of went down hill."

The Harvesters (2-2) rallied again the bottom of the fifth. Killgo hit a double to the center field wall scoring Engle and junior Chris Howard. Senior Zach Graves drove in Killgo with a double to right. Palo Duro didn't allow Pampa to get closer, outscoring them 5-2 in the last two innings.

"We scratch two or three runs, we gave up four or five," Snelgrooves said. "You can't do that. Hats off to Palo Duro, they put the ball in play and their pitchers threw strikes."

The Dons' pitchers combined for 13 strikeouts and gave up only four walks. Jesus Castellanos earned the win 2 and 1/3 innings pitched. He allowed three runs on four hits, walked one and struck out three.

Pampa again struggled with fielding, as it recorded six errors. Killgo said that has to improve.

"We need to work on a couple of things," Killgo said. "We thought we were good in some situations but it didn't turn out that way."

The Harvesters' season continues Thursday when they start play in the Burk Burnett Tournament against Vernon at 1:30 p.m. Pampa will also face Iowa Park 6 p.m. Thursday, Wichita Falls 1:30 p.m. Friday, Wichita Falls Rider 6 p.m. Friday and Caprock 9 a.m. Saturday.



staff photo by Andrew Glover

Senior Cole Engle is tagged out by Christian Burrier in the bottom of the first. The Harvesters lost 16-10 in the final game of the Cavalier Classic.

## PHS tennis downs Plainview in tune-up for team regionals

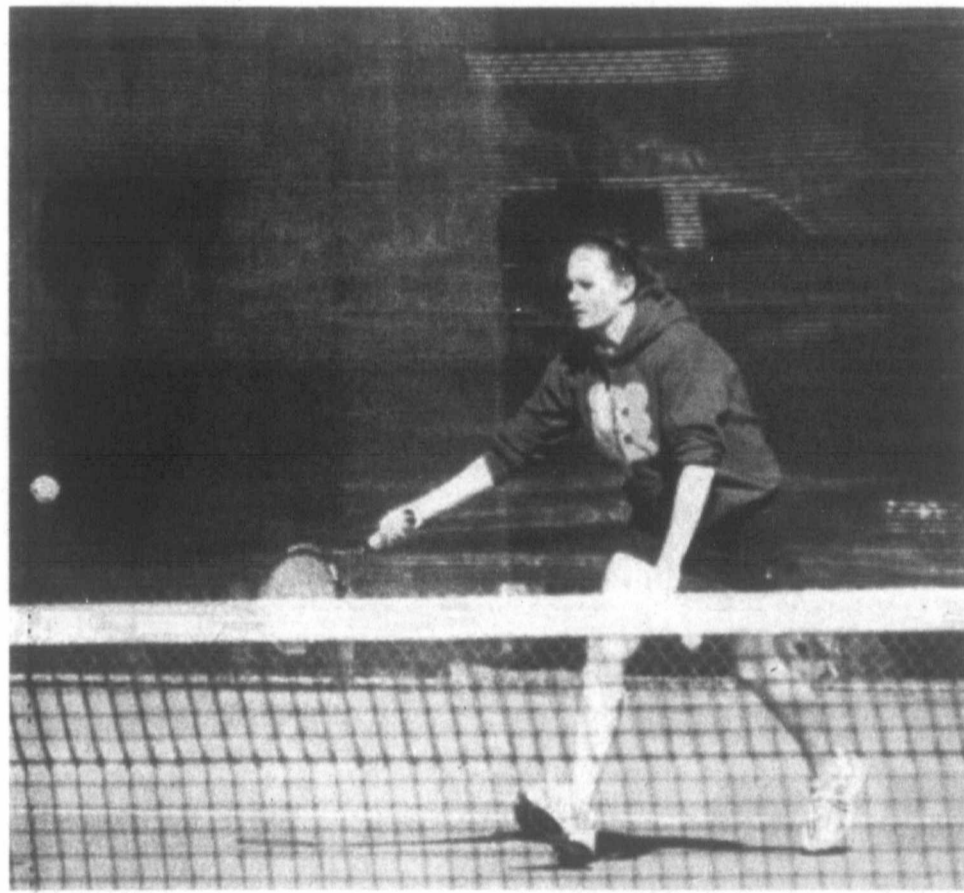


photo courtesy of Cody Moore

Senior Elizabeth Terry returns a ball in a match against Plainview. Terry was victorious in her doubles match with Makayla Hampton (not pictured).

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

With team regionals around the corner, the Pampa Harvesters were needing a tune-up. Saturday at the high school tennis courts, Pampa feels confident after beating Plainview 16-3 and 16-3.

"The kids performed well," head coach Sarah Corse said. "We came out in doubles and are playing excellent."

This was the Harvesters' first team match since the fall semester. Pampa has played in tournaments in the spring. Head coach Sarah Corse said she is happy with how the boys are performing.

"They didn't lose a match," Corse said. "They are looking very good."

Senior Collin McClendon said he was



Corse



McClendon

happy with how he performed.

"It went well even though it's really windy," McClendon said.

The girls had several strong performances, finishing 7-2 in both matches. In the second match, sophomore Emily Terry and senior Delaney Clendening won their doubles match 6-3 and 6-4. Junior Makayla Hampton and senior Elizabeth Terry won 6-4 and 6-3. Sophomore Harley Elliott and freshman Elizabeth Frost won 5-7, 6-4 and 10-6.

Junior Maddie Fatheree said the team did well.

"It was a good day," Fatheree said. "It was good to get prepared for team regionals."

The Harvesters will compete at Wichita Falls Friday and Saturday. Corse said it's going to be tough but feels good about how her team is playing.


"Abilene Wylie and Vernon are tough teams," Corse said. "I like the way we are playing and let's see what happens."



Fatheree

PAMPA NEWS

# athletes



## of the week

TIGERS

**Rudy Rodriguez**  
McLean High School

McLean High School senior basketball player Rudy Rodriguez is *The Pampa News* Female Athlete of the Week. Rodriguez scored 21 points in the regional quarterfinals to help McLean beat Follett Tuesday. This is Rodriguez second athlete of the week honor.

**Jordan Herring**  
McLean High School

McLean High School senior basketball player Jordan Herring is *The Pampa News* Male Athlete of the Week. Herring scored 35 points and scored the game-winning free throw with 36 seconds left to beat Miami Monday. In the area round Thursday

## Softball wins three of five finishes sixth at Burk Burnett

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters softball team built on their opening day victory with a sixth place finish at the Burk Burnett Tournament.

"We competed well," Gill said. "The two games we lost, we were in and had chances to win them."

18 teams competed and Pampa finished 3-2. Head coach Bobbi Gill said the team played well.

"It was a good outing for us," Gill said. "We performed better than we have in the



Gill

past at Burk Burnett."

The Lady Harvesters (4-2) opened with a 6-4 victory against Abilene Wylie Thursday. Pampa beat Petroalia 9-0 and Henrietta. Pampa closed the tournament with losses to Red Oak and Whitesboro. Gill said the team had starters out due to injury and illness.

"We had to make adjustments and some young kids got some playing time," Gill said. "It was a good outing for us. We performed better than we have at Burk Burnett."

Gill said they went against quality opponents.

"We went against some smaller schools," Gill said. "Some schools were our size. Some were bigger."

The Lady Harvesters host Amarillo 4 p.m. Tuesday.

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Yesterday's Answer: CENTIPEDE, BALLADEER, COSMONAUT

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- ACROSS**
- 39 Detroit team
  - 1 Flour-making spot
  - 40 Butter squares
  - 5 Perennial campaign issue
  - 41 Spring period
  - 9 Kayak's cousin
  - 10 Modify
  - 12 One of the Chipmunks
  - 13 Baseball's Yogi
  - 14 Kid's sandwich, for short
  - 16 Gratuity
  - 17 Cincinnati team
  - 18 Metal men
  - 21 High card
  - 22 "Ocean's Eleven," for one
  - 23 Namely
  - 24 "Scram!"
  - 26 Tourist's aid
  - 29 Sauer-kraut sandwich
  - 30 Opera's Carreras
  - 31 Rower's need
  - 32 Jet pilot's pressure
  - 34 Sports setting
  - 37 Modify
  - 38 Fists, in slang
- DOWN**
- 1 Dark red wine
  - 2 Overrun
  - 3 They may be girded
  - 4 Give for a time
  - 5 Quick punch
  - 6 Keats poem
  - 7 Composer Béla
  - 8 Pixie
  - 9 "Meet John Doe" director
  - 11 Spigots
  - 15 "Dallas" schemer
  - 19 Leave out members
  - 20 Cave dweller
  - 22 Learning method
  - 23 Bar bill
  - 24 Stay resolute
  - 25 Cry of discovery
  - 26 Jazz's Jelly Roll
  - 27 Climb
  - 28 Jury members
  - 29 Highway
  - 30 "Salt" star
  - 33 Plummet
  - 35 Take in
  - 36 Burro

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- Saturday's answer**
- 9 "Meet John Doe" director
  - 24 Stay resolute
  - 25 Cry of discovery
  - 26 Jazz's Jelly Roll
  - 27 Climb
  - 28 Jury members
  - 29 Highway
  - 30 "Salt" star
  - 33 Plummet
  - 35 Take in
  - 36 Burro

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**Dear Abby...**

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a longtime reader with a question I have never seen in your column: Why don't they put something in pet food to keep dogs and cats from getting pregnant? Then people could control the pet population and it would stop the killing. — HARRISONBURG, VA., READER

**DEAR READER:** Your idea is intriguing. However, the reason that contraceptive pet food doesn't exist may have something to do with the cost. Also, the effective dose might vary according to the size and weight of the animals. If a Great Dane wasn't feeling particularly hungry one day, it could wind up a "little" bit pregnant. (Conversely, a Chihuahua with a large appetite could end up sterile for life.)

Seriously, I took your question to Dr. John Winters, a respected veterinarian in Beverly Hills, Calif., who told me there are research trials going on involving oral contraceptives to control the wild animal population, such as coyotes. If one day it is made available for domestic pets, it would have to be by prescription only and dispensed by a veterinarian to ensure the dosage is correct.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, "Les," enjoys cooking and inviting friends to join us

for dinner. I respect people's likes and dislikes when it comes to certain foods, but Les does not. We have discussed it on many occasions and he feels people should be "open-minded, not picky or finicky." We are having two guests over for dinner soon. One does not like onions and the other doesn't care for mushrooms. I reminded Les of this, but he's determined to prepare his spaghetti sauce with lots of onions and mushrooms. This upsets me. As the hostess, I'm embarrassed. Am I wrong to feel this way? — JUST THE SOUS-CHEF, DES MOINES, IOWA

**DEAR JUST THE SOUS-CHEF:** That your husband would deliberately serve guests something he knows they dislike shows him to be self-centered and unwilling to extend true hospitality. I don't blame you for feeling embarrassed.

Don't be surprised if your guests eat very little of Les' spaghetti, and prepare for it in advance by having a LARGE salad and garlic bread on hand so they won't go away hungry. In time, your problem may resolve itself, because a person would have to be a glutton for punishment to accept a second dinner invitation at your home.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have

been married 35 years. The children are grown and on their own now. I am healthy, but find I have absolutely no interest in my spouse — sexual or otherwise. Habits of his that I overlooked in earlier years really turn me off now.

Don't say "get counseling." I don't want to become close or intimate with him again. I'm not the type to cheat, so I guess I'll just be thankful for the good years I had with my young children.

I have chosen to stay in this marriage so my children and grandchildren won't have to split time visiting. After so many years, staying is just easier. Has anyone ever written to you with a similar situation? — UNFULFILLED IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR UNFULFILLED:** Yes, usually after the crisis that happened because the woman's husband felt abandoned and looked elsewhere for the caring and affection he wasn't receiving at home.

The relationship you have described isn't a marriage; it's an "arrangement." If this is what you and your husband are willing to settle for in order to spare your children and grandchildren the inconvenience of visiting you separately, then you both have my sympathy.

# More Fort Hood soldiers with children going on relief

AUSTIN (AP) — A growing number of Fort Hood soldiers, particularly those with children, are turning up at area food pantries because they're unable to make ends meet on their military salaries, according to a newspaper study.

A review of Defense Commissary Agency reports for Fort Hood and the nation's military installations show Fort Hood's food pantry has served nearly 5,000 military families since 2008, and food stamp usage at on-post commissaries has grown from about \$285,000 in 2001 to \$1.4 million last year, the Austin American-Statesman reported Saturday.

Lower-ranking enlisted members with families can fall below the federal poverty line, depending on how many children they have, said Jennifer Cernoch, president of the Texas chapter of Operation Homefront. The nonprofit civilian organization provides financial assistance to military families.

"They are not making a lot of money for the bravery they are showing for our country," she told the American-Statesman.

Fort Hood is home to as many as 50,000 soldiers and the military's busiest hub over the past 10 years for troop deployments to Iraq. Just outside the main gate is Killeen, a city of about 130,000 residents — many

of them military. The picture there, outside the gate, is just as stark.

Sprinkled throughout a swelling crowd of about 100 people outside the Killeen Food Care Center recently were men and women in U.S. Army uniforms, waiting with the others for their 10 days' food rations for their families.

In line at the off-post food pantry was Sgt. Sandy Cornet, 28, recently returned Iraq war veteran, who waited in line with her husband and two of their five children.

"I got the information from two other soldiers," she told the American-Statesman. "It's a lot of them that come here, but they change their clothes because I guess it's embarrassing. A lot don't like to ask for help."

A private first class with four years' experience makes \$23,774 a year in base pay and, if living off-post, housing compensation that can top \$15,000 a year. Even so, a soldier with five children would still be living close to what federal officials regard as impoverishment.

Compounding those woes are high-interest loans many soldiers carry that are offered by payday loan offices near Fort Hood.

"When you look at their resources, they are spending so much on the loans they don't have enough to pay for utilities, gas or rent," Casey Jackson, a financial specialist at Fort Hood who advises soldiers, told the newspaper.

Army Emergency Relief Assistance, an on-post nonprofit, offers interest-free, 15-month loans of up to \$1,500 as well as larger loans at low interest rates. Many soldiers use the service, but many choose to go outside the gates for payday or auto title loans, said Pat Swanner, an Army Emergency Relief specialist at Fort Hood. The on-post loans require a commander's signature, which offends many soldiers' pride.

"They don't want the command to know," Swanner said.

Jackson, a counselor at Fort Hood's Personal Financial Assistance Center, said: "We are constantly working to change that mindset: It's not a negative, so quit viewing it as such."

Nevertheless, with the return of thousands of troops from overseas deployments, off-post food banks in Killeen are gearing up.

"We get a surge whenever there is a group returning from overseas," said Killeen Food Care Center pantry administrator John Ott.

## Trial

brother, Gordon, was also killed on the rig, had planned to drive in from Baton Rouge with other relatives to attend the start of the trial. He said he has mixed feelings about the prospect of a settlement that would eliminate the need for a trial. Jones said he would be disappointed if BP manages to "write a check to solve their problems."

"I was ready to go to trial and see their feet held close to the fire," he said Sunday after learning of the postponement. "It seems like the easy way out to pay whatever the plaintiffs are willing to take."

Jones, an attorney, said he's not surprised that the oil giant would seek to avoid a long, costly trial.

"I know that is part of the game, so to speak," he said. "As long as they're paying a lot of money for the damage they caused, it would give me some relief."

The decisions and actions that led to the explosion and spill already have been painstakingly investigated

by the Coast Guard, federal regulators and a presidential commission. Their probes concluded that BP, rig owner Transocean Ltd. and Halliburton deserve to share the blame for a string of risky decisions that were designed to save time and money.

Transocean spokesman Lou Colasuonno wouldn't comment on whether the company, which owned the Deepwater Horizon rig, was participating in settlement talks.

"This deal does not change the facts of the case and Transocean is fully prepared to go to trial," he said of BP's settlement talks with the plaintiffs.

The massive scope of the case — a maze of claims and counterclaims between the companies, federal and state governments and plaintiffs' attorneys — has elicited comparisons to the tobacco litigation of the 1990s.

Roughly 340 plaintiffs' lawyers have worked on the case. BP has spent millions of dollars on experts and law firms. More than 300 depositions have

been taken. Millions of pages of legal briefs have been filed. One Justice Department lawyer said it would take him 210 years to read all the pages submitted into the record if he read 1,000 pages a day.

Barbier, a former president of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association and appointee of President Bill

Clinton, has a reputation for speedy but fair trials. He will hear and decide the case without a jury. Each trial phase is expected to last two to three months, with breaks in between. Even if all parties settle their claims before or during the trial, it could take several months for claims to be paid.

cont. from page 1

## Spending

toward continued economic growth in 2012 and a spending/retail sector that should advance into a new round of true growth and expansion."

"These reports reflect that the Texas Panhandle and South Plains economies continue to gradually improve, in spite of the drought of 2011," said J. Pat

Hickman, chairman and CEO of Happy State Bank. "We remain cautiously optimistic about our bank's trade area. We will keep a watchful eye on the overall national economy, all government spending — and we pray that our local drought is over."

cont. from page 1

## Library

encyclopedias, multimedia, e-books and other sources.

To access these resources, you will need a library card and a four digit pin number. People interested in getting a library card need to have a Texas driver's license with their

current address, but they can get a computer only library card without their driver's license, which gives access to the library computer lab.

From a home computer, the card and pin number can also be used to renew items, place holds

on items and check out e-books for Kindles, Nooks, iPads and other e-readers.

For more information, call the library at 669-5780, or visit its website at [www.pampalovettmemorial.org](http://www.pampalovettmemorial.org).

cont. from page 1


## CRP

Emergency grazing of CRP acreage had been authorized by the USDA in response to the ongoing drought conditions plaguing the state. For any CRP acres used for grazing under the emergency provisions, a 25 percent CRP

payment reduction will be in effect.

For more information about CRP emergency grazing, contact the Gray County FSA office at 806-665-6561 or visit the FSA on the Web at [www.fsa.usda.gov/tx](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/tx).

cont. from page 1



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