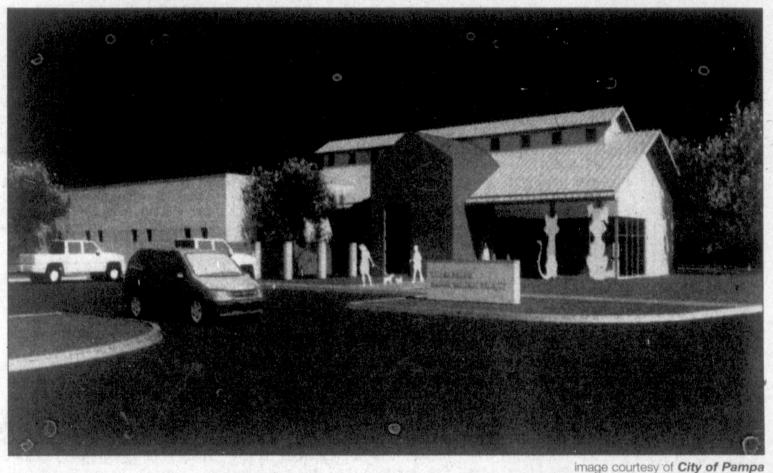


# **COMING ATTRACTION?**



Above is a rendering of the proposed animal welfare facility to be voted on in the upcoming bond election.

Commission approves youth curfew • Curfew currently in place set to expire in May

> MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

At its meeting yesterday afternoon at City Hall, the City Commission approved reenacting a curfew for minors under age 17. The curfew, which lasts from midnight to 6 a.m., will require a second vote of

It's provided us with a great tool to contact these people and see what they're doing, and maybe keeping someone from getting into a little mischief that they might not otherwise do.

# Bond election to decide shelter project's fate

#### MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

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> When early voting begins next Monday in the city's elections, Pampans will decide whether or not the city will go forward with plans to construct a new animal shelter. Slated to cost \$2.95 million, the 12,800 square food facility would more than double the current shelter's space for dogs and cats, while addressing issues of overcrowding for animals, Animal Control workers and shelter volunteers, as well as the spread of disease.

> "Now, with (the shelter) being built 30-plus years ago, it's in a bad state of repair," said city manager Richard Morris. "We've seen an increase in the animals over there, too, so that's created some of the problems there, besides the age of the facility there."

> Plans for the shelter, designed by GH2 Architects in Tulsa, Oklahoma, include a dog park, community room, adoption center, places where people

can get to know animals before adopting them, offices and workrooms for staff and volunteers, outdoor exercise areas, a laundry area, a temperament assessment room and euthanasia suite. It will also have 50 indoor dog kennels and 52 feline cat cottages. Morris said that because the shelter construction bond would replace existing bonds that are due to retire, the city does not plan to fund the project with a tax increase.

Monty Montgomery of Animal Control says the shelter averages 45 to 50 dogs in a facility that has a total of 20 dog runs. While multiple puppies and smaller dogs can be housed up in a single run, he says that one dog per run is an ideal arrangement.

"We've always been crowded," Montgomery said. "We're just in that position that there's needed to be an upgrade for years."

"One of the disadvantages we have now is just space, and we really have a hard time cleaning the pens the way they're set up there, so a new facility will, besides letting us have more space, will let us clean the facility a little better," said Morris. "It will also have not only a better environment for the animals there, but it'll be a better work environment."

As the shelter has coped with an animal population that has increased over the years, the incidence of disease has also been an issue. A recent case of an often fatal disease linked to kennel cough, hepatitis and other illnesses in dogs, called adenovirus, emphasized the need for a facility that would better control the spread of disease.

"One of the biggest problems we've had has been transfer of disease," said Montgomery. "You get a sick animal in this cage, and before you realize he's sick, he's infected the rest of them. The new facility would give us the ability to confine that disease to a specific area to where we don't have as much possibility of transfer. The ventilation system alone will make such a difference because of **SHELTER** cont. on page 2A



- Kelly Rushing Pampa police chief, on the benefits of having a curfew

approval to fully pass.

"This ordinance is basically one that requires children under the age of 17 to be at home after certain hours set forth in the ordinance," said Chief Kelly Rushing of the Pampa Police Department. "That's without reason or good cause; there are exceptions there, such as being with parents, having jobs, things like that."

A previous curfew had been put into place three years ago, but it is set to expire in May, and Rushing thinks it has been a positive step to **CITY** cont. on page 3A

# Xcel Energy cancels surcharge; move to result in lower bills

Should save average bill about \$5 a month

#### ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

Pampa consumers should see a little relief in their electric bills soon, as Xcel Energy has announced that it is canceling a fuel-cost surcharge six months ahead of time.

Xcel gave notice about the surcharge cancellation to the Public Utility Commission of Texas last week.

Beginning May 1, the move will decrease a typical residential bill of 1,000 kilowatt-hours by \$5.09.

The move is also the second announcement of lowered bills for Xcel customers this spring. In April, the company lowered its fuel cost factor, the part of the monthly electric bill that accounts for the fuel Xcel uses to generate electricity. That accounted for a decrease of \$4.17 for a 1,000 kilowatt-hour bill.

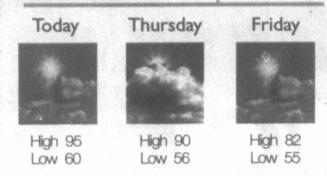
"You put the two together and you're running close to \$10 of savings from the March bills to the May bills," said Wes Reeves, public relations representative for Xcel Energy. "We've seen a lot of price increases in gasoline, and, of course, food goes up, too. We're hopeful that this will help make up some of that difference, a little more money in the consumer's pocket." The now-canceled surcharge was implemented in November of 2011 to offset the under-collection of fuel cost from earlier that year. With the price of natural gas at a 10-year low as new drilling techniques provide access to more resources, Reeves said that the company made the decision to roll back the surcharge ahead of schedule.

"Back when the price (of natural gas) was a little higher, we actually weren't collecting enough money for it," Reeves said. "The surcharge was a 12-month surcharge to help make up that difference. With the falling price of gas, we actually made up that difference a lot quicker, so we decided to cancel that surcharge. It was supposed to run through October."





### **PAMPA FORECAST**



Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 95. West northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 90. West wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56. Breezy, with a west southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. West northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. West wind between 10 and 15 mph.

() This information brought to you by...



### CITY BRIEFS

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LAST NIGHT of Revival at Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship with the Stonethrowers at 7pm.



# Agreement reached on Okla. air quality

Attorney General Scott Pruitt's

office sued the EPA in May after

the agency rejected the state's

plan to reduce regional haze at

national parks and wilderness

areas, such as the 59,000-acre

Wichita Mountain Wildlife Ref-

uge in southwestern Oklahoma.

The lawsuit alleged that the EPA

overstepped its authority in tak-

473-megawatt coal-fired power

plants operated by PSO at its

Northeastern Station in Oologah.

Under the agreement, one plant

will be retired by 2017, while pol-

lution controls will be installed

on the other. The utility will re-

duce the amount of coal burned at

the unit until it is retired by 2026.

plants into compliance with

EPA's standards would have cost

about \$700 million in scrubbers

and other equipment to remove

pollutants such as sulfur dioxide

from emissions. He said the com-

pany is still installing devices at

the plants to meet federal haze

rules at a cost of about \$16 mil-

said the utility eventually plans

to ask the Oklahoma Corporation

Commission for a 10 percent rate

hike on residential customers to

pay for the work. If approved, a

PSO customer whose bill aver-

ages about \$100 a month would

Gov. Mary Fallin said the agree-

ment will bring certainty to PSO

and its customers, move the utili-

ty toward cleaner energy and pro-

vide environmental benefits.

pay about \$10 more.

**PSO spokesman Stan Whiteford** 

Ground said bringing both

The settlement involves two

ing the action.

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OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) -Two coal-fired electrical generating plants operated by Public Service Company of Oklahoma will be retired over the next 14 years under an agreement announced Tuesday to help the state meet federal air quality rules.

The agreement between the state and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will prevent the need to install "several hundred million dollars" worth of anti-pollution equipment on generating facilities that are more than 30 years old, said PSO official Bud Ground. He said it also will dramatically reduce costs that PSO will seek to recover from ratepayers.

"We think it's a very good deal for our customers, for our company and for the state," said Ground, manager of governmental and environmental affairs for PSO, a subsidiary of American Electric Power. "It is very cost effective."

The agreement will bring PSO into compliance with federal guidelines on regional haze and mercury and other air toxins. It was praised by the Oklahoma chapter of the Sierra Club, which called it a victory for public health that will help pave the way for cleaner energy. Coal-fired power plants are a major contributor of ozone-forming pollution.

"Oklahoma must move beyond coal, and AEP-PSO is taking a strong first step here," said Whitney Pearson, a Sierra Club spokeswoman. "EPA has done a great job here working with a utility to create a responsible retirement plan."

### Shelter

the air exchange that goes on. A lot of the airborne diseases won't go cage to cage as such."

The ventilation system, along with a new drainage and cleaning system would add to the reduction of disease in the new shelter. The cat cottages and dog kennels can be split in half, allowing workers to

portable building to the site, Morris called it a temporary fix.

"We've not just outgrown our shelter," he said. "It's at an age that it needs to be replaced."

"The advantages to me and my officers will be numerous, things that you won't see," said Montgomery. "It will increase the ability to

Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Gary Sherrer said he hopes the agreement will serve as a model in similar negotiations involving the federal government.

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"It is always more positive when the federal government. can work cooperatively with thestate government and local companies," Sherrer said. The agreement is subject to approval by the Corporation Commission.

Meanwhile, Oklahoma Gas and Electric Co., the state's largest utility, is pursuing a federal lawsuit it filed that objects to plans by the government to implement a compliance plan, said OG&E spokesman Brian Alford. Alford said installing anti-pollutionequipment on five coal-fired units. OG&E operates would cost more than \$1 billion.

"It would result in the largest rate increase in our company's history," Alford said. "Fuel diversity is important to us. We need to make the best decisions on behalf of our customers."

OG&E's three coal-fired units in Muskogee and two in Red Rock produce a total of about 2,500 megawatts of electricity, Alford said. The plants were built in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"We will do what is required of us," Alford said. "We hope to learn more. As we do we'll take what we learn and continue to evaluate."

PSO serves about 527,000 customers in eastern and southwestern Oklahoma. OG&E serves about 790,000 customers in Oklahoma and western Arkansas.

#### cont. from page 1

be areas where they can sit down, areas that they can sit out and play with a pup," said Montgomery.

"The animals are going to be kept cleaner," he added. "They're going to be kept healthier. The facility is going to be kept cleaner. It will be more inviting to people coming in. and the more people that come in,

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clean part of it while the animal is in the other half.

"It gives us the ability to separate the animals out, to where you don't physically have to pick them up and move them out," said Montgomery. "As it is, that transfers as much disease as anything.'

Space in the tightly packed shelter office has also been an issue, and while the city recently added a

HIGGINS—Terry Ray

Memorial services will

be at 2 p.m. Thursday,

April 26, 2012, at the Car-

Green, 53, died April 21.

2012, in Canadian.

Directors of Pampa.

securely unload the animals. There will be an area where we can pull into and unload our trucks. There's also a sanitation system back in that area that we can wash our trucks out with."

A new, attractive facility could also increase the number of volunteers there and improve the shelter's adoption rate.

"People will come in, and there'll

the better off (we'll be). Montgomery started out with

Pampa's Animal Control back in 1987, and he looks forward to the results of the election.

"For 25 years, this has been a dream, and this is the closest it's ever been," he said. "It's time to vote. It's time to let the people decide what they want to do.'

Obituaries

Grubitz of Pampa; four sons, T.J. Green and wife Lisa of Shattuck, Okla., Brandon Green and wife Meagan of Canadian, Alex Green and Matt Green, both of Higgins; his parents, Ray and Bobbie Green of Pampa; a sister, Lori Green Voss of Pampa; a brother, Jerry Green, of Pampa; an uncle, Donald Provence of Higgins; four grandchildren, Ben Grubitz, Tatum Grubitz, Ethan Green and Emily Green; and two nephews, Koby Starnes and Seth Starnes.

Memorials may be made to Hemphill County Hospice, 1020 S. 4th Street, Canadian, TX 79014.

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

### Jose T. Cervantes, 68

Jose T. Cervantes, 68, died April 23, 2012, in Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

The body will lie in state from 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 24, 2012, until service time at Canaan Christian Church at 905 Beryl.

### Fortherecord

#### **Police Department**

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24 hour period ending Tuesday, April 24 at 7 a.m.

Animal Control agents and Pampa PD reported seven animal related incidents.

Pampa PD reported five traffic related incidents.

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

Monday, April 23 A threat was reported.

Disorderly conduct oc- the 900 block of Denver. curred at the 4000 block of North Bad Cattle Company.

A suspicious vehicle was East Randy Matson.

Fraud was reported at the 200 block of East Brown. A burglary was reported.

A theft occurred at the 300 block of West Foster. A threat was reported at the 1200 block of North Wells.

Disorderly conduct occurred at the 200 block of South Miami. A TABC violation was

reported at the 2500 block of Perryton. **Tuesday, April 24** 

A violation of city ordinance occurred at the 1300

block of North Coffee. A prowler was reported at

A suspicious vehicle was sponsibility. reported at the 300 block of

West Foster. North Starkweather. Sheriff's Office

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

Monday, April 23 Lucio Armendarez, 59, was arrested by police on warrants of failure to appear in court, no rabies vaccine, animal nuisance and parking in a handicap zone.

Jesus Bernal, 42, was arrested by police on capias pro fine warrants of no driver's license and failure to maintain financial re-

Donald Mark Mundell, arrested by police on war-42, was arrested by police rants of public intoxication A suspicious person was for displaying fictitious and failure to appear in reported at the 100 block of reported at the 200 block of license plates, ro valid court. driver's license. ailure to

maintain financial responsibility and non payment of court costs and fines.

Scott Lee Baker, 49, was arrested by police on a capias pro fine warrant of no valid driver's license.

Crystal Vanderburg, 34, was arrested by deputies for driving while intoxicated and disorderly conduct regarding language.

Tracy Dylan Cain, 21, was arrested by police on warrants regarding abandonment or endangerment of a child, interfering with an emergency call and assault causing bodily injury. Tuesday, April 24

Ira Don Hicks, 41, was

penter's Church in Pampa, with Rev. Fred C. Palmer, pastor, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Green Mr. Green was born Feb-

ruary 13, 1959, in Bridgeport. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1961, moving to Higgins three years ago. He was a truck driver for many years and enjoyed being with his family.

Terry Ray Green, 53

Survivors include his wife, Claudene Green of the home; a daughter, Niechelle Green and husband Scott



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The Pampa News — Wednesday, April 23, 2012 — 3A

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### **Blockbuster moves to Colorado**

DENVER (AP) - Blockbuster is moving its worldwide headquarters from McKinney, Texas, to Douglas County, Colorado.

The satellite television provider Dish Network Corp., which bought Blockbuster almost a year ago, also is based in Colorado. Dish said Monday that Blockbuster's move will bring more than 150 management positions to the Denver area over the next five years.

Gov. John Hickenlooper says Dish already employs nearly 5,000 people along the Front Range in Colorado.

### Man sentenced for student sex

BEAUMONT (AP) — An ex-middle school teacher in Southeast Texas has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for having a sexual relationship with a student.

A judge in Beaumont sentenced 51-year-old Timothy Russell Verdon, who formerly taught at Hamshire-Fannett Middle School in Beaumont.

Investigators say the girl was 15 when she met Verdon in 2008.

Verdon in March pleaded guilty to sexual assault of a child and to an improper relationship between an educator and student.

He was sentenced Monday to 15 years on each count, with the prison terms to be served concurrently.

### Mom sentenced for injury to child

LUBBOCK (AP) — A West Texas mother convicted on charges of fracturing her weeks-old daughter's skull has been sentenced to 25 years in prison.

A judge on Monday sentenced 20-year-old Jasmine Nicole Francis of Lubbock on two counts of intentional injury to a child. The girl, Ja'niyah, was 5 weeks old when she was injured in February 2011.

Authorities say the girl may have survived because a piece of skull broke off, allowing for relief from brain swelling.

The Lubbock Avalanche Journal reports that the infant's grandmother took her to the hospital after noticing a bump on the baby's head.

Francis, who faced up to 99 years in prison, testified that she tripped while carrying the girl, and the infant's head hit a wall. A jury found her guilty this month.

### Man used guitar in fatal beating

AUSTIN (AP) — Police say a Central Texas man has been accused of using a guitar to beat his neighbor to death at the victim's apartment.

Travis County Jail records show 42-year-old Peter Levay of Austin was held Tuesday on a murder charge. Bond has been set at \$200,000 for Levay, who was

arrested Monday. Online jail records did not list an attorney for him. Authorities are trying to determine a motive for the

killing of 63-year-old Maurice Eckert. An affidavit says Eckert's body was found Sunday by police after Levay returned home and mentioned an altercation to his roommate. Police say the death appears to have been caused by blunt trauma to the head and the weapon allegedly was a guitar.

# Portrait of woman featured on vase

Q: Enclosed is a photo of a vase that has been in my family for many years. Both my parents are dead, and I am 67 years of age. I believe this vase preceded both my parents. The portrait of the elegant young woman on the vase is against a background that shades from cream to brown, and the interior is a white glaze. Marked on the bottom of the vase are the words "Warwick - Ioga" and the image of a knight. It is in perfect condition.

Please advise me of it history and roughly how much it would be worth on the market today.

A: Warwick China Co. was located in Wheeling, W. Va., from 1887 to 1951. They produced a wide variety of vitreous china that included: portrait vases, dinnerware, jardinieres, bowl and pitcher sets, umbrella stands, and decorative ware. Even though some of their pieces were hand painted, much of their ware was decorated with decals. The "Ioga with a knight" mark remains a mystery as to its meaning and was used from 1905 to 1920.

Your circa 1920s portrait vase would probably be worth \$250 to \$325.



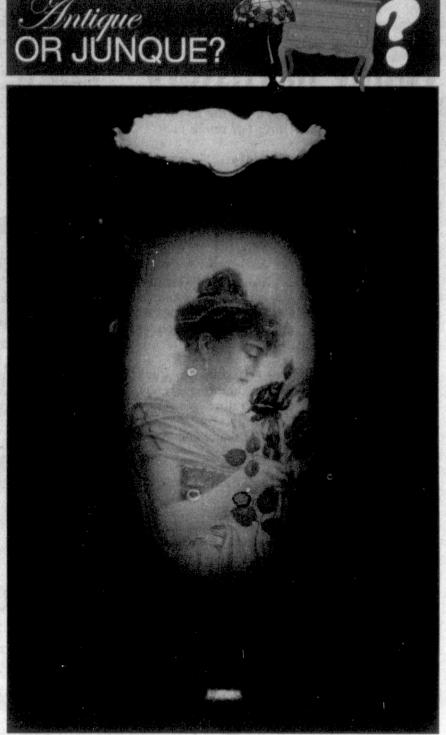
Sarreguemines Faienceries has made earthenware in Lorraine, France, since 1770.

Q: This is a photo of the mark on the back of an earthenware plate that I inherited from my mother. The set includes 6 plates all 8 inches in diameter, and they are in perfect condition. They are white and decorated with European village scenes and blue and pink flowers on the borders.

I would like to know more information about them and also if they have any value.

A: Sarreguemines Faienceries has made earthenware in Lorraine, France, since 1770. Your plates are examples of their "Obernai" pattern. It was designed by Henri Loux around 1930 and was inspired by

ity



Warwick China Co. used the "loga" mark from 1905 to 1920.

the villages of Obernai, France. The scenes are transfer prints and feature landscapes, people, animals, castles, and homes.

Each dish can be found selling in antiques shops in the range of \$75 to \$125.

Q: I have a Tom Thumb toy cash register that I had when I was a child in the 1950s. It is green metal and is about 8 inches high. Is it "Antique or Junque"?

A: Tom Thumb toy cash registers are neither antique nor junque; they are collectibles. They were made by Western Stamping Co. in Michigan in the mid- 20th century. It would probably be worth \$75 to

\$100. Address your questions to Anne

### Slain mother remembered

WILLIS (AP) - A Houston-area woman who was fatally shot trying to save her newborn son from being abducted is being fondly remembered as a mother who lived for her children and fought for one of them until death.

Family and friends gathered at 28-year-old Kala Golden-Schuchardt's funeral service Tuesday afternoon at a church in Willis, about 50 miles north of Houston.

She was buried near her home in the Houston suburb of Spring.

The 30-year-old nurse accused of fatally shooting Golden-Schuchardt on April 17 outside a pediatric center in Spring and abducting the baby is being held without bond on a capital murder charge.

The baby was found hours later, unharmed and with the suspect's sister.

Investigators believe Verna McClain was desperate for a baby after suffering a miscarriage.

### Fiance unaware of miscarriage

HOUSTON (AP) — The fiance of the woman charged with fatally shooting a Houston-area mother and snatching her 3-day-old child says he thought she had given birth in Galveston weeks earlier and that the baby was being treated in a hospital.

Kevin Carter, 26, says he wasn't aware Verna McClain had suffered a miscarriage and didn't know about it until he saw the news reports of McClain's arrest for gunning down Kala Golden, of Spring.

Authorities believe McClain was so desperate for a child that last week she abducted Golden's infant after shooting the mother.

Carter told Houston television station KPRC on Tuesday he and McClain had planned a May 5 wedding that would have occurred regardless of her miscarriage. He also said he hasn't spoken with McClain since her arrest.

### Fleeing man takes patrol car

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A man who fled a North Texas courthouse to avoid possible arrest has been hurt after a chase in which he allegedly stole and wrecked a police car.

Fort Worth police say the man and the female driver of an SUV also involved in Tuesday's accident have been taken to a hospital. Further details on their conditions were not immediately available.

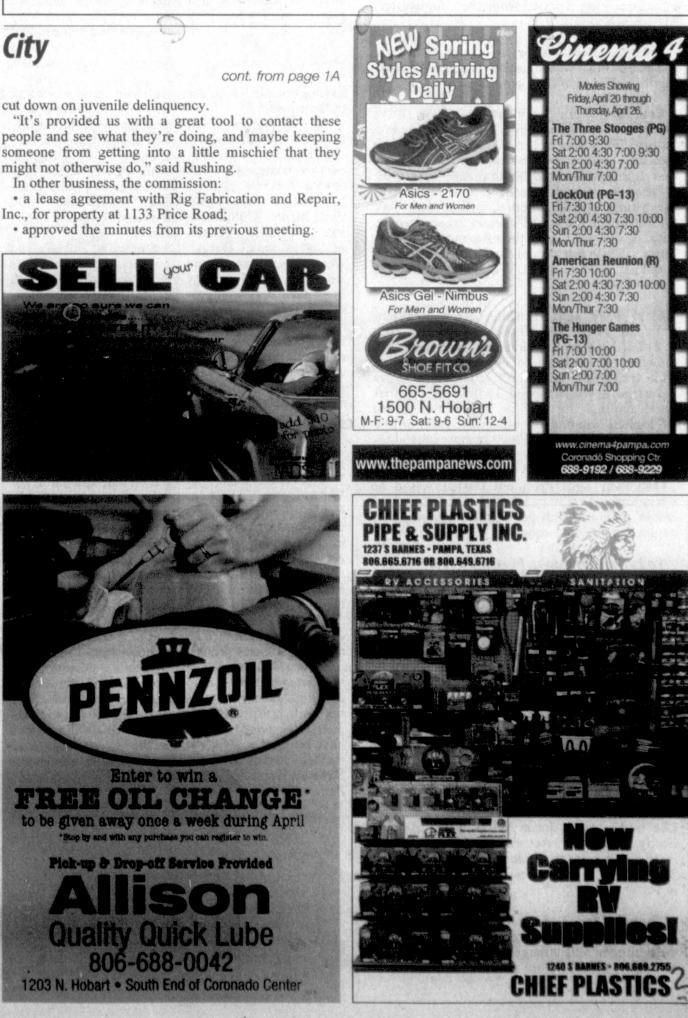
Police say the incident began when a man bolted from a Tarrant County courthouse during a routine background check. A female police officer ran after the man, but he jumped into her patrol car and sped off.

The patrol car ran a couple of red lights and hit an SUV at an intersection.

Further details on why the man might have been arrested were not immediately available.

www.thepampanews.com

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.







THOUGHT

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PICK MY RUNNING MATE...

de à

# **Today in History**

Today is Wednesday, April 25, the 116th day of 2012. There are 250 days left in the year.

#### **Today's Highlight in History:**

On April 25, 1862, during the Civil War, a Union fleet commanded by Flag Officer David G. Farragut captured the city of New Orleans.

#### On this date:

In 1507, a world map produced by German cartographer Martin Waldseemueller contained the first recorded use of the term "America," in honor of Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci (vehs-POO'-chee).

In 1792, highwayman Nicolas Jacques Pelletier became the first person under French law to be executed by the guillotine.

In 1859, ground was broken for the Suez Canal.

In 1898, the United States formally declared war on Spain.

In 1901, New York Gov. Benjamin Barker Odell Jr. signed an automobile registration bill which imposed a 15 mph speed limit on highways.

In 1915, during World War. I, Allied soldiers invaded the Gallipoli (guh-LIHP'-uh-lee) Peninsula in an unsuccessful attempt to take the Ottoman Empire out of the war.

In 1944, the United Negro College Fund was founded.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. and Soviet forces linked up on the Elbe (EL'-beh) River, a meeting that dramatized the collapse of Nazi Germany's defenses. Delegates from some 50 countries met in San Francisco to organize the United Nations.

In 1959, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened to shipping.

In 1972, Polaroid Corp. introduced its SX-70 folding camera, which ejected self-developing photographs. Actor George Sanders was found dead in his hotel room near Barcelona, Spain; he was 65

# D.C. delicate about Secret Service scandal

#### LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The widening Secret Service prostitution scandal has touched off a delicate dance in Washington.

From President Barack Obama on down, people are loath to criticize an agency whose employees are trained to take a bullet for others.

"The Secret Service, these guys are incredible. They protect me. They protect Michelle. They protect the girls," Obama said Tuesday on NBC's "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." "A couple of knuckleheads shouldn't detract from what they do.'

suspended the security clearances of the military personnel being investigated. As many as 20 prostitutes were involved with the group, officials say. None are believed to be underage.

The incident came to light after one of the prostitutes argued with a Secret Service agent over her payment in a hallway of the Caribe hotel. Local law enforcement intervened on the prostitute's behalf. Paid sex is legal in Cartagena, but violates codes of conduct for U.S. personnel who were working there.

ers his department has Mrs. Obama told the U.S. John Boehner demurred, Secret Service employees in October. "For us, it's like having family around."

> The Secret Service also shadows presidential candidates and their families. Republican frontrunner Mitt Romney is said to be close to his detail. Aides have said Romney sometimes eats dinner in his hotel room instead of dining in public, which requires an entourage and more agents at work. Ordering in allows some agents to

saying he's interested right now in finding out just what happened in Cartagena. A pair of aggressive House chairmen have deferred to the Secret Service probe, promised to monitor it and left open the prospect of launching their own highly public investigations.

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Across the Capitol, Iowa Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, one of his chamber's most dogged investigators, made public a letter to

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DID.

In 1983, Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov invited Samantha Smith to visit his country after receiving a letter from the Manchester, Maine, schoolgirl.

In 1992, Islamic forces in Afghanistan took control of most of the capital of Kabul following the collapse of the Communist government.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush hosted Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia at his Texas ranch for a day of talks. The House voted 405-9 to abolish the embattled Immigration and Naturalization Service. A Russian rocket blasted into orbit, carrying South African Internet millionaire Mark Shuttleworth, the world's second space tourist. Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes, the effervescent, sometimes volatile member of the Grammy-winning trio TLC, died in an SUV crash in Honduras: she was 30.

Five years ago: Brushing off a presidential veto threat, the House passed, 218-208, a \$124.2 billion supplemental spending bill ordering U.S. troops to begin coming home from Iraq in the fall of 2007. The Dow Jones industrial average topped 13,000 for the first time, ending the day at 13,089.89. Rosie O'Donnell announced she was leaving the ABC talk show "The View" in June (she actually left in late May).

One year ago: President Bashar Assad of Syria sent the military into the southern city of Daraa, where an anti-government uprising had begun the previous month.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director-writer Paul Mazursky is 82. Actor Al Pacino is 72. Ballroom dance judge Len Goodman (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 68. Rock musician Stu Cook (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 67. Singer Bjorn Ulvaeus (ABBA) is 67. Actress Talia Shire is 66. Actor Jeffrey DeMunn is 65. Rock musician Michael Brown (The Left Banke) is 63. Rock musician Steve Ferrone (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers) is 62. Country singer-songwriter Rob Crosby is 58. Actor Hank Azaria is 48. Rock singer Andy Bell (Erasure) is 48. Rock musician Eric Avery (Jane's Addiction) is 47. Country musician Rory Feek (Joey + Rory) is 47. TV personality Jane Clayson is 45. Actress Renee Zellweger is 43. Actress Gina Torres is 43. Actor Jason Lee is 42. Actor Jason Wiles is 42. Actress Emily Bergl is 37. Actress Marguerite Moreau is 35. Singer Jacob Underwood is 32. Actress Sara Paxton is 24. Actress Allisyn Ashley Arm is 16.

Thought for Today: "I think it is all a matter of love: the more you love a memory, the stronger and stranger it is." - Vladimir Nabokov, Russian-born author (1899-1977).

Members of Congress pressing for the juicy stories risk reviving --- or having revealed — some of their own.

Yet all parties claim to want the truth about the extent of sworn officers working for one of the nation's premier law enforcement agencies hiring Colombian workers ahead sex of President Barack Obama's visit there and whether national security may have been compromised.

Spinning the facts as they emerge poses more risk: The Secret Service and the military are supposed to be above politics, dedicated to protecting presidents, their families and the nation.

"Sure, it creates a problem for President Obama. It adds to the sense that Washington is broken. But if the Republicans try to make this a point in their arguments, they are making a big mistake," GOP strategist Karl Rove said on "Fox News Sunday."

A dozen Secret Service personnel and another 12 military enlistees preparing for Obama's visit to Cartagena are being investigated for cavorting with prostitutes. Six Secret Service agents have been let go over the incident, and on Monday, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told report-

Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan launched an investigation and requested an independent probe by the Homeland Security Department's general. inspector Sullivan ousted some of those implicated and, perhaps as importantly, he busily briefed key members of Congress who left no doubt they would hold public hearings should they find his investigation insufficient.

For now, there's no complaint about the swift pace of the fallout or Sullivan's thoroughness. But there's been much discretion, strategic question-asking and even notable silence from some members of Congress, uncharacteristic restraint in a tense election year sizzling with gender politics.

Obama has coolly urged a rigorous investigation and said that if the allegations prove true, he would be angry.

For any president, a Secret Service scandal creates discomfort. Members of the agency's elite protective service help the first family feel safe in the public glare.

It's a fairly intimate relationship, First Lady Michelle Obama told members of the Secret Service last year. The president, their daughters and she playfully argued at the dinner table over their favorite agents, she said.

"We love our detail,"

clock out.

But the former Massachusetts governor suggested a lack of leadership led to the scandal and left no doubt what he'd do if it had happened on his watch.

"I'd clean house," Romney told radio host Laura Ingraham. "The right thing to do is to remove people who have violated the public trust and have put their play time and their personal interests ahead of the interests of the nation."

Among key Republicans on Capitol Hill, there was support for Sullivan and deference to his investigation — a recognition by some in Congress that the scandal needs no spinning and that any congressional action must have credibility with voters.

It's about national security, Republicans say. But there's no question the hubbub also is about illicit sex, a topic not eagerly discussed by a long list of lawmakers who have transgressed in that department.

Louisiana Republican Sen. David Vitter, for example, admitted in 2007 to a "serious sin" after his telephone number had appeared in the records of a Washingtonarea escort service that authorities said was a front for prostitution. Vitter, a member of the Armed Services Committee, won re-election in 2010.

Asked how much responsibility Obama should be taking for the scandal, House Speaker

Sullivan that implied he believed more U.S. personnel in Cartagena that week were worth investigating. As examples, Grassley named the White House Communications Agency (and the president's advance staff. Was Sullivan investigating them?

"If not, why not?" Grassley wrote.

A 12th member of the military, assigned to the WHCA, was implicated in the scandal and on Monday was relieved of his duties at the White House. Presidential spokesman Jay Carney, meanwhile, confirmed that the White House counsel had done his own investigation and ruled out any misconduct among White House employees who helped arrange Obama's trip.

Distancing the White House from the scandal, Carney said the internal investigation was conducted out of an abundance of caution and not as the result of evidence of misconduct. And he made clear, over and over again, that WHCA, despite its name, is a military unit and not a White House one.

The gender politics that have infused every phase of the 2012 election make the issue especially sensitive.

"I can't help but wonder if there'd been more women as part of that detail if this ever would have happened," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said Sunday on ABC News' "This Week."

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 verifica-
- tion. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.

. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of The Pampa News or its staff.



The Pampa News — Wednesday, April 25, 2012 — 5A



#### **ANDREW GLOVER** aglover@thepampanews.com

Paint This Town Red ministries invite the public to join them 6 p.m. Saturday for a free dinner at the Optimist Club to get to know the church.

"We want to give people the opportunity to learn about who we are," lead pastor CJ Frazier said. "We will be discussing some of our vision. What better way to do that than spending time breaking bread together,"

The church has held Saturday night services at the Optimist Club since the first of the year. Frazier said the services have gone well.

"All the leaders at the Optimist Club have been great in letting us use their facility," Frazier said. "It feels like home. It's nice to have a place where we can love on people

### GOD'S GOOD NEWS Joy in the face of opposition

and a deep love for God

#### DAVID BOULER

Highland Park Baptist Church

In his classic work, "The Imitation Of Christ," Thomas Kempis wrote, "It is good that we at times endure opposition, and that we are evilly and unruly judged when our actions and intentions are good. Could I encourage you,

that when you face opposition, to let it sharpen you? Allow it to build into your life focus and perspective. Permit the yieldedness to the Holy Spirit

to control your reactions. John Hull tells the story of being in Badger Stadium in Madison, Wisc., on a beautiful fall Saturday afternoon in 1982. Michigan State had the better team and was beating the Badgers. What was strange, however, as the score became more and more in favor of MSU, there were bursts of applause and loud cheers from the Wisconsin fans.

Seventy miles away, the Milwaukee Brewers were beating the St. Louis Cardinals in game three

of the 1982 World Series. Many of the fans at the football game were listening to the World Series on their radios and were responding to the baseball game rather than the defeat of their football team.

Let me remind all of us. Our perspective on life does not come from the ups and downs here on Earth.

David Bouler is a pastor at Highland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn

### Pampa Church Directory

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1700 Alcock

665-8192

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Pampa TX 79065

Pampa TX 79065

**Bible Baptist Church** 500 E. Kingsmill Ave. Pampa TX 79065 669-7830 Briarwood Full Gospel Church 1800 W. Harvester Avenue Pampa TX 79065

525 N. Grav Pampa TX 79065 665-7201 Calvary Assembly of 665-1031 **God Church** 1030 Love Street Pampa TX 79065 669-7207 **Calvary Baptist** 900 E. 23rd Street Pampa TX 79065 665-0842 **Carpenter's Church** 639 S. Barnes Pampa TX 79065 669-2720 **Central Baptist Church** 513 E. Francis Pampa TX 79065 665-1631 **Church of Christ** 1342 Mary Ellen Pampa TX 79065 665-0031 Church of Christ Somerville 500 N. Somerville Pampa TX 79065 665-0004 **Church of God** Gwendolen & Sumner Pampa TX 79065 669-6372 **Church of Jesus Christ** of the Latter Day Saints 411 East 29th Ave. Pampa TX 79065 669-2967 **Church of the Nazarene** 500 N. West Pampa TX 79065 669-3144 uel **Community Christian** School 1801 W. Harvester Pampa, TX 79065 662-3393 **Cornerstone Baptist** Church 2410 W. 23rd Ave. Pampa TX 79065 669-6509 Crosspointe 711 E. Harvester Pampa TX 79065 665-2480 **Faith Bible Church** 110 W. Kingsmill Pampa TX 79065 688-9266 **Fellowship Baptist** Church 1936 N. Wells Pampa TX 79065 665-2747 **Fellowship Baptist** Church 622 E. Francis Pampa TX 79065 665-5976 First Assembly of God 500 S. Cuyler Pampa TX 79065 665-5941 **First Baptist Church** 203 N. West Pampa TX 79065 669-1155 **First Christian Church** 1633 N. Nelson Pampa TX 79065 669-3225 First Freewill Baptist Church 731 Sloan St. Church

404 Harlem Pampa TX 79065 First Pentecostal Holi-665-4044 **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church** 912 S. Gray St Pampa TX 79065 First Presbyterian 665-4044 New Life Assembly of God 1435 N. Sumner First United Methodist Pampa TX 79065

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submitted photo

Joyce and Lyndon Fields prepare to ride in Louisiana. The couple will join others on May 3 in a procession around Loop 171 to observe the National Day of Prayer.

## **Reminder:** National Day of Prayer events in Pampa set for next week

#### THE PAMPA NEWS

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The National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 3. This will be the 61st year of the special occasion to offer up prayer for our government, city, schools, businesses and many more.

All motorcyclists are invited to be at Recreation Park at 6 p.m. to circle the loop in a procession and pray for Pampa and Gray County. They will then return to Recreation Park about 6:30 p.m., with the community invited to join in a gathering of praise and worship.

There will also be a noon gathering at M.K.

Brown Heritage Room. Everyone in the community is encouraged to join for at least one prayer time, maybe both.

A service at the Rufe Jordan Prison Unit is also planned.

"We are excited that we will be having an observance at the prison," said Darlene Lewis, local National Day of Prayer coordinator. "Of course, that service is closed, but we have great volunteers who will be doing that service.

"We are excited to see what God is going to do in Pampa as we all humble ourselves and pray.

For more information, call Lewis at 440-4489.

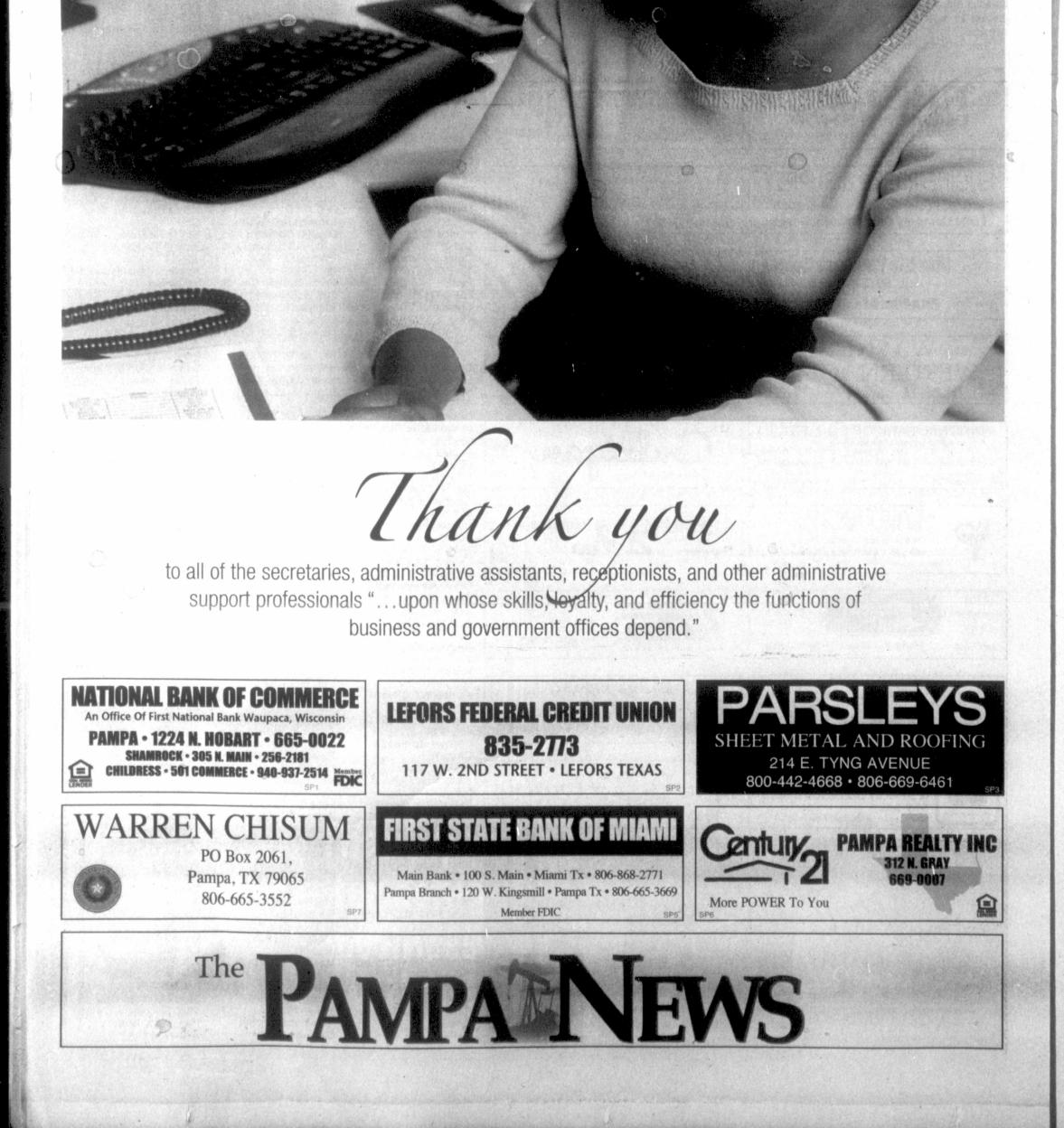


Foster & Ballard Pampa TX 79065 669-7411 Gateway of Grace Ministries 720 W. Francis Pampa TX 79065 806-336-4427 **Grace Baptist Church** 824 S. Barnes Pampa TX 79065 669-7967 Harvest Fellowship **Baptist Church** 2700 W. Kentucky Ave. Pampa TX 79065 665-4922 Harvest Bible Church 300 W. Browning Avenue Pampa TX 79065 669-2923 **Hobart Baptist Church** 1100 W. Crawford Pampa TX 79065 669-3212 **Hi-land Christian** Church 1615 N. Banks Pampa TX 79065 669-6700 **Highland Baptist** Church 1301 N. Banks Pampa TX 79065 665-3300 Iglesia Bautista Eman-1021 S. Barnes Pampa TX 79065 665-4330 Iglesia Casa Del Alfarero 500 N. Duncan Pampa TX 79065 665-5898 Iglesia Cristiana Canaan Pampa TX 79065 905 E. Beryl St. Pampa TX 79065 669-3330 Iglesia Nueva Vida New Life Church 1200 S. Sumner Pampa, TX 79065 665-8331 Jehovah's Witnesses 1701 Coffee Pampa TX 79065 669-9355 Kentucky Ave. Church of Christ 1612 W. Kentucky Pampa TX 79065 665-2572 **Lighthouse Baptist** Church 725 W. Browning Pampa TX 79065 665-0262 **Lighthouse Covenant** Fellowship 1733 N. Banks St. Pampa TX 79065 669-6915 **Macedonia Baptist** Church 441 Elm Pampa TX 79065 665-4926 **New Hope Baptist** 

665-0804 **Open Door Church of God in Christ** 402 Oklahoma Pampa TX 79065 665-6132 Pampa Chapel of the **Apostolic Faith** 711 E. Harvester Pampa TX 79065 669-9635 Priest Park Church of God 731 N. Faulkner Pampa TX 79065 688-0174 Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana 541 Hamilton Pampa TX 79065 665-8347 **Redeemer Pampa** 225 N. Cuyler Pampa, TX 79065 Salvation Army 701 S. Cuyler Pampa TX 79065 665-7233 Seventh Day Adventist Church 421 N. Ward Pampa TX 79065 665-4492 Southside Church of Christ 11927 McCullough Pampa TX 79065 665-2183 St. Paul United Methodist Church 511 N. Hobart Pampa TX 79065 665-8951 St. Mark CME Church 406 Elm Ave 665-6743 St. Matthews Episcopal Church 727 W. Browning Pampa TX 79065 665-0701 St. Vincent de Paul **Catholic Church** 810 W. 23rd Ave. Pampa TX 79065 665-8933 Straight-Up Fellowship 400 N. Wells Pampa TX 79065 664-0096 **Trinity Fellowship** Church 2225 N. Hobart Pampa TX 79065 665-3255 **United Pentecostal** Church 610 Naida Pampa TX 79065 665-3676 **United Methodist** Church 201 E. Foster Pampa TX 79065 669-9371 **Zion Lutheran Church** 1200 Duncan Pampa TX 79065 669-2774



# Administrative Professionals Day April 25



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The Pampa News — Wednesday, April 25, 2012 — 7A

# Former BP engineer first arrested in Gulf oil spill case

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Federal prosecutors brought the first criminal charges Tuesday in the Gulf oil spill, accusing a former BP engineer of deleting more than 300 text messages that indicated the blown-out well was spewing far more crude than the company was telling the public at the time.

Two years and four days after the drilling-rig explosion that set off the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, Kurt Mix, 50, of Katy, Texas, was arrested and charged with two counts of obstruction of justice for allegedly destroying evidence.

The U.S. Justice Department made it clear that the investigation is still going on and suggested that more people could be arrested. In a statement, Attorney General Eric Holder said prosecutors "will hold accountable those who violated the law in connection with the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history."

Federal investigators have been looking into the causes of the blowout and the actions of managers, engineers and rig workers at BP and its subcontractors Halliburton and Transocean in the days and hours before the April 20, 2010, explosion.

But the case against Mix focuses only on the aftermath of the blast, when BP scrambled for weeks to plug the leak. Even then, the charges are not really about the disaster itself, but about an alleged attempt to thwart the investigation into it.

In court papers, the FBI said one of the areas under investigation is whether the oil company intentionally lowballed the amount of crude spewing from the well.

In outlining the charges, the government suggested Mix knew the rate of flow from the busted well was much greater than the company publicly acknowledged.

Prosecutors also said BP gave the public an optimistic account of its May 2010 efforts to plug the well via a technique called a "top kill," even though the company's internal data and some of the text messages showed the operation was likely to fail.

An accurate flow-rate estimate is necessary to deter- said the top kill could probably handle.

mine how much in penalties BP and its subcontractors could face under the Clean Water Act. In court papers, prosecutors appeared to suggest the company was also worried about the effect of the disaster on its stock price.

The charges came a day before a federal judge was to consider granting preliminary approval of a \$7.8 billion civil settlement between BP and a committee of plaintiffs.

In a statement, BP said it is cooperating with the Justice Department and added: "BP had clear policies requiring preservation of evidence in this case and has undertaken substantial and ongoing efforts to preserve evidence."

The FBI said in court papers that Mix had been repeatedly notified by BP that instant messages and text messages needed to be preserved.

Mix, who resigned from BP in January, appeared on Tuesday afternoon before a judge in Houston, shackled at his hands and feet, and was released on \$100,000 bail. His attorney had no comment afterward. If convicted, Mix could get up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.

The engineer deleted more than 200 messages sent to a BP supervisor from his iPhone containing information about how much oil was spilling out, then erased 100 more messages to a contractor the following year, prosecutors said. Some of the messages were later recovered via forensic computer techniques.

Many of the messages had to do with an effort to plug up the well with heavy mud injected under high pressure.

In public statements, the company professed optimismthat the top kill would work, giving it a 60 to 70 percent chance of success.

On the day the top kill began, Mix estimated in a text to his supervisor that more than 15,000 barrels of oil per day were spilling — three times BP's public estimate of 5,000 barrels and an amount much greater than what BP said the top kill could probably handle. At the end of the first day, Mix texted his supervisor: "Too much flow rate — over 15,000 and too large an orifice." Despite Mix's findings, BP continued to make public statements that the top kill was proceeding according to plan, prosecutors said. On May 29, the top kill was halted and BP announced its failure.

The company's stock dropped 15 percent on the next trading day, the government said.

David Uhlmann, a University of Michigan law professor who was chief of the Justice Department's environmental crimes section, said the charges are probably "just the first of what will be multiple criminal charges."

"It could be the sign that the government believes there was a more far-reaching cover-up about the size of the spill," he said.

BP stock closed at \$41.91 Tuesday, a drop of just 4 cents. Analysts said investors evidently recognized the charges involved just one, low-ranking employee and saw no hint yet of any kind of larger cover-up on BP's part.

The explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig killed 11 workers. More than 200 million gallons of crude oil leaked from the well off the Louisiana coast before it was capped.

Under the Clean Water Act, polluters can be fined \$1,100 to \$4,300 per barrel of spilled oil, with the higher amount imposed if the government can show the disaster was caused by gross negligence.

Al Sunseri, whose family-owned oyster business was damaged by the spill, said there was little real news in the arrest of Mix. "I personally believe it's so involved that we could never really understand the magnitude of the bad players involved," he said.

Billy Nungesser, president of hard-hit Plaquemines Parish who has long accused BP of misleading the public about the spill, said: "We're just glad that the truth, and all the truth, will come out. Where crimes were committed, BP needs to pay the price."

# Drug cartel boss 'El Chapo,' 23 others federally indicted

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Federal officials unsealed a new federal indictment Tuesday against Mexico's mostwanted drug boss Joaquin Guzman Loera, known as "El Chapo," leader of the Sinaloa cartel and one of the world's richest men.

The 14-count indictment was returned April 11, but federal officials announced it Tuesday in El Paso. The 28-page indictment names Guzman and "co-leader of the cartel" Ismael Zambada Garcia, along with 22 other men. It alleges they were involved in the operations and management of the cartel, which they say has moved thousands of kilograms of cocaine and marijuana into the U.S. and used the profits to wage war against their rivals and the Mexican government. The indictment targets the infrastructure of the Sinaloa Cartel, officials said. Although Guzman and Zambada have been indicted elsewhere in the U.S., this indictment focuses on their operations in the El Paso area, Ciudad Juarez and the Mexican state of Chihuahua. "There are several assassins and hit-squad leaders, this is a blow to their infrastructure" said Joseph Arabit, special agent in charge of the El Paso division of DEA.

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The indictment details the cell structure of the Sinaloa Cartel in Chihuahua and names their top lieutenants and several of their alleged assassins. Authorities said a number of those indicted are in Mexican custody and that they will seek their extradition but could not specify which members are cur-

and he and Zambada Garcia aka "Mayo," both named in the El Paso indictment, were also indicted previously in Chicago and Brooklyn. This latest indictment includes two incidents in which U.S. residents were killed on cartel orders of Torres Marrufo.

Torres Marrufo allegedly coordinated cocaine and marijuana shipments through Juarez to the U.S., according to the indictment. In September 2009, he ordered a team to kidnap someone in Horizon City, Texas, who had lost a 670-pound load of marijuana to law enforcement in Sierra Blanca. The person was taken to Juarez, tortured and killed. His mutilated body was found later in Juarez. In May 2010, Torres Marrufo had a groom kidnapped from his wedding in Juarez along with his brother and uncle, according to the indictment. The three were tortured and killed. Police found their bodies days later in the bed of a pickup in Juarez. A fourth person was killed in the kidnapping. If convicted, the defendants face sentences of up to life in a federal prison. Both Guzman and Zambada Garcia are charged with at least one count of murder that could result in the death



rently detained. One of those indicted is cartel lieutenant Jose Antonio Torres Marrufo, arrested in Mexico last February.

"This indictment has been years in the making, the focus is to dismantle the cartel by focusing on their upper echelon," said FBI Special Ågent in Charge of the El Paso Division Mark Morgan. Morgan said federal agents started working on the indictment back in 2000, at the time when Guzman escaped from a Mexican prison.

Authorities say the Sinaloa cartel's efforts in recent years to control lucrative smuggling routes through Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, across the border from El Paso, have unleashed waves of violence.

The U.S. has previously offered a \$5 million reward leading to Guzman's capture.

This was not Guzman's one cou first U.S. indictment. He could re was previously indicted penalty. in, Arizona, San Diego

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April 25, 2012





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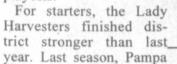


# The PAMPA NEWS Sports



# Lady Harvesters in good position entering playoffs

The Pampa Lady Harvesters enter the 2012 playoffs in similar position as last year, earning a bye in the bidistrict round. This season, Pampa is in better position and should have a deeper run in the playoffs.



run-ruled Dalhart but allowed Borger to stick around, having to win in a shootout. The Lady Harvesters beat Perryton in a high-scoring game. In two of the three games, Pampa committed several errors. This season, Pampa won two games by run-rule and shut down Borger. By winning decisively, the Lady Harvesters proved that they are the top team in the district and one of the better teams in Class 3A. The big wins also give Pampa momentum entering the playoffs.

This year's team is more experienced. Last season, most of the players were in their first season as starters. Also, having a bye was different. This year, most of Pampa's starters returned. With having more experience, the team knows what to expect and can prepare more efficiently. Losing in the playoffs last season

showed the team that it has to step up its game in the playoffs.

The Lady Harvesters' area round loss to Midland Greenwood taught them that the good teams in 3A are good teams. I remember interviewing players last year and one of them saying, 'Our opponent better be scared because we

are 9-0 in district.' Let me tell you how much Pampa's district record is worth in the postseason: as much as beating Caprock in the season opener meant going into district. In other words, it means absolutely nothing. The Lady Harvesters' opponent may not be undefeated in district but it will be playing its best softball at the end of the season. Pampa's opponent will also enter the series coming off a series victory. I think this year's team understands that and is more focused on the playoffs than last season.

Head coach Bobbi Gill said her team is ready to play. For an opponent, that's dangerous. Pampa usually performs well when it's ready to play. Last month when they were siiting around in Fort Worth for a couple of days before getting to play, the Lady Harvesters jumped out on Forth Worth North Side. Pampa did the same thing in Dalhart on April 10, scoring five runs in the first inning after the game was delayed for 30 minutes because the umpires didn't show up. I can only imagine what will happen next weekend, when the Lady Harvesters take the field in the area round.

Pampa has the tools to go on a lengthy playoff run. Since the end of non-district, the team is hitting the ball and running the bases well. Sophomore Alexa O'Brien has developed into a shutdown pitcher, posting double digit strikeouts in several starts. The Lady Harvesters are definitely in good position to deliver a postseason victory that the Pampa faithful have been anxiously waiting for.

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

## Clemens' attorney criticizes government

ANDREW

**GLOVER** 

WASHINGTON (AP) and his index finger raised Roger Clemens' lawyer wagged his finger. His voice cracked. He called himself Columbo. He claimed evidence had been manipulated. He appealed to the jurors' hearts as well as their heads in his opening state-ment Tuesday in defense of the seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

"God help me if we have reached a stage in this country where we make a federal case of denying you committed a crime," Rusty Hardin said in a hushed voice at the end of a presentation that lasted more than an hour and drew no fewer than four objections from the government.

"Our government should prosecute somebody for saying 'I did not do it.

emphatically in a not-sosubtle attempt to play to the popular notion that the case is a waste of taxpayer money.

At one point, Hardin fumbled at the podium, looking for a piece of paper. "I'm not acting like Columbo. I am Columbo," he said to the jurors, some of whom smiled at the reference of the 1970s television detective show.

Hardin called the case "a tale of two men" -Clemens and Clemens' former strength coach, Brian McNamee. McNamee, the government's key witness, has said he injected Clemens with steroids and HGH and kept a needle and some gauze from one of the inject tions. Hardin said the evidence collected by McNamee is "mixed-up hodgepodge of garbage," and showed a photo of a slightly crushed beer can in which some of it was kept. He contended that the needle was used to inject Clemens with vitamin B12 and later altered by McNamee to make it appear that it had been used for steroids. The lawyer tried to call into question McNamee's motives, showing the jury the cover of an unpublished manuscript called, "Death, Taxes and MAC: The Autobiography of Brian McNamee," with the "X" in "Taxes" formed by two crossed syringes. "Is there any market for this book if he hadn't made these allegations about Roger Clemens?" asked Hardin, who also showed a picture of McNamee appearing on the Howard Stern show in 2009.



Less theatrical, but just as self-assured, was the voice of Clemens himself, heard on an audio tape in one of the first pieces of evidence presented at the trial.

"I have never used steroids," Clemens is heard saying without hesitation during a 2008 deposition on Capitol Hill. "Never performance-enhancing steroids."

Clemens' confidence and Hardin's Texas charm featured prominently on Day 6 of the retrial that seeks to determine whether Clemens lied to Congress --- at the deposition and at a hearing that followed — when he denied using steroids and human growth hormone. The first attempt to bring the case to court ended in a mistrial when the government introduced inadmissible evidence.

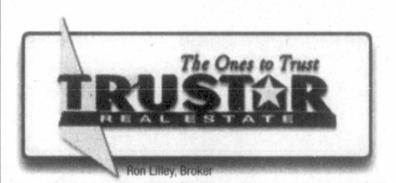
The jury also heard from the trial's first witness, congressional staffer Phil Barnett, who happened to be on the stand when the mistrial was declared last July. The government is using Barnett to help establish that Congress had the right to conduct its hearings on drug use in sports.

The court adjourned early in the afternoon for the rest of the week because the judge had a previously scheduled out-of-town trip. The trial is scheduled to resume Monday.

Hardin's opening statement was a contrast to the more pedantic approach Monday from prosecutor Steven Durham, who attempted to link together many dates and facts designed to portray Clemens as an all-star who took performance-enhancing drugs to lengthen his career and then became "trapped in a web" of lies to cover up his actions.

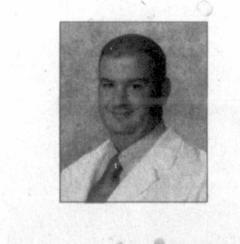
Hardin is known as a master of connecting with jurors, and he had no trouble grabbing their attention. He was at his most riveting when he displayed a map of the United States showing all the locations of the people the government had interviewed in an attempt to gather evidence against Clemens

"One hundred three federal law enforcement officers over whether a baseplayer used steroids!" ball said Hardin, his voice rising The baseball and softball seniors pose before Saturday's baseball game against Dalhart. The game was the second to last home game for baseball. Softball played its final two home games on Saturday. From left: Alanna Stephens, Cole Engle, McKinlee Stokes, Jared Lusk, Nakayla Hardman, Devin Coleman, Heather Coffee, Collin Killgo, Harley Mayfield, Zach Graves and Kaylene Wyant.



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# Senior Killgo develops into leader for Harvesters

Sports

#### ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

2B

Collin Killgo was in his sophomore season when he found out that he was moving up to varsity.

emerging as a power hitter, and moved into the clean-up spot in the batting order by his senior year. This season, Killgo had a monumental game against Perryton on April 6, hitting three home runs.

"I was just trying to hit line drives and





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The Pampa News - Wednesday, April 25, 2012 - 3B





let the other person know you are there if he or she has more to share. A sudden insight might encourage you to close down and say less. Tonight: With favorite people at favorite places.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

a problem. You could be overwhelmed by the present state of affairs. Someone keeps throwing you a curveball. You might be a bit exhausted by this person's attempt to start a rumble. Tonight: Your accept an invitation. Do your thing. treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

want. Create a logical plan and go after your desires. You could be overwhelmed by someone you have to deal with. This person adds an erratic element to your life; you might need to establish more R distance. Tonight: Do what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

citing news to yourself, but you'll do it. emotional risk easily might land you Do not pressure yourself as much to deal exactly where you want to be. Make a with a problematic situation. Let it go. Only then will change become possible. Tonight: You need some extra Z's.

tive to others' comments. A child or loved one easily could be more rebellious than before. Tonight: Visit with a friend or loved one over dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\*\* Others might find you to \*\*\*\* Be aware of a need to clear up be controlling at times. Lose the image when you say "yes" to an offer to pitch in. As others learn to walk in your footsteps, their opinions in the next few months will be revised. Tonight: You do not have to AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

\*\*\* You can only be distracted for \*\*\*\* Visualize more of what you so long. Suddenly you recognize just how much is on your plate. Jump right in and start tackling a lot of your errands and to-dos. Unexpected events will force you to regroup. Tonight: Get some R and

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\* Taking a risk financially could  $\star \star \star$  It might be difficult to keep ex- cause a problem. On the other hand, an phone call you have been putting off. Be willing to put yourself on the line. Tonight: Let the good times roll.



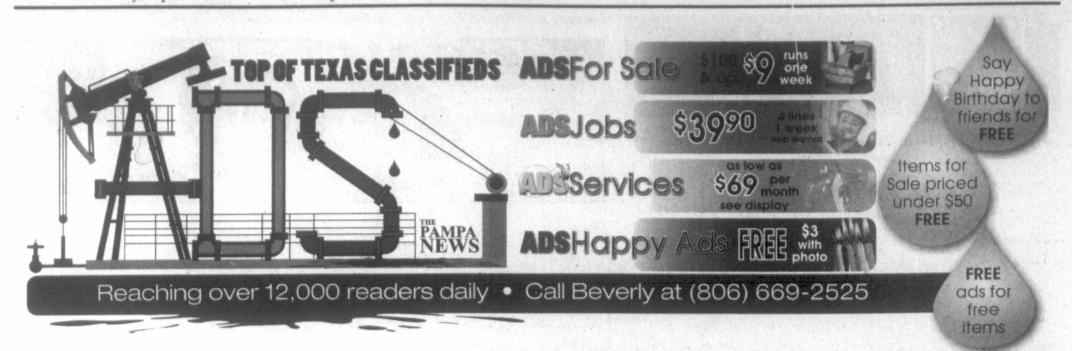








Peanuts



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	tree trim (806)274-8926	Single Hand	Chemical Delivery Driver		Scott 580-236-5358.	rea Hardworker Out	CALL 665-1212	dry, W/D hookups in
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roommate, no drugs,	14s Plumbing	Combo Wenters	Mandatory drug test	Business Order Baselon Free		Mechanical Knowledge	male black Schnauzers, full grown, neutered. 6	665-7149
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supplies. Call 806-662-	665-7115	ment opportunity	be req. during employ-	226 S. Price Rd.	Circulation		mix) small males. Call' 662-0348	are in walking distance
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www.kansasauctions.net	WEEKEND RN	drug test	Servers & Cooks. No	NEEDED	er's license with im-	rockers, china cabinets,	90 Wanted To Rent	Construction of the International Construction of
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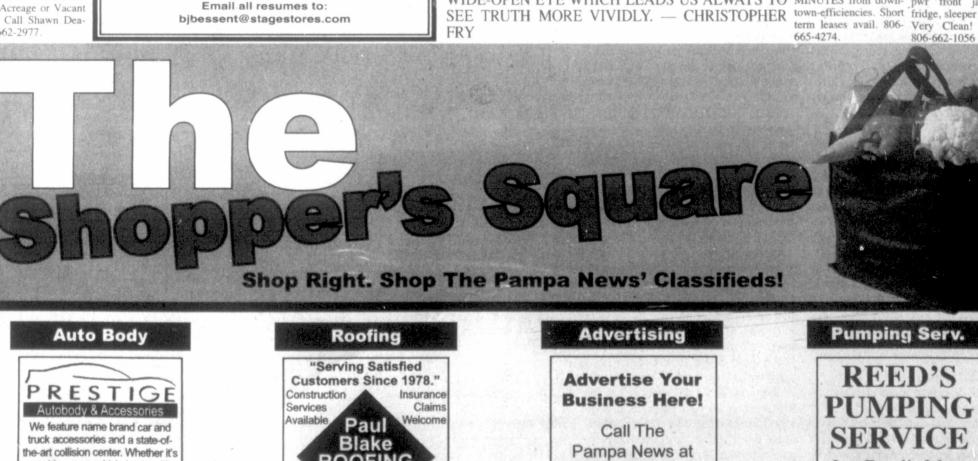
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MAYA DENISE BAILEY DATE OF BIRTH 10/30/2007

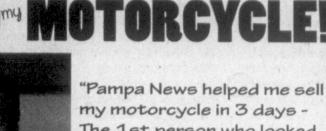
PLACE OF BIRTH BORGER. HUTCHINSON COUNTY, TEXAS "The court has the au-

mission. All original. para tabular automati- render an order in the Good price. \$21,900. camente que se usara child's interest that will en la Eleccion Ciudad be binding on you, indel 12 de mayo de 2012 cluding the termination se probara el 27 de of the parent-child relaabril de 2012 a las tionship, the determina-11:00 A.M. en sala de tion of paternity, and tribunal Gray del no- the appointment of a jurado de palacio de conservator with aujusticia de condado thority to consent to the para determinar si el child's adoption equipo contara con ex- ISSUED AND GIVEN acitud los votos para UNDER MY HAND

todos los puestos ofi- AND SEAL OF SAID Limited, 4x4, sunroof, ciales y sobre todos los COURT, AT MY OF-FICE IN PAMPA, Linda Lewis TEXAS, on the 20th

Sandra Burkett. **District** Clerk 223RD DISTRICT COURT **Gray County** P.O. Box 1139 205 N. Russell Street By Jo Mays,

**Chief Deputy** 



my motorcycle in 3 days -The 1st person who looked, bought. Thank you Pampa News."

-Ed Barker, Pampa

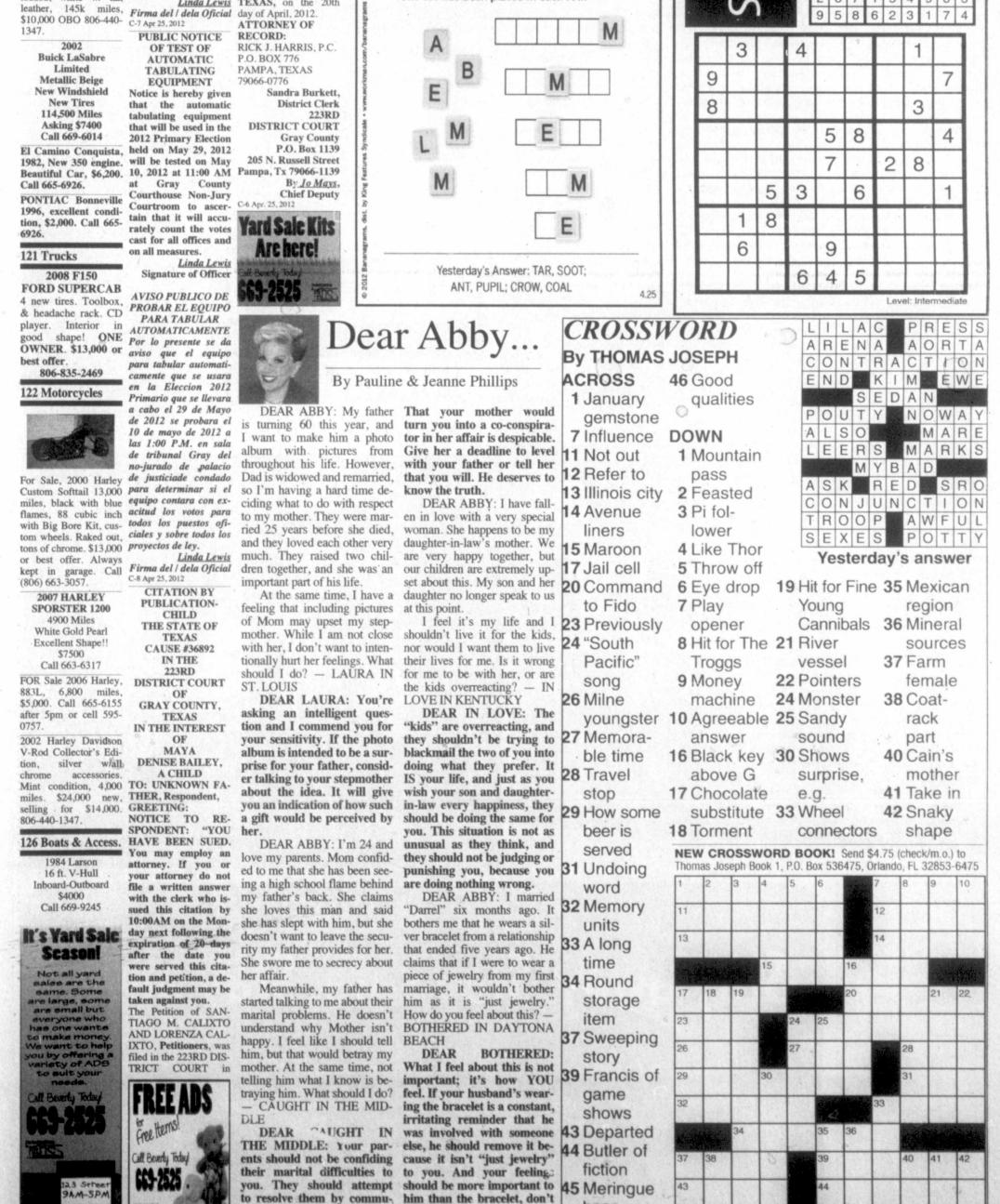


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# Obama pushes low-rate student loans, wooing young

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) - President Barack Obama went after the college vote Tuesday, pitching cheaper student loans as he courted the one age group where he has a decided advantage over Republican rival Mitt Romney. The twist? Romney, too, has endorsed the idea, though it's unclear whether deficitleery Republicans in Congress will go along

In the race for the White House, both the Obama and Romney campaigns see huge opportunities to court younger voters. This week, their efforts are focused on the millions of students --- and their parents --- who are grappling with college costs at a time when such debt has grown so staggering it exceeds the totals for credit cards or auto loans.

Trying to make it personal, Obama told students at the University of North Carolina that he and first lady Michelle Obama had "been in your shoes" and didn't pay off their student loans until eight years ago.

"I didn't just read about this. I didn't just get some talking points about this. I didn't just get a policy briefing on this," Obama said. "We didn't come from wealthy families. When we graduated from college and law school, we had a mountain of debt. When we married, we got poor together."

Obama's emphasis on his personal experience set up a contrast with Romney, whose father was a wealthy auto executive. It's a point the president is sure to return to during this summer's campaigning.

Though both Obama and Romney have expressed support for freezing the current interest rates on the loans for poorer and middle-class students, lawmakers are still exploring ways to pay for the plan. The timing is impor6.8 percent on July 1 without intervention by Congress, an expiration date chosen in 2007 when a Democratic Congress voted to chop the rate in half.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has estimated about 15 percent of Americans, or 37 million people, have outstanding student loan debt. The bank puts the total at \$870 billion, though other estimates have reached \$1 trillion. About two-thirds of student loan debt is held by people under 30.

The loan rate freeze Obama and Romney are championing amounts to a one-year, election-year fix at a cost of roughly \$6 billion. Congress seems headed that way. Members of both parties are assessing ways to cover the costs and then gain the votes in the House and Senate. Both parties have a political incentive to keep the rates as they are.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Tuesday, "I don't think anybody believes this interest rate ought to be allowed to rise." He added, "The question is how do you pay for it, how long do you do the extension."

One Democratic idea: Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, who chairs the Education Committee, said the money would come from closing a loophole that lets owners of privately owned companies called S corporations avoid paying the Social Security and Medicare payroll tax on part of their earnings.

Romney said this week that he agrees the loan rates shouldn't be raised, coupling that stance with criticism of Obama's economic leadership.

"Given the bleak job prospects that young Americans

tant because the rate will double from 3.4 percent to coming out of college face today, I encourage Congress to temporarily extend the low rate," Romney said in a statement.

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Obama spokesman Jay Carney said it was "ironic" that LOANS cont. on page B8

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## Gingrich to decide next move

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Newt Gingrich (AP) declined to discuss his struggling presidential campaign Tuesday and said he would decide his next steps after the latest primaries, refusing to acknowledge the Republican nominating contest is essentially over. Gingrich said Mitt Romney was presumptuous to begin his head-tohead campaign against President Barack Obama while some states have yet to have their primaries. The former House speaker walked away from reporters when pressed about how long he would con-

tinue a debt-riddled campaign that has no plausible

sure for some time to drop out of the race, he has not won a presidential primary since finishing first in his former home state of Georgia on March 6.

One of his daughters, meanwhile, said the former House speaker will "reassess" his campaign after Tuesday's results, potentially setting the stage for his exit from the Republican presidential race.

"He talked about waiting for results and looking to see what happens and then potentially reassess," Jackie Gingrich Cushman told MSNBC

She hinted, as Gingrich has in recent days, that the race is fluid and that a

is build some momentum out of Delaware into North Carolina. But if the Delaware results don't fit that profile, we will reassess the situation," said Walker, who insisted that Romney had still not won over many conservatives.

Gingrich was keeping a pair of scheduled appearances Tuesday in North Carolina, including his first election night party since February. But after his tour of the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, he walked away when reporters asked him about his political fortunes.

"We will have something to say this evening .... when we see the results," he said.



route to denying Romney the Republican nod.

For his part, Romney planned a primary night speech in New Hampshire, the site of his first victory in the race for the nomination. Aides said his remarks would focus on the general election campaign against Obama.

"I think it's a very substantial mistake for Gov. Romney to give a general election speech tonight in New Hampshire. He is not the nominee. I think it's a little insulting to people in these states," Gingrich told reporters.

Gingrich has hung his comeback hopes on a strong showing in Delaware and has spent considerable time there in recent weeks. Under pres-

dramatic shift could come at any time.

"You never know what's going to happen tomorrow," she said.

Despite trailing Romney in convention delegates 5-to-1, Gingrich has vowed to campaign until the party's late-summer convention in Florida. He has more than \$4.3 million in debt.

Bob Walker, a former congressman from Pennsylvania who served with Gingrich in the House and now chairs his presidential campaign, said he thought Gingrich could do well in Delaware but acknowledged that a poor showing would force the campaign to make a decision about going forward.

"What we want to do

Campaigning in the Wilmington area of Delaware on Monday, Gingrich said winning the state would put him in good position to continue his campaign. But if Romney were to win big in Delaware, "I think you would have to stop and take a deep breath." he said.

Gingrich Cautioned Romney against appearing cocky.

"Gov. Romney is clearly the front-runner. That doesn't mean he's inevitable," Gingrich said Monday

Romney has won 698 of the 1,144 delegates needed to become the nominee, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Gingrich has 137 delegates.

### **Gingrich daughter: Campaign to reassess standing**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Newt the GOP presidential nomination. Gingrich's daughter says the former House speaker will "reassess" his campaign after the votes are tallied in Delaware, potentially setting the stage for his exit from the Republican presidential race.

Jackie Gingrich Cushman ) said Tuesday that her father's campaign has slimmed down but is still winning over voters who aren't yet sold on Mitt Romney, who has effectively clinched

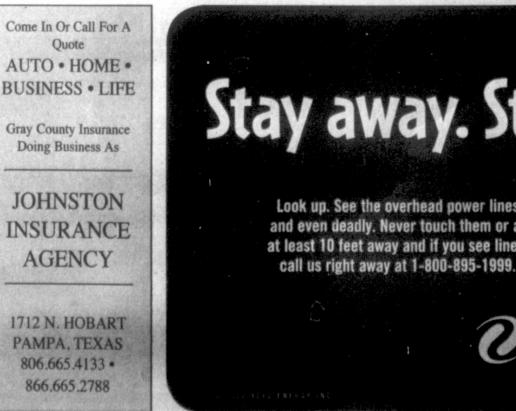
Despite trailing Romney in convention delegates and fundraising, Gingrich has vowed to campaign until the party's late-summer convention in Florida.

Gingrich is carrying more than \$4.3 million in debt and has been spending more money than he is taking in.

His daughter spoke on MSNBC. Delaware was one of five states that held GOP presidential primaries Tuesday.







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# Romney super PAC gift among mysterious campaign donations

WASHINGTON (AP) — A once-mysterious \$400,000 check written to a "super" political action committee supporting Mitt Romney's presidential campaign rekindled a nagging question this election season: Just how much disclosure is enough to satisfy transparency?

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The Florida husband and wife behind the contribution were identified Monday as the beneficiaries of an investment fund and are among Romney's top Florida fundraisers. But up until then, the donation to the Restore Our Future super PAC — which reported the contribution from an unknown Florida firm called SeaSpray Partners LLC — left more questions than answers.

Inquiries about the donation intensified over the weekend after a Florida man who owned a similarly named company in Palm Beach told news organizations he never donated to the pro-Romney group. It turned out that Restore Our Future listed the wrong address for the actual SeaSpray donor.

The super PAC at first declined to disclose more about the mystery donors, but as the controversy grew, the committee on Monday acknowledged the Florida couple's role. Restore amended its federal filings Tuesday, naming the Florida couple as the two donors.

Welcome to the reality of recent federal rulings that have changed rules on how federal elections are financed. Those court cases, including the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in Citizens United, gave a green light to corporations and labor unions to spend unlimited amounts of cash to support or defeat candidates.

The federal rulings upheld longstanding disclosure requirements, and super PACs that receive that cash still file periodic reports with the Federal Election Commission. But regulations require that only basic information about a company be reported; as such, SeaSpray's history and background effectively remained anonymous.

"Citizens United has not only allowed unlimited corporate spending, but has also opened many loopholes in disclosure laws," said Tara Malloy, associate legal counsel for the watchdog group Campaign Legal Center. "We see this when corporations give to transparent

# 'A better America,' says confident Mitt

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Voters in New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania headed to the polls but Mitt Romney wasn't in any of those states Tuesday night. Instead, he'll return to New Hampshire, where a sweeping primary victory in January set him down the path to the GOP presidential nomination.

From the Radisson Hotel downtown, Romney planned a speech he's titled "A Better America Begins Tonight." The general election speech, aides say, will represent a definitive pivot away from the primary contest and toward Democratic President Barack Obama and the general election. vehicles like a federal political committee. And this case underscores how porous the disclosure laws are." An Associated Press review of financial documents found SeaSpray is, in fact, a financial fund managed by Boston-based Hellman Jordan Management. One of the firm's top executives, Gerald Jordan, and his

Romney

ments," company executive Susan Lynch told The Associated Press, and asked that the money be sent directly to Restore Our Future rather than to the couple's personal bank accounts.

wife, Darlene, received \$200,000

apiece in unspecified "disburse-

"We were happy to do that," Lynch said. The amended report that Restore Our Future filed Tuesday confirmed that the Jordans had donated \$200,000 apiece.

Restore Our Future acknowledged the Jordans' involvement Monday after the AP confirmed the couple's role and raised questions about their involvement with the group. Super PAC spokeswoman Brittany Gross attributed the mistake to a clerical error and said the super PAC would file an updated report with the Federal Election Commission.

But earlier, Restore Our Future said it would not identify the donors and would only update the firm's address, which it said met federal disclosure rules. That set the stage for a detective-worthy whodunit among news organizations and watchdog groups that follow the campaign closely.

The revelations about the \$400,000 donation — and the super PAC's reluctance to identify such wealthy supporters — illustrate the loosened rules overseeing the federal campaign finance system in the wake of a series of court rulings in recent years. In the current presidential campaign, most donors identify themselves, but in some cases corporate donors are able to disguise their names using limited liability partnerships.

"We've disclosed all the information that the FEC required," Carl Forti, the super PAC's founder and chief

strategist, said last week after his group first posted the mystery \$400,000 donation. "I can't tell you anything more about the company."

Indeed, the Jordans are hardly strangers to Romney and his presidential campaigns. The couple hosted a \$50,000-per-couple fundraising event for Romney at their Florida home last week, and Darlene Jordan was listed in an invitation as a host of an Orlando fundraiser last August for the former Massachusetts governor.

The two have also offered financial support to Romney and the Republican Party. Gerald Jordan gave \$2,500 to Romney's presidential campaign in June and April 2011, and Darlene Jordan contributed the maximum \$30,800 to the Republican National Committee in December. Gerald Jordan also contributed more than \$40,000 to a fundraising account for Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., a possible running mate for Romney.

Last summer, Restore Our Future refused to identify the source of its first \$1 million contribution. Controversy flared until the secretive donor, a retired executive from Romney's old firm, Bain Capital, stepped forward and acknowledged the donation.

In its latest financial reports listing more than \$8.6 million in donations in March, the super PAC supporting Romney listed several large donations without donor identities, including the \$400,000 donation and a \$250,000 donation from a Montana firm, Fair Oaks Finance LLC.

State records show Fair Oaks is registered to investment brokerage head Charles R. Schwab, who along with his wife, Helen, each gave \$125,000 to the super PAC. Schwab has also given more than \$80,000 to Republican candidates and causes in the current election cycle, including two \$2,500 donations to Romney's presidential campaign.

Restore Our Future also received a \$1 million gift from Huron Carbon LLC. That firm's identity turned out to be the West Palm Beach headquarters of Oxbow Carbon LLC, a fossil-fuel processor and mining firm headed by William Koch, who had already given \$1 million to the pro-Romney group.

# Endorsements keep rolling in for Romney

The Republican primary race is effectively over but Mitt Romney keeps piling up delegates and endorsements.

Romney tightened his lock on the GOP nomination by sweeping Pennsylvania, New York and three other northeastern states holding primaries Tuesday. They offer a combined trove of 209 delegates.

The presumptive GOP nominee campaigned in

Pennsylvania on Monday

with Florida Sen. Marco

Rubio, often mentioned as

a potential running mate.

He also picked up the

endorsement of former

New York City mayor

Rudy Giuliani, a 2008

rival. Giuliani, who joins

a long line of Republican

Romney, said the former

Massachusetts governor

"won fair and square."

The value of endorsements

has long been debated. But

generally, they're better

to have than not. And in

Romney's case, they help

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him demonstrate that he's solidifying his party's support.

No endorsements for Romney have yet come from vanquished rival Rick Santorum or from Texas Rep. Ron Paul and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Santorum once hoped to break his losing streak with a home-state Pennsylvania win in Tuesday's primary.

polls, he bowed out April 10. He's widely expected to make the endorsement and may be waiting until closer to the convention in August in hopes of giving it more punch.

Gingrich did campaign actively ahead of Tuesday's primaries — in Delaware.

Cash short and deeply in debt, Gingrich picked it hoping for an upset and because of its provimity to the Washington D.C. area where he lives.

Paul has a base of diehard supporters and has had little trouble raising contributions. He told CNBC he has no plans to quit.

"You don't quit because you happen to be behind," he said. "You want to see how you do. And who knows? Maybe somebody will stumble."

Romney has been the party's presumptive nominee since his closest rival, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, dropped out of the race earlier this month.

The former Massachusetts governor has turned toward the center in recent days, beginning the process of appealing to independent voters in the wake of a brutal primary contest.

Romney was drawn to the right on issues like immigration as he fought off challenges from other Republicans. On Monday, he signaled he was considering a wider range of immigration policies, including a proposal from Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., that would allow some young people a chance at visas to stay in the U.S.

Romney also embraced a temporary extension of lower interest rates for student loans, a policy opposed by House Republicans but backed by Obama.

Romney announced his support for that proposal as he campaigned in Pennsylvania a day before its GOP primary. While Pennsylvania is a battleground state in the fall, his campaign visits Sunday and Monday were largely scheduled before Santorum left the race and when the primary in Santorum's home state was still competitive.

There were a total of 209 delegates at stake Tuesday.



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# Dems set sights on latest tax target: Private corporations

WASHINGTON (AP) — First it was people earning at least \$1 million a year. Now Democrats seeking their next electionyear target for tax increases on better-off Americans may have \* found it: the owners of many privately held corporations.

Democrats are considering trying to make it harder for owners of so-called S corporations to avoid paying Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes on some of their earnings, said a Senate Democratic aide speaking on condition of anonymity to reveal an emerging party strategy.

Though decisions have not been finalized, the proposal would affect such companies with earnings of at least \$250,000 annually and would raise roughly \$5 billion to \$6 billion over the coming decade, the aide said. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said Democrats would use the measure to pay for a bill backed by President Barack Obama that would keep college students' loan rates from doubling this summer, though it might end up being used instead to finance another initiative or for deficit reduction.

The Democratic tax plan, which has been under discussion among congressional and Obama administration aides, would tighten the definition of S corporation income on which

shooting up and shaking you down."

emerged here in Tar Heel country,

with Obama encouraging students to

give him an "Amen" at times (they

did) and the crowd also giving him

an unsolicited chant of "Four more

years!" On a blue-sky, breezy day,

Obama soaked in the youth vibe on

campus, where he also appeared in

a taping of "Late Night with Jimmy

With Romney seemingly assured

of sweeping the five Republican

presidential primaries being held

Tuesday, the former Massachusetts

governor planned a focus on the gen-

eral election with a speech in New

Hampshire titled "A Better America

Ahead of the speech, Romney sup-

porters said Obama's policies had

hurt younger voters and questioned

whether the president could garner

the same amount of support as in

three and a half years later and

they're not better off," said Alex

Schriver, chairman of the College

The president was also speak-

"Young people are sitting here

Fallon.

2008.

Begins Tonight.'

The blurring between Obama's

### Loans

a Republican could both back the interest rate freeze and support a budget proposal from Rep. Paul official and campaign events Ryan, R-Wis., that the White House says would keep the rate at 6.8 percent.

Romney has said he is "very supportive" of the Ryan budget.

At the same time, some conservative activists have denounced Romney's decision to match Obama's position on student loan rates.

"Mitt Romney is going to sell out conservatives in his party" to improve his chances in the November election, Michael Brendan Dougherty wrote in a blog carried by sites including Free Republic.

By taking on student debt, Obama spoke to middle-class America and also targeted a growing economic burden that could hamper the national recovery.

While leaning on Republicans in Congress to act, he also sought to energize the young people essential to his campaign — those who voted for him last time and the many more who have turned voting age since then. Obama urged students to go to social media sites like Twitter to Republican National Committee. pressure their lawmakers to prevent the interest rates on the loans "from ing Tuesday at the University of

payroll taxes must be paid. The idea is likely to face strong Republican opposition in the Senate, but Democrats believe there would be political value in forcing GOP senators to vote on the measure, win or lose. S corporations are a widely used way of forming businesses,

commonly used by many professional service practices like doctors and lawyers, as well as by construction, retail and real estate companies. There are more than 4 million of them in the United States. They are named after the subchapter of the tax code that defines them.

A 2009 report by the Government Accountability Office, an investigative agency of Congress, estimated that in 2003 and 2004, shareholders of S corporations underreported wages by nearly \$24 billion, "which could result in billions in annual employment tax underpayments."

By law, S corporations are not publicly traded. They may have no more than 100 owners, but the overwhelming majority are owned by just a small handful of people: 6 in 10 have a single shareholder and more than 9 in 10 have three or fewer, according to that same Government Accountability Office report.

Democrats believe the proposal could feed their campaign push for tax equity, just like the "Buffett rule" vote they forced in the Senate last week and lost, which would have required people making \$1 million annually to pay a minimum amount of federal income taxes. They cite reports that drew attention to two politicians using S corporations as tax shelters: former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who has challenged Mitt Romney for their party's presidential nomination, and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, who contended for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

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#### cont. from page 6B

Colorado at Boulder, and then at the University of Iowa on Wednesday. All three schools are in states that Obama carried in 2008, and all three states are considered among the several that could swing to Obama or Romney and help decide a close 2012 election. Obama carried voters between the

ages of 18-29 by a margin of about 2-to-1 in 2008, but many recent college graduates have had difficulty finding jobs. That raises concerns for the president about whether they will vote and volunteer for him in such large numbers again.

Without mentioning her by name, Obama cited North Carolina Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx, quoting her from a recent radio interview with G. Gordon Liddy in which she said, "I have very little tolerance for people who tell me that they graduate with \$200,000 of debt."

Obama said allowing the interest rates to double this summer would hurt more than 7 million students, costing the average student \$1,000 and amounting to a "tax hike" for those students and their families.

"Anybody here can afford to pay an extra thousand dollars right now?" Obama asked to jeers from the crowd. "I don't think so."

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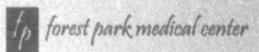
expertise blankets many areas, including training and management in retail banking, new account development, lending and credit departments. Chairman, President and CEO, Smith Ellis said, "Kim's experience and industry knowledge, along with her integrity and personal relationships with our customers, make her an easy choice for the new Pampa President. We could not be more proud and confident of Kim and look forward to the years ahead."

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