

Altrusa introduces new Taste of Pampa event

Local restaurants to showcase selection at M.K. Brown Civic Center on May 15

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

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From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15 at M.K. Brown Auditorium, Altrusa will host its first Taste of Pampa, an event where people can check out

what our local eateries have to offer. Entertainment and door prizes will be provided at the event, which costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids 8 and over, and free to kids 7 and under.

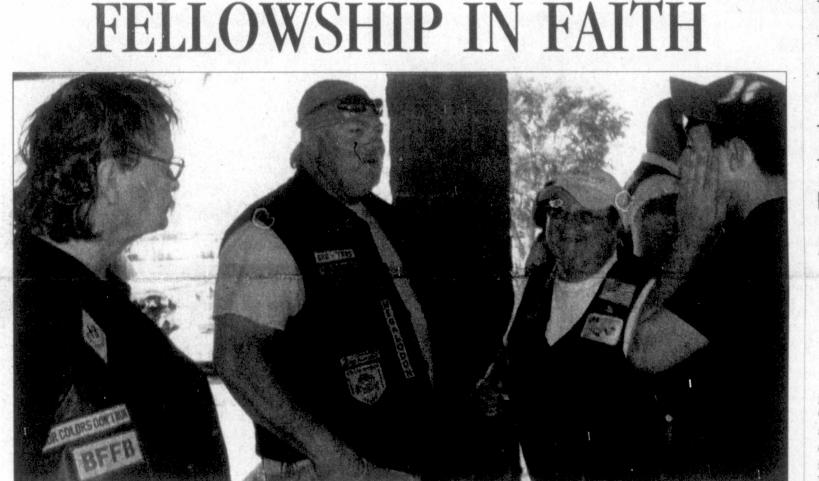
"We've left it up to them to bring what they want the public to have a sample of, but you'll get a good variety of food," said Altrusa's Linda Weaver Altrusa. "By the time you've tasted a little bit of everybody's things, you will have had your supper for the evening."

The group has 10 booths filled so far, with everything from specialty cakes to Mexican food, and the group welcomes additional restaurants and caterers to participate in the event, with booth reservations at \$35.

"They will be responsible for decorating their space and bringing the food they want to serve," said Weaver. "We will provide the paper goods and that sort of thing."

The club is looking forward to the opportunity to share local cuisine during Taste of Pampa.

"We're really looking forward to it," said Weaver. "Pampa has an unbelievable variety of restaurants and food venues. It's unusual for a town this size. You can get anything you want to eat here, just about, and we'd like to show that **TASTE** cont. on page 5A



Pampa comes together for Day of Prayer Two gatherings held for community

staff photo by Mollie Bryant

Motorcyclists Lonnie Sebold (from left) and Gary Keller of the Bandidos and Jamie Almanza of the Christian Motorcycle Association chat with Jesus Hernandez at the National Day of Prayer evening gathering at Recreation Park on Thursday.



staff photos by Arnie Aurellano

<u>ABOVE:</u> The afternoon prayer gathering at M.K. Brown Civic Center is led in song by Shellie Porter and Kellie Waddell. **<u>RIGHT</u>:** Darlene Lewis, who organized this year's National Day of Prayer events in Pampa, presents a gift to predecessor Paul Nachtigall for his assistance.



worship Thursday

ARNIE AURELLANO editor@thepampanews.com

About a hundred people were gathered in the M.K. Brown Civic Center's Heritage Room on Thursday afternoon, attendees of the first of two organized, nondenominational worships gathering in recognition of the National Day of Prayer.

The service featured prayers led by a handful of Pampa notables, including Robert Douglas, Dewey Hutchinson, Gloria Robbins, Cliff Hudson and Rev. Wesley Smith. The event was coordinated by Darlene Lewis, who took the reins of Pampa's local Day of Prayer activities from longtime organizer Paul Nachtigall, pastor of Highland Baptist Church.

"We're so glad people came out," Lewis said. "This is such an important day that you're always happy to see when everyone comes together to be a part of it like this."

Nachtigall, who gave the dismissal at the afternoon gathering, lauded Lewis for her efforts.

"She did great," Nachtigall said. "I think it went real well this year. I love the fact that she brought in many of the people who weren't necessarily in leadership of churches, like pastors, et cetera. I thought that was a very good thing." **PRAYER** cont. on page 5A

Early morning fire claims life of one, sends another to hospital

MOLLIE BRYANT mbryant@thepampanews.com

A fire in the early hours of Thursday morning killed a Pampa woman and left a man with burn injuries.

At 1:24 a.m., the Pampa Fire Department responded to the fire on the 600 block of North Doucette, finding

the home fully involved. One resident, Grady Rose, 68, approached firefighters to tell them that Linda Abbott, 68, was still inside the home.

With intense heat and some structure collapse, firefighters were unable to reach Abbott, who was pronounced dead on the scene by Gray County Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman. The fire was under control by 3:19 a.m., and firefighters left the scene at 4:15 a.m. The home was determined to be a total loss.

While the cause of the fire is currently unknown, an investigation by the Pampa Fire Marshal and the State Fire Marshal will continue tomorrow.

Rose was transported to the Pampa

Regional Medical Center before being airlifted to the Harnar Burn Center in Lubbock.

As of the time of this publication, Rose was in stable condition and expected to make a full recovery, according to Kim Powell, chief of the Pampa Fire Department.



2A — Friday, May 4, 2012 — The Pampa News

PAMPA FORECAST

| Today | Saturday | Sunday | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | | I II | | | |
| High 95 Low 56 | High 93 Low 58 | High 88 Low 54 | | | |

Today: Sunny, with a high near 95. West wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 93. West wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. West wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Breezy, with a north wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. Northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Lawmakers hold hearing on taxation

AUSTIN (AP) - Conservative activists told Texas lawmakers Thursday they'd like the Legislature to abolish property taxes and to curb the power of school districts, cities and counties to take on debt through bond initiatives.

Debra Medina, a former Republican gubernatorial candidate and tea party favorite, complained that property is the only thing that is taxed over and over again, unlike income or sales.

"We have been in these halls for years telling you that the property

tax system is broken. We haven't taxes in the state. seen the fire in the Legislature to get it fixed," Medina told the House Ways and Means Committee. "We would do well to be rid of it completely."

Medina said she supported collecting more revenue through sales taxes and a reformed business tax to make up for lost revenue. Talmadge Heflin, a director at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, said that applying the sales tax to real estate transactions could also help make up the revenue lost by ending all property

The committee invited conservative activists, representatives from the State Comptroller and county tax assessors to testify on Texas' property tax system. No liberal groups testified Thursday.

Texas has no income tax, so governments rely on a combination of property, sales and business taxes. School districts are primarily financed through property taxes.

How the state collects property taxes, particularly to pay for public TAXES cont. on page 5A

Obituaries

John Lee Womack, 80

CANYON-John Lee Womack, 80, died May 2, 2012, in Canyon.

Celebration of life services will be at 4 p.m. Friday, May 4, 2012, at the University Church of Christ with David Lough, Minister, and Bob Shepard, Elder, officiating. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2012, at Brooks Chapel.

There will be a private interment.

Born in Shamrock, on October 13, 1931, John was the only child of Corrie Elizabeth Rankin Womack and Richard Dewey Womack. He attended Quanah schools and graduated from Quanah High in 1949. He attended Arlington State College and graduated from Texas Tech University in 1953 with a degree in Animal Science and a commission in the United States Air Force. He became a pilot and flew the C124 transport plane during his active years in the Air Force. John became an Account Executive for Merril Lynch in 1962 in Amarillo. He was named a Vice-President of the company in 1974 in recognition of outstanding service and performance. He became one of the company's top producers. John met and married the love of his life, Carol McClelland Gallemore, in July of

1970. They blended their five wonderful children to love and enjoy the rest of their lives. John took an active part in the University Church of Christ with a special interest in and support of the church's mission efforts in Bhimavaram, India. He and Carol loved the Indian brethren and leaders of the church in that region. John will be very missed by his large, loving family and many wonderful friends.



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Womack

Survivors include his wife, Carol, of the home; children, Jamey Gallemore and wife, Mary Beth, of Plano, LeeAnn ' Fatale and husband, Matt of Providence, R.I., Leslie Carlile of Canyon, Michele Tiller and husband, Clarence of Rock Springs, Wyo., and Paul Womack and wife, Delana of Gulf Breeze, Fla.; nine grandchildren; and 12 greatgrandchildren.

Please sign the online guest registry at www.brooksfuneral.com.

Barbara Cooper, 73

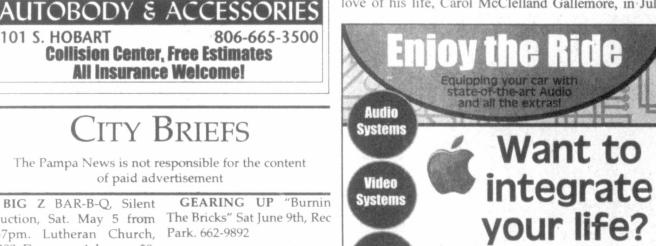
Barbara Cooper, 73, died May 3, 2012, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 5, 2012, at Memory Gardens Cemetery, with Rev. Charles Lowry, pastor of CrossPointe Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Cooper was born September 22, 1938, in Pampa to Earl and Gladys



Cooper



BIG Z BAR-B-Q, Silent Auction, Sat. May 5 from The Bricks" Sat June 9th, Rec 5-7pm. Lutheran Church, Park. 662-9892 1200 Duncan Advance \$9, \$10 at door.

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Matlock. She married Bob Cooper on December 9,

1954, and spent many years traveling the United States while Bob was in the military. They returned to Pampa seven years ago to retire. Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and her family was her entire life. Rest with the angels, Mama.

Survivors include her husband, Bob Cooper of the home; her three children, Debbie, Kathy and Scott; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Glen and Don; and two sisters, Earlean and Margaret.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, attn: Memorial/Honor Program FH, One St. Jude Place Bldg., P.O. Box 1000, Department 300, Memphis, TN 38148-0552.

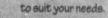
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Nevada Paul backers unfazed by RNC

West Texas blazes nearly contained

FORT DAVIS (AP) - Firefighters are making good progress controlling a pair of wildfires that torched about 24,000 acres close to a small residential community in rugged far West Texas.

Texas Forest Service spokeswoman April Saginor says a blaze known as the Spring Mountain fire is about 60 percent contained. An evacuation order was issued earlier this week at the Davis Mountain Resort after that fire blew to within half a mile of the residential development.

Saginor describes a larger blaze at the Livermore Ranch as in "good shape" and nearly contained by fire contingent. lines. She says firefighters hope to complete the fire containment lines on that blaze Thursday.

No building damage or injuries have been reported from the fires.

Ryan to speak at convention

AUSTIN (AP) - U.S. House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan will be a featured speaker at the Texas Republican Party convention in June.

The Wisconsin Republican is author of a plan to gradually transform Medicare into a voucher system in which percent of the vote. future seniors would get a fixed amount to buy medical insurance.

Party Chairman Steve Munisteri said in statement Thursday that Ryan's "leadership on shrinking the size of government and cutting federal spending aligns well with the platform of the Republican Party of Texas."

Ryan is set to speak on the final day of the convention, which will be held in Fort Worth June 7-9.

Former presidential candidate and Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum is also scheduled to be a featured speaker.

Wyo. got EPA to delay findings

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - Wyoming officials persuaded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to delay an announcement that rocked the oil and gas indus- nominee. try by linking hydraulic fracturing with groundwater contamination.

The delay gave state officials time to try to debunk the finding that the controversial method of exploiting oil and gas deposits may have tainted groundwater near the gas patch community of Pavillion. The EPA has since agreed to new testing to examine the initial finding.

An investigation by The Associated Press reveals the EPA privately briefed Wyoming officials in early November. Gov. Matt Mead then got EPA Director Lisa Jackson to postpone the public announcement, which happened more than a month later.

Emails show Wyoming officials used the delay to "take a hard line" and raise dozens of questions about the EPA's science.

J.C. Penney names new CFO

PLANO (AP) - J. C. Penney Co. said Thursday that it hired a new chief financial officer as it tries to reshape its business. Ken Hannah will take over as CFO on Monday. The company's former chief financial officer, Michael Dastugue, left in April just days after the company announced it planned to cut hundreds of jobs and transform every aspect of its business. Hannah, 43, was most recently president of solar the delegates or the force energy at MEMC Electronic Materials Inc. He has to get his delegates to the also worked at a number of other companies, including General Electric Co., The Boeing Co. and Home Depot Inc. J.C. Penney is trying to redesign everything - from its management team to store promotion strategy --- to boost sagging sales. The company's new CEO, Ron Johnson, is a former Apple Inc. executive, who investors hope will bring some Apple ingenuity to the struggling chain. The company has suffered in recent years because its core middle-income customers have been among those hardest hit by the nation's weak economy. It's also lagged behind rivals like Macy's Inc. in making its stores fun places to shop.

CARSON CITY, Nev. Paul should the national (AP) — The Nevada chairman of Ron Paul's presidential campaign took exception to a Republican. National Committee lawyer who suggested Nevada's presence at the national convention could be jeopardized if Paul supporters swamp the state delegate

Carl Bunce called the RNC opinion "creative writing" and maintained Paul supporters will abide by rules that firstround balloting at the national convention be apportioned based on the outcome of the Nevada caucuses. Mitt Romney won that contest with 50

The state GOP convention is Saturday in Sparks.

In a letter to state GOP Chairman Michael McDonald, RNC lawyer John R. Phillippe Jr. said it would be "highly likely" Nevada's 28 dele- Nevada's delegates to the gates to the national convention in Tampa, Fla., could be jeopardized if Paul supporters take slots that should go to Romney, the presumptive

The letter, first reported by the Las Vegas Sun, also said an "authorized representative of the presidential campaign" should be allowed to confirm whether or not a delegate "is an actual supporter" of a particular candidate.

Bunce countered that rules adopted by the state party last fall and forwarded to the RNC say that delegates are elected at the state convention, but the allotment of delegates to particular candidates happens afterward.

"If Romney's the guy, what are they worried about?" he said. "It's obvious to those of us in the Ron Paul campaign ... Romney did not have national convention." Paul supporters have been taking control of local and state Republican parties across the nation, move designed to a influence platforms and allow them to vote for

convention proceed to an unlikely second round of balloting.

Bunce predicted the 50 percent to 60 percent of state convention attendees will be Paul backers.

"It's going to be a Ron Paul rally, that's what it's going to be," he said, adding, "It will be a lawyer fest, probably."

The Texas congressman is scheduled to speak at the convention.

Paul came in third in Nevada's caucuses. But with Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum now out of the presidential primary race, Romney is expected to be allotted 20 Nevada delegates. Paul would get eight.

The tiff over delegate selection could signal a repeat of the 2008 Nevada GOP convention fiasco, when party leaders shut down the convention when it appeared Paul would take most of national convention.

Paul backers then staged their own convention to elect delegates while a Nevada GOP committee appointed another delegation of mostly prominent party regulars and contributors. An RNC panel finally brokered a compromise, but expressed dismay over what it



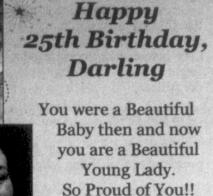
the Nevada GOP. What Saturday's con-

vention will bring is anyone's guess.

"I guess we'll have to see what happens," said Bob List, Nevada national committeeman and for-

called the "ineptness" of mer governor who faces a challenge from James Smack — a Paul supporter and state GOP vice chairman - to retain his position on the RNC.

> "There's certainly some uncertainty in the air," List said.



Love you always, Grandma Anna

Come help us say Goodbye **Final Sunday for** Dr. Johnny Funderburg as Pastor of **First Baptist Church** Please join our congregation for any of the activities. Everyone is welcome! Sunday May 6th

11:00 am - Morning Worship

J.C. Penney posted a loss of \$152 million on revenue of \$17.26 billion for its most recent fiscal year, compared with a profit of \$389 million on revenue of \$17.76 billion the year before.

J.C. Penney, based in Plano, Texas, operates 1,100 stores nationwide.

Its shares fell 20 cents to close at \$35.07.

Ft. Worth ends water restrictions

FORT WORTH (AP) - Fort Worth is ending restrictions that limited lawn watering to twice a week for residents and businesses.

The Tarrant Regional Water District says its water supply levels are at 97 percent. It notified the city that it's lifting the water restrictions Friday.

But Fort Worth officials say the ban is still in effect for daily watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. for automatic irrigation systems.

The restrictions started in August amid the severe Texas drought. It was the first time Fort Worth implemented such restrictions because of declining water supply levels.

Officials are still urging residents and businesses to be efficient with outdoor watering. Drought restrictions will return when lake levels reach 75 percent -- and Fort Worth officials say they expect that to happen.

Dallas tax preparer banned

DALLAS (AP) - A federal judge has permanently barred a suburban Dallas man from preparing federal tax returns for others after prosecutors say he used fake and fraudulent deductions on returns he handled.

Tax losses could be as high as \$7.8 million from the scam.

The Justice Department says Joseph Rivas, of DeSoto, consented to the ban Thursday from U.S. District Judge Sidney Fitzwater without admitting to the allegations against him.

A federal complaint alleged Rivas prepared tax returns using phony mortgage interest deductions, faked employee business expenses and illegally deducted Social Security taxes as state and local taxes.

The injunction also orders Rivas to turn over the names of all the people who used him as a tax preparer since Jan. 1, 2010.



Fri 7:30 10:00

6:00 pm - Musical Tribute 7:00 pm - Reception to honor his 8 years of ministry, both to our church, and to our community of Pampa.

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Dan C. Powell, M.D. **CLOSING PRACTICE**

It has been my pleasure to have lived and served Pampa and the surrounding communities for the past 18 years. After much thought I have decided to close my practice in Pampa at Family Medicine Center effective June 1, 2012. I would like to sincerely thank my patients and the physicians at Family Medicine Center for the support I've received while here in Pampa. Medical Records will be available at Family Medicine Center of Pampa on-going.

Please contact the clinic medical records staff at 806-665-0801 to request a copy of your records.



Family Medicine Center

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Today in History

Today is Friday, May 4, the 125th day of 2012. There are 241 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 4, 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Imperial Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

On this date:

In 1626, Dutch explorer Peter Minuit landed on present-day Manhattan Island.

In 1776, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In 1862, after a monthlong siege, Union forces prepared to unleash a massive bombardment against Confederate troops at Yorktown, Va., only to discover the Confederates had slipped away during the night.

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded.

In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal.

In 1916, responding to a demand from President Woodrow Wilson, Germany agreed to limit its submarine warfare. (However, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare the following year.)

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1959, the first Grammy Awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Domenico Modugno won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare)"; Henry Mancini won Album of the Year for "The Music from Peter Gunn."

In 1961, the first group of "Freedom Riders" left Washington, D.C., to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals. In 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN (AP) — Like many Texas Republicans, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst has waited in line for higher office for nearly a decade.

Now that Kay Bailey Hutchison is wrapping up a 19-year career in the U.S. Senate, Dewhurst may finally get his chance. But he first must survive the war being waged within the Texas GOP over who is the most conservative candidate to replace her.

Dewhurst has patiently held the state's No. 2 job since 2003 and has long been considered the oddson favorite for the Senate when the time came. His record might seem unassailable for a Republican: He's a self-made multimillionaire and an established leader in a Legislature that has restricted abortion, cut spending, curbed gay rights and advanced other conservative priorities. Yet the GOP's heir apparent is finding his promotion to Washington to be tougher than expected. Opponents deride him as not conservative enough. A leading challenger also noted that Dewhurst, as the presiding officer, has allowed several minority party Democrats to chair state Senate committees over the years. The tone of the race is just one sign of the continuing rightward drift of politics in one of the most conservative states. With nearly 50 percent of Texas voters calling themselves "very conservative" in a recent poll, the competition in the GOP is now all about who's the purest and most doctrinaire. And longtime officeholders who rose in an earlier time can find themselves held up against the new breed of hard-liners who brook no compromise with the opposition. Notably, all the GOP candidates in the field this year are well to the right of Hutchison, who was considered conservative when she was elected in 1993 but would now qualify as moderate.

years, said Republican strategist Bill Miller. "It's got real roots here, and they are dug in and demanding that candidates be the most conservative."

Already, the hammering may be having an effect on Dewhurst. His top challenger, appeals attorney and former state solicitor general Ted Cruz, 41, has been cutting into Dewhurst's lead in recent surveys and will probably do well enough in the May 29 primary to force his way into a runoff.

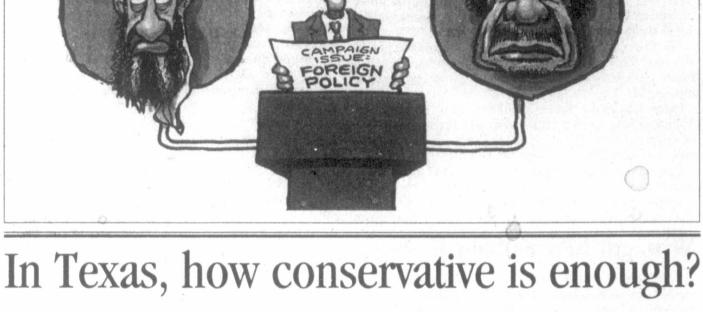
"Away from the watchful eye of conservatives, Dewhurst empowered and worked with liberal Democrats to increase spending and kill conservative legislation," said John Drogin, a spokesman for in Houston, then played basketball at the University of Arizona before serving in the Air Force and going to work for the CIA in Bolivia. where he learned Spanish.

TELEPROMPTERS

GADHAFI

His entry into the energy business was rocky. Dewhurst's first oilfield supply company went bankrupt. But he struck it rich wher another of his companies, Falcor Seaboard, which had ventured into selling electricity to utilities and industrial users, sold three power plants for \$226 million.

For the last nine years, while Republican Rick Perry was becoming Texas' longest serving governor, Dewhurst held the powerful independent office of lieutenant governor, which appoints committees and guides the fate of thousands of bills. Under Dewhurst, lawmakers limited damages paid in civil and med; ical malpractice lawsuits, passed z voter identification law, required a 24-hour waiting period and a sonogram before a woman can have an abortion and defined marriage in Texas as between a man and a woman. They also cut public education spending by \$4 billion tc help balance the budget in 2011. But Cruz insists he's more conservative. He has been zeroing ir on the Republican red-meat issues of restricting federal spending and repealing Obama's health care law. and, unlike Dewhurst, he supports building a wall along the entire Texas-Mexico border. Dewhurst favors using other forms of surveilnce in some areas. Cruz asserts that he would take a tougher line against illegal immigration. Cruz has attracted attention ir a party eager to win over more Hispanic voters. The son of a Cuban immigrant father, Cruz was primary editor of the Harvard Law Review and got most of his political seasoning by arguing in front of the state Supreme Court as Texas solicitor general.





OSAMA

In 1980, Marshal Josip Broz Tito, president of Yugoslavia, died three days before his 88th birthday.

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord on Palestinian autonomy that granted self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Ten years ago: A Nigerian airliner crashed in a suburb of Kano, Nigeria, just after takeoff, killing a total of 154 people on the plane and the ground. War Emblem, a 20-1 shot, scored a wire-to-wire, four-length victory over Proud Citizen in the Kentucky Derby.

Five years ago: A tornado destroyed most of Greensburg, Kan., killing at least 11 people. A judge sentenced hotel heiress Paris Hilton to 45 days in the Los Angeles County jail for violating probation in an alcohol-related reckless driving case by driving with a suspended license. (Hilton ended up serving three weeks.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama said he had decided not to release death photos of terrorist Osama bin Laden because their graphic nature could incite violence and create national security risks. Separately, officials told The Associated Press that the Navy SEALs who'd stormed bin Laden's compound in Pakistan shot and killed him after they saw him appear to lunge for a weapon. Los Angeles Chippers forward Blake Griffin was named the Rookie of the Year, becoming the NBA's first unanimous choice for the award in 21 years.

Today's Birthdays: The former president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, is 84, Opera singer Roberta Peters is 82. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 75. Rock musician Dick Dale is 75. Pop singer Peggy Santiglia (The Angels) is 68. Actor Richard Jenkins is 65. Country singer Stella Parton is 63. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 62. Irish musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 62. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 61. Rhythm-andblues singer Oleta Adams is 59. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sharon Jones is 56. Country singer Randy Travis is 53. Actress Mary McDonough is 51. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 45. Actor Will Arnett is 42. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 40. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 40: TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 37. Rock musician Jose Castellanos is 35. Singer Lance Bass ('N Sync) is 33. Actor Alexander Gould is 18. Actress Amara Miller ("The Descendants") is 12.

Thought for Today: "Goodness, armed with power, is corrupted; and pure love without power is destroyed." – Reinhold Niebultr, American theologian (1892-1971).

and have a stand a graph of the barry and interesting the set of the

"This is a conservative state, and it's still building off that tea party movement" that surged in recent Cruz, who is a tea party favorite.

"Pure, petty, negative politics," Dewhurst said of the Republican attacks. However, while trying to keep his campaign focused on President Barack Obama, Dewhurst recently lashed out at his Republican detractors with an ad blitz.

"We don't have time for rookies and on-the-job training," Dewhurst said in remarks dismissive of his opponents.

Also running are businessman and former Dallas mayor Tom Leppert and former football player and television analyst Craig James, both of whom lag far behind. Neither Cruz nor James has held elected office. In the Democratic primary, former state lawmaker Paul Sadler faces newcomer Sean Hubbard, a party activist and small businessman.

Dewhurst, 66, is a tall Texan with an energy industry pedigree and an appreciation of cowboy culture — he's a world-class cutting horse competitor and member of the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame.

He says his life experiences from growing up in a single-parent household in Houston to becoming the leader of the 31-member state Senate — have prepared him for national office.

Dewhurst's father was killed by a drunken driver when Dewhurst was 3. He attended public schools Cruz is pinning his hopes on getting into the runoff on July 31, when experts say turnout will be low and activist voters will likely choose the winner.



Teen claims Houston police officers beat him unconscious

HOUSTON (AP) - A teenager testified Thursday that he was trying to surrender to Houston police officers when they repeatedly kicked and hit him, causing him to briefly lose consciousness, during his 2010 arrest on suspicion of burglary.

An attorney for Andrew Blomberg, one of the four since-fired officers accused of participating in the beating, countered his client was a "hero" who tried to secure a potentially dangerous suspect, and that he had not kicked the then-15-year-old boy.

Blomberg, 29, is the first of the four former police officers to stand trial in the arrest that was caught on video. He is charged with official oppression, a misdemeanor, and faces up to a year in jail if convicted.

Chad Holley, 18, was the first witness in Blomberg's trial.

Holley testified that he and three friends stole a piano keyboard and some vodka from a townhome in southwest Houston in March 2010. Later that day, police stopped the youths' truck and Holley ran. He said a police car knocked him over and as he lay on the ground he put his hands on his head to indicate surrender.

That was when "the kicks started coming," Holley said.

"I started feeling people on my back. I felt one hard blow," he said. "It felt like knees and I don't know kicks ... I lay there," not fighting back. Holley said he briefly lost consciousness and the next thing he remembers is waking up in the back of a patrol vehicle.

Prayer

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es contacted her to take part in the Fellowship from the afternoon session carried over into the evening ser-Day of Prayer events. vice, which was kicked off by a procession of bikers circling Loop 171 in prayer. Many area motorcyclists took part in the prayer ride, including important to them." several members of Gray County's

Christian Motorcyclist Association. "We came here to pray for our nation and everybody from our President to our troops overseas," said motorcyclist Mutt Villareal of Calvary Baptist. "We also want to pray for our land and our town especially. It's an important year."

Lewis said that several area church-

Prosecutor Clint Greenwood told jurors the officers were out of control.

"The defendant and his fellow officers methodically delivered their own brand of justice not in this courtroom but in the side of a street in southwest Houston," Greenwood said.

Holley's arrest was captured by a security camera at a nearby storage business. In the video, Holley can be seen on the ground, surrounded by at least five officers. Officers appear to kick and hit his head, abdomen and

The video, which showed two different angles, was played later Thursday for jurors when the then manager of the storage business, Savanna Stivender, testified. She said she cried when she first saw the video.

Jurors were shown photos of injuries Holley said he suffered, including a gash on the right side of his face and a bloodshot right eye.

A community activist, Quanell X, released the video to the media, prompting fierce public criticism of the police department. Leaders in Houston's black community said they believed the treatment of Holley, who is black, was another example of police brutality against blacks and other minorities in the city and that the misdemeanor charges against the former officers were not serious enough.

Holley was convicted of burglary in juvenile court in October 2010. He was put on probation, which ended last month.

During a break in testimony, Quanell X told reporters he was upset no blacks or other minorities were on the jury.

Blomberg's lead attorney, Dick DeGuerin, accused Holley of being a gang member and showed jurors photographs from the teenager's Facebook page in which Holley was sometimes shirtless and referred to a group called the West Main Gs. Prosecutors said the photos were an attempt by defense attorneys to make Holley look "thuggish" to jurors. Holley said he was not in a gang and has not been in trouble with authorities since the burglary.

DeGuerin said Blomberg forcefully put his foot on the teen's elbow in order to secure his hands, but that it wasn't a kick. DeGuerin said Blomberg and other officers had been after a gang of possibly armed criminals who had been burglarizing homes during the day. Holley was not armed when he was arrested.

"Andrew Blomberg is a true hero who was trying his best to protect you," DeGuerin said.

Testimony was to resume Friday.

A federal lawsuit Holley filed against Blomberg, the other fired officers and the city of Houston is pending.

Taste

cont. from page 1A

off. We've got some great places here, and maybe they'll try something they hadn't tried before."

Restaurants and caterers can reserve booths with Kathryn Green at 669-0148 and can get ticket information from Rochelle Lacy at 669-2009.



schools, will be an important subject when the Legislature meets next year. More than 60 percent of Texas' school districts have sued the state over what they say is an unconstitutional finance system. A trial is scheduled for October. Most observers say the judge is likely to find the current system unconstitutional and demand that lawmakers come up with a new one.

National Day of Prayer.

"I think it's very important because

some of us get caught up in our own

little groove, and if we get together

like this, then we're praying interdenominational," she said. "We're

all praying together for the same

Rep. John Otto, R-Dayton, expressed concern that

cont. from page 2A

County and city officials agreed that notices provided to the public when property taxes change are confusing. They said the state laws requiring "truth-in-taxation" need to be updated to allow tax assessors to provide simpler language.

Over 25 years Experience

Keith Taylor Cell 664-2018 or home 874-1779 lv. msg

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cont. from page 1A

purpose."

"I think it's extremely important," "I had so many calls from churches echoed Nachtigall, "because many asking for all the details," she said. "You could tell this was something Seeing so many churches coming together as one, Lewis continued, really captured the essence of the

event."

The Pampa News reporter Mollie Bryant contributed to this report.

times in our churches, we see what's going on in our individual churches,

but when we get together like this, it helps us as a community to understand that we're not alone, that there are other individuals in the community who are praying and seeking God in the midst of everything that's going on. I see it as a very positive

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ending the property tax could hurt the state's credit rating. John Heleman, chief revenue estimator for the state comptroller, said property taxes are a more stable source of income than sales taxes, which plummeted during the Great Recession and created budget problems across the state.

Stable revenue is one thing credit ratings agencies look for when evaluating state bond debt. Otto also noted that no state has ever done away with property taxes.

Rep. Naomi Gonzalez, D-El Paso, questioned whether an increased sales tax would hurt middle-income and poor people. She said under the current system, the rich are already paying a smaller percentage of their income in state and local sale taxes than the average Texan. Heflin replied that while that may be true, it is better than other tax systems.

Peggy Venable, president of the Texas chapter of Americans for Prosperity, also called on the state to address the \$320 billion in debt generated by local authorities. Much of that must be repaid by future property tax collections.

"This has a grave implication when we talk about local property taxes, because it's sold to the taxpayers as just a few pennies." Venable said.

She said there should be limits on how much debt a local authority takes on and that taxing authorities should have to reveal their debt level when asking voters to approve new bonds. She complained that school officials in particular manipulate the public into supporting bond packages.

"As long as we have government schools, that will be a problem," said Venable, who supports privately-operated schools. "If we interject competition in the system we might see the system begin to work."

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Luncheon

Tuesday May 15

Noon in the MK Brown Room

Sponsor - Relay for Life

Program - Relay for Life

Cost is \$10/person - rsvp by May 14

(when making reservations for multiple people

ve require each name)

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With so much happening in our lives, it's easy to lose sight of the future - like retirement. Edward Jones can help make saving for retirement easier with our monthly IRA investing program.

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7787

Ben Watson, AAMS® Financial Advisor

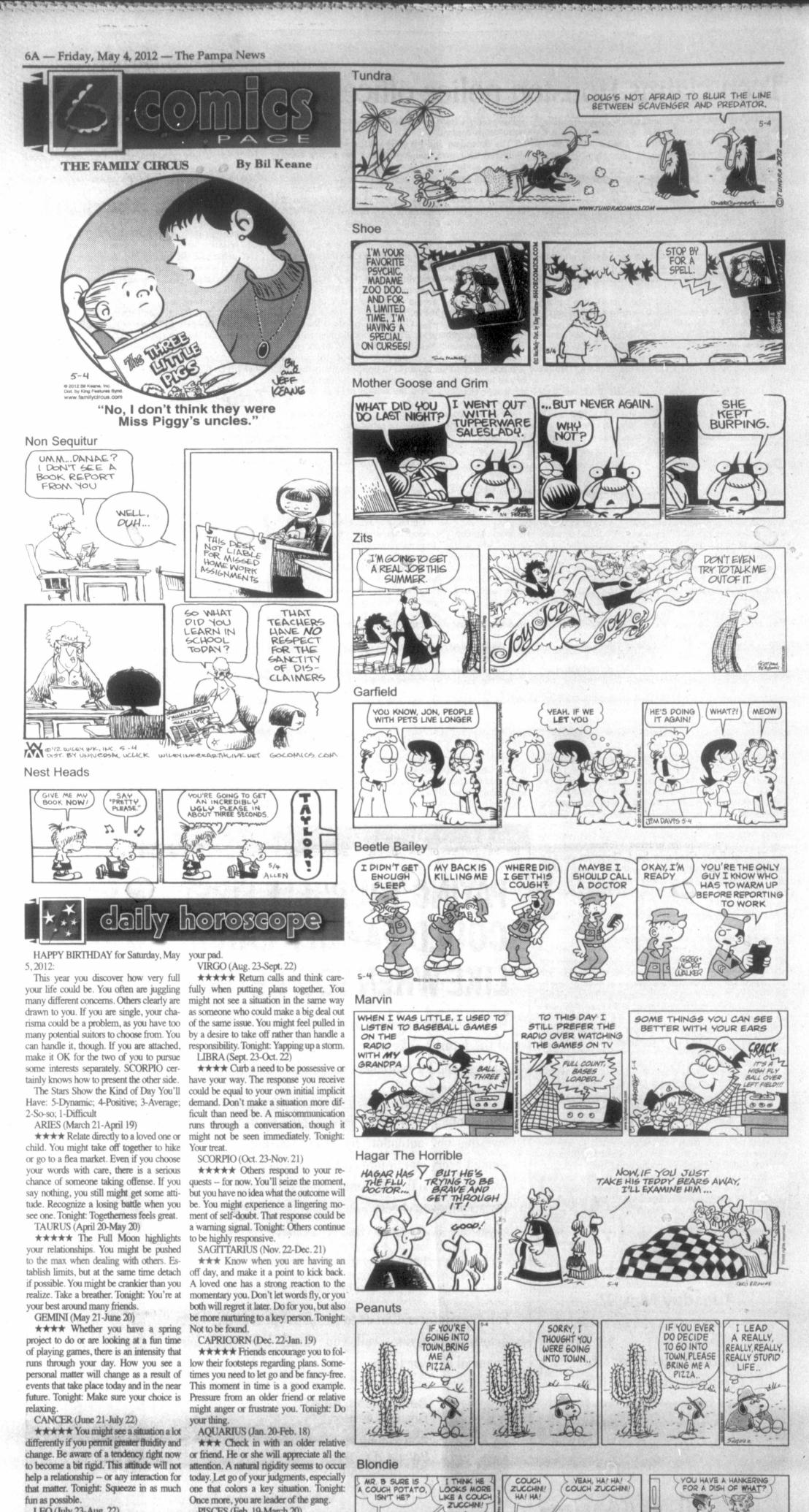
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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING





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LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Let go of rigidity, and honor a better sense of self. You might not want to go at a distance. If you cannot meet halfway in far or change what you are doing. Others the near future, plan a get-together as soon might push and prod you to get a certain as possible. Double-check your change, response. Be careful with your tone if you and use caution with any financial dealings become disappointed or feel frustrated. that might come up. Tonight: Find great Discuss your feelings. Tonight: Entertain at music. Invite others to join you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Keep reaching out for someone

The Pampa News - Friday, May 4, 2012 - 7A

Texas regents reject tuition increase proposal for Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — Rejecting a request to raise tuition over the next two years, University of Texas System regents instead froze rates Thursday for most students at the flagship Austin campus and decided to give the school a short-term boost of cash from its multibillion-dollar endowment fund.

The vote comes at a time when the state's colleges and universities are under political pressure — led by Republican Gov. Rick Perry — to reduce costs and simultaneously improve graduation rates.

Each of the system's nine campuses asked for some sort of rate increase. Most were approved, although a few were at rates lower than requested.

The major exception was the University of Texas at Austin, one of the largest public schools in the country and the most prominent target of critics in the public debate over whether state universities are efficiently educating students.

The university asked to raise tuition from about 2.6 percent to 3.6 percent starting in the fall of 2012. Much of the nearly \$26 million it hoped to raise was to be used for improving academic advising and add-ing courses to help more students graduate in four years.

Regents instead froze tuition for undergraduate resident students and agreed to dip into money generated by the Permanent University Fund for about \$13 million. The regents approved raising tuition for non-resident undergraduates (2.1 percent) and graduate students (3.6 percent).

System officials said the endowment money, combined with the higher rates for non-resident and graduate students, should get Texas close to the nearly \$26 million target.

But University of Texas President Bill Powers said he was disappointed by the freeze. Powers said the higher rates were going to pay for student benefits and programs for years to come and freezing them at the current levels will make it harder to plan for the future.

State universities have had to use tuition rates to raise money as the Legislature has cut state higher education funding in recent years. Lawmakers gave the universities the power to set their rates in 2003. "Every penny of this plan ... was designed and

dedicated to student success programs," Powers said. Undergraduate resident students at the Austin cam-

pus pay \$4,896 per semester. Non-resident students will see their tuition jump from \$16,190 per semester

Two men charged for harboring 115 illegals

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McALLEN (AP) — Two men were charged Thursday with conspiring to harbor illegal immigrants after authorities responding to a 911 call found about 115 suspected illegal immigrants in three clustered South Texas homes.

A U.S. magistrate judge ordered Vicente Ortiz Soto

to \$17,377 by fall 2013.

The regents approved tuition increases for the system's other campuses starting in fall 2012. Those schools also were promised a short-term boost from the endowment to help mitigate the difference.

The University of Texas-Arlington did not ask for a rate increase in 2012, but was authorized to raise rates in 2013 if needed.

Before the vote, Texas system Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa called the proposed rate increases "modest" and said they were "necessary to continue to provide the highest quality education."

Regents chairman Gene Powell, a Perry appointee, proposed the plan that was passed instead. Powell noted regents can't promise schools will get the extra endowment money in the future and urged college presidents to keep cutting costs.

Powell praised a new program at UT-Permian Basin in Odessa that will offer a four-year bachelor of science degree for no more than \$10,000, a goal

Perry set for universities last year. He also noted that UT-Arlington's efforts to boost online classes has helped the school increase enrollment by 6,000 students.

Texas A&M University System regents were expected to vote on tuition rates at their campuses on Friday. The president of the A&M system's flagship campus in College Station did not request a tuition increase this year.

The Texas system regents on Thursday also gave a big boost to the creation of new medical schools in Austin and South Texas with public endorsements and commitments to help finance the projects.

Supporters of a medical school in Austin note the flagship campus already does a lot of medical-related research and the school will help solidify the campus as a world-class university.

Those supporting a South Texas medical school say it would boost health care and research in the one of the fastest-growing regions in the country.

How to properly level a patio or walkway

Dear Pat: I am going to build a brick patio adjacent to a small fishpond in my backyard. I plan to use a gravel and sand base for the bricks. What is the easiest way to get them properly leveled? — Maria P.

Dear Maria: A brick patio and surround for the fishpond can be a very attractive addition to your landscaping. You might want to consider using patio pavers instead of ordinary bricks because the pavers are usually more decorative and they are made to fit together perfectly.

Whether you use bricks or patio pavers, laying the base and the leveling process are identical. "Leveling" is the proper term to use, but you do not want the patio to be level. A slight slope away from the pond will keep rainwater from carrying patio dirt into the pond. One-eighth-inch slope per foot length should be more than adequate.

A 2-inch layer of crushed gravel covered by another 2-inch layer of sand should be a good base for the patio. Always use crushed gravel, not pea gravel, which will roll around. The angular edges of crush gravel lock the pieces together for a much more stable base.

First, determine the height for



stake in the ground with its top 2 inches plus the brick thickness lower than the top of the finished stake. Drive in a third (gravel) stake for the gravel two inches below the second.

Pour the crushed gravel in over the dirt and, using a rake, level it by eye. Find a very straight 8-footlong piece of 2-by-6 or 2-by-8 lumber. Rest it across two of the gravel stakes. This is why you placed the stakes 7 feet apart. Move the piece of lumber from stake to stake to

lumber, check the material

levels by resting it across

the tops of the stakes.

SAND

check the thickness of the gravel.

Drive several additional stakes near the center of the patio at a depth of the top of the sand. Remember, they are not at the patio edge, so concerning the slope, they will be slightly higher. These will be used as pivot points for the lumber to smooth the top of the sand.

Pour sand over the gravel, and level it just by eye. Wet it down, and give it a day or two to settle and compact. Carefully smooth the top surface with the 2-by-6 lumber using the stakes. Remove the interior stakes, and lay the bricks in place over the sand bed.

Send your questions to Here's How, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

HOME HOW-TO Paver Walkway Bricks and pavers can be used to make an attractive patio, walkway or driveway. The basic principles for building a brick paver project are given below, but be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions. SCREED BOARD With a straight piece of

SAND

SAND Use coarse sand, and screed it smooth to a depth of 1 inch. Wetting the sand lightly with water will help with the compacting.

Use a 4-inch layer of

crushed stone with

sharp, irregular edges

for the base. Tamp

by hand or with a

GRAVEL

and Marcial Salas Gardunio held Thursday pending their detention hearings. Both requested that lawyers be appointed to represent them.

A criminal complaint filed against them described authorities arriving to find immigrants fleeing two houses in Edinburg while others remained locked in a third.

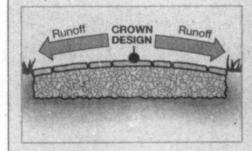
The call came from an immigrant inside one of the houses who said he was being held against his will with about 50 others. Immigrant witnesses told authorities that Salas greeted them at the stash house with "Welcome to hell," according to the complaint. Salas told investigators Ortiz paid him \$500 per week to smuggle immigrants.

Immigrants from El Salvador and Honduras told agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations that both Ortiz and Salas drove them to the houses from the border and sold them snacks.

Officers found the windows and doors locked from the outside with chains and padlocks and no light in the house. Seven people inside the house were hospitalized for treatment of dehydration and malnourishment, The Monitor of McAllen reported. the top surface of the finished patio. Drive wooden grade stakes in the ground around the perimeter of the patio so the tops are at the finished height. Locate them 7 feet apart to facilitate creating a smooth surface for the gravel and sand.

The best way to get the proper angle for the necessary slope is to use a builder's level or a laser level. You can rent either at most tool rental shops or just buy a laser level. You will be able to use it for may other projects around the house. The rental shop staff can quickly show you how to use either device.

Once you have the stakes in the ground for the patio top surface (allow for the slope), dig down about 4 inches plus the thickness of the bricks below these stakes for the base. This need not be done accurately. Drive a second (sand) **STAKES** Use stakes to help establish reference points for material. Set the top of these stakes to the height of gravel, sand and finish paver.



Source: belgard.biz/howtoinstall.htm

EXCAVATING The sod and all organic material are removed deep enough to allow for the depth of the pavers, sand

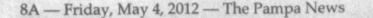
DRAINAGE

Design the walkway with a slope for adequate drainage. Walkways should have a slope of at least 1/8" per linear foot. **Slope design** - slopes away from your house and other structures. **Crown design** - is higher at the center to prevent water from pooling.

Creators.com/Bob Kast



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Harvesters

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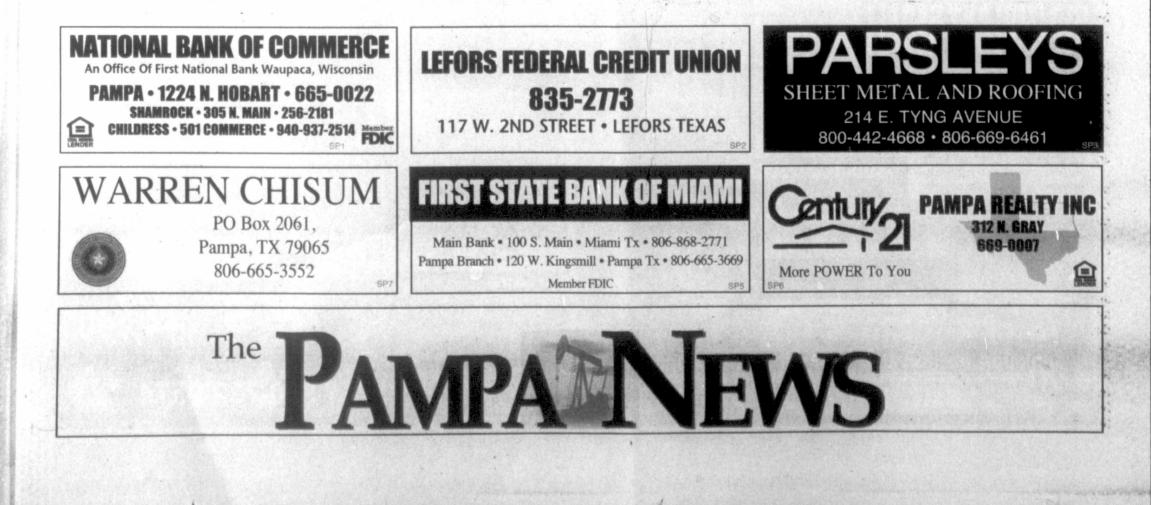
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Game 1: 6 p.m. Friday at Plainview H.S. Game 2: 11 a.m. Saturday at Plainview H.S. Game 3 will be played 30 minutes after Game 2 if necessary

Baseball is competing in the BI-DISTRICT round against the Lubbock Estacado Matadors

Game 1: 7:30 p.m. Friday at Wayland Baptist in Plainview. Game 2: 4 p.m. Saturday at Wayland Baptist in Plainview. Game will be played 30 minutes after Game 2 if necessary



The Pampa News — Friday, May 4, 2012 — 9A

Education

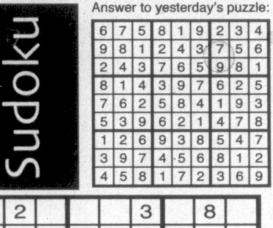
TIP TOP SHAPES



School Menus

Pampa Independent School District

MONDAY, May 7 Pig in a blanket or chicken nuggets, whipped potatoes, English peas, peach cup Breakfast-Breakfast Pizza **TUESDAY**, May 8 Popcorn shrimp or chef salad, spinach, carrot sticks, applesauce, cornbread Breakfast- Donut, sausage patty WEDNESDAY, May 9 Spaghetti or popcorn chicken, green beans, tossed salad, mixed fruit, garlic toast Breakfast-Waffle sticks, syrup THURSDAY, May 10 Egg rolls or pizza, corn, broccoli florets, fresh fruit. rice pilaf Breakfast-Biscuit, sausage patty FRIDAY, May 11 Chicken fajitas or hamburger, french fries, burger salad, bell peppers & onion, spiced apples Breakfast-Cereal, toast



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photo courtesy of Pam Funderburg

Students from Pam Funderburg's second grade class at Lamar show off their projects on geometric shapes. Pictured are (back row, from left) Destiny Lymburner, Yesenia Resendiz, Drake Reed, Jaiden Goodson, Trinity Land; (front row, from left) Bryson Solis, Hortensia Urrutia and A



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a procord of accomplishments - out with a licensed mar- GRANDMA books, scientific papers, blog, riage counselor, not a child.

Because there are prob- known to Chip, but nothing deno fessional ornithologist (bird lems the two of you can't re- changes. Should I stay out expert) with a substantial re- solve, they should be talked of this? - TEETOTALING boy

DEAR GRANDMA: ther website, consultant work, etc. If your husband refuses to Much as you might wish My hometown has held a go, you definitely should go to, neither you nor your

bird festival for more than a without him. decade and each year it feadinner. My expertise and ex- not his family. Family get- er appears to be. Because alany of the speakers they have because they drink - a lot. invited by a considerable margin. I am well-known in beer to his 3-year-old and the child's mother allows to speak.

me any reason why I have with them. My daughter the law, but could make the been ignored. There's no his- has also made her concerns child sick or create a depentory of bad feelings, but I'm starting to develop some now. It feels like a personal and professional snub. How do I respond? - UNAPPRECI-ATED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNAPPRECI-ATED: You're not alone with this dilemma. To paraphrase a verse from the Bible (which also sounds like Rodney Dangerfield), "A prophet is without honor in his own hometown."

Because the festival board members have been made aware that you are qualified and would like to be a speaker, it's time to step back. Make other plans for when the festival is held. It's possible your absence may make their hearts grow fonder. However, if it doesn't, at least you won't be sitting at home and brooding. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.)

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I have a private argument, he shares our problems with our 11-yearold daughter when I am not around. Later, she will tell me she sides with him about our argument.

I feel my husband should not involve our daughter in our disagreements. It makes me feel betrayed. How should I deal with this issue? - VI-QLATED IN NEW JERSEY

NC

DEAR VIOLATED: You married a man who appears to be manipulative and not above using your daughter to "get to you." I agree he shouldn't discuss your disagreements with her - not because it's a betrayal, but because it's unfair that she is being put in the middle.

tures a main speaker at the our son-in-law, "Chip," but drunk, which Chip's broth-

daughter is going to change. DEAR ABBY: We love the behavior of a belligerent perience far outshine that of togethers are very strained cohol impairs his judgment to the extent that he's giving Chip's brother has given liquor to his 3-year-old and town, but have not been asked no one says anything. I find it, someone should contact it appalling and a form of child protective services and I talked to the festival child abuse. Chip's brother ask what can be done. I recboard members, and they say is a know-it-all, sarcastic and ommend that you do it soon, I haven't been deliberately rude. I am worried about my because giving alcohol to excluded, but they didn't give grandson spending any time a minor is not only against

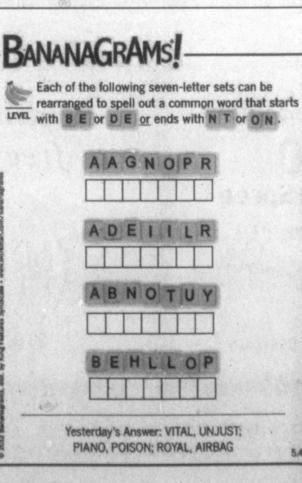
OGKNAT

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different. CRYPTOQUOTE 5-4 YFH ARNHW G CWAO YFH NGKYWZKY YFH TAWH G NALYWGBH YFDY UDTGRGDW

R THBLVHB Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EDUCATION IS WHEN YOU READ THE FINE PRINT; EXPERIENCE IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU DON'T. - PETE SEEGER

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The PAMPA NEWS Sports

Harvesters look to their experience against Matadors

ANDREW GLOVER aglover@thepampanews.com

Last year, the Pampa Harvesters got a taste of what playing in the playoffs is like. This season, head coach Kaleb Snelgrooes hopes his players will get more than a taste when they play the Lubbock Estacado Matadors, in the bi-district round at Wayland Baptist in Plainview.

"Lot of these guys got experience last year," Snelgrooes said. "I think that will come into effect. When it comes to playing we still have to make plays. I hope that experience will take some edge off and some nerves out of it for us."

Game 1 is 7:30 p.m. Friday and Game 2 is 4 p.m. Saturday. If a third game is necessary, it will start 30 minutes after the second game. The Harvesters (9-14) return four starters and two pitchers from last season's bi-

from last season's bidistrict finalist. Senior Jared Lusk said

being in the playoffs last year is going to help this year. "It's going to come in handy," Lusk said. "It's going to help us out a lot. I'm

going to be looking forward to it."

Senior Devin Coleman said he's con-

fident the team will do well.

"I think (Estacado) is beatable," Coleman said. "I'm pretty confident in playing these guys." Snelgrooes said he

got information about Estacado from Borger and others adding playing someone dif-

ferent will help his team.

"We got a small scouting report on them," Snelgrooes said. "Sometimes not knowing anything is better than knowing too much."

Lusk said the team learned last year it has to battle the entire game.

"We battled in every game we played," Lusk said. "That's going to come in handy. Stay ahead of our game. Don't get down or frustrated."

Snelgrooes said he hopes to get some redemption from his playing days.

"I don't know what Pampa's record is against Estacado," Snelgrooes said. "They beat me my junior year. Beat my brother in his senior year and coach (Tyson) Hickman in his junior year. Coach Hickman and I have an axe to grind with Estacado."

Last season, Pampa was outscored 7-0 in the first half of Game 1 before ralling and having the tying runs on base. The Harvesters jumped out to a 4-0 lead but were outscored 14-0 the rest of the game. Coleman said the key will be making plays.

"We got to take the minor plays away," Coleman said. "Keep hitting the ball."



• The 2011 and 12 Harvesters are the first Pampa teams to make consecutive trips to the playoffs since Pampa accomplished that from 2001-2007.

• Senior Collin Killgo and sophomore Ethan Hunt can hold bragging rights over older brothers Mitchell Killgo and Braden Hunt if Pampa wins the series. Mitchell and Braden both missed out on winning a postseason series with Pampa High School.



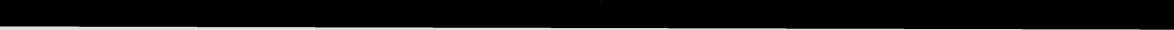
staff photo by Andrew Glover

Section E May 4, 2012

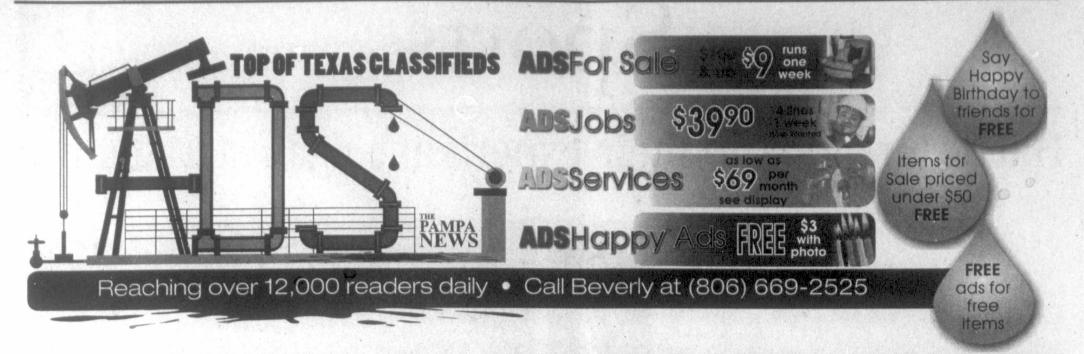
Junior James Thompson slides into first on a pickoff attempt in a April 21 game. The Harvesters seek their first playoff series win since 2007.







Priday, May 4, 2012 — The Pampa News 2B



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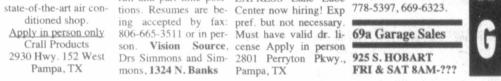
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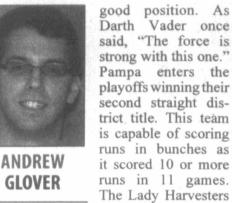
Can baseball and softball advance in the playoffs?

One of the famous lines in "Star Wars" is, "Help me, Obi Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope.

The Pampa Harvesters baseball team and the Lady Harvesters softball team are Pampa's last chance at advancing in the playoffs. This is the same position Pampa found itself during the 2009-10 season. That year, the Lady Harvesters answered the call. I think both teams can accomplish that.

Now, both teams aren't off to a good start because someone chose to hold the games in Plainview. Since I've been sports reporter, only one team (volleyball) out of four (girls basketball twice and boys basketball) has returned happy. Granted, two of the four were heavy underdogs. With that said, there are places that have treated Pampa better. The boys basketball team won two of three games played in Lubbock in 2011. I guess it's better than playing in Canyon or Amarillo because I've yet to see Pampa return with a trophy.

Like I said in previous columns, the Lady Harvesters enter the playoffs in Entering the playoffs, Pampa may not



The Lady Harvesters have strong pitchers. Sophomore Alexa O'Brien was lights out in district play, giving up only one earned run. O'Brien is great at throwing with heat and making batters swing and

miss. Senior Heather Coffee finished the season strong and does a good job of working the corners. This year, Pampa is more focused on the playoffs and learned from its loss from last year. At the beginning of the 2011-12 ath-

letic season, I had the baseball team as my dark horse to go on a playoff run.

look like a team poised for a run, as it's lost two of three district series. Just like the Lady Harvesters, the Harvesters can hit the ball well as they've scored five or more runs in 13 of their last 14. Pampa's pitching improved in district, giving it a chance to win a game. The Harvesters need to step up on defense because it's going to be a long night if they are making errors instead of outs. Pampa's greatest strength is that it battles until the end of the game. There were several games that it could have been easy for the Harvesters to check out and throw in the towel. That wasn't the case as Pampa rallied in several games. Being able to battle is key because both teams are wanting to avoid having to turn in equipment on Monday.

Both teams have a lot of experience and return most of their key players. That's key because they know what to expect in the playoffs and have experienced playing in a more intense environment. Some of the Lady Harvesters' seniors and juniors had small roles on the teams that advanced two or three rounds and

know what winning feels like. Hopefully, both team's veteran players can guide the younger ones.

The key for both teams is playing solid for the entire game. I know it's cliche but it's a fact. Both teams and opponents are capable of big innings. The Harvesters and Lady Harvesters can't sit on a big inning or get discouraged if the opponents get one. Last year, the Harvesters played great in the second half of Game 1 and in the first half of Game 2. In the opposite halves, Pampa was dominated. Last year the Lady Harvesters allowed Midland Greenwood to jump out. This year, Pampa has to reverse that and be able to build its confidence.

I think both teams are capable of leaving Plainview with a trophy. Saturday we will find out if Pampa adds a trophy to its shelf or if the evil empire of losing prevails.

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

Big 12 goes with Stanford AD Bowlsby as new commissioner

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) — A teary-eyed Bob Bowlsby walked out of a Stanford auditorium to a roaring ovation from university coaches and staff members Thursday, leaving behind a lasting legacy at one of the nation's top athletic programs for a conference in desperate need of a strong leader.

The Big 12 Conference made it official in the afternoon, announcing Bowlsby as its commissioner. He will take over Chuck who Neinas replaced the ousted Dan Beebe in September — on June 15 after six years as Stanford's athletic director. "The institutions of the Big 12 wanted a commissioner that could take us to the next era as a conference," said Burns Hargis, president of Oklahoma State and chairman of the conference's board of directors. "The search committee looked for a candidate that has a vision for the next generation of college athletics, and his credentials and ideas exceeded this."

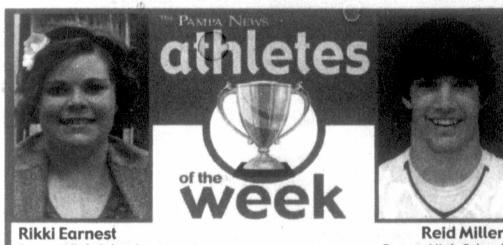
fans will forever remember his hiring of coach Jim Harbaugh in 2006 most. Harbaugh built the football program into a national power, winning the Orange Bowl over Virginia Tech in 2011 and finishing fourth in the final AP poll.

ranking since the unbeaten seemed on the brink of 1940 team finished second.

Bowlsby also hired offensive coordinator David Shaw last year for interim Commissioner to replace Harbaugh, who departed to the San Francisco 49ers. Shaw kept the Cardinal on track, going 11-2, including an overtime loss in the Fiesta Bowl to Oklahoma State. Andrew Luck was the Heisman Trophy runnerup both seasons. "Bob Bowlsby has my admiration as a Stanford alumnus for his leadership through difficult economic times for our athletic department," Shaw said. "As head football coach, he has my gratitude for his continuous efforts to bolster and support our football program. As a friend, I wish him great success." Stanford's rigorous academic standards presented unique circumstances, yet the school has won the Directors' Cup 17 straight years. The award is given annually by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics to the program with the most success in all sports. Stanford is one of the country's largest programs with 35 sports, including 19 for women. Stanford sent more athletes to the 2008 Beijing Olympics than any other college in the U.S. winning 25 Olympic medals. If Stanford were a country, it would have ranked 11th — tying with Japan — in total medals. Stanford teams won 10 NCAA championships during his tenure, including five straight Final Four appearances by the women's basketball teams. "I am very sad to see Bob leave Stanford. I loved working for Bob. He is a great supporter of women's basketball and women's athletics here at Stanford," said Hall of Fame women's basketball coach Tara VanDerveer. "He is direct, a problemsolver, and a man of integrity. The Big 12 is fortunate to have him and he will do a great job." Bigger challenges lie ahead for Bowlsby in the Midwest.

two years ago and wound up losing Nebraska to the Big Ten, Colorado to the Pac-12 and, as of July 1, Texas A&M and Missouri to the Southeastern Conference. Beebe was booted in September as Oklahoma, Texas and others were flirting with the It was the program's best Pac-12 and the Big 12 falling apart.

The conference is reportedly working toward a new television deal with ESPN, and Neinas was pushing members to agree to a long-term grant of media rights to the league that would make it all but impossible for schools to bolt. No deal has been struck yet, but that will likely be among the first items on the agenda for Bowlsby. That's something he worked closely with Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott to accomplish. After reaching a 12-year contract worth about \$3 billion last year with Fox and ESPN, the Pac-12 announced plans to launch a new conference-owned network to supplement coverage and create more exposure for Pac-12 athletes. The venture will launch this fall with the national cable network, six regional networks and a digital network.



Pampa High School

Pampa High School

Pampa High School senior track athlete Rikki Earnest is The Pampa News Female Athlete of the Week. Earnest threw shot put and discus and won or was a top finisher in several meets. Earnest finished her track career Saturday at regionals. Pampa High School senior track athlete Reid Miller

is The Pampa News Male Athlete of the Week. Miller finished fifth in the 110-meter hurdles in the regional

Bowlsby will lead a BCS conference that seems to have found some stability.

After losing four schools over the past two years, the league heads into this fall with 10 members, including new additions TCU and West Virginia. The conference also is working on a new television deal that could reshape revenue similar to the Pac-12's lucrative contract.

60-year-old The Bowlsby had passed up several chances to leave Stanford over the years. He's a nationally respected college administrator who was hired away from Iowa in 2006 after 15 years spent running the Hawkeyes' athletic department.

"I have been honored to have served Stanford University. It has been a productive and an enjoyable period of time and Stanford will always be a part of me," Bowlsby said in a statement. "The university has a rich history of successfully merging world-class academics and world-class athletics and I am very proud to have had the opportunity to participate in the extraordinary achievements of our student-athletes and coaches."

Success on The Farm blossomed during Bowlsby's tenure.

Of all the decisions he made at Stanford, though,

The Big 12 was hit hard

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