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Friday, June 8, 2012 www.thepampanews.com Volume 108 • No. 54



75¢ Education: Frost all smiles after scholarship Plus college honors, graduations and more | p5
\$1.50 weekend Golden girls Lady Harvesters honored at softball banquet | p6

Pampa's Smith endorses King in District 88 runoff

■ *Smith joins former rival Walker in endorsing Canadian's King over Landtroop*

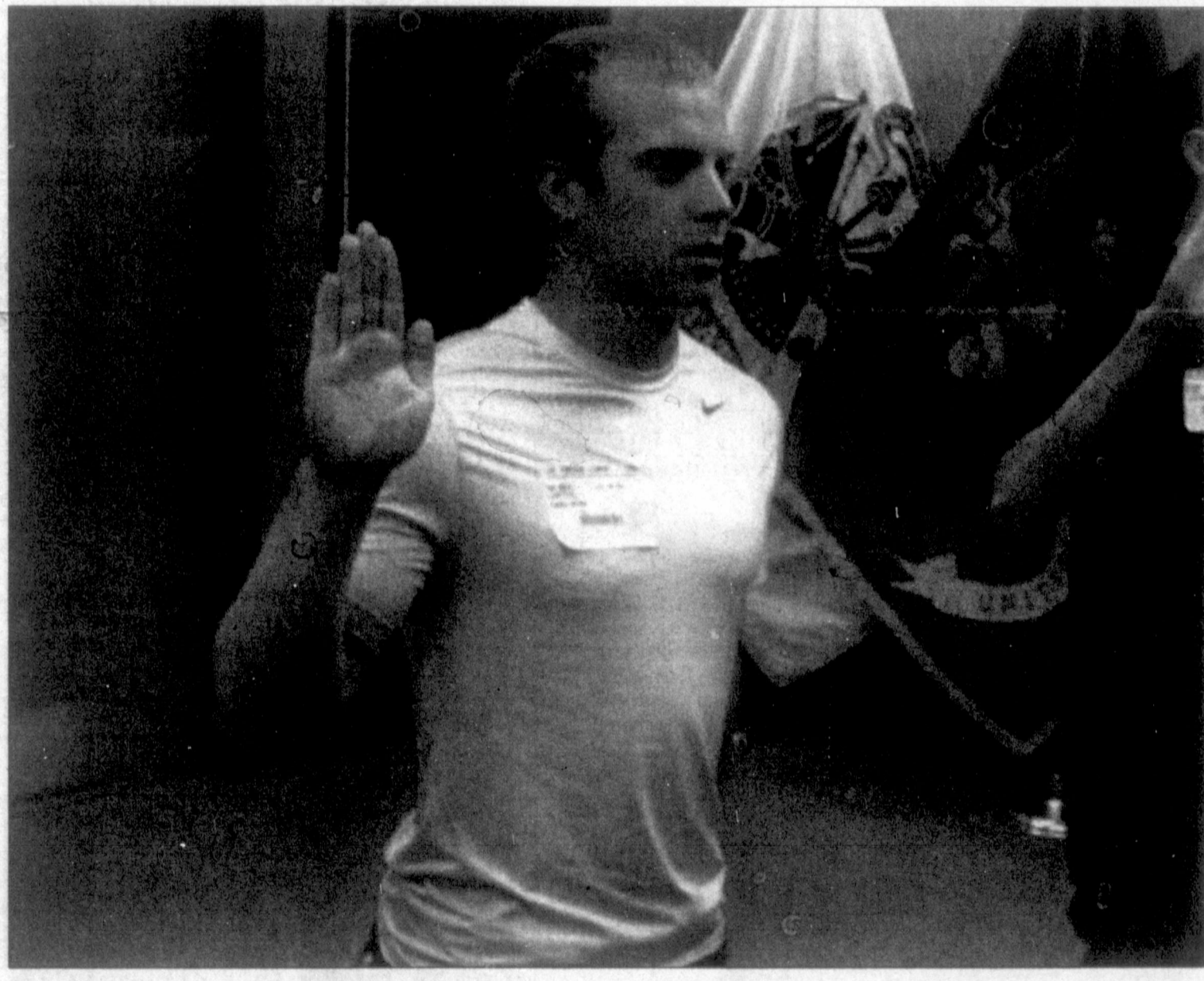
MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com
 As the Republican Primary runoff for Texas House District 88 inches closer, former candidates Pampa businessman Mac

Smith and Gary Walker have announced their endorsements of Canadian ISD school board president Ken King in his race against Jim Landtroop of Plainview. "After conversations with supporters across the district, followed by consid-

erable thought and prayer, I am proud to endorse Ken King in the Republican primary runoff on July 31," said Smith. "Ken shares my commitment to rural economic development and local job creation, and his background as a local small business owner, local school board member and lifelong district resident give him the unique experience needed to be an effective representative for our West Texas and Panhandle communities." During the primary race for House

District 88, which has been one of the most competitive in the state, Smith placed third, winning Gray County with about 55 percent of the vote. Smith's endorsement comes a little over a week after King garnered support from the other candidate in the race, Gary Walker of Plains. Landtroop has received endorsements from Gov. Rick Perry and conservative groups Texas Alliance for Life, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility and Empower Texans.

FROM GRAD TO BOOT CAMP



Recent Pampa High School graduate Trace Carter is sworn in to the United States Armed Forces on Tuesday. Carter enlisted for the Marines and left for boot camp this week.

staff photo by Dana Whinery

After spate of scams, PD urges caution

MOLLIE BRYANT
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Amid recent phone scams, the Pampa Police Department is advising people to exercise caution when dealing with strangers who ask for money.



McCullar
 "If you don't know who that person on the other line is, don't send money through MoneyGram or Western Union," said Crime Prevention Officer Stormy McCullar. "I urge citizens to not send the money, because that person may not be who they claim they are."

In a recent scam, a victim was called by someone claiming to be with the Publisher's Clearing House. The victim was told she could win millions of dollars if she sent the suspect money through MoneyGram. In another scam, a victim was reached by phone and told she could reduce the interest rate on her credit card if she provided her credit card information to someone claiming to be from a company called Telecom.

McCullar recommends people file complaints with ic3.gov, a partnership **SHORTAGE** cont. on page 2

High Plains Cruisers: Community's involvement huge

■ *Stubblefield on group's donors: "Without them, there's no Burnin' the Bricks"*

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

With this year's Burnin' the Bricks celebration kicking off tomorrow, Randy Stubblefield of the High Plains Cruisers gave a great, big "thank you" to the Pampa community for the donations and sponsorships that help make the event happen and finance the scholarships given to automotive students every year.

"We just want to let everybody know that helps us put on this show that they are as much of this as we are," Stubblefield said. "Without them, we couldn't put the

show on and help the community like we do. Without them, there's no Burnin' the Bricks."

Stubblefield declined to go into financial specifics but said that Pampa's contribution has been "really, really significant," adding that the community's investment has grown since Burnin' the Bricks' inception nine years ago.

"When we first got started, the community response was pretty good," said Stubblefield. "People were kind of reluctant to donate a whole lot of money at first, because they didn't know how this was going to turn



out, what the result was going to be. Would it be a success or a flop? Well, the first car show really did well, and the second car show was even better, so the community then got behind us and we started gaining more and more support, financial and otherwise. It just really turned into something that people look forward to every year to help us put on the next one.

"I'll tell you what, our sponsor list has just grown and grown every year," he added. "In order to get your name on the back of our shirt as a major sponsor, you have to give a pretty hefty donation, and we have plenty of people calling us and saying, 'Hey, I want my name on the back of your t-shirt.' ... Other people donate what they can. They donate giveaways that we give out during the car show. Merchants around here are just great about giving us stuff for that. It's just great."

Kathy Hammer, who solicits financial contributions **BRICKS** cont. on page 2

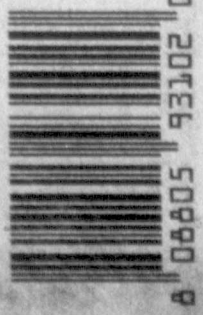
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PAMPA FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Saturday, Sunday. Each column has a weather icon, high/low temperatures, and a brief forecast.

Today: Patchy fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 83. South southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 61. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 90. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. Breezy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 91. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 62. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

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GOSPEL SINGING, Sunday afternoon, 2-4, Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock. Everyone welcome!

“IN THE Beginning” VBS, Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ. Ages 5-10, Mon June 11 thru Thurs. June 14th, 6:30-8:30pm. More info call 665-0031

MEN’S HAIRCUTS! See Bob Jeffers at Bob’s Room 1, NBC Plaza, 1224 N. Hobart.

Cryptogram puzzle: AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW. Yesterdays Cryptogram: I DREAM A LOT, I DO MORE PAINTING WHEN I'M NOT PAINTING. IT'S IN THE SUBCONSCIOUS. — ANDREW WYETH

The PAMPA NEWS. 403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065. 806-669-2525 • Fax: 806-669-2520. ReDonn Woods, Publisher. Contact info for staff members.

The Pampa News (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Sundays, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

MEMBER 2011. TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION logo.

Bricks

for the High Plains Cruisers in the buildup to the Bricks, said that there are about 20 sponsors on the back of this year’s shirt, but the number of donors far exceeds that number.

“We have people that give us \$50, \$100, \$250,” Hammer said. “Next week, we will send a thank you out to everybody, and in all, we probably have more than a hundred of them. We have them printed. We frame them and we hand-deliver them to the people that help them.”

Burnin’ the Bricks has so many loyal supporters that it’s hard to single any out, Stubblefield and Hammer said, though they mentioned local rancher Don Campbell and his family as among the most generous givers.

“The Don Campbell family has always helped us every year,” he said. “They own the Bad Cattle Company and the Hayhook Ranch. Don has really gotten involved in helping the community financially in the last few years. He actually got fired up about the car deal and he’s sponsored several cars. He goes out cruising with us on the cruise night and everything. He and

his wife (Pam), they’re great.” “They’re always generous,” Hammer said. “They always say, ‘Well, we’ll give you the same amount that we gave you last year,’ and that’s quite a bit.”

The Cruisers have also received financial help regularly from organizations like the Pampa Chamber of Commerce.

“The Chamber every year gives us advertising money,” Stubblefield said. “That’s just to help bring people into the Pampa community so that they spend money here and we receive tax dollars from them. Every year, (the Chamber) gives us a donation, and we advertise in Altus, (Okla.), Liberal, (Kan.), places like that so we can go into different states and get the word out.”

Another longtime backer this year stepped up to help during a temporary crisis, said Stubblefield.

“We had a billboard ad out here west of town,” he said. “It was put up, and for some reason, it was only up for two weeks and then the advertising company took it down. There was miscommunication and they put up a new billboard. Took our sign down and put a new one up.”

“We contacted them and they said,

cont. from page 1.

“Oh, we’re sorry, we made a mistake and we don’t know where we can put it at.” Well, Greg Boyd with Doug Boyd had two signs out there, so (High Plains Cruisers member) Tom (Turner) contacted him and he graciously said, “Sure, just take mine down and put yours up for as long as you need it, and after you’re done, just take yours down and change them back out.” It was great on his part to allow us to use his sign to advertise. He’s been one of our supporters every year.”

The consistent support is great to see, Hammer said, especially since donations to Burnin’ the Bricks fund the Cruisers’ annual award to students who pursue an automotive field of study in college.

“The money does go to such a great cause,” Hammer said. “When you help young students that are trying to go to (vocational/technical) school and make a career for themselves, it’s just a good thing. Helping people is a good thing.”

It’s just par for the course here in good old giving Pampa, she added.

“There’s no place like Pampa, Texas. The people here are so generous. ... It isn’t just this particular event. It’s a lot of things. If there’s a need, they step up.”

cont. from page 1.

Scams

between the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center, as well as search for scams on the FBI site at fbi.gov and the Better Business Bureau’s site at bbb.org.

“I encourage citizens to make a

complaint if they are scammed,” she said. “That’s how we keep up with information on scams. There are so many scams out there, through mail and email, and they are even using phones through text messages, so

people need to be careful with their phones.”

“Once that money’s gone, it’s gone,” she added. “You’re not going to get it back.”

Obituaries

Nancy Lee Neal, 78

McLEAN—Nancy Lee Neal, 78, died Saturday, June 2, 2012, at McLean.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 9, 2012, in

Robertson Funeral Directors Route 66 Chapel in McLean, with Jim Yates, officiating.

Interment will be at Hillcrest Cemetery in McLean.

Arrangements are under the direction of Robertson Funeral Directors of McLean.

Mrs. Neal was born November 28, 1933, in Newcastle, Okla., to Robert Lincoln and Nancy Emaline Slover Hearn. She was first married to Vernon Maroney. He preceded her in death. She later married Paul Neal on June 1, 1972. He preceded her in death in 1995. She moved from Oregon in 1994 to Lefors. She lived in Lefors until 2007 where she then moved to McLean. She was a member of Senior Citizens and attended the Calvary Baptist Church in Pampa and the Heald United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Neal was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers; and two sisters.

Survivors include a son, Mike Maroney and wife Laura of Central Point, Ore.; two daughters, Theresa Maroney and Marcey Ivory both of McLean; two brothers, Richard Hearn of Arroyo Grande, Calif., and Junior Hearn of Johnson Dale, Calif.; two sisters, Berdie Osborne of Oklahoma and Velma Feeney of Portland, Ore.; and several grandchildren.

The family request memorials be sent to Interim Hospice or the Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center.

Sign our online guestbook at www.RobertsonFuneral.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words. Includes 'Yesterday's answer' and 'NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!' advertisement.

Sudoku puzzle grid. Answer to yesterday's puzzle: 5 3 8 7 4 1 6 2 9 / 6 9 7 8 3 2 1 5 4 / 2 1 4 5 9 6 7 8 3 / 3 8 9 1 2 7 5 4 6 / 7 4 5 6 8 3 2 9 1 / 1 2 6 4 5 9 3 7 8 / 4 5 3 2 1 8 9 6 7 / 8 6 1 9 7 5 4 3 2 / 9 7 2 3 6 4 8 1 5.

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MORNINGRUSH

Former school chief pleads guilty

LUBBOCK (AP) — A former West Texas school superintendent has pleaded guilty to mail fraud after he was accused of embezzling more than \$13,000 in federal funds.

U.S. Attorney Sarah R. Saldana says former Ira school district Superintendent Larry Gene Devitt entered his plea Thursday in federal court in Lubbock. Saldana says Devitt agreed to surrender his educator certification as part of the plea deal.

Prosecutors alleged the 64-year-old Devitt used school district credit cards and vendors for his personal benefit and ordered district staff to pay \$13,438 in bills through checks from district accounts.

Devitt faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. A sentencing date wasn't set.

EPA proposes approval of air plan

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed approving parts of Texas' clean air plan, setting aside some of the issues that have long been points of contention.

The EPA's announcement Thursday comes after years of bitter bickering between the federal agency and the state over environmental regulation, including the federal agency's move almost two years ago to overturn a long-term permitting program it said did not meet federal clean air rules.

The EPA's proposal would approve a plan by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that would give operating flexibility to major sources of air pollution, such as refineries.

The plan would require continuous monitoring of separate operating units under a general cap of emissions. The EPA says Texas' plan meets federal clean air laws.

Democrats begin state convention

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Democrats have opened their convention, with leaders promising to continue building on local successes to make the party more competitive in the Republican-dominated state.

Party Chairman Boyd Ritchie declared the convention open Thursday after a state executive committee meeting. Boyd touted the party's success in city and county elections in the Dallas and Houston areas, but acknowledged the party needed to do more.

Republicans hold every statewide office and majorities in both chambers of the Legislature. But a growing Hispanic population and new political districts give Democrats a chance to chip at the Republican 12-48 supermajority in the Texas House.

During the next three days Democrats will elect a new party chair and strategize on how to win more elections. Republicans are also meeting this weekend in Fort Worth.

How to handle defects in a new home

Dear Pat: We moved into our new house six months ago. We still have a long list of items that need to be fixed, but the contractor never gets around to them. Is seeking the services of a lawyer a good idea now? — Anne D.

Dear Anne: This is a very common problem with new home construction. In fact, nearly every homeowner makes a list of defects after moving into a new home. To be fair to the builder, many subcontractors work on a construction job, and it is difficult to catch and correct every problem before the new owners move in.

If you moved into your home near the end of the construction season in your area, your builder may be slower than normal to fixed minor problems. Builders are notoriously behind on schedules, and they want to get as much major work completed on other homes before bad weather sets in.

Generally, though, six months should be adequate time for the builder to get around to your complaints. It really is a mistake on his/her part because you will not be a good reference for the builder. Much of a builder's new business comes from word of mouth, and your words will not be favorable.

You should still delay contacting a lawyer at this point. You can plan on spending thousands of dollars on the lawyer's fees and more of your time. The chances of winning the case in court often depend upon the nature of the defects, so do some additional preliminary work first.

Make a list of all the defects that you have found. Study the local building codes for your locality, and try to categorize the defects into ones that actually violate building codes and ones that don't. Code violations make it much easier to win in court should it come to that.

Code violations are what can be called objective defects, which can often be measured and quantified. Subjective defects are ones that do not violate the codes, but you may still find unsatisfactory. These include items such as poor drywall joints, corners not finished properly, poor painting, etc.

When the contractor sees your

HOME HOW-TO

list of code violations, he will know what that means and the potential legal consequences. Hopefully this is enough to get him to come and make the necessary repairs. While those repairs are being made, you can discuss the subjective ones and also have some of those taken care of.

If your list of defects still does not get action from the builder, get quotes on having the repairs made yourself. You may find it will be less expensive and time-consuming to have the repairs made yourself.

than to hire a lawyer. If you do end up hiring a lawyer, this will give your lawyer a monetary figure to use.

When deciding to go the legal route in court, select a lawyer who has some experience in handling building related lawsuits. Don't be hesitant to interview several lawyers and get estimates of their fees.

Follow your lawyer's advice, but generally you will not want to include all the subjective defects in the lawsuit. What you think is an unacceptable paint job may be different than the judge's opinion. Appearing to be overly picky on detail work may work against you.

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

HOME HOW-TO

Home Inspection

Building a new home may be the biggest investment you'll ever make, so it is important to be informed. Homebuyers can greatly benefit from self-inspection or using a professional home inspector during the construction and completion of their new home.

AREAS TO INSPECT:

GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

- Ensure gutters slope down toward downspouts.
- Are the downspouts extended away from the foundations?

ROOF

- Is the peak showing a sag, or is it straight and level?
- Any loose flashing, at the chimney, roof-to-wall connection or elsewhere.
- Are there any roof vents visible?

BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS

- Check that all fixtures are secure.
- Are there any cracks in the fixtures?
- Are the faucets working; do they leak?
- Check for sufficient water pressure.
- Randomly sample the operation of the cabinet doors and drawers.

WALLS

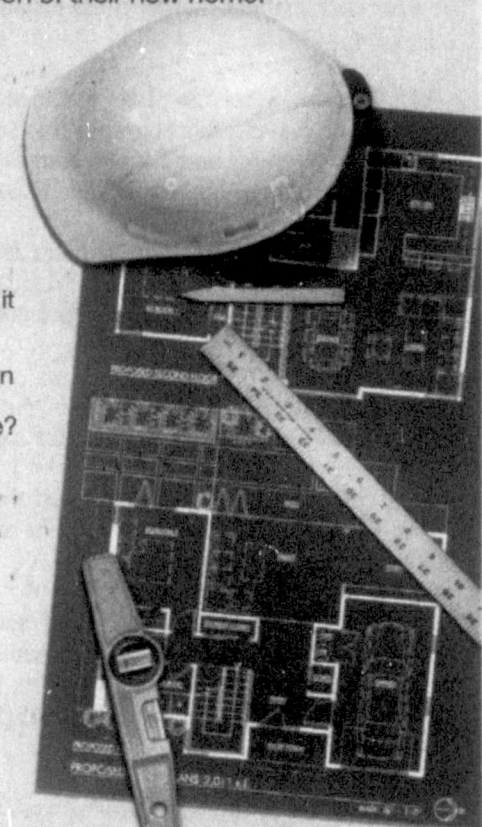
- Randomly sample windows and doors for proper function.
- Are the walls straight vertically and horizontally?

LANDSCAPE

- Does the grade slope away from the house?
- Any settled or low areas next to the foundation?

FOUNDATIONS

- Check for cracks, bowing, bulging or other irregularities.
- Check for soft mortar.



Source: <http://www.americanhomeinspectordirectory.com>

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Sat 2:00 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sun 2:00 4:30 7:30
Mon/Weds 7:30 10:00
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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Friday, June 8, the 160th day of 2012. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 8, 1972, during the Vietnam War, a South Vietnamese Air Force jet dropped napalm onto the village of Trang Bang. Associated Press photographer Nick Ut (oot) captured the image of a screaming 9-year-old girl, Phan Thi Kim Phuc (fahn thee kihm fook), as she ran naked and severely burned from the scene of the fiery explosions along with other victims.

On this date:

In A.D. 632, the prophet Muhammad died in Medina.

In 1845, Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tenn.

In 1861, voters in Tennessee approved an Ordinance of Secession passed the previous month by the state legislature.

In 1912, the ballet "Daphnis et Chloe," with music by Maurice Ravel, choreography by Michel Fokine and Vaslav Nijinsky and Tamara Karsavina in the title roles, was premiered by the Ballets Russes in Paris.

In 1915, Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan resigned in a disagreement with President Woodrow Wilson over U.S. handling of the sinking of the Lusitania.

In 1942, Bing Crosby recorded "Adeste Fideles" and "Silent Night" in Los Angeles for Decca Records.

In 1953, the Supreme Court ruled that restaurants in the District of Columbia could not refuse to serve blacks.

In 1962, 20th Century Fox fired actress Marilyn Monroe from its production "Something's Got to Give," saying she was unreliable. (Fox later changed its mind, but Monroe died before filming could resume, and the movie was abandoned.)

In 1967, 34 U.S. servicemen were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

In 1978, a jury in Clark County, Nev., ruled the so-called "Mormon will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

In 1982, President Ronald Reagan became the first American chief executive to address a joint session of the British Parliament.

In 1987, Fawn Hall began testifying at the Iran-Contra hearings, describing how, as secretary to National Security aide Oliver L. North, she helped to shred some documents and spirit away others.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush ended talks at Camp David with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the Bush administration was replacing Gen. Peter Pace as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and recommending Adm. Mike Mullen for the job. Paris Hilton was sent screaming and crying back to jail after a judge in Los Angeles ruled she had to serve out her sentence for a probation violation behind bars rather than under house arrest. The space shuttle Atlantis blasted off on a mission to the international space station.

One year ago: Rep. Allyson Schwartz of Pennsylvania became the first Democratic House colleague to call for Rep. Anthony Weiner of New York to resign after he admitted sending a lewd photo of himself to a woman via Twitter and lying about it. OPEC unexpectedly left its production levels unchanged, causing oil prices to jump as senior officials reported their meeting in Vienna had ended in disarray.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Barbara Bush is 87. Actor-comedian Jerry Stiller is 85. Comedian Joan Rivers is 79. Actress Millicent Martin is 78. Actor James Darren is 76. Actor Bernie Casey is 73. Singer Nancy Sinatra is 72. Singer Chuck Negron (Three Dog Night) is 70. Musician Boz Scaggs is 68. Actor Don Grady is 68. Rock musician Mick Box (Uriah Heep) is 65. Author Sara Paretsky is 65. Actress Sonia Braga is 62. Actress Kathy Baker is 62. Country musician Tony Rice is 61. Actor Griffin Dunne is 57. "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams is 55. Actor-director Keenen Ivory Wayans is 54. Singer Mick Hucknall (Simply Red) is 52. Musician Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran) is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Doris Pearson (Five Star) is 46. Actress Julianna Margulies is 45. Actor Dan Futterman is 45. Actor David Sutcliffe is 43. Actor Kent Faulcon is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nicci Gilbert is 42. Actress Kelli Williams is 42. Actor Mark Feuerstein is 41. Contemporary Christian musician Mike Scheuchzer (MercyMe) is 37. Actor Eion Bailey is 36. Rapper Kanye West is 35. Blues-rock musician Derek Trucks (The Derek Trucks Band) is 33. Folk-bluegrass singer-musician Sara Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 31. Actress Torrey DeVitto is 28.

Thought for Today: "Love hath no physic for a grief too deep." — Robert Nathan, American author and poet (1894-1985).



The bell tolls for government unions

In 1919, after Boston police went on strike to protest the city's refusal to recognize their new union, Gov. Calvin Coolidge ordered the National Guard into the streets.

Sam Gompers, the legendary father of American labor, wrote the governor that the Boston police had been denied their rights.

Coolidge's terse reply put him in our history books:

"Your assertion that the Commissioner was wrong cannot justify the wrong of leaving the city unguarded. ... There is no right to strike against the public safety by anyone, anywhere, any time."

Ronald Reagan's firing of the striking air traffic controllers, whose union had been among the few to endorse him, marked him as a leader willing to act against a powerful union if the public interest commands it.

Gov. Scott Walker is now in that tradition. He has just routed a recall campaign that began with state senators disgracefully fleeing to Illinois rather than provide a quorum and mobs occupying his capitol.

Walter's victory is a fire bell in the night for the public-sector unions. It reflects a rising realization among all Western peoples that to continue accommodating the demands of government unions is to risk our survival as free and prosperous nations.

The Badger State rout of Big Labor was total.

The public-employee unions first capitulated to the governor's demand that they contribute more to their pensions and health care benefits. But they drew the line at Walker's determination to curtail collective bargaining and to cease deducting union dues from the paychecks of state workers.

Collect your dues yourself, the governor was telling the unions.

With their union dues no longer taken out of their paychecks, tens of thousands of Wisconsin public employees refused to pony up those dues and quit their union, instead. What does this tell us?



PAT BUCHANAN

Many union members do not believe they get their money's worth from unions that claim to represent them, and would prefer to get out of the union and keep the dues money themselves.

This desertion by their members represents a massive vote of no confidence in unions like the America Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of Teachers. AFSCME in Wisconsin lost 34,000 of its 62,000 members last year alone.

From the Wisconsin experience, if right-to-work laws were enacted in every state, giving employees freedom to join or leave a union, public-employee unions would be abandoned, reduced to shadows of what they are today. What does it say about a union if its members would prefer not to belong, if they were free to leave?

The curtailment of collective bargaining is the issue on which Walker appeared to be on the weakest ground, as school kids are taught that collective bargaining is a sacrosanct right.

Yet here, too, the governor has a compelling argument.

When union leaders put piles of cash into political campaigns, and union bosses then sit down to bargain with the people they have just put into office, who represents the public?

Is there not an inherent conflict of interest when unions literally purchase with campaign contributions the election of officials with whom they are to negotiate the new contracts for their members?

There are other reasons public-employee unions are losing public support. The pay and benefits of fed-

eral employees are twice that of the average private-sector worker, while the pay and benefits of state employees are half again as high. And government workers enjoy a job security few private-sector workers ever know.

Unionized government workers are seen by almost no one as victims. Yet their numbers are huge.

Where there were twice as many Americans working in manufacturing as in government in 1960, today the reverse is true. We have 22 million workers in government and 11 million in manufacturing.

This is an immense and costly army for taxpayers to sustain.

Even Democrats, though they howl that we must milk the rich more, are starting to concede that the government sector, now at a peacetime record 37 percent of the gross domestic product, must be pared back.

The salad days of the government employee are coming to an end, as they have already in Greece, Italy and Spain.

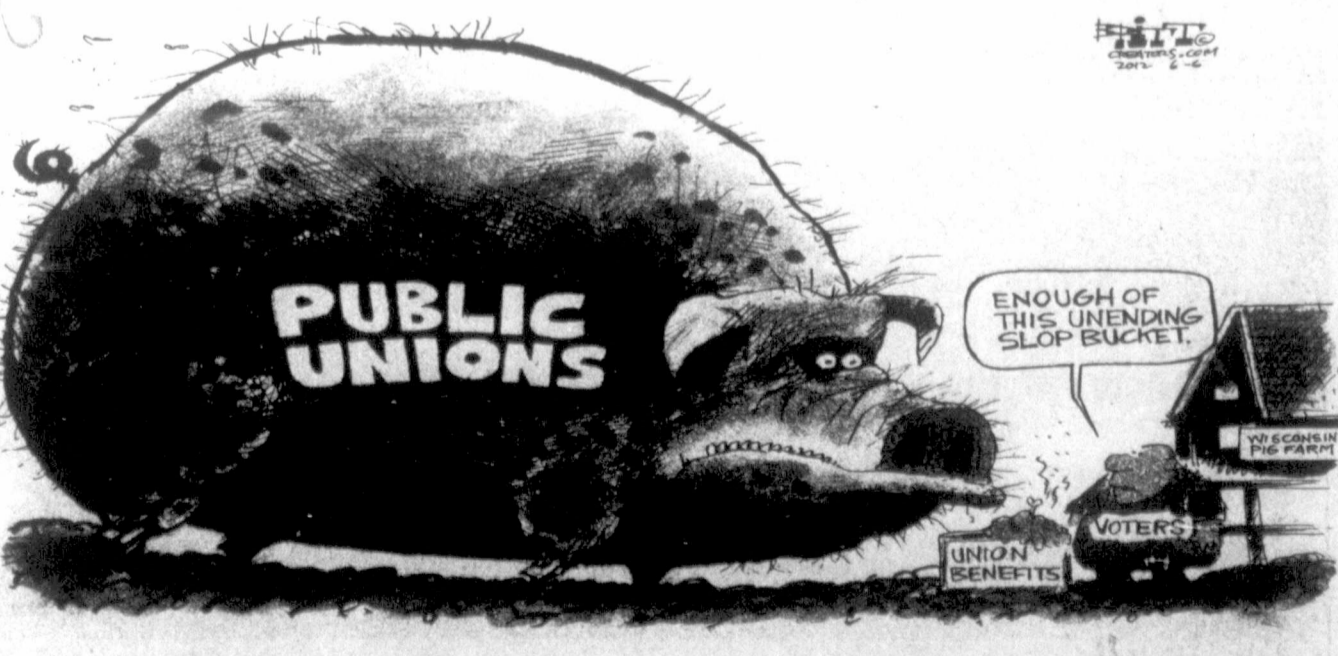
As Europe went farther down that "road to socialism" than did we, the pain there will be greater. But it is coming here, too.

Already, states and cities have begun cutting their labor force. And the states that were most indulgent in providing pay and benefits their taxpayers could not afford are the states being hit hardest, like Barack Obama's Illinois and Jerry Brown's California.

The anger and accusations of union leaders, directed at Gov. Walker, testify to their shocked awareness of the new political realities.

And Obama's conspicuous sense from the battlefield -- he sent a tweet and did a flyover -- testifies to his recognition that while government unions may be his loyal political allies, they are also an albatross hanging around his neck this November.

Patrick J. Buchanan is the author of "Suicide of a Superpower: Will America Survive to 2025?"



We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

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

Education

COLLEGE HONORS

Hardin Simmons University

Kelsi James, daughter of Richie and Karie James, formerly of Pampa, made the Dean's List at Hardin Simmons with at grade point of average of 3.895.

She is the granddaughter of Les and Pat Howard of Pampa. Kelsi will graduate in the Spring of 2013. She will continue her studies in speech pathology in graduate school in the Fall of 2013.



James

Texas A&M University

A Pampa native sponsored by the Texas Sea Grant College Program has been named a finalist for a prestigious 2013 Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship.

Sepp Haukebo will travel to Washington, D.C., this fall to interview with representatives from potential host offices in the Executive and Legislative branches of the federal government. Once placed with a host office, Haukebo will be formally accepted as a Knauss Fellow. He will begin his fellowship in early 2013 and

spend the rest of the year learning about marine policy issues through their work for their host offices.

Haukebo graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in marine biology from Texas A&M University at Galveston and he is pursuing a master's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University in College Station. His ultimate goal is to earn a doctorate in coastal ecosystem management and then promote conservation through research and education.

Administered by the National Sea Grant Office, Knauss Fellowships provide a unique educational experience to students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting these resources. The program is open to students who are enrolled toward a degree in a graduate or professional program and they are required to apply through the nearest state Sea Grant Program. The fellowship is named in honor of one of Sea Grant's founders, former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator John A. Knauss.

Midwestern State University

Pampa's Kamie Doughty was recognized as a member

of Midwestern State University's President's Honor Roll.

A student who completes a semester schedule of at least 12 hours in one semester with no grade lower than A (4.0) will be included on the President's Honor Roll. The student cannot have semester grades of I, WF or NC. The Spring 2012 President's Honor Roll included 289 students.

Creighton University

Krissy Holman of Pampa, a second year School of Pharmacy and Health Professions student at Creighton University was named to the spring Dean's List for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Full-time students who earn a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale are eligible for the Dean's Honor Roll.

GRADUATIONS

Southern Methodist University

Alan Denslow received a Masters Degree in Computer Engineering at Southern Methodist University in Dallas on May 12, 2012. Alan is the son of Lynn Denslow of Tecumseh, Okla., and the son-in-law of Darell and Donna Sumpter of Pampa.



Denslow

SUPER SINGER



photo courtesy of Robert Rumph

Pampa High School 2012 graduate Jacob Frost (center, seated), who will attend Hardin Simmons University in Abilene in the fall as a vocal major, celebrates his scholarship and acceptance letter signing with (from left) mom Julie, dad Bryan and sister Emilee.

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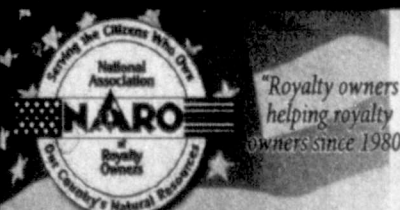
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Sports

Lady Harvesters celebrate 2012 season at banquet

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampapnews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters spent Monday at the AmericInn Event Center, looking back at a season that yielded the team's farthest advancement in the playoffs and seven first team All-District selections.

Junior Bailey Beck was named co-MVP. Sophomore Bailey Wichert was co-newcomer of the year. Sophomore Alexa O'Brien received first team All-District pitcher, posting a 5-0 record in district and a 0.19 ERA.

"I was very honored to receive that recognition, especially after my first full season," O'Brien said. "I'm looking forward to next year. I want to improve and work on some things to make myself better. My goal is to receive the honor again."

Senior catcher Alanna Stephens earned first team All-District for the second straight season. Stephens posted a .533 district batting average, scored six runs and drove in nine.

"It feels good to work that hard and get rewarded for it," Stephens said. "It's a benefit of my hard work and the great coaching."

Senior Heather Coffee was selected as a first team All-District first baseman. Coffee drove in six runs and scored two. "I'm really excited," Coffee said. "I'm

really happy. It's a big honor and I couldn't have done it without Coach (Bobbi) Gill."

Senior McKinlee Stokes earned her second straight first team All-District selection as a second baseman. Stokes batted .438 scoring 11 runs and driving in 11. She said it was a good honor to end her high school career.

"I'm pretty happy about it," Stokes said. "Makes me feel good because I worked hard for it."

Junior Tiffany Britton earned first team All-District as a utility player and junior Claire Hopkins earned a selection as a first team outfielder. Junior Martecia Alexander earned a second team selection at third. Stokes said the number of selections showed how good of a team Pampa was.

"It shows we were wanting to work hard and did really well in district," Stokes said. "It wasn't just a few people. It was everyone who worked hard."

In the team awards, O'Brien and Beck were voted as MVP. Stokes won the Amy Youree Award for her dedication. Alexander won the Heart Award and Hopkins won the Hustling Lady Harvester Award. The team also recognized bus driver J.L. Furgason.

The Lady Harvesters finished 26-11 and advanced to the regional semifinals for the third time in team history.



photo courtesy of Charla Shults

The Pampa Lady Harvester award winners display their plaques at the softball banquet on Monday at the AmericInn Event Center. Pictured are (from left) junior Bailey Beck and sophomore Alexa O'Brien (MVP), senior McKinlee Stokes (Amy Youree Award), junior Martecia Alexander (Heart Award) and junior Claire Hopkins (Hustling Lady Harvester Award).

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER

From futility to Finals in three seasons

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — At the beginning of the video the Oklahoma City Thunder play before their starting lineups are announced, there's a message on the scoreboard.

RESILIENCY. IT DEFINES OUR TEAM.

That was especially true during the Thunder's comeback from an 18-point deficit Wednesday night to beat the San Antonio Spurs and clinch a spot in the NBA finals. But that's only the final step in a remarkable turnaround.

It was only three seasons ago that Oklahoma City's new team was 3-29 and just hoping to avoid the worst record in NBA history.

"You can look at it as a negative, but I think as a group and as an organization, we've seen some light, and we've seen that one day we'd be at this moment, and one day we'd have an opportunity to win a championship," said Russell Westbrook, who may best personify the transformation by turning himself from a rookie struggling with turnovers into an All-Star.

Back when Scott Brooks was hired as coach around Thanksgiving 2008, his first task was trying to get the team to be competitive in the fourth quarter. Now, opponents can't seem to put the Thunder away when it comes to crunch time.

"Even back then, we weren't losing games. I was telling the guys we were learning how to win games, and there's a big difference between that because we had guys that worked every day and it gave me hope that when we were done they were still practicing, still working hard," Brooks said.

All that hard work paid off with the franchise's first shot at the title since 1996 as the Seattle SuperSonics. The team's only NBA title came in 1979 back in Seattle.

The Thunder will host Game 1 of the finals Tuesday night, against either Boston or Miami.

"I'm not as excited as I

thought I'd be," said Nick Collison, the only hold-over who played in Seattle except for Kevin Durant.

"I think we all know we have more work to do. I don't think any of us dreamt about making it to the finals. I think we all dreamt about winning it."

Oklahoma City has gotten this far with a youthful core featuring home-grown first-round draft

picks Durant, Westbrook, James Harden and Serge Ibaka that has blended with a trio of veterans who already have championship rings — Kendrick Perkins, Derek Fisher and Nazr Mohammed.

To get to the finals, Oklahoma City had to go through the only three teams to win the West since 1998 — Dallas in the first round, the Los Angeles

Lakers in the conference semifinals and then San Antonio.

"It's almost like a Hollywood script for OKC in a sense. ... Those three teams represent 10 of the last 13 championships, and now they're going to go to the finals and play either Boston or Miami, and that'll be 11 of the last 13 championships," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

BANANAGRAMS!

Change one letter in the top word to one of the letters that appears in the bottom word, then rearrange the tiles to form a new common word. Do the same with each new word until you arrive at the bottom word. For example, the path from BARK to PLUM is BARK, MARK, RAMP, RUMP, PLUM.

HOTEL

AUGUR

Yesterday's Answer: 1-5; 2-8; 3-6; 4-7

6.8

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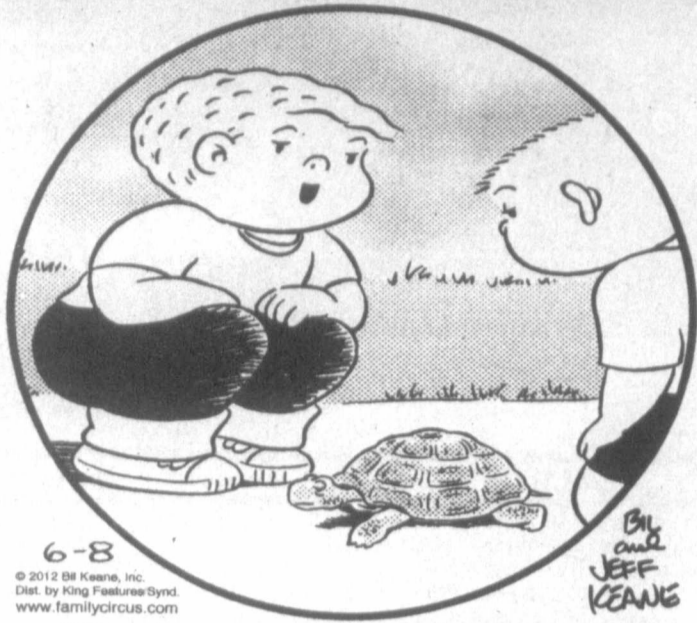
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CORRECTION

In the last two articles on the boys basketball team, Jonathan Cox was omitted as a returning player. The Pampa News apologizes for the error.

comics PAGE

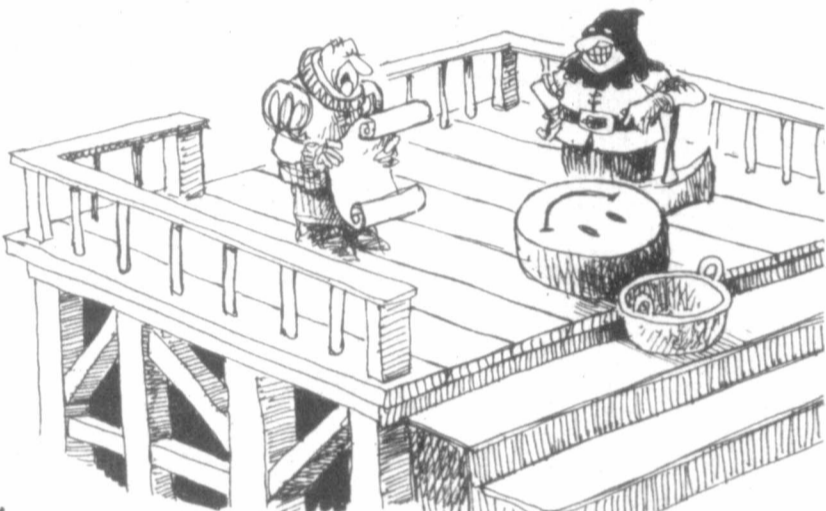
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



6-8
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Non Sequitur

OK, IT'S NOT THAT WE DON'T APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO LIGHTEN UP THE WORKPLACE...



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Nest Heads



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, June 9, 2012:

This year you often feel tense. Learn to relax more during this special year, and say "no" to taking on more obligations. You have a unique ability to present situations in the most positive light. Use this skill when you feel it is necessary. If you are single, you will be noticed. Be aware that sometimes you send mixed messages. If you are attached, be sensitive to your communication style. Sometimes your sweetie might misunderstand you. PISCES is as emotional as you are intellectual.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might have a slew of plans, but for some reason you want to quiet down the noise of partying and visiting. You could decide to watch a good ballgame, or curl up with a great book. As a result, you'll feel refreshed and great. Tonight: Vanish.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might need to retreat after an important meeting or get-together. You could feel as if you need some downtime, but you — the Bull — will revitalize before you know it. An artsy friend could play into your plans. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Use the morning for important long-distance calls. You might find yourself making plans for a trip before you know it. Visit with an older relative or friend in the afternoon. Obviously, this person enjoys your visit. You actually feel great, too. Tonight: Out.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ What might be considered a fantasy could be instrumental in your plans today and this weekend. A risk no longer carries the same heaviness with it. You are becoming more willing to toss yourself into life. Listen to your inner voice. Tonight: You know what to do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Nothing seems very different at the present moment, other than most of the people around you acting unusually congenial. In fact, others willingly go along with your wishes. Spend some quality time with a loved one. You know how important this act is to the relationship. Tonight: Make

it romantic.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Be your efficient self in the morning. You will need to clear out certain errands in order to enjoy yourself. After you do, relax and decide to join a loved one, and a good time will be had by all. Let your instincts come into play. Tonight: Be with the one you love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ It will be close to impossible to settle down, so don't even try. If you would like to give a child extra attention, now is the time. You both could give in to some wild impulsiveness. Do not forget a special loved one who appreciates one-on-one time. Tonight: Dote and be doted on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might be slow to get started today. Kick back and enjoy yourself with a child or loved one. You might prefer not to have a big audience. Someone clearly sees you as being very special and is putting you on a pedestal. Tonight: You know how to make the night special.

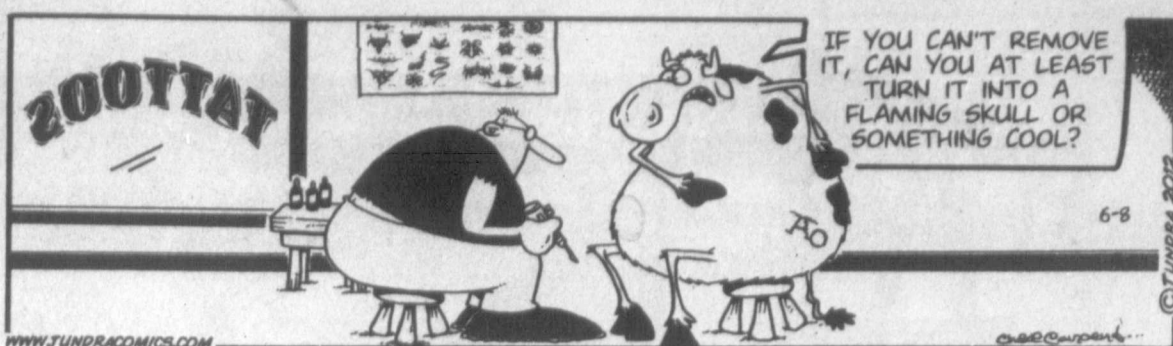
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Use the daylight hours for important communication. You will be far more satisfied if you do. By the afternoon, you'll receive an abundance of invitations wherever you are. Whether you are off at a ballgame or at a flea market makes no difference. Tonight: Let the games begin.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ While you have time, shift your budget around and make sure everything is in order. You get an invitation to just hang out. This doesn't seem demanding, but it could be costly. A conversation enlightens you to a problem. Tonight: Hang out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be somewhat frayed and exhausted by midday. Slow down, as you might not have a choice. A conversation with someone who is the apple of your eye makes you smile from ear to ear. You are reading the tea leaves correctly. Tonight: Indulge a little.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Play it low-key in the morning. If you can sleep in, do so. The Moon slides into your sign midday, and suddenly you cannot believe all the activity going on around you. Requests or needs that stem from your immediate circle also need to be honored. Tonight: Wherever you want to be.

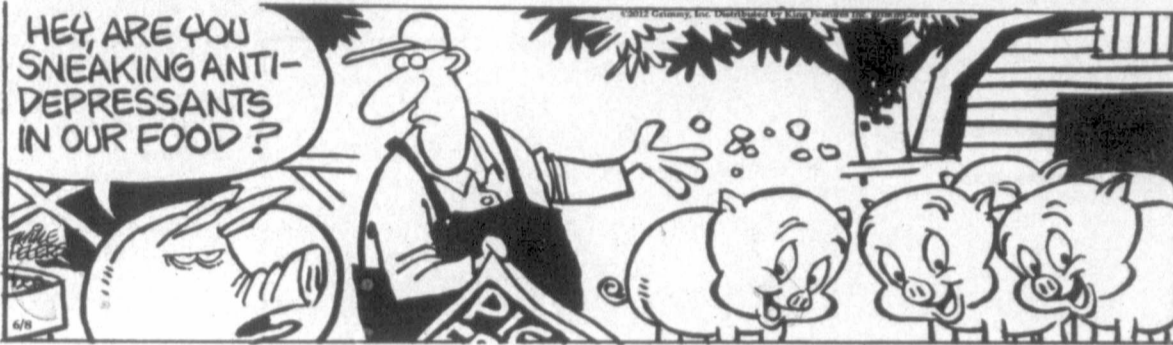
Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



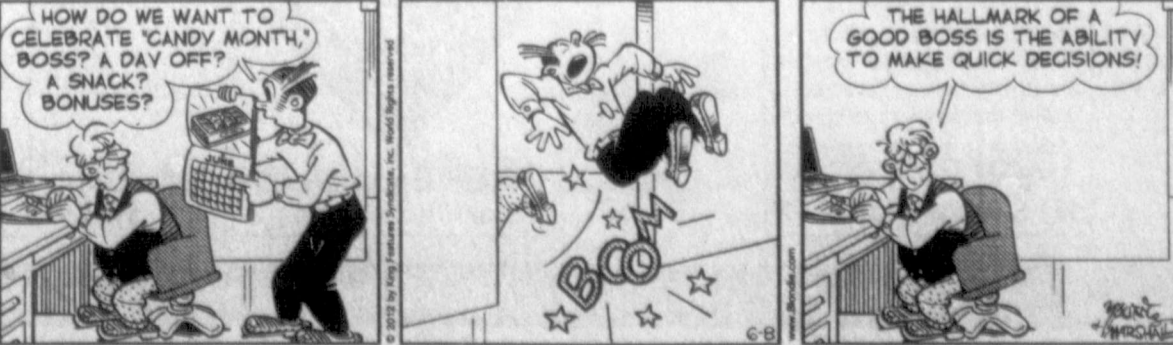
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



pampa high school graduation

saturday, june 2, 2012 • harvester field

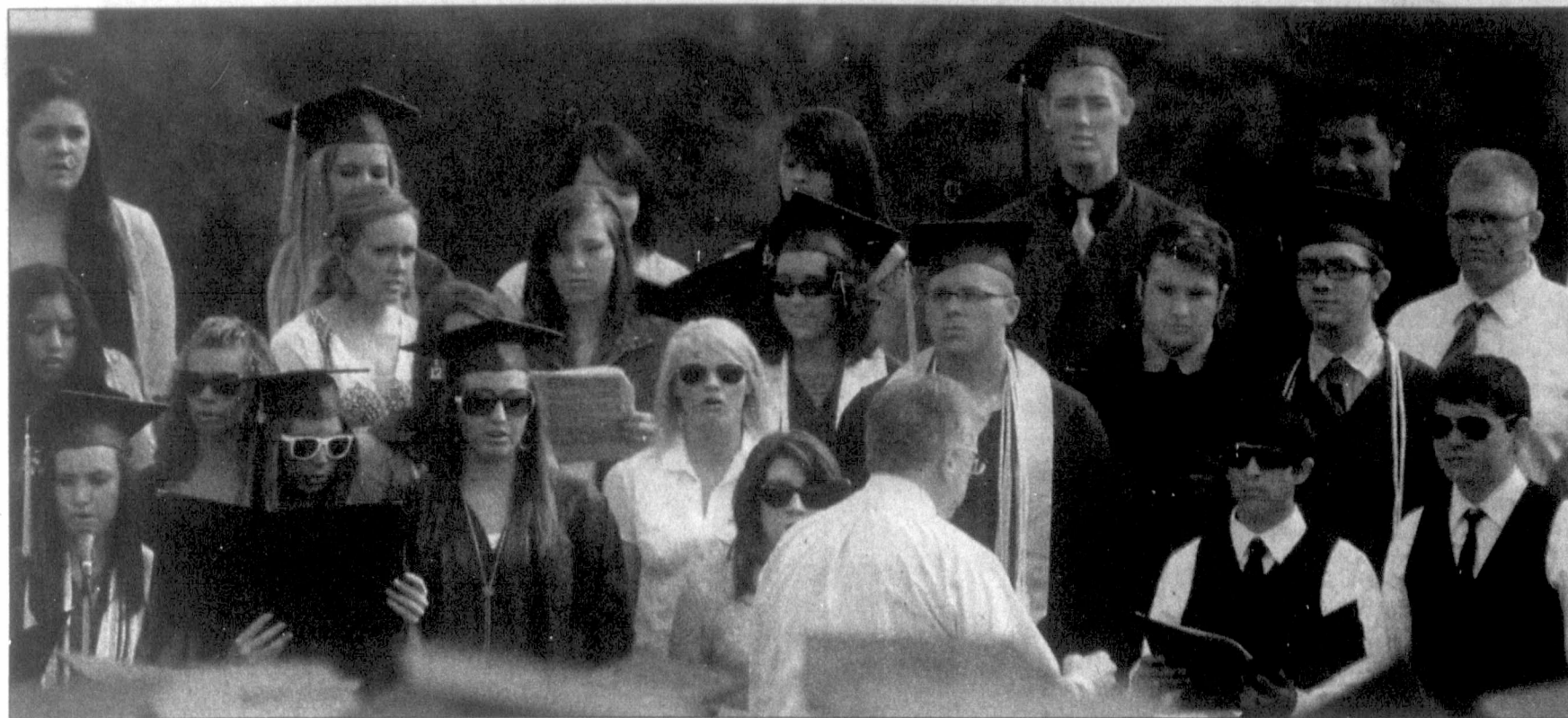


photo courtesy of *Diane Jennings*

The Pampa High School choir gathers to sing during Saturday's graduation ceremony.



staff photo by *Dana Whinery*

Lyndi Whitson smiles as she makes her way to the stage.

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