

## Prime the subject of confidentiality investigation

PRMC) earlier this month, has been the subject of scrutiny in the medi Medicare billing and refusal to trans fer patients. An investigation from the California Department of Publi Health also confirmed a violation of patient confidentiality that occurred last December when Prime shared
bout the palient's treatment to 785 hospital staff members. In mid-December, California Watch nonprofit, nonpartisan reporting ini iative, interviewed Darlene Courtois
former patient at pital, for a story on allegations upcoding at the company's hospitals. pcoding involves exaggerating or alsely reporting diagnoses for higher compensation from Medicare.

SHE'S A BEAUTY


Sean File, 7, points out the interior of a '69 Camaro to his dad, Joseph File.
2012 BURNIN' THE BRICKS PHOTOS AND RESULTS will be featured in the Tuesday edition of The Pampa News
a fall at Prime's Shasta Regional but the hospital billed Medicare for but the hospial bined Medicare for or severermalnutrition typically ass ciated with famine. Courtois gave her records California Watch in order for them to write the story.
The Redding The Redding Record Searchlight, stories fonsaper, had previously run PRIME cont. on page 2

Kicking Bear camp kicks off on Friday

Arnie Aurellano
editorathepampanews.con
Pampa's 2012 Kicking Bear camp starts Friday, and organizer Cal Ferguson
is looking to make this year's event bigger than ever.

After hosting 180
kids of all
kids of all ages at
the two-day the two-day camp
last year, Ferguson, last year, Ferguson,
the owner and operathe owner and opera-
tor of Pampa's 4 F lor of Pampas 4 r
Outfitters, hopes co have more than
double that at the 4 F Ranch this weekend. Ferguson "We hope to get as many kids out there," said Ferguson.
"We're really hoping to have 400 kids this year. The more we can get there, the better off it'll be, because we'll be prepared for it."
The Pampa camp is part of a national initiative founded by professional bow
hunter Ray Howell of Minnesola hunter Ray Howell of Minnesota. The camp's aim is to promote outdoor activi-
ties as well as leadership and other ties as well as leadership and other
positive values to children and teens; positive values to children and teens;
Pampa's camp aims to do so through a variety of activities such as bow shooting (bows will be provided), fishing, hay rides and games.

Koi Pond and Water Garden Tour scheduled for Saturday

- This year, admission fee
waived in lieu of donations
MoLule Bryant "This is the first time we'
in the tour.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { MoLIE BRYANT } \\
& \text { mbryantethepampanews.com }
\end{aligned}
$$

The 15th annual Koi Pond and Water Garden Tour sponsored by the Las Pampas Koi \& Water Garden Society will run this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a night tour from 7 to 10:30 p.m. This year, the club is waiving the admission fee, although they will have donation jars. Later, the group plans to donate to
to do it because merchants have been so generous with
their advertising and helping us," said Debbie Davis.
"I especially love digging in the dirt," said Debbie. "It's my favorite things to do is be out in the garden, creating something and watching it grow. Howe just "We kind of have a knack for it I I could say. Between the two of us, we bounce things back and forth. She and I get ideas, and a lot of times, it's the same idea."
Howard says the couple likes to plant perennials like lamb's ear, which don't have to be replaced each year. "We like things that will come back, so you don have to start all over again," he said. Davis said club members are looking forward to the
KOI cont. on page 3 Debbie Heiser of the Las Pampas Koi and Water Garden Society prepares her home for Saturday's Ko



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PAMPA FORECAST

$\begin{array}{lll}\text { High } 87 & \text { High 79 } & \text { High } 85 \\ \text { Low } 62 & \text { Low 62 } & \text { Low } 66\end{array}$
Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. North northeast wind
high as 25 mph .
Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostry cloundy, ofth sto low aro and
t2. East wind between 10 and 15 mph with 62. East wind between
gusts as high as 20 mph

Tuesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thesdayt A so percent chance of showers and 79. East southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph ,
with gusts as high as 20

Tuesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with 10 and 15 mph , with gusts as high as 20 mph. Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly atter ipm. Partly
sunny, with a high near 85 . South wind between sunny, with a high near 85. Soutr wind berween.
10 and 15 mph , with gusts ss high as 20 mph .
Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of
showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66 . South southeast wind around

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City Briefs


## PAMPNEWS

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## Senate race, immigration divide GOP meeting

FORT WORTH (AP) - The Texas Republican Convention began with a chorus of boos, long and loud, for
Gov. Rick Perry - a former Republican presidential candidate and the longest-serving governor in state history. It ended with two opponents for the GOP's U.S. Senate nomina-
tion slugging it out in dueling floo tion sluggin
speeches.
specches. for party unity.
So much for
Republicans
Republicans have dominated Texas politics so completely in recent
years that a Democrat years that a Democrat hasnt wo
statewide office since 1994. But statewide office since 1994. Bu
members of the GOP were often at odds during their three-day convention in Fort Worth, an unexpected blemish on a state party that other
consider a model. "All conservati and we marvel," U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wisconsin, said in a keynote address at Friday night's $\$ 200$ per
plate convention gala dinner "Wh plate convention gala dinner. "What
you've been able to accomplish here is remarkable., Perhaps, but the success hasn'
come without strife. The conven-
tion's main fight centered on the race Boaley Hutchison U.S. Sen. Kay Ted Cruz and mainstream Republican favorite David Dewhurst are headed to a July 31 runoff, with the winner almost certain to prevail in November's general election.
Cruz is a fiery former state Cruz is a fiery former state solicigroups, while Dewhurst has held the powerful position of lieutenant governor since 2003 and worked closely for years.
Perry's endorsement of Dewhurst sparked the boos Thursday, and the candidates traded barbs in speeches closing the convention Saturday,
with Cruz saying he was more of fighter who could stand up to Washgton and Dewhurst decrying spe ial interests - a shot at Cruz's tea party support.
But there Ron Paul supporters chaffed at calls to close ranks around former Massa-
chusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's presidential bid, and ultimately successful efforts to soften the state party's
stance on immigration sparked debate that stretched until almost midnight Friday,
The party's 2012 platform sanctions a guest worker program, while conceding there are about " 11 mil-
lion undocumented individuals in lion undocumented individuals in
the United States today" and mass deportation "would be neither equitable nor practical."
Some delegates objected that the new language was "ambiguous at who often agree with the GOP on issues such as opposition to abor-
tion but tion but have been turned off by its hardline stances on immigration and U.S.-Mexico border issues.

Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson tried to bridge the divide assuring delegates he's no softy on
border issues but nonetheless fervently supports a temporary worke GOP cont. on page 3

## Camp

Ferguson, whose 4 F company manages and hunts
over 75,000 the camp to Pares in five Panhandle counties, brough character-building experience related to the outdoors. "We found out about the organization and just thought it was something awesome," Ferguson said. "It's a good
opportunity to introduce kids to the outdoors, especially a lot of kids who don't normally have a chance to enjoy the outdoors. ... There's just not a lot to do in Pampa
compared to some of the bigger cities, and I grew up compared to some of the bigger cities, and I grew up
hunting, fishing and being in the outdoors. I've made career out of it, and I just felt like there was a need for a lot of the kids who may not get to experience any or "It's a ministry, too", said Ferguson. "It's a good
chance for us to share the word with the kids. We don't really emphasize on that throughout the whole camp, but we do have a Christian message around the campfire and stuff after we eat. That's a huge part of it, too."" The camp is free of charge thanks to donations from
local people and organizations. Those donors are instro mental in helping Kicking Bear accomplish its goals in Gray County, according to Ferguson. "It's huge", he said. "I just got off the phone with a
lady a while ago, and she's bringing 30 people with her lady a while ago, and she's bringing 30 people with her.
It's something that, if she was going to take 30 people

## Prime

and editor Silas Lyons not to run the California was planning on running Watch story.
the story on Courtois in "What I saw raised
the paper. He asked the very serious questions the paper. He asked the very serious questions
hospital for comment, about core elements of the and in response, Randall California Watch story," Hempling, the CEO of he said. "One of the key
Shasta, and Dr. Marcia things, for example, was $\begin{array}{ll}\text { Mccampbell, } & \text { Shasta's } \\ \text { California Watch, in their }\end{array}$ chief medical
chictastas
officer, brought Lyons documents related to Courtois. Lyons
then decided not to
then decided not to run the
story.
Prime also shared some
of Courtois' medical documents with Medichael
Hiltzik, a business Hiltzik, a business col-
umnist for the Los Angeumnist for the Los Ange-
les Times. He declined to comment for this story. "When I asked Shasta
hospital CEO Hempling hospital CEO Hempling,
whether he had Courtois' writter authorization to show her chart around, he replied that he didn't need
it", wrote Hiltzik in a it," wrote Hiltzik in a col
umn from umn from early January.
But patient consent is required in a situation like that, in accordance with HIPAA, or the Health Insurance Portability and
Accountability Act Accountability Act of
1996, as well as Califor1996, as well as Califor-
nia law. The California
Department Department of Public
Health released finding Health released findings that Shasta did not inform the patient or her repre-
sentative "of the unlawful or unauthorized access,
use or disclosure of the use or disclosure of the
patient's medical informapatient's medical informa-
tion."
Despite the privacy violation, Lyons said the
documents convinced him

College or retirement? Find out how to afford both.

and take them to Lake Greenbelt, with food and all that, it's just going to be something that they probably wouldn't be able to do. But she's come every year, and it's a huge deal for them and the kids she brings. To be able to keep it 100 percent cost-free to the people tha attend, it's awesome. What we kind of try and do is kid that wouldn't have the opportunity to do this nor mally. For it to be 100 percent free so we can do that, the people that help us out are great."
Currently the camp
Ferguson is optimistic that the 400 -camper up, although reach.
"This last week is usually when everybody starts calling," he said.
Three meals Three meals - Friday night dinner and Saturday
breakfast and lunch - will be provided at no charge and overnight camping will be allowed. The 4 F Ranch is 22 miles north of Pampa on State Hwy. 70 , with a sigi marking the entrance on the east side of the highway. Check-in will begin Friday at 2 p.m., although camp-
ers are welcome to arrive any time afterward, including Saturday morning. For more information, call Ferguson at 806-663-3575 or Calvary Baptist Church at 806-6650842.
hospital and the doctors never said, 'We think this What they said was, based on what this patient actually has and the way the Medicare billing system a path to where you document kwashiorkor
"Inherent in that, is there any aggressive effort on the part of the hospital to or get to that ultimate billing code? Certainly, I'm not trying to say one way or the other. What
I will say is the patient's 1 will say is the patient's
records, as shown to me, raised serious enough issues that I brought it up with California Watch." As noted by Calfornia
Watch and the LA Times' Hiltzik, billing Medicare for a malnutrition disease in this case was complicated by the fact that Courtois is overweight.
At the end of the day Lyons, seems to look at Prime's decision to share the documents in a black-and-white way. "I'm a journalist, and when we have facts available to us, we examine them," he said. "...To me, it was a relatively straightforward decision that we
should look into the facts presented to us."
Hiltzik, who wrote that he didn't request the records he received from sharing differently.
"(Prime's) justification
is that Courtois implicis that Courtois implicitly waived her medical privacy by sharing a por-
tion of her records with a

cont. from page 1
different news organiza tion," he wrote. "But that
doesn't wash. No matte what Courtois said or did without her specific con sent Shasta still doesn' have the legal right to dis close her file on its own
say the experts I've talke to." "Under the law, patients themselves can divulge
anything they wish abo anything they wish abou
their medical condition and their treatment by hospital,", hea added. "But a hospital's obligation is
to keep its mouth shut to keep its mouth shut.
desire to deflect bad. is not an excuse. Even they think they're in the right, the law says healthi care providers have to suf-
fer in silence, the fer in silence, the experts
say."
In Redding, Lyons said providing news coverag that tells both sides of the
story when it comes story when it comes
Prime is a priority. "I think it's importan that we continue to keep careful and skeptical eye on anybody who's provid ing such a critical servic
in the community", said. "On that particular case, I think we also found it very important to look very thoroughly ${ }^{\text {a }}$
the facts on both sides the facts on both sides."
Brad Morse, CEO PRMC, said he was un familiar with Prime's $p$ a tient privacy violations in December. Prime issued
plan of correction following the California Depart ment of Public Health's investigation, and Shasta Regional Medical Center
has requested an informal meeting with the agency:

Police shoot, kill suicidal man SANANTONO (APP) - San Antonio police have shot
and kililed a man after responding to a call that he was Suicidat and trying to ham himself. Police Chief William Mc Manus tells she San Antonio
Express Neww stat Saturdy Express-2evs that Saturday nieht police responded to
and paparment complex and found man man bleding heavili
 get a anife away from him, but when police arrived he
ran inno the batrom ran into het batroom. man lungused swy when onficers sicked open the dorew, dor, the TTase, but the man pulled out the prongs, leadiderg the sece Ond officert oshoot him once. Poiliee esid not revesese the mants s name and did dot itimmediately retum a call from
The Associated Press secking comment
Police investigate fatal shooting DALLAS (AP) - Police ere investigating the fatal stoo inng of a man found outside his Dalasa apartment
Dailas police spokesman Gerardo
Monreal says
 fatere wess hot Saturday afermoon
The man, hhose e eame was not recelesesed, was taken to 0 Dalas hospita where ne later died
 orby whom muth homicicided detectivives emanin on the sesene

Oakley's gun fetches over \$143K McALLEN (AP) - A shotgun that once belonged
to Westem sharpshooete and enterainer Annie oakley To Westem sharpshooter and entertaner Annie Oake ey
sold tor more than S Sl4,3000 at a a auction in Dallas on Sunday
The trove of about 100
of the icon's sitems headining


 died in 2000 ?
 all, the auction's success lef her witha a positive feecing
but there's
lititle bit of melancholy and $\xrightarrow{\text { goes with it " }}$ The ites $h$
The iems had been passed down throuph generations,
Holcomb remembers stooting the guns for target prac-


Fires ravage Colo., N.M.
 forests in Colorado and New Mexico, forcing hundreds
of popple from their homes and the evacuation of wolve from a sanctuary;
The Colorado fire, buning in a mountainous area about
15 miles west of for Collins, grew to
2 yimiles west of Forn Colins, grew to 22 square miles
pithin about a dayy of being reporeced and has destroyed or damanged 18 strsctures
 40-square-mile wildfife near the mountain comm unity of
Ruidoso in southem New Mexico. Creww were working
 and has damaged of destroyed 3 structures.


 the sun and creating en erie, orange dusk in inte middle
of the day. The New Mexicico fire is smaler than the
Whitewater


GOP

cont. from page

How retirement benefits are figured Tom Margenau
Creator's Syndicate
I'm getting a little embarrassed
apologizing for messing apologizing for messing up with
my email responses to readers. my email responses to readers. I
pride myself that $I$ am still able to personally respond to every Neanderthal. I can just barely handle the software programs I need
to know to write this column and
submit it to to know to write this column and
submit it to my syndicator; and to
respond to submit it to my syndicator; and
respond to emails from my read-
ers. Recently, I was in the middle ers. Recently, I was in the middre
of answering an email from a guy
who wanted to who wanted to know how Social
Security retirement benefits Security retirement benefits were
figured, when all of a sudden, my figured, when all of a sudcen,
fast-moving typing fingers must
have accidentally hit an odd com have accidentally hit an odd com-
bination of keys and POOF, my entire answer was translated into Japanese! Actually, $\mathrm{\Gamma}$ m not sure
it was Japanese, but it looked like it whas I Jimagesine Japanese writing
to look.
to to look.
Anyway, in my attempts to remAnyway, in my attempts to re
edy that error, I must have hit
another odd combination of key when POOF again, the entire document disappeared!' And I was never
able to retrieve it. So if there is some reader out
there there who had questions abou
Social Security computations and is wondering why 1 never respon
ed ed to his email, please send
again. I 'll type my response more
slowly and carefully slow able to keep it in English an
hit hit the "send" key before I delete it
again! again!
In the
might might be meantime, I thoought it
once time to explain once again (I do this every couple years or so) how Social Security
retirement benefits retirement benefits are figured.
The formula is simple in a general The formula is simple in a general
sense, but very complicated when you get to the nitty gritty details. Here is the simple part. A Social
Security retirement benefit is a percentag
ly income y income, using your highest 35
years of inflation-adjusted earn-
ings. Note that there are four parts
to that formula: 1) to that formula: 1) a percentage;

## Social Socurity and you

 an inflation-indexing factor; and 4) wards to explain how things work.The 35 -year base is the easy part. When you file for retire
ment benefits, the Social Security Administration will look at your entire earnings history and pull out your highest 35 years. They don't have to be consecutive. If you
don't have 35 years of earnings,
SSA must plug in "zero" years to get to the 35 -year base. And please
note that 35 means 35 ! Despite factor is diffe
year of birth. Here is a quick example. If you
were born in were bor in 1949, and earned
$\$ 20,000$ in 1980, they would multiply those earnings by an
inflation adjustment factor of inflation adje carment factor of
3.25 , meaning they would actually note that 35 means 35 ! Despite all
the rumors out there, your retireuse $\$ 65,000$ as your 1980 earnings. earned that were born in 1950 and earned hat same $\$ 20,000$ in 1980 , of 3.33 resulting in $\$ 66600$ factor 1980 earnings used in your Social You can find a complete break down of those inflation adjust
ment factors for each year birth (for folks nearing retirement age ) at www.so
pubs 10070 html . So the next step in the retirement your highest 35 years of inflationadjusted earnings. Then you divide months in that's the number of average inflation-adjusted monthly The final step brings us to the "social" part of Social Security The percentage of your average
monthly income that comes back to you in the form of a Social Security benefit depends on your
income. In a nutshell, the lower your average wage, the higher percentage rate of return you get.
Once again, the actual formula is Once again, the actual formula is
messy, and varies depending on messy, and varies depending on
your year of birth. As an example,
here is here is the formula for someone
born in 1949. You take the first born in 1949. You take the firs
$\$ 749$ of average monthly income and multiply by 90 percent. You
take the next $\$ 3,768$ of your average monthly income and multiply that by 32 percent. And you take
any remainder and multiply it by 15 percent. You can find a complete breakpoints at www.so
pubs $110007 . \mathrm{html}$.
It you have a Social Secunity question,
Tom Margenau has the answer. Contat
him at thomas.margenau@comcast net.

Texas Dems hope to build from bottom up
HOUSTON (AP) -
Texas Democrats have
Tlowed them to pass laws
Then if Democrats didn't
the lorything else behind,

## Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, June 11, the
There are 203 days left in the year.
Today's Highlights in History:
On June 11, 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San
Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on
a makeshift raft. Frank Morris and brothers Clarence and John Anglin were never found or heard from again.

## On this date:

In 1509 , England's King Henry VIII married his first wife, Cather
In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the
British ship Endeavour, discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.
In 1776, the Continental Congress formed a commitIn 1776, the Continental Congress formed a commit-
tee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.
In 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becom-
ing horse racing's first Triple Crown winner
In 1922, the groundbreaking documentary fea-
ture "Nanook of the North," produced by Robert J. Flaherty, premiered in New York. In 1936, Kansas Gov. Alfred "Alf" Landon was nominated for president
convention in Cleveland.
In 1937, eight members of the Soviet Red Army High Command accused of disloyalty were put on
trial, convicted and immediately executed as part of trial, convicted and immediately executed as part of
Josef Stalin's Great Purge.

In 1942, the United States and the Soviet Union signed a lend-lease agreement to aid the Soviet war effort in World War II.

In 1963, a Buddhist monk (Thich Quang Duc) set himself afire on a Saigon street to protest the govern-
ment of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.
1971, In 1971, the year-and-a-half-long occupation of
Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay by American Indian activists ended as federal officers evicted the remaining protesters.
In 1977, Seattle Slew won the Belmont Stakes, cap-
In 1987, Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term of office as her Conservatives held onto a
reduced majority in Parliament.

Ten years ago: Congressional investigators released a report which said Clinton administration workers
had defaced equipment and left behind prank meshad defaced equipment and left behind prank mes-
sages as they vacated the White House in Jan. 2001; but the investigators failed to uncover the widespread problems alleged by some Republicans. Rock star
Paul McCartney and Heather Mills were married Paul McCartney and Heather Mills were married
in a remote Irish castle. (The couple divorced in in a remote Irish castle. (The couple divorced in
2008; McCartney married again in October 2011.) The very first episode of "American Idol" aired on
Fox Television with hosts Ryan Seacrest and Brian Dunkleman and judges Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson. (The winner of the first season
was Kelly Clarkson.)

Five years ago: Republicans blocked a Senate
no-confidence vote on Attoney General Gonzales. A divided panel of the 4 th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the Bush administration could not use new anti-terronsm laws to keep All al-Marri,
a legal U.S. resident, locked up indefinitely without charging him. (The issue was rendered moot in 2009
when the Obama administration ordered al-Marri turned over to civilian authorities.) Sen. Larry Craig,
R-Idaho, was R-Idaho, was arrested at the Minneapolis-St. Paul
International Airport in a restroom sex sting International Airport in a restroom sex sting. (Craig,
who denied soliciting an undercover police officer, who denied soliciting an undercover police officer,
later pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct and paid a
One year ago: Rejecting calls by Democratic
leaders for him to resign in a sexting scandal Rep leaders for him to resign in a sexting scandal, Rep.
Anthony Weiner instead announced he was seeking professional treatment and asking for a leave of absence from Congress. (Weiner ended up leaving office.) Ruler On Ice posted a huge upset in the
Belmont Stakes, taking the lead from Preakness Stakes Belmont Stakes, taking the lead from Preakness Stakes
winner Shackleford in the straight and winning the winner Shacketerd in the stre
final leg of the Triple Crown.
Today's Birthdays: Opera singer Rise Stevens is 99 . Actor Gene Wilder is 79. Actor Chad Everett
is 75 . Comedian is comedian Johnny Brown is 75. International
Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 73 . Singer Joey Dee is 72 . Actress Adrienne Barbeau is 67 . Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 63. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 63. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 60 . Actor Peter Bergman is 59 . Pro
Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 56 . Actor Hugh Laurie is 53 . Singer Gioia (JOY'-ah) Bruno (Expose) is 49. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 46 . Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 46. Actor Peter Dinklage is 43 . Country musician Smilin' Jay McDowell is 43 . Rock musician Tai Anderson (Third
Day) is 36. Actor Joshua Jackson is 34 Christian rock Day) is 36. Actor Joshua Jackson is 34 . Christian rock
musician Ryan Shrout is 32 . Actor Shia LaBeouf is 26 .

Thought for Today: "Forgetfulness is a form of freedom." - Khalil Gibran, American poet and artist (1883-1931).


Good day for GOP in Wisconsin, California

We pundits have been busy
crunching the results in last
Tuesday's Wisconsin recall elecTuesday's Wisconsin recall elec-
tion and have noted that the publicemployee unions sustained a huge defeat.
Some have also looked west, to California, where San Diego and and 69 percent to cut back publicemployee pensions. Those cities voted 63 and 69 percent for Barack Obama in 2008.
But there's son But there's something else worth State voters adopted a new primary procedure, in which the top two vote-getters, regardless of party, go on to the general election.
Washington state had a similar Washington state had a similar the primary results tended to be replicated in November. For example, the 1994 primary results enabled some to forecast that Democrats
would lose six of nine House seats in November. pare the total primary vote for the House in California with the total House vote in previous elections.
Statewide, 53 percent of the vates Statewide, 53 percent of the votes
were cast for Democrats and 43 percent for Republicans. That may understate Republicans' strength,
since they left eight seats since they left eight seats uncon-
tested and Democrats only one. Those totals are almost exactly the same as in the November 2010 election, when Democrats won 53 percent of the House vote and
Republicans 42 Republicans 42 percent. They are
quite different from 2008, when California Democrats won 60 percent of the House votes and Republicans 37 percent.
So it looks like voters in California, as in Wisconsin, where slightly on his 2010 percentage, are closer to where they were in 2010 than where they were in 2008.


## MICHAEL

 BARONE$\qquad$ side in May organization in California this fall. Neither is Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstern, who won 236,000 more The results in some individual House races are interesting - and surprising - as well. California posedly also adopted a new sup redistricting partisan congressiona the previous bipartisan incumben protection plan, there was only one party turnover in the state's 26 Democrats in the last 10 years. ing the commission process gamRepublicans stood cluelessly by Deme primary results suggest Democrats won't make the gains edge their current 34-19 delegation edge that they hoped for. Republicans won the top two
spots in an eastern Los Angeles basin district that looked very marginal. They also won more votes than Democrats in a Long Beach
and Orange County district staked and Orange County district staked
out by a Democratic state senator. That gives Republicans one guar anteed seat and one clear shot that Democrats hadn't counted on. An the primary returns suggest they'l do better - and may nearly sweep

- the new districts in the Central Valley. trict west of Fresno, the single



## We welcome your letters

## - Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity <br> - All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address ard telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published. <br> - Defarnatory comments will not be

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

"Mommy, the roof on my 'brella
won't raise."
Non Sequitur

 Nest Heads


## 1 t ${ }^{2}$ Claily horoscope

HAPPY
HAPPY
12, 2012:
This ye 12,2012: surprise really depends on each individual.
This year you add even more enthusiasm A misundertanding will develop where to your nommally upbeat thinking process. you least expect it, so repeat meeting times
Others will challenge you more frecuently, and pacees Tonight Let Others will challenge you more frequently, and places. Tonight: Let more fun in. especially someone close to you. Learn VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
to walk away from power plays with this $\quad \star \star \star \star$ Deal with others, even stran person. The only way to win is not to play.ers, as though they are your fiends or partIf you are single, communication often is a ners. An adversarial attitude can only cause problem when relating to each other. Leam a problem. Recognize that you could be to express yourself differently, depending out of sorts as well. The unexpected could
on who you are chatting with. In general, plague a financial tie. Tonight: Go with on who you are chatting with. In general, plague a financial tie. Tonight: Go with you need to be extra cautious with your someone's suggestion.
finances. Some of you might receive an LBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) inheritance, or some other sudden change $\quad \star \star \star \star$ Defer to others, and listen to could head in from out of nowhere. AR- your instincts about an emotional patner-
IES is fiery and direct. You relate well to ship. This person can be a bit zany or unthis sign. Have: 5-Dynamic; 4Positive; 3 -Average; and you might see his or her point. Tonight:
ARIES (Mifficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
$\star \star \star \star \star$ You beam in some unexpect-
ed news, but you know you can deal with have any you nention of patting yourself if you it easily, Pressure builds between you and done. In fact, you might need to hop over others, specifically those you answer to. some barriers, misunderstandings and a You could find that a high level of confu- boulder or two; regardless, you will make sion surrounds communication. Do your it. Tonight: Do something just for you.
best not to be part of the present chaos. To- SAGITTARIUS (Nov, 22-Dec. 21) best not to be part of the present chaos. Tonight: Be highly responsive.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
emerge, and you will delight others. One
personal matter. You could feel the need liveliness. You might want to curb a tento advance, and as you decide to, you'll dency to take risks, especially with your
suddenly gain a strong insight into a situa- finances. A partner could become picky. tion. Even if you detach, you'll revise your thinking and suddenly see the big picture. Tonight Feed your mind some candy. CEMINI May 21-June 20) Candy. $\begin{aligned} & \text { C } \star \star \text { You (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) }\end{aligned}$
$\star \star \star \star$ Despite all efforts, you sill personal matter, as the issue keeps invading $\star \star \star \star$ Despite all efforts, you still your day. You will be able to focus better
could run into a misunderstanding - like it once the matter is put to rest A misunder could run into a misunderstanding - like it once the mater is sut to rest. A misunder-
or not. You see life from a more renewed standing could be the basis of the issue on and happier perspective than others do, both sides. Tonight: Make peace, not war. and they sense it "You will hear something
 night Swap tales of today with a pal.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) problem with a loved one or dear friend.
Remember, you cannot control this per$\star \star \star \star$ You are on top of what you must son's responses. If you don't tike what you do, but somehow others are no. The execu- hear, try to detach rather than get angry. Totion of what must be done is somewhat dependent on everyone involved. Ty to avoid a conftict, though you might become quis
frustrated. Tonight In the limelight. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
family member understands you far better
know what you want. You have a tendency the shares. This erson is unissully insightto do the unexpected and surprise children, ful. Tonight: Balance your checkbook first.

## Tundra

Shoe


Mother Goose and Grim


Beetle Bailey



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



Biondie




## Sports

Pampa disc golf association hosts Harvester Open

staff photo by Andrew Glover Armando Garcia launche Sarvester Open Saturday. This sthe second year the Pampa Disc Golf Association put on the tournament.


Come visit with one of our loan advisors about a summer vacation loan.

## National Bank of Commerce


staff photo by Andrew Glover
Art Elliott, 71, tosses a frisbee towards the basket during the Harves Open. Elliott was the oldest of 46 competitors.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON GRAY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

The following notice publication is required by House Bill 432, passed by the $71^{\text {st }}$ Legislature in 1989, effective September 1,1989.

The Gray County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2013 fiscal year

The public hearing will be held at a meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June $21^{\text {st }} 2012$ at the Gray County Appraisal District offices, 815 North Sumner, Pampa, Texas.

The following is a summary of the Appraisal District budget in the manner and form prescribed by Section 6.062 of the Texas Property Tax Code

The total amount of the proposed budget is \$692,241.

The total decrease over the current year's budget is - \$1,662

The number of employees compensated under the current budget is 9 (full-time employees).

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget will be 8 (full-time employees).

The change in the proposed budget is due to cost savings in normal operation expenses.

The Appraisal District is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the Appraisal District.

If approved by the Appraisal District Board of Directors at a public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, cities and town and Water District served by the Appraisal District.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies.

