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# The PAMPA NEWS

**TODAY IN PAMPA**



Thursday, August 23, 2012

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Volume 108 • No. 118

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**Viewpoints: Charlie Daniels**  
 He can fiddle and he sure can write. | **p4**

**Meet The Teacher**  
 Pampa ISD holds a series of open houses | **p5A**

## PJH Symphonic Band reaches state level in competition

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Seventh and eighth grade students in last school year's Pampa Junior High Symphonic Band received ninth place for a concert piece at the state level of the Association of Texas Small School Bands' (ATSSB) Outstanding Performance Series, and were recognized as state finalists. During UIL competition in April, recordings were made of the band's performance pieces, two of which were submitted to the ATSSB competition. A piece called "Adrenaline Engines" in par-

ticular set the band apart. "It's a new piece that was written in the past two years, and it's fast-paced and rhythmic," said Meghan Lockwood, Pampa Junior High band director. "It's exciting, the kids loved it and it gets them pumped up. There's lots of percussion, and it's very difficult."

The tempo for "Adrenaline Engines" is unusually fast for a junior high band, but the challenging pace added to the Symphonic Band's energy.

"At first it was tough," Lockwood said. "The kids got excited, and their adrenaline would push the tempo, but

they got to where they could play it at a very fast tempo."

Lockwood said the band's success in the competition has been a huge deal for the program.

"I've been getting calls from band directors around the state, because usually the same schools are state finalists, so we've been getting a lot of attention, and people are wondering about what's happening in Pampa," she said. "It's good for the kids' self esteem and pride in their program."

Currently, the director is working on rebuilding the band program at Pampa Junior High.

"We focus on tailored instruction and raising the level of expectation," Lockwood said. "They're playing harder music than they have in a decade. It's music they enjoy, but there's meat to it, so that makes them better musicians."

She added that her eighth graders last year will make a great addition to the Pampa High School band program. Lockwood "team teaches" with the high school's band directors, Joe and Melissa Barrow.

"We all work together," Lockwood said. "A lot of our success has to do with Joe and Melissa Barrow."

## A DRIER WEDNESDAY



Staff photo by **Ben Tinsley**

**Wednesday** proved to be uneventful as far as local rainfall is concerned, but the rains earlier this week managed to temporarily knock down prices for wheat, corn and soybean because of the drought gripping large parts of the Midwest. Those prices all rose again Wednesday, the Associated Press reported. Corn and soybean prices both jumped about 2 percent. Prices for agricultural commodities have been climbing throughout the summer, and analysts and farmers fear it will reduce crop sizes, pushing prices higher. On Wednesday, wheat for December delivery rose 8 cents, or about 1 percent, to \$8.6625 per bushel. December corn rose 15 cents to \$8.04 per bushel. November soybeans rose 36.5 cents to \$16.345 per bushel.

## Gray County Commissioners lower tax rate for next fiscal year

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Commissioners Court approved its proposed tax rate for the next fiscal year during its meeting yesterday afternoon. Commissioners adopted the county's rollback rate, set at 49.73 cents per \$100 of taxable value, a rate that is about three cents lower than last year's tax rate of 52.96 cents per \$100 of taxable value.

"The county tax rate would drop about three cents, but if you go with the rollback rate, you have to understand, it's considered a tax increase, because it's above the effective rate," said Gray County Judge Richard Peet.

"I think anything less than that is not going to meet our needs, plus, if we go with the effective rate, it still gives us \$100,000 less than we earned last year," he added.

The commission, which has been working to trim its proposed budget, can still make changes to the tax rate, which has yet to be formally approved.

"Starting out, we do not have to stay with this rate," said Commissioner Joe Wheeley. "When we get the totals from (County Auditor) Elaine (Morris), we can lower it."

Public hearings will be held on the tax rate at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6 and Monday, Sept. 10, with an adoption of the tax rate and budget set for Thursday, Sept. 13.

## Black finds her calling and excels in 'Quilts of Valor'

**MOLLIE BRYANT**  
 mbryant@thepampanews.com

Debbie Black has been a quilter for 15 years, but it wasn't until recently that she found her calling as a crafter. An interest in the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which sends homemade quilts to combat servicemembers and veterans, led her to make three quilts with, and later join, the VFW Women's Auxiliary. According to the foundation, 67,982 quilts have been donated so far.

"It's something I'm passionate about," Black said. "I didn't choose to put a uniform on, but I choose to give back to the men and women who have. If you're excited about something, a lot of times, you can get other people to enjoy it, too. I can say that I couldn't have done it without their energy, too. It's a group effort."

After Black first heard about the Quilts of Valor Foundation, her husband, Keith Black, a member of the VFW, encouraged her to visit with the group's Women's Auxiliary about creating a quilt.

"I presented the concept to them, and there was some reluctance, because some know how to sew, and some don't," Black said. "In the mind of a lot of people, they're like, 'I can't put a quilt together.' With that in mind, I encouraged them, and said I could guide them if they can sew a straight line. That's basically what you need to do, and if you don't want to sew, you can use an iron or press, and whoever doesn't want to do that could look at how the layout of the blocks need to be once the blocks are assembled, and the rest can just be a support group and encourage us to do what we're doing."

So far, the group has completed three quilts for the program, one of which has been shipped off to a service member in Afghanistan. According to Commander Mary Russell on the Quilts of Valor site, the quilts become "a treasured gift" to whoever receives them.

"By sending your quilts here, you are getting them to some men who would not have received them otherwise, because they are returned to duty," she said. "I have given them to our guys with wounds, ranging from concussion and blast

injuries to amputations."

The Women's Auxiliary meets regularly to quilt, each member contributing however they can, regardless of skill level.

"You just encourage one another," Black said. "They find their imperfections, and I'm like, 'Look at what you've done. We've put a quilt together in no less than three gatherings.' If you've got a whole lot of people focused on one project, it's assembly line stuff. You just keep going, and knowing that one of our servicemen is going to benefit from it, it's a great feeling. It just feels good that you can give back."

Like most quilters who are devoted to their craft, Black said she has a good number of quilts in her closet, but the experience of making a Quilt of Valor is a special experience.

"There are so many good organizations to give your time to, but this is where I found my niche," Black said. "I was just like, 'This is where I need to be.'"

For more information on the Quilts of Valor Foundation, visit [www.qovf.org](http://www.qovf.org).

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## PAMPA FORECAST

Today	Friday	Saturday
 30%	 30%	 20%
High 86 Low 66	High 87 Low 64	High 84 Low 65

Today: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 86. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 87. South wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64. South southeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. East northeast wind around 10 mph.

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# Obituaries

## John Noel Fite

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. — John Noel Fite, 66, died August 14, 2012 in San Diego, California.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 25, 2012, at Fairview Cemetery in Pampa, Texas, with John Curry, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Fite was born February 21, 1946 in Borger to Elmer and Loraine Noel Fite. He was a 1964 graduate of Pampa High School and attended Arizona State University. He had been a resident of San Diego, California for the past 40 years. He started his construction career as a concrete coring and cutting expert and then went on to obtain his general contracting license. He was an active member of the Old Mission Beach Athletic Club for many years. He was a Methodist.

Survivors include his sister: Marilyn Brown and husband Paul of Edmond, Oklahoma; two nephews: David Brown and partner Mike Walton of Seattle, Washington, and Mark Brown and wife Ivy of Angleton; a niece: Jane Calfy and husband Bryan of Nixa, Missouri; three great-nephews: Walker Brown, Garrett Brown and Connor Calfy; and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

**MEMORIALS:** American Heart Association, National Center, 7272 Greenville Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75231; American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas 79065; or a favorite charity.



Fite

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

## Tracy Lee Worley

PAMPA — Tracy Lee Worley, 62, died August 14, 2012 in Amarillo. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 25, 2012, at Calvary Baptist Church, with Monty Danner, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Worley was born March 12, 1950 in Pampa. He graduated from Groom High School in 1969. He attended Texas State Technical College for a year after high school. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army and was an expert marksman. He was a fireman, EMT and inhalation therapist. He enjoyed playing golf and loved football. He was very proud to be a volunteer for the Woody Guthrie Museum.

Survivors include his daughter: Megan Worley of Pampa; his sister: Patty Elliott of Pampa; four grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Tracy was preceded in death by his parents; a sister: Olanell Worley; a brother: Ray Worley; and his grandparents: George and Nellie Keeton.

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



Worley

# For the record

## GRAY COUNTY

### DIVORCES

The following 11 divorces have been finalized

through the Gray County District Clerk's Office for the time period beginning Aug. 1 and ending Tuesday, Aug. 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 1  
Jami Rodriguez and Ricardo Rodriguez  
Maria Christina Santiago and Eugenio Felipe Santiago Jr.

Tracy D. Bridges and Kristine E. Bridges  
Mindy Ann Ham and Jerry Wayne Ham

Thursday, Aug. 2  
Patricia Martha Alonso and Guillermo F. Alonso  
Deborah Rene Elliott and Earl Dean Elliott  
Kerri Ann Ortega and Ruben Joseph Ortega

Tuesday, Aug. 21  
Tanita Pedersen and David Pedersen

Paul Alan Thias and Gladys Diane Thias  
David Allen Kerns and Anita Marie Kerns  
James Tylan Pierce and Mendy Dawn Pierce

## Introducing:

# The perspective of Tax columnist Dean Alexander



**DEAN ALEXANDER**  
Tax Columnist

This time we want to discuss the Taxpayer Advocate Report to Congress regarding IRS Collection Practices. The Watchdog expressed concern about the IRS collection procedures for IRS debt when it inflicts "unnecessary or disproportionate harm" on the taxpayer. Not only does the practice hurt the taxpayer but it negatively affects the money that the IRS collects for back taxes. IRS believes that the more aggressively they enforce collection actions against taxpayers such as liens and levies, the more money they collect for back taxes or tax debt.

The reality, however, points to the opposite results. The Taxpayer Advocate believes that the "data don't bear that out." The report to congress states that since 1999 the IRS increased tax lien filings almost five times (475%) and increased tax levies whether it is bank levies or wage garnishment by 600% (six times.) With this massive attack, one would expect that the IRS is now doing a great collection job. The numbers reveal that collection dollars (adjusted for inflation) went down by 7% over that period.

So we previously said that tax liens, bank levies, wage garnishments or other levies did not help the IRS if not actually hurt them as the Advocate suggested. This tax collection mobilization also inflicts considerable damage on the taxpayers who have

IRS debts or back taxes. They say that when the lien is filed you immediately lose 100 points on your credit score. If you were beginning to recover and you built your credit score to 700 now they put you back at 600, and if you are at 600 and on your way to gaining access to the financial system and possibly the American dream, they put you back at 500.

Employers, credit card companies, renters, mortgage companies and even insurance companies check your credit. They practically shut you off from any decent opportunities. The question is for what? What is the IRS gaining by this? In many instances, they are gaining nothing. It is sadly funny when I hold a conference with an officer of the IRS to negotiate an Installment Agreement, and after we successfully accomplish the agreement, the IRS officer gives me the recital that "Now that we have put your client on Installment Agreement, we will file a lien against the client."

When this first happened I was shocked and I reasoned, "Before the agreement my client had no lien, now we do the agreement and we get hit by a lien?" I felt something was wrong. But soon I got trained by the system and when I do an Installment Agreement, I respond with all dignity and pride in my knowledge, "Yes sir, but of course, sir." Thus we have learned to expect anomalies.

If we as practitioners fail to voice our opinion, at least congress now based on peoples' complaints is watching the problem. The problem is that the Advocate reported that although the IRS has been advised of the consequences of their actions, they are under-utilizing Offers in Compromise. As the Taxpayer Advocate puts it, the acceptance of Offers in Compromise by the IRS is at an all-time low. The IRS has filed one million

liens against taxpayers. To put it in perspective, there are countries in this world whose population is one million people. So in this case such a country would be one under siege. Remarkable? Perhaps next time we can propose some solutions along with those proposed by the Taxpayer Advocate.

### IRS NUMBERS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

I would like to select some newly published statistics and venture into some social interpretation of who we are based on the numbers. The numbers, such as how many people file, how many comply with the law and percentage of wage earner to business income are examples that will shed light on how we live and who we are as a people.

But before I do that I would like to comment on the new tax agreement passed by Congress to the extent that it affects wage earners. Wage earners may have to fill out a new w-4 with their employer in order to reflect the reduction in social security taxes taken out from the employees.

As many may know by now, the new tax agreement will reduce the social security rate from 6.2% to 4.2%. That equates to a reduction of about \$80 a month in taxes if you are making fifty thousand dollars a year.

Now let us have some fun with IRS numbers: I will put the number up, then make a comment or a question. Here we go:

The IRS says that in 2008, we filed 142.5 million returns.

We are a country of 300 million people including the children. It is unbelievable to file that many returns. To file such large numbers means one of three interpretations: we are as a people extremely conformist, we are believers of public duty, or we are behaving under a typical phenomenon of ad-

vanced economies.

Third world countries and less advanced economies such as Greece suffer from notorious non compliance with income tax filings. Many of those countries tap into the American experience (for good or for ill) to improve the tax compliance regime.

We may want to believe that we comply because we want to dispose of our civic duties. But some studies show otherwise. A published study by Kim Bloomquist, Internal Revenue Service, found that matchable income such as income reported on the 1099 has a higher compliance ratio than non-matchable income.

To illustrate this point, suppose that you are a house painter. People either pay you cash or by check. At the end of the year you either report the full income if you want to play by the rule or you may report part of the income. Many taxpayers don't report the cash part of their income. They know that the IRS does not know how much they made that year.

But suppose that you painted a building owned by Exxon. Exxon sent you at the end of the year a 1099. Now we realize that the IRS knows exactly how much you made because Exxon sends a copy of this 1099 to them. The IRS now knows for sure that you will report every penny Exxon paid you because the income is verifiable or matchable. That is why the matchable income compliance gets a higher ratio of reporting than the non matchable income.

So much for the good citizen. We operate out of fear, not out of certain romantic beliefs. We cheat when we can. We will file if we know we may get caught. It is human nature, at least as some philosophers or theologians such as Saint Augustine would have it, we are all sinners.

# MORNINGRUSH

## Man set to die for Amarillo deaths

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A former auto mechanic who shot and killed three former housemates as they slept 14 years ago in Amarillo asks the U.S. Supreme Court to spare him from the Texas death chamber.

Convicted killer John Balentine is set to die Wednesday evening in Huntsville.

A reprieve for the 43-year-old ex-con from Arkansas would be his third in as many years. Last year, he came within an hour of lethal injection before justices stopped the punishment.

His attorney contends Balentine had poor legal help during his trial and early appeals and jurors weren't able to consider his childhood difficulties before they condemned him.

## Texas ACT scores below average

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas students taking the ACT college entrance exam have scored slightly lower than the national average.

Scores released Tuesday show Texas students had an average composite score of 20.8 out of a possible 32, the same as last year. This year's national average composite score was 21.1.

Texas students scored an average of 19.6 in English, the same as last year, and 21.4 in math, down from 21.5 in 2011.

The average science score was the same both years at 20.9, while the 2012 composite score in reading ticked up from 20.7 to 20.8.

The percentage of Texas students taking the ACT was 39 percent, up 3 percentage points from 2011. Nationwide, 52 percent of high school students took the ACT — including nine states where all students take it.

## UT presidents may get more pay

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas System regents will consider whether presidents of all 15 schools should get bonuses if graduation rates improve.

The Austin American-Statesman reports regents meeting Wednesday and Thursday in Austin are scheduled to review the incentive proposal.

Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa has recommended approval. An aide says Gov. Rick Perry strongly supports incentive pay.

The bonuses would apply to school presidents and some other system executives. The higher pay would be based on leaders increasing donations and meeting other higher education goals.

Critics have raised ethical questions about financial rewards for meeting philanthropic goals. Other concerns have been raised about whether academic standards would be intentionally weakened so that students pass courses.

## Brothers charged in robberies

DALLAS (AP) — Two brothers have been charged with robbing the same North Texas bank twice.

Federal prosecutors in Dallas on Wednesday announced the indictment of 43-year-old James Robert Cleveland Butler and 45-year-old Johnny Charles Butler.

The siblings allegedly held up a Bank of America branch in Forney last Nov. 25 and again on May 18. Both were arrested following an Aug. 2 standoff at their home in Quinlan, about 25 miles northeast of Forney.

Each brother faces two counts of armed bank robbery and one count of possessing a firearm during a violent crime.

Johnny Butler is also charged with assault on a federal officer and discharging a firearm during a crime. Prosecutors say gunfire came from within the Butler home during the standoff. Johnny Butler was wounded before the pair surrendered.

## Diocese reaches abuse settlement

FORT WORTH (AP) — A North Texas diocese has reached a settlement with a man who says he was sexually abused by a priest in the 1990s.

The Fort Worth Roman Catholic Diocese on Tuesday announced the settlement with a man whose name has not been released. Terms were not disclosed in the case involving allegations of abuse by then-priest Philip Magaldi.

Officials say the victim was about 9 years old when he allegedly was abused by Magaldi in 1994.

Magaldi was defrocked in 1999 and died in 2008. The 72-year-old Magaldi was never charged and maintained his innocence.

Bishop Kevin Vann also has apologized to the victim.

# Texas can cut Planned Parenthood funds

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas officials are vowing to cut off funding for Planned Parenthood after a federal court sided with the state in a challenge over a new law that bans clinics affiliated with abortion providers from getting money through a health program for low-income women.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans late Tuesday reversed a federal judge's temporary injunction that was allowing the funding to continue pending an October trial on Planned Parenthood's challenge to the law.

State officials are seeking to halt money to Planned Parenthood clinics that provide family planning and health services as part of the state's Women's Health Program because the Republican-led Texas Legislature passed a law banning funds to organizations linked to abortion providers.

Planned Parenthood provides services like cancer screenings — but not abortions — to about half of the 130,000 low-income Texas women enrolled in the program, which is designed to provide services to women who might not otherwise qualify for Medicaid.

The appeals court's decision means Texas is now free to impose the ban.

"We appreciate the court's ruling and will move to enforce state law

banning abortion providers and affiliates from the Women's Health Program as quickly as possible," Stephanie Goodman, a spokeswoman for the state Health and Human Services Commission, said in a statement.

The ruling is the latest in the ongoing fight that has pitted Texas against the federal government. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services says that the new state rule violates federal law. Federal funds paid for 90 percent, or about \$35 million, of the \$40 million Women's Health Program until the new rule went into effect. Federal officials are now phasing out support for the program.

Gov. Rick Perry has promised that Texas will make up for the loss of federal funds to keep the program going without Planned Parenthood's involvement. In a statement, Perry called Tuesday's ruling "a win for Texas women, our rule of law and our state's priority to protect life."

"Texas will continue providing important health services for women through this program in spite of the Obama Administration's disregard for our state law and unilateral decision to defund this program," he said.

Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, said the case "has never

been about Planned Parenthood — it's about the women who rely on Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings, birth control and well-woman exams."

"It is shocking that politics would get in the way of women receiving access to basic health care," Richards said in a statement.

The case began when Planned Parenthood sued, saying the new Texas law violated its rights to free speech. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott countered by arguing that lawmakers may decide which organizations receive state funds.

A federal judge in Austin ruled that the funding should continue pending the trial on Planned Parenthood's lawsuit, saying there's sufficient evidence the state's law is unconstitutional.

But the three-judge appellate panel disagreed, unanimously finding that Planned Parenthood was unlikely to prevail in future arguments that its free-speech rights were violated.

Abbott cheered the decision, noting that it "rightfully recognized that the taxpayer-funded Women's Health Program is not required to subsidize organizations that advocate for elective abortion."

It comes as conservative groups across the nation try to pass and enforce laws to put Planned Parenthood out of business and make getting an abortion more difficult. Earlier this year the same court upheld a new Texas law requiring doctors to perform a sonogram and provide women with a detailed description of the fetus before carrying out an abortion.

## Dallas police investigate 911 call

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police are investigating why it took two days to locate the body of a woman found slain in her bathtub, even though officers knocked on the door minutes after she called 911.

Deanna Cook was found dead Sunday, and her ex-husband, Delvecchio Patrick, has been charged with murder.

Police say Cook called 911 with her cellphone, and the call taker didn't get an address. They said it took about 9 minutes for them to find Cook's address, after

which they dispatched officers to Cook's southeast Dallas home. Officers knocked on the door, then asked for someone to call Cook back. The call went to voicemail.

Officers also looked through the windows of the home and talked to neighbors who said they had heard nothing.

In a statement, the department said it was "seeking to determine if the nature of the call was sufficiently communicated through each step of the process to the responding officers" and whether the officers responded correctly in kind.

Police have declined to release the 911 tape. According to police documents obtained by The Dallas Morning News, Cook is heard screaming: "Delvecchio, why are you doing this?"

Cook filed for divorce from last May. The split was finalized in January.

Cook's relatives declined to comment Thursday afternoon.

## Cinema 4

Movies Showing Now! Friday, Aug. 17 through Thursday, Aug. 23	Showing Friday! Friday, Aug. 24 through Thursday, Aug. 30
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# Viewpoints

## The PAMPA NEWS

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## Today in History

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2012

August 23 is the 235th day of the year (236th in leap years) in the Gregorian calendar. There are 130 days remaining until the end of the year.

### EVENTS

79 – Mount Vesuvius begins stirring, on the feast day of Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.

406 – Radagaisus is executed after he is defeated by the Roman army under Stilicho.

476 – Odoacer, chieftain of the Germanic tribes (Herulic - Scirian foederati), is proclaimed rex Italiae (“king of Italy”) by his troops.

1305 – Sir William Wallace is executed for High Treason at Smithfield in London.

**1328 – Battle of Cassel:** French troops stop an uprising of Flemish farmers.

1514 – Battle of Chaldiran ended with a decisive victory for the Sultan Selim I, Ottoman Empire, over the Shah Ismail I, Safavids founder.

1541 – French explorer Jacques Cartier lands near Quebec City in his third voyage to Canada.

1572 – Mob violence against Huguenots in Paris – St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre.

1595 – Michael the Brave confronts the Ottoman army in the Battle of Calugareni.

1650 – Colonel George Monck of the English Army forms Monck’s Regiment of Foot, which will later become the Coldstream Guards.

1765 – Beginning of Burmese–Siamese War (1765–1767)

**1775 – American Revolutionary War:** King George III delivers his Proclamation of Rebellion to the Court of St. James’s stating that the American colonies have proceeded to a state of open and avowed rebellion.

1784 – Western North Carolina (now eastern Tennessee) declares itself an independent state under the name of Franklin; it wasn’t accepted into the United States, and only lasted for four years.

1799 – Napoleon leaves Egypt for France en route to seize power.

1813 – At the Battle of Grossbeeren, the Prussians under Von Bülow repulse the French army.

1839 – The United Kingdom captures Hong Kong as a base as it prepares for war with Qing China. The ensuing 3-year conflict will later be known as the First Opium War.

1858 – The Round Oak rail accident occurs in Brierley Hill in the Black Country, England. It is ‘Arguably the worst disaster ever to occur on British railways’.

1864 – The Union Navy captures Fort Morgan, Alabama, thus breaking Confederate dominance of all ports on the Gulf of Mexico.

1866 – Austro-Prussian War ends with the Treaty of Prague.

1873 – Albert Bridge in Chelsea, London opened.

1896 – Officially recognised date of the Cry of Pugad Lawin, the start of the Philippine Revolution is made in Pugad Lawin (Quezon City), in the province of Manila (actual date and location is disputed).

1904 – The automobile tire chain is patented.

**1914 – World War I:** Japan declares war on Germany and bombs Qingdao, China.

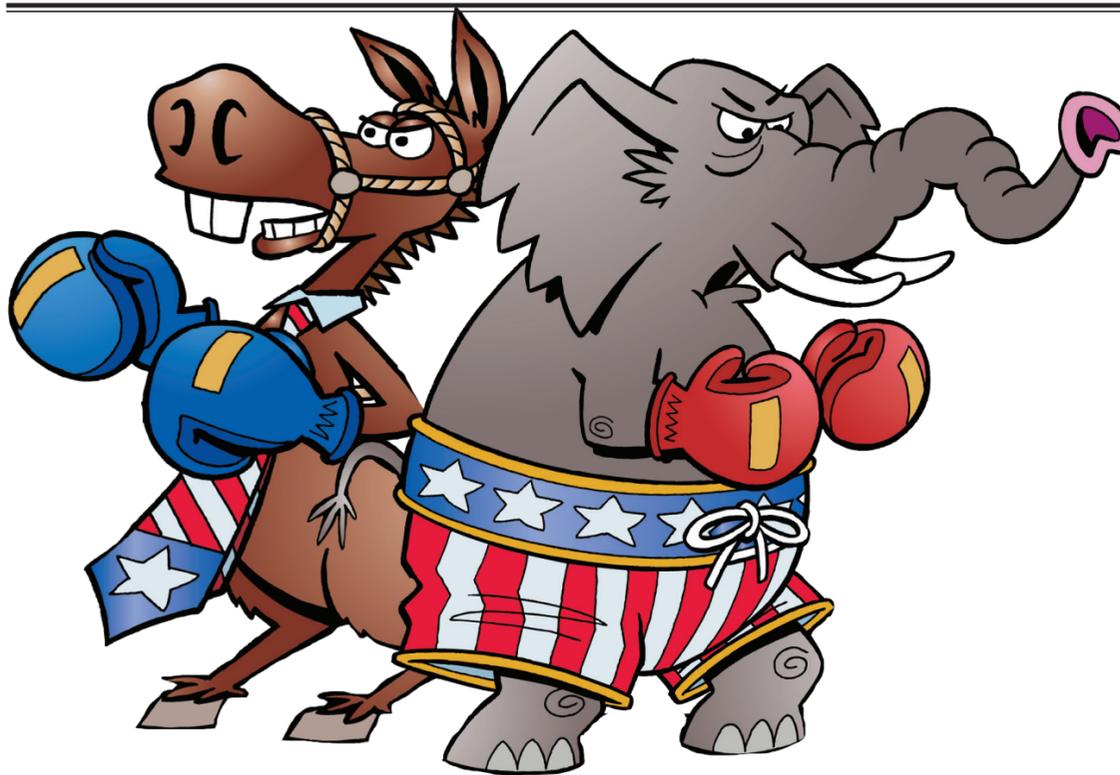
**1914 – World War I:** the Battle of Mons; the British Army begins withdrawal.

1921 – British airship R-38 experiences structural failure over Hull in England and crashes in the Humber estuary. Of her 49 British and American training crew, only 4 survive.

1923 – Capt. Lowell Smith and Lt. John P. Richter performed the first mid-air refueling on De Havilland DH-4B, setting an endurance flight record of 37 hours.

1927 – Sacco and Vanzetti are executed.

**1929 – Hebron Massacre during the 1929 Palestine riots:** Arab attack on the Jewish community in Hebron in the British Mandate of Palestine, continuing until the next day, resulted in the death of 65-68 Jews and the remaining Jews being forced to leave the city.



## DECISION PAMPA: 2012

### Charlie Daniels: ‘Bring Our Troops home.’



**CHARLIE DANIELS**  
Columnist

In my personal opinion there is a basic two-pronged flaw in American foreign policy when it comes to military action.

1. We go to war, put American troops in harm’s way without even deciding what will define winning, leaving an open-ended fiasco that amounts to more occupation than accomplishing victory over whatever or whoever we go to war with.

We bind the hands of our troops with regulations and rules of engagement dictated by diplomats and politicians who have never done anything more dangerous than sit behind a desk and shuffle paper, while the other side has no rules and murder our soldiers while wearing the uniform of a supposed ally.

If a military unit makes a mistake that causes collateral damage the media in this country and around the world jumps on them with both feet, blowing a small incident that was beyond their control, into something done coldly intentional which is just short of genocide.

A young man or woman can go into battle and risk their lives, but out of deference to the Muslim countries we are trying to liberate, they can’t even drink a beer in their off time and walk on egg shells to make sure they don’t offend any religious sensibilities or disturb any wildlife, while never know-

ing when one of the friendlies may turn out to be a suicide bomber or pull out a gun and start shooting.

We kowtow to the opinion of countries who are not even our friends and fear bad press from the media of nations that would give us bad reviews no matter what we undertake.

Enough!

If America is going to



### ENOUGH!

definition of freedom and prosperity by our own. Afghanistan is a prime example.

The people of Afghanistan basically have no concept of central government whose

tral government is tantamount to trying to make a hand full of negatively charged magnets stick together and their concept of prosperity is a larger goat herd or more modern weapons. Political corruption is normal and raising poppies for the heroin trade is just another crop.

The country itself is huge and remote with little infrastructure and mass communications is sparse and limited.

In my opinion, we don’t understand these people; we don’t understand their customs or religion. In short, we just don’t understand what makes them tick.

There is no partisan political content in what I’m about to say because both major parties are guilty of proliferating the war in Afghanistan

Our troops have served valiantly, even in the impossible situation the desk bound politicians have placed them in.

It’s time to bring them home.

Pray for our troops, and for our country.

What do you think?

God Bless America  
*Charlie Daniels*



**‘We kowtow to the opinion of countries who are not even our friends ...’**

send troops into any foreign country, we should have a concrete description of what constitutes victory and go in knowing that there will be a certain amount of collateral damage. It can’t be avoided in war and we should give enough credit to the good sense and moral character of our troops to know they will avoid it if at all possible.

2. We make the mistake of measuring everybody else’s passion and

laws supersede the laws and customs of their own tribe or sect. Afghanistan is not a confederation of states or provinces, in fact it’s not even a confederation, but is made up of far flung mini empires ruled by warlords and tribal elders and about the only thing that unites them is a common enemy. Ask the Russians, the English and, unfortunately, the Americans.

Trying to unite Afghanistan under a cen-

## 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.

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# PAMPA ISD's "MEET THE TEACHER"

Bring your child to meet their teacher and visit the classroom before the first day of school!

## DATES:

- *Pampa Junior High School Open House, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, August 23, 2012.* This will be an informative parent meeting in which students receive their schedules and meet their teachers. Transportation, nurse and cafeteria personnel will be available. Eighth Grade: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Seventh Grade: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sixth Grade: 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- *Austin Elementary, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, August 23, 2012*
- *Lamar Elementary, 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday, August 24, 2012*
- *Travis Elementary, 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, August 24, 2012*

— Sabrina East, Pampa ISD Parent Involvement, 806-661-3426

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We all know that you loved Orville as much as we do. Please know that we greatly appreciate all the food, phone calls, cards, flowers, hugs, errands run, chores done, and especially the prayers. Orville was a devoted husband, a wonderful father and grand-father and friend. We are so blessed to have had his love and presence in our lives for as long as we did. Losing Orville has been a very painful experience but "he's back in the saddle again". Your loving support has been a great help to all of us. Thank you for being there when we needed you most. May God Bless each and every one of you.

-Nancy Craig and all of our family

# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



8-23

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"This glass was too small for my milk."

BIL AND JEFF KEANE

Non Sequitur



WHY CONSULTANTS SHOULDN'T LET THEIR SECRETARY CHOOSE THE NAME OF THE FIRM...

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Nest Heads



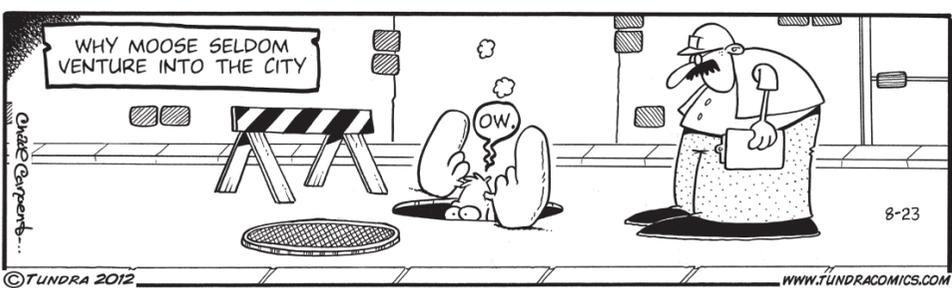
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## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Friday, Aug. 24, 2012:  
 This year you often will feel tense, as you have so much on your plate. You will demand a lot from yourself and want to deliver just that. Your family and home life evolve in importance. You might want to become more of a cynic in order to see people as they really are, rather than how you think they are. If you are single, you will increase the chances of forming a viable relationship by being more grounded. People will reveal their true essence if you stay alert. If you are attached, listen to what your partner says his or her intentions are, rather than just going off of your ideas of what they are. **SAGITTARIUS** is too strong of a personality for you.  
**ARIES** (March 21-April 19)  
 ★★★ You might be somewhat bothered by a dream or premonition you have this morning. Though you typically are cynical of intuition, especially your own, you might try honoring it today. News or an invitation could be instrumental to a new start. Why not go for it? Tonight: Wherever there is music.  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 ★★★★★ Work with a partner or loved one directly. You are far more powerful as a team than you are separately. You might want to resolve some confusion surrounding mixed messages. Move forward with a strong sense of direction. Tonight: Find a favorite person.  
**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)  
 ★★★★★ Someone does not hesitate to question your decisions, and others simply seem challenging. Tension builds as a result. A discussion with a respected authority figure centers you. You might want to find out how this person would handle certain situations. Tonight: Enjoy all the new faces around you.  
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 ★★★ Focus on what you need to do get done; avoid getting sidetracked by others. You can kick back when you finish. A late lunch could become an early dinner. Don't worry -- just enjoy it. Reach out for someone at a distance. Is it time for a mini-trip? Tonight: Join friends and/or associates.  
**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 ★★★★★ Your imagination adds to the fever and enthusiasm surrounding a project, a special friend or an activity with a child. Where others trip up with confusion and miss an opportunity, you will not. In fact,

you'll create an exciting adventure out of a boring happening. Tonight: Let the fun begin.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 ★★★★★ Stay close to what is familiar to you, as right now there could be a sense of confusion. You might want to rethink your communication style. Confirm appointments. Do not get upset about a partner's or dear friend's vagueness. Tonight: Home is where the heart is.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 ★★★★★ You might need to repeat yourself in several different ways to make your point or even just to be heard. You could be frustrated by someone's ambiguity. Any attempts at communication could be difficult later today. Return calls and schedule meetings. Tonight: Go to a favorite spot.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 ★★★★★ Be aware of what someone has to offer. You have the same versatility, but a different set of skills. Together, you make quite a team. A loved one or child needs extra attention. Detach, and look at the whole picture. Tonight: Be careful with your finances.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 ★★★★★ Your actions make all the difference in a domestic matter that goes from confusing and disappointing to very pleasing. Zero in on a long-term goal if you really want it to happen. You might be surprised at the results of one day. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off!  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
 ★★ Take your time discerning what is happening around you. Slow down and clarify facts -- doing so might be more important than you realize. Ask questions to verify what you think. Tonight: Not to be found.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 ★★★★★ A meeting could go longer than you intended. You might want to postpone it until the end of the day. Your finances could seem strange at first, whether it is because of an offer or difficulty realizing a momentary goal. Don't worry; you will be able to clarify the situation. Tonight: Favorite spot, favorite people.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 ★★ Tension builds surrounding a superior or a community and/or business situation. Your intentions might be well-meaning, but others do not receive your ideas clearly until you reiterate your reasoning several times. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

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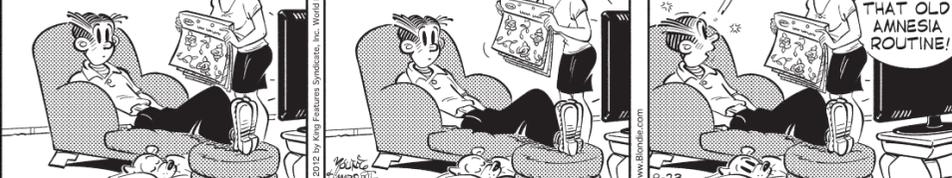
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Blondie



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# Paul Ryan softens stance as 'Good step in the right direction'

FROM WIRE REPORTS

In Flight Between Roanoke, Va., and Raleigh, N.C. - Although Paul Ryan has taken the position that all abortions, even in the case of rape and incest, should be outlawed, the Wisconsin congressman supports Mitt Romney's softer position now that he shares the GOP presidential ticket because it's a "good step in the right direction," he said today.

Romney believes abortion should be legal in cases of abortion or incest, or when the mother's life is in danger. Ryan's previous position only extended exceptions to protecting the mother's life.

"Look, I'm proud of my record," Ryan said at a brief news conference on his plane. "I'm proud of my record. Mitt Romney is going to be president and the president sets policy. His policy is exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother. I'm comfortable with it because it's a good step in the right direction."

He wouldn't say he regretted abortion legislation he co-sponsored with Rep. Todd Akin of Missouri, explaining that he is "proud of my pro-life record I have."

"That bill passed, I think, by 251 votes," Ryan said. "It was bipartisan. I think HR-3 is the one you are talking about. I think we had 251 votes, 16 Democrats, I am proud of my pro-life record I have."

The legislation was co-sponsored by Akin and Ryan and also 225 other members of the House. The measure would have ensured no federal funds even indirectly supported abortions performed nationwide.

An earlier version of the measure had sought to redefine rape for purposes of exemption of the funding ban under the Hyde Amendment, drawing sharp criticism from women's rights groups and Democrats. The language would have allowed for subsidized abortions only in cases of "forcible rape," and limited exempt cases of incest to only those involving minors, although that provision was dropped from the bill.

Meanwhile, Ryan called Akin earlier in the week to try to persuade him to get out of the Missouri Senate race after his controversial comments about rape and abortions. Ryan said he wanted to keep their conversation "between us."

"But I agree with Roy and Jack Danforth [the former U.S. senator] and the rest of the people from the Missouri delegation, current and former, that he should have dropped out of the race," Ryan said. "But he is not, he is going to run his campaign and we are going to run ours."

He said he has "no plans" to talk to Akin again.

Obama campaign spokeswoman Lis Smith today said that as a "Republican leader in the House, Paul Ryan worked

with Todd Akin to try to narrow the definition of rape and outlaw abortion even for rape victims. He may hope that American women never learn about this record, but they deserve an answer to why he wanted to redefine rape and remove protections for rape victims."

Before this flight, Ryan today campaigned in the city of President Obama's "you didn't build that" remark last month, seizing the opportunity to remind small business owners there that such comments explain "why our economy's not growing like it should. It tells us the mindset that he's using to lead our government."

Introduced by the man who refused to let Vice President Joe Biden hold a campaign event in his bakery last week, the Republican vice presidential running mate said, "There's this guy I've known for a number of years; I'm going to be talking to him in mid-October," Ryan told a crowd of more than 1,000 people in the parking lot of a hardware store, a reference to the Oct. 11 vice presidential debate.

"Joe Biden, you might have heard of him. He just said that the middle class is coming back. We've got 23 million people out of work, struggling to find work today, unemployment has been above 8 percent for 42 months, and the real unemployment rate is more like 15 percent."

## Secondhand smoke affects pets

### Dog Talk



Lighting up a cigarette may not just hurt yourself and the people around you. Your pet may be paying the price for your habit, too.

Veterinarians say that secondhand smoke is a threat to dogs and cats as well as humans. Secondhand smoke, also known as environmental tobacco smoke, or ETS, is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette or cigar and the smoke that is exhaled by the smoker. Research indicates that secondhand smoke contains more than 5,000 substances, many of which are known to cause cancer in humans and other animals.

A number of studies have found that non-smokers who regularly breathe the tobacco smoke from others are at a higher risk for developing heart disease or certain cancers, like lung cancer. There also have been numerous scientific papers that report the pronounced health threat secondhand smoke poses to pets. Some veterinarians have linked tobacco smoke to lung and nasal cancer in dogs, lung cancer in birds and oral cancer and lymphoma in cats.

Indeed, according to a study by Colorado State University, pets that live with smokers have a higher risk of developing particular types of cancer, including twice the risk of developing lung cancer.

Long-nosed canines, such as collies, may be susceptible to nasal cancers because carcinogens from cigarette smoke lodge in the large surface area of the nasal cavity and sinuses, says a study published in the

American Journal of Epidemiology. However, short- and medium-nosed breeds are more susceptible to lung cancer because the nose doesn't trap the carcinogens as easily, allowing them to quickly travel to the lungs, where they take root.

Bird owners may already be familiar with avians' susceptibility to respiratory illnesses from in-air contaminants. Birds' respiratory systems are very sensitive to air pollutants, including cigarette smoke.

Pets are also affected by something known as "third-hand smoke." This is the residue that collects in areas where smokers frequent. It is found on interior surfaces of the home and even on people and pets themselves. Cats, which are notably self-groomers, tend to develop oral maladies because they are licking harmful chemicals, including third-hand smoke, from their bodies on a daily basis. Tufts College of Veterinary Medicine conducted a study that showed that the number of cats living with mouth cancer was higher for those living in homes with smokers than those cats living in smoke-free homes. There is also evidence that cats living with a smoker are twice as likely to develop malignant lymphoma. Third-hand smoke may also provoke skin allergies and irritation.

When individuals think of smoking-related complications, they tend to think solely of fellow human beings. However, pets are susceptible to cancer as well, and sec-

ondhand smoke can be just as deadly to your four-legged friends as it can be to your family.

### 2012 Property Tax Rates in Gray County General

This notice concerns the 2012 property tax rates for Gray County General. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual tax rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers start rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund
<b>Last year's tax rate:</b>		
Last year's operating taxes	\$6,199,840	\$618,419
Last year's debt taxes	\$119,210	\$0
Last year's total taxes	\$6,319,050	\$618,419
Last year's tax base	\$1,311,300,042	\$1,295,932,523
Last year's total tax rate	\$0.481892/\$100	\$0.047720/\$100
<b>This year's effective tax rate:</b>		
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$6,199,199	\$606,551
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$1,487,273,409	\$1,477,817,749
= This year's effective tax rate for each fund	\$0.416816/\$100	\$0.041043/\$100
Total effective tax rate (Maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearings.)	\$0.457859/\$100	
<b>This year's rollback tax rate:</b>		
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent healthcare expenditures)	\$6,137,044	\$606,551
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$1,487,273,409	\$1,477,817,749
= This year's effective operating rate	\$0.412637/\$100	\$0.041044/\$100
x 1.08 - this year's maximum operating rate	\$0.445647/\$100	\$0.044327/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	\$0.007362/\$100	\$0/\$100
= This year's rollback rate for each fund	\$0.453009/\$100	\$0.044327/\$100
This year's total rollback rate	\$0.497336/\$100	

#### Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Gray County General adopts a 2012 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$0.457859 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2011 taxes by \$-73,409.

#### Schedule A: General Fund - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance and Operations	2,187,400
Interest and Sinking	20,400

#### Schedule B: General Fund - 2012 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid	Total Payment
Refunding Bonds Series 2011 Certificate of	90,000	10,755	0	100,755
Obligation (Feb. 2013) Refunding Bonds Series 2011 Certificate of Obligation (Aug. 2013) (	0	9,680	0	9,680
Total required for 2012 debt service				\$110,435
- Amount (if any) paid from Schedule A				\$0
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources				\$0
- Excess collections last year				\$0
= Total to be paid from taxes in 2012				\$110,435
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100.00% of its taxes in 2012				\$0
= Total debt levy				\$110,435

#### Schedule A: Farm to Market/Flood Control Fund - Unencumbered Fund Balance

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
Maintenance and Operations	98,024

#### Schedule F - Enhanced Indigent Health Care Expenditures

The Gray County General spent \$66,130 from September 1, 2011 to July 25, 2012 on enhanced indigent health care at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is \$54,808.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at 205 N. Russell, Pampa, TX 79065.

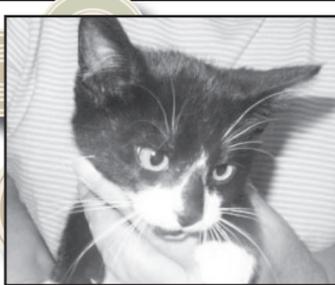
Name of person preparing this notice: Gaye Whitehead  
Title: Tax Assessor/Collector  
Date Prepared: 08/21/2012

C-76

Aug. 23, 2012

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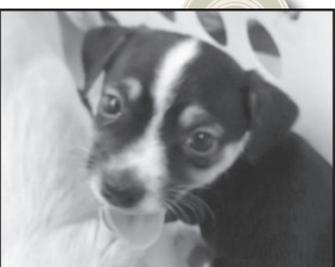


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**"Penny"**  
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# CDC: West Nile outbreak one of largest in US

ATLANTA (AP) — The current West Nile outbreak is one of the largest in the U.S., with four times the usual number of cases for this time of year, federal health officials said Wednesday.

It's still too early to say how bad the year will end up because most infections are reported in August and September. But never before have so many illnesses been reported this early, said Dr. Lyle Petersen, of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We're in the midst of one of the largest West Nile outbreaks ever seen in the United States," said Petersen, who oversees the CDC's mosquito-borne illness programs.

So far, 1,118 illnesses have been reported, about half of them in Texas. In an average year, fewer than 300 cases are reported by mid-August. There have also been 41 deaths this year, the CDC said.

And cases seem to be accelerating: about 400 of the cases were reported in just the last week.

Experts think the mild winter, early spring and very hot summer helped stimulate mosquito breeding and the spread of the virus. Mosquitoes pick up the virus from birds they bite and then pass it on to people.

CDC officials are also looking into the possibility that the virus mutated, but so far have no information showing that happened, Petersen said.

West Nile virus was first diagnosed in Uganda in 1937, but no cases were reported in the U.S. until 1999 in New York. The virus gradually spread across the country.

It peaked in 2002 and 2003, when severe illnesses reached nearly 3,000 and deaths surpassed 260. Last year was mild, with fewer than 700

cases. Only about 1 in 5 infected people get sick. Early symptoms can include fever, headache and body aches. Some recover in a matter of days. But 1 in 150 infected people will develop severe symptoms including neck stiffness, disorientation, coma and paralysis.

Many illnesses probably go unreported, especially milder cases. In this year's case count, more than half are severe, CDC officials said.

In recent years, cases have been scattered across the country. Hot spots are usually in southeast Louisiana, central and southern California, and areas around Dallas, Houston, Chicago and Phoenix.

Those areas seem to have a combination of factors that include the right kinds of virus-carrying mosquitoes and birds, along with large numbers of people who can be infected, health officials say.

Illnesses this year have been reported in 38 states, but the bulk of them have been in Texas, with a concentration in the Dallas area.

It's not clear why Texas is seeing so many cases, but it's alarming. Twenty-one deaths have been reported in the state so far this year, which is more than all other years combined. Four of the Texas deaths were reported on Tuesday.

Officials last week started aerial spraying for mosquitoes in Dallas County. But it's too soon to measure the effect — it takes between three and 14 days for people to develop symptoms after being infected by a mosquito.

The best way to prevent West Nile disease is to avoid mosquito bites. Insect repellents, screens on doors and windows, and wearing long sleeves and pants are some of the recommended strategies.



FILE - In this Aug. 16, 2012 file photo, mosquitoes are sorted at the Dallas County mosquito lab in Dallas. U.S. health officials say there's been an alarming increase in the number of West Nile cases. So far there have been more than 1,100 cases reported through the middle of August. That's three times as many as usually seen at this point in the year. About half the cases are in Texas. Most West Nile infections are reported in August and September. (AP Photo/LM Otero, File)



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# McLouth's HR keys Orioles' 5-3 win over Rangers

## FROM WIRE REPORTS

ARLINGTON, Texas—Rangers starting pitcher Scott Feldman worked out of a rough stretch in May and June when he lost six straight by reeling off six consecutive victories

After a 5-3 loss to the Orioles on Tuesday in which he gave up five runs on seven hits over five innings, he's now dropped three in a row.

No reason to panic, his manager said, even after the Rangers' right-hander gave up two big run-scoring hits with two outs, including Nate McLouth's two-run home run, in the Orioles' decisive four-run fifth inning.

Manny Machado had a run-scoring triple and J.J. Hardy's two-out double plated another run for Baltimore in the inning, which was followed with two shutdown innings by Chris Tillman (6-2).

"I think if there's any pitch he'd want to take back in that inning, it would be the one to McLouth," manager Ron Washington said. "But other than that, there was no indication they were going to put four runs on the board, because both he and Tillman were pitching very well."

Tillman worked 6 2/3 innings, giving up three runs on six hits while striking out seven before giving way to the bullpen, which now has a 1.57 ERA in the last 18 games.

The Orioles' right-hander kept Rangers hitters off-balance with effective off-speed pitches and good command of his fastball.

That follows a performance two years ago in which Tillman held the Rangers to two runs on two hits and a walk over a career-high 7 1/3 innings.

Tillman has held the Rangers to a .203 average in three starts.

"It ain't easy," said Tillman, who improved to 6-2 on the season with a 3.71 ERA and 4-1 on the road.

"These guys have a great lineup and you have to respect that whether you're ahead or behind."

Jim Johnson worked a scoreless ninth to pick up his 38th save.

"Chris was good," Orioles manager Buck Showalter said. "He had command of the breaking ball early, and threw the fastball on both sides of the plate."

The Rangers scored two on Geovany Soto's two-run homer in the seventh inning to close a 5-1 deficit to two and then put the tying run on base, but Pedro Strop struck out Josh Hamilton on a slider to end the threat.

David Murphy, 10 for 19 with a homer and three doubles and six RBI in his previous five games, went 1 for 4 on Tuesday, including a groundout with a runner on base to end the Rangers' half of the eighth.

"Pedy got a couple of big outs for us," Showalter said. The bullpen "has been a constant for us. We've been able to share the load and pass it around."

Feldman struck out four and walked one while ending a string of good performances by Rangers pitching, which entered Tuesday having allowed two runs or less in three consecutive games and just four total in the three-game winning streak.

The starting rotation had posted a 2.96 ERA in the previous seven games.

"I thought he made a real good pitch to Hardy and he went down and poked it to right field," Washington said. "That's a part of baseball, I think Scott has been throwing the ball really well. That's just the way it went tonight."

The AL West-division leading Rangers lost a game to Los Angeles in the standings and lead the Angels by eight games. Oakland, which started the evening six back, were playing late at home against Minnesota.

The Orioles broke loose for four runs in the fifth. Machado's triple scored Omar

Quintanilla and McLouth sent a Feldman pitch into the left-field seats for a two-run home run that made the score 5-1.

"All you're trying to do in that situation is limit the damage," Feldman said. "Even after giving up that hit to Hardy, we're still in the game. I just made a bad pitch to McLouth."

The Rangers' Ian Kinsler hit his 14th home run of the season to tie the game in the third on a 1-0 pitch.

Orioles took a first-inning lead by scoring an unearned run with two outs.

McLouth walked, stole second and advanced to third on an error when Geovany Soto's throw sailed into center field. He scored on Feldman's wild pitch.

Notes: Entering the game, three of the top 22 qualifiers in ERA as relievers in the AL were Orioles. Pedro Strop (2nd, 1.49), Darren O'Day (17th, 2.49) and Troy Patton (22nd, 2.58). . The Rangers' Adrian Beltre, hitting .235 in his previous 30 games, went 2 for 4 on Tuesday. . The Orioles have won 12 consecutive one-run games. The franchise has done that on three other occasions, 1964, 1970 and 1979. Baltimore went to the World Series in 1970 and '79 and won 97 games and finished two games back of eventual World Series champion New York Yankees in '64. . Rangers reliever Michael Kirkman extended a scoreless innings streak to seven in his last six games after holding the Orioles to no runs in two innings. Kirkman also has stranded 11 of the last 13 inherited runners, including three in a game three times.



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# Dez Bryant's injury adds to the Cowboys' crop of ailing wide receivers

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant was diagnosed with patellar tendinitis in his right knee after he got hurt Monday during a joint practice session with the San Diego Chargers.

Bryant left the field after he slipped coming out of a break during a one-on-one drill, then had an MRI.

The Cowboys said Monday night the MRI "revealed no tear to a ligament or tendon." Bryant will be evaluated on a day-to-day basis. The team said no timetable has been set for his return to practice.

Dallas was already without a pair of Pro Bowl pass-catchers, receiver Miles Austin (hamstring) and tight end Jason Witten (spleen).

Receivers Andre Holmes and Donovan Kemp also left practice early Monday and had MRIs. The team said Holmes has a low back strain and is day-to-day, but had no update on Kemp's left knee.

Dallas (No. 16 in the AP Pro32) plays its next preseason game Saturday night at home against St. Louis. After practicing again with the Chargers on Tuesday, the Cowboys have a day off before a workout at Cowboys Stadium on Thursday.

Bryant caught two passes for 15 yards Saturday in the Cowboys' 28-20 loss to the Chargers.

Coach Jason Garrett said before the MRI results were revealed that he was hopeful "this injury is not too severe." He said Bryant, the third-year receiver, has been having an outstanding training camp.

Witten got hurt after taking a hit in the first preseason game Aug. 13.

Austin, who missed six games last season while dealing with injuries to both hamstrings, sat out both preseason games so far. He isn't expected to practice this week.

When Austin started dealing with hamstring issues a week into camp, the Cowboys said they planned to be careful with their top receiver. But they also said then they expected him to miss maybe only a week.

The rash of injuries means more time for Kevin Ogletree, who came to camp trying to earn the spot as the team's third receiver. Dwayne Harris is also getting more opportunities.

Undrafted rookie Cole Beasley had seven catches for 104 yards in the game against the Chargers.

Dallas opens the regular season Sept. 5 at the defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants.



## Tony Romo needs to be Cowboys' rock

FROM ESPN

The Dallas Cowboys' training camp has seen its share of roster tumult.

Both starting wide receivers and the tight end are out with injuries. The starting offensive line can't get on the field together. Key defensive players from Morris Claiborne to Mike Jenkins to Jay Ratliff to DeMarcus Ware have missed time. It's hard to get into the rhythm of preparing for the season when you can't get your full squad on the field.

And yet, through it all, quarterback Tony Romo is working to project calm and confidence. Per Calvin Watkins:

"You got to have mental toughness," Romo said. "Everybody on the football team, at the end of the day, you have to be at your best, regardless of the circumstance, and that's your approach you got to take as a football team and as each individual."

He can't magically fix the injuries to the Cowboys' best players. He has to deal with what's left of the offensive ros-

ter, starting Saturday night against the St. Louis Rams.

Romo joked that he's completed a pass to every backup wide receiver on the roster in every individual drill. The reality is, he might have to do it in the regular season.

This is what Romo needs to be for the Cowboys -- the player who stays steady amid the storm. When you look around the league at the champion quarterbacks who have emerged as their teams' reliable leaders -- Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees, Eli Manning -- you see guys about whom their teammates constantly say things like, "He's always the same, no matter what." Romo is at the point in his career at which he has no choice but to be that guy.

The perception of Romo is, of course, otherwise -- that he's somehow an insufficient leader. This is the result of some bad fourth-quarter interceptions he's thrown and his reputation for coming up small in big games. But outside perception cannot (and does not) concern

Romo. His job is to be perceived inside his own locker room as the leader, and the steadying influence in times of uncertainty. When you're around the Cowboys, you can tell that Romo's teammates look at him that way, regardless of outside perception. And as long as he's developed that inside the locker room, it doesn't really matter what anyone else thinks.

This season could offer Romo an opportunity to shore up that reputation -- to emerge as the kind of guy who leads and performs when things around him seem to be falling apart, to be the quarterback who gets the most out of receivers of whom not much is expected.

The Cowboys' roster is thin in a couple of important areas and could open the season without some of its key contributors. As long as Romo can stay calm and steady while all of that is going on, he'll be doing his job as the team's leader. Throughout a camp riddled with injuries and other issues, he's clearly managed to be just that.

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