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'UNFORGETTABLE'



Lilith Brainard stands in front of a display at the Woody Guthrie Center that shows photographs of the dust that blew into Pampa on Black Sunday, April 14, 1935, at the height of the Dust Bowl.

'Black Sunday' clear in Brainard's memory

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

She and her brothers, Billy, 7, and Wesley, 8, lived on Faulkner.

"We were walking home," Brainard said. "The DeWitts lived on Campbell Street. They had the DeWitt Laundry."

As the little girl and her two older brothers walked by the filling station of Foster, the men gathered there told the children they'd better get on home before the storm struck.

"We always stopped there," Brainard said of the station. "They had a water fountain out front."

She said she remembers looking up and seeing what appeared to be a big black rain storm approaching.

"We left there on Foster and were walking back to Francis Street," Brainard said. "Right across the street from Dr. Purvines in fact."

As she and her brothers were about to cross Francis Street,

they saw their mother.

"We went across the street to meet her," Brainard said. "By the time we got to Hobart Street, that thing hit, and it was just a rolling dust storm."

"It was unforgettable."

She said it rolled in like a rain-storm, but it was dust.

"We went to a house there on Hobart Street," Brainard said. "We went to this house and went in there and waited until the storm moved on."

The people at the house took Brainard and her family home after the storm rolled on through.

While there were people who reported being scared that it was the end of the world, Brainard said she wasn't afraid.

"Nothing scared us," she said of her brothers and friends. "We were in a world of adventure."

In those days, Brainard said, it was safe to let kids roam in the small town.

SUNDAY cont. on page 5

Singing Men return to town on Thursday

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

After dealing with all that tax day stress, why not unwind with an evening of choral music?

The Panhandle Singing Men will return to Gray County at 7 p.m. on Thursday with a free concert at Highland Baptist Church, serenading Pampa with their distinct repertoire of choral anthems, a cappella hymn arrangements and gospel music.

"We do a little bit of everything, as long as it's worship music," said Pampa's Paul Searl, the music director at Highland Baptist and a three-year member of the Panhandle Singing Men. "We just love to sing."

Formed 14 years ago, the Panhandle Singing Men are one of six regional men's choirs that make up the Singing Men of Texas. The groups are sponsored in part by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and are made up of active and retired ministers, church music directors and missions directors, as well as laymen active in their churches' music programs.

Searl is one of five Pampa members of the group, along with Calvary Baptist's Gary Jameson, Central Baptist's Wes Bryant, First Baptist's Barry Owens and James Greer, Top O' Texas Baptist Association's Director of Missions.

Searl said that the group jumped at the chance to come back to Pampa, especially given the opportunity to perform in Highland Baptist's renovated space.

"We've always sang in Pampa somewhere since I've been involved, and with Highland, after they rebuilt their sanctuary, we thought it would be the perfect place to do it," Searl said.

The Pampa stop is one of many dates in the Singing Men's schedule, as the group undertakes missions in the fall and spring of each year. The group has taken their act to places such as Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Minnesota and New England, and have ventured as far as Australia.

The group was planning on going to Venezuela later in the year, but, according to Searl, the trip may be postponed because of current tensions within the country.

SINGING cont. on page 5

PISD to talk litigation

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

Updates on litigation against the school district, reports on construction and discussion on copywriting the new junior high's mascot will all be in the school board's agenda this week.

The Pampa Independent School District's board of trustees will meet in closed session Thursday evening with their lawyer to discuss pending litigation against the district and commissioner's appeal.

The school board will also discuss the purchase of a copyright for the Pampa Junior High School "Reaper" mascot logo and maintenance of the

Pampa High School.

The board will hear construction updates on the new ag barn and the new junior high school.

A fund raising project for a marquee for Pampa High is on the agenda as are recommendations from the Student Health Advisory Committee concerning abstinence education in the schools.

The board will also hear the district's quarterly financial and investment report and a report on Pampa ISD property tax refunds.

The board is expected to take action to align the faculty and staff leave and absences policies.

PISD cont. on page 3

Limited success for drug fight, claims Juarez mayor

AUSTIN (AP) — Jose Reyes Ferriz, mayor of one of the world's most violent cities, claimed limited success Monday in the battle against the drug cartels in Ciudad Juarez along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Speaking at the University of Texas at Austin, Reyes attributed the success to military patrols and anti-corruption initiatives.

The military had joined police in patrolling the violent streets of Juarez, a sprawling industrial city across the border from El Paso, Texas. Although the military recently stopped taking part in those patrols, it has helped

create a more professional and less corrupt law enforcement structure, Reyes said.

"We are now in a position to go ahead and start solving the problem," he said.

Reyes also downplayed reports of human rights violations by the military. The complaints of abuse have come mostly from the parents of people detained for drug-trafficking offenses, he said, adding there was no way to "politely" act against "hardened criminals."

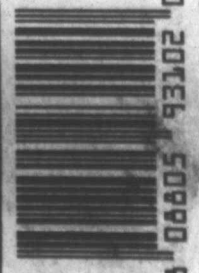
A two-year battle for control of drug smuggling routes into

JUAREZ cont. on page 3

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For the record

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20%	40%	30%
High 67 Low 52	High 66 Low 52	High 69 Low 49

Tonight: Isolated showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a low around 52. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cloudy, with a high near 66. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 69. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. East wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Pampa Emergency Medical Services responded to the following calls Sunday, April 11 through Monday, April 12, 2010 between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 11
An MICU unit responded to Highway 60 two miles east of White Deer.

An MICU unit responded to the 2200 block of Dwight, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to the 2100 block of Nelson, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Farley, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to the 600 block of Frost, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to the 1300 block of

Kentucky, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Wells, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Hilton, transported one patient to PRMC.

Monday, April 12
An MICU unit responded to PRMC, transported one patient to NWTH.

An MICU unit responded to PRMC, transported one patient to the 1300 block of Kentucky.

An MICU unit responded 2 miles east of the loop on Highway 60, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to the 2200 block of Chestnut, transported one patient to PRMC.

An MICU unit responded to PRMC, transported one patient to BSA ED.

Obituaries

Teresa Mercer Meil, 59

Pampa - Teresa Mercer Meil, 59, died Sunday, April 11, 2010.

Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at Trinity Fellowship Church in the North Ministry Center, 5000 Hollywood Rd. Arrangements are by Cox-LaGrone Funeral Home, 4180 Canyon Dr.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 16, 2010 at Summit View Cemetery in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Mercer-Meil was born on November 24, 1950 in Pampa, Texas to Dwaine and Margaret

Mercer. She graduated from Pampa High School in 1969 where she was very active in the band. She was an All-State Twirler at Pampa High and was a twirling instructor. She later attended West Texas State University. Teresa worked at the American Quarter Horse Association for many years and loved her work. She had attended Trinity Fellowship Church for several years and loved the Lord and loved reading and studying his Word. She was a loving and devoted mother and will be deeply missed by all her family and friends.

Mrs. Mercer-Meil was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Dale Mercer.

Survivors include a daughter; Kimberly Michele Dison of Amarillo, two sons; Michael Meil and wife Samarah of Amarillo and Mark Meil and wife Amanda of Fort Worth, six grandchildren; Stormi Dison, Tabitha Burdick, Gage Burdick, Kamdyn Hilliard, Taegan Meil and Hayden Hilliard, a sister; Judy Peirce and husband Jim of Sparks, Nevada, and many loving neices and nephews.



Teresa Mercer-Meil
Memorials: Faith City Ministries or BSA Hospice.

Brandie Dawn De Moss, 25

Amarillo - Brandie Dawn De Moss, 25, passed away on Saturday, April 3, 2010 in Amarillo, Texas.

Brandie is preceded in death by her mother, Kathy. A celebration for Brandie's life was held in Belen, New Mexico.

Brandie was a sweet girl that enjoyed spending time with friends and tried very hard to change things in her life to make her son happy. She ran into many difficulties in her life. She tried to make so many people in her life happy, and tried to make herself happy, and tried to make herself happy, and could not seem to find that. As a child,

she had great dreams. Her biggest goal in life was to bring her family back together. As a child, she and her brother Chistaphor would play house and talk about the great families they would one day have. Brandie used to talk about how she wished she could change things to make her son be such a great person.

I wanted this poem to help me and her brother: "God says that she was getting tired And the cure was not to be, So he put his arms around her And whispered 'Come with me.'

With tearful eyes we watched her suffer And saw her fade away Although we loved her dearly, We could not make her stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, Busy little hands to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. It's lonesome here without you. We miss you so each day. Our lives aren't the same Since you went away. When days are sad and lonely, And everything goes wrong,

We seem to hear you whisper 'Cheer up and carry on'. Each time we see your picture, You seem to smile and say, 'Don't cry, I'm in God's Keeping. We will meet again someday.'"

We will always miss you Brandie, and will try our hardest to make things so great for your son. Survivors include her son; Fabian Salazar, two sisters; Tiffany and Amber Bradford, one brother; Christophor Gann, and many cousins, aunts and uncles.

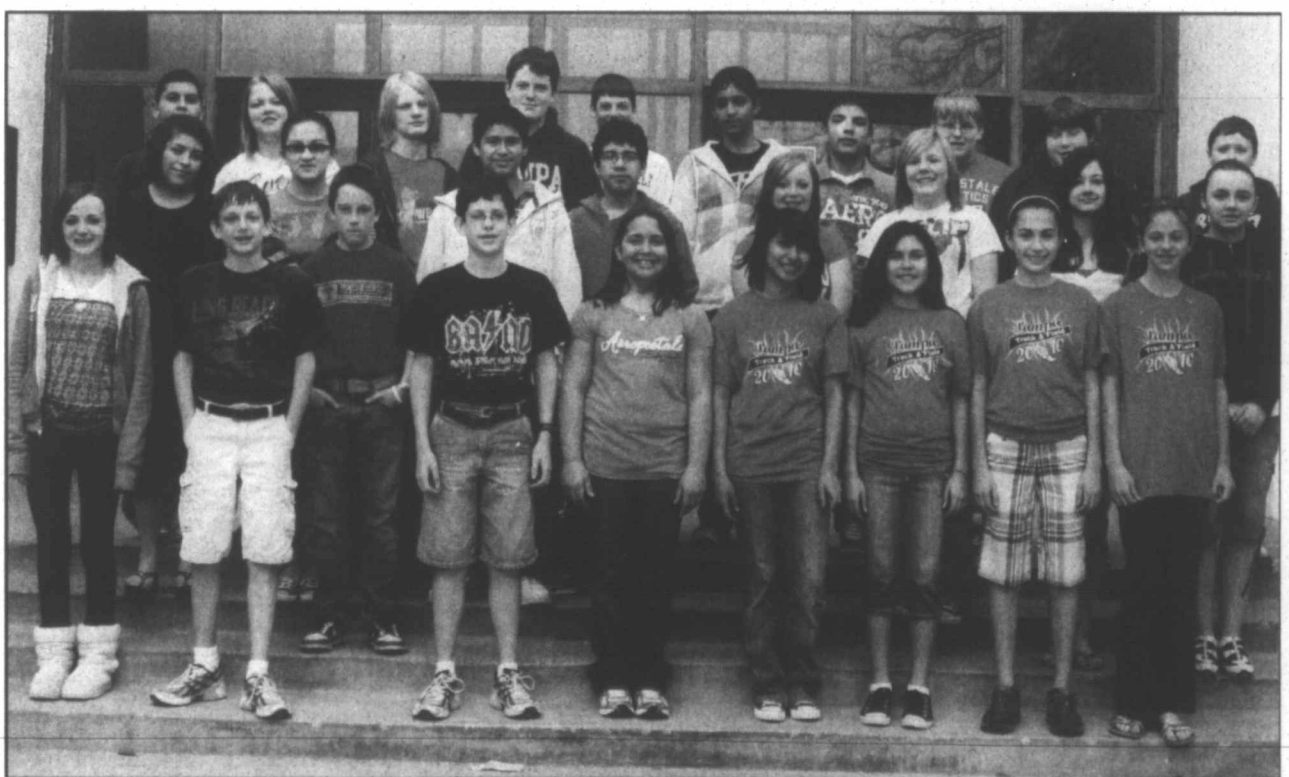
CRACKING DOWN

The Pampa Police Department has seen a recent increase in preventable traffic accidents. Due to this, officers will be out in a concerted effort to decrease accidents on city streets.

Officers will be checking for traffic compliance on Wednesday April 14, 2010 at Duncan, Alcock, Frederic and Brown

Officers will mainly be looking for speeders, seatbelt violations, expired motor vehicle inspections, expired vehicle registrations, and turning violations. We ask the community to please drive safely and watch out for other drivers. If you have any questions please call the Pampa Police Department at 806-669-5700.

U.I.L.



Pampa Junior High School hosted an area U.I.L. academic competition recently. Many students placed and received medals, representing PJHS well academically at the contest. **Pictured: 1st row:** Caitlyn Tracy (from

left), Chris Smith, Brandon Stokes, Greg Smith, Misti Bowers, Karoley Villarreal, Yesenia Soria, Vanessa Ontiveros, Elizabeth Gill. **2nd row:** Ali Davila, Courtney Ma, Jason Solis, Miguel Salazar, Ericka Spence, Gracie Brown,

Jenna Gee, Dacie McGill. **3rd row:** Adrian Lopez, Suzie Joiner, Jake Freelen, Logan Boemisch, Ryan Powell, Alex Marrufo, Anthony Villanueva, JT Skinner, Alec Hendricks, Josh Lance. **Not pictured:** Jesse Poston, Bailey

Wichert, Maggie Hayes, Hope Lane, Marissa Fuentes, Rebekah Foster, Alexis Arreola, Tanner Logan, Aaron Allen, Kylie Kreider, Jelsie Rose, Mickey Lanning, Caragan Niccum and Logan Turley.

LAST MINUTE ADS

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HAND IN HAND



submitted photo

Renita Logan, Accolade Home Care speech therapist, thanks Darryl DeLoach, nurse practitioner at the Family Medicine Center in Pampa for speaking at the local Parkinson's Support Group. The group met for the first time last week on Thursday. The group will continue to meet in Pampa on the second Thursday of each month at Accolade Home Care, 1224 N. Hobart, Suite 210, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For further information, please contact Accolade Home Care at 665-9700.

Malfunction results in Okla. gas release

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality says an instrument malfunction at a Tulsa refinery has resulted in the release of sulfur dioxide into the air since the weekend.

DEQ spokeswoman Judy Duncan said Monday the release is small and ongoing, but hasn't been showing up on local air monitors. Duncan didn't elaborate on what instrument malfunctioned.

Government reports say sulfur dioxide has a pungent odor, dissolves in water and is nonflammable. In high concentrations, it can cause breathing difficulties and damage foliage.

Officials for the Dallas-based company couldn't be reached for comment Monday.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about the letter from "Afraid to Be Alone" (Feb. 15), who is moving to a new state and has no family except for her husband. As a teacher of health policy and administration, I agree that she shouldn't be overanxious about her future to the point of distraction.

There are concrete steps she and her husband can take to protect themselves and have some security as they age. These include purchasing long-term care insurance, creating a living will and medical power of attorney, and communicating their wishes about either of them ever face that decision.

They should also look into moving to a continuing care retirement community (CCRC), most of which have differing levels of care -- from assisted living to nursing home care -- with guaranteed access to its members. These are just a few of the steps "Afraid" could take now to give herself some peace of mind. — CHRIS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR CHRIS: Thank you for your helpful suggestions. Like you, many readers were quick to offer reassurance to "Afraid." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I allayed our own fears by choosing to live in a community with close neighbors and many activities. Avoiding isolation is what is important. Knowing what caregiving and other support services are available also helps, whether or not they are needed right now. "Afraid's" thoughts of death, if frequent, could be a symptom of depression and should be evaluated by a doctor if they persist. — HAPPY TO BE ALONE

DEAR ABBY: "Afraid" should take stock of her life now, and consider her interests and hobbies. Gardening, art, reading, clubs, sewing, shopping, theater, antiquing or volunteering are all possibilities for her future if the need or interest arises. Since she is worried now, she should make sure that wherever she moves accommodates these needs later in life. It's

never too early to become prepared.

Last, but not least, the right pet can go a long way toward providing company and comfort. As soon as I walk in the door, I yell to my cat, "I'm home!" — DEFINITELY NOT LONELY IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY: Where are "Afraid's" current friends? Moving means nothing to true friends. My mother kept in touch with her childhood friends until her death in her 70s -- and they were spread all over the country.

Like "Afraid" I am an only child, plus I have never been married. I have a few faithful friends from high school and college who are there for me regardless of their location. I, too, would drop anything to be there for them. They mean everything to me, and I know our relationships will continue through our old age. — GRATEFUL FOR MY FRIENDS

DEAR ABBY: You advised "Afraid" to join church and social groups. I would like to add that if she enjoys children and young adults, she should get to know her neighbors, and volunteer at the library, hospital, school or scout troop in her new area.

Children thrive on the love and stories of "grandparents" -- and they benefit from the wisdom and experience. These friendships often extend into the home, offering the joy and belonging of family. You are never alone with "family" around you. — NANA TO ALL, IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY: I suggest she look for the "learning in retirement" programs available. We joined one at a university four years ago when we moved to Greenville, S.C., and have met some wonderful people. — CAROL K.

DEAR ABBY: We, too, spent the first 30 years of our marriage feeling like the only childless couple in the world. Then we moved to an age-restricted community. We have never been happier. Many of our new friends also have no children, and we no longer worry about aging alone. — KAREN IN HENDERSON, NEV.

Cartels team up, destroy hit men gang

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Three Mexican cartels have joined forces to destroy a gang of hit men that has grown into a feared drug trafficking outfit with reach into Central America, Mexican and U.S. officials said Monday. The shift in allegiances is fueling bloody battles along the Texas border.

Intelligence reports indicate the Gulf cartel has recruited its former rival, La Familia, to crush the Zetas gang in the Mexican border state of Tamaulipas, said Ramon Pequeno, the head of the anti-narcotics division of Mexico's federal police.

An official with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said the Sinaloa cartel, Mexico's most powerful drug trafficking organization, has also joined the alliance against the Zetas, whose rise to power has come to threaten all three of the cartels.

"It's an issue of a common enemy," said Will Glaspy, head of the DEA's office in the border town of McAllen, Texas.

The pact followed a break between the Gulf cartel and the Zetas, which started as a group of hit men for the Gulf but quickly began rivaling its creator. Tamaulipas has long been the stronghold of the Gulf cartel, but the Zetas have begun taking over.

It was the first official confirmation of the pact, which has been rumored since banners appeared throughout the region earlier this year announcing the campaign by "the cartels of Mexico united against the Zetas."

One banner even urged President Felipe Calderon to withdraw the army and let the new alliance exterminate the Zetas. Videos and e-mails were sent around warning families to

stay home, saying the conflict would get worse.

The campaign to wipe out the Zetas has raised fears of open warfare in Tamaulipas, with armed men throwing up roadblocks around army garrisons and ambushing military patrols — brazen tactics that experts say are meant to get soldiers out of the way of the turf war.

Calderon has deployed more than 40,000 soldiers to the border and other regions to combat drug trafficking groups, an effort backed by U.S. intelligence work and aid.

In an indication that Washington expects the battles along the border to continue, the State Department extended until May 12 the authorized departure of relatives of U.S. government employees from consulates in Nuevo Laredo and five other northern cities.

Police take over from Army in border city

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — After a two-year battle that has killed more than 5,000 people, Mexico's most powerful kingpin now controls the coveted trafficking routes through Ciudad Juarez. That conclusion by U.S. intelligence adds to evidence that Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's Sinaloa cartel is winning Mexico's drug war.

The assessment was made based on information from confidential informants with direct ties to Mexican drug gangs and other intelligence, said a U.S. federal agent who sometimes works undercover, insisting on anonymity because of his role in ongoing drug investigations.

The agent told The Associated Press those sources have led U.S. authorities to believe that the Sinaloa cartel has edged out the rival Juarez gang for control over traffick-

ing routes through Ciudad Juarez, ground zero in the drug war.

Other officials corroborated pieces of the assessment. Andrea Simmons, an FBI spokeswoman in El Paso, confirmed that the majority of drug loads arriving from Juarez now belong to Guzman. And Mexican Federal Police Chief Facundo Rosas told the AP that while authorities are still working to confirm the U.S. assessment, "These are valid theories."

"If you control the city (Ciudad Juarez), you control the drugs," the federal agent said. "And it appears to be, Chapo."

PISD

cont. from page 1

Bids on bond instruments are expected to be opened. They are also expected to approve a resolution to open a new bank account with FirstBank Southwest for the Pampa ISD Parent Accounts Management System.

The board members will all hear reports on district security procedures, cell phone violations on elementary campuses and state inspections and audits of PISD.

The school board will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, at the Carver Center Administration Office, 321 W. Albert.

Juarez

cont. from page 1

the United States has left more than 5,000 dead in Ciudad Juarez.

Reyes applauded the United States for helping provide equipment and money to fight drug trafficking. "We need their help, and we should get it," he said.

But Reyes also urged U.S. policymakers to do more to reduce drug use, saying drugs would simply be rerouted through other countries unless American consumers quit buying them.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

8	7	6	9	1	4	5	3	2
4	5	9	2	8	3	6	1	7
3	2	1	7	6	5	4	8	9
5	6	4	8	7	1	2	9	3
7	3	8	5	9	2	1	4	6
1	9	2	3	4	6	7	5	8
6	8	5	1	3	7	9	2	4
2	4	3	6	5	9	8	7	1
9	1	7	4	2	8	3	6	5

1			9				4	7	
							2	8	1
	4	2	8			6			
4			5			8			
		9	4	6					
5							7	4	
	6			1					3
3	5	4	6		7	1			
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Precious Memories make Precious Gifts

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, April 13, the 103rd day of 2010. There are 262 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 13, 1743, the third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson, was born in Shadwell, Va.

On this date:

In 1598, King Henry IV of France endorsed the Edict of Nantes, which granted rights to the Protestant Huguenots. The edict was abrogated in 1685 by King Louis XIV, who declared France entirely Catholic again.

In 1742, Handel's "Messiah" was first performed publicly, in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1860, the Pony Express completed its inaugural run from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., in 10 days.

In 1870, the Metropolitan Museum of Art was incorporated in New York. The original museum opened in 1872.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Jefferson Memorial.

In 1958, American Van Cliburn, 23, won the first International Tchaikovsky Competition for piano in Moscow; Russian Valery Klimov won the violin competition.

In 1960, the U.S. Navy's Transit 1B navigational satellite was successfully launched into orbit.

In 1970, Apollo 13, four-fifths of the way to the moon, was crippled when a tank containing liquid oxygen burst. The astronauts managed to return safely.

In 1986, Pope John Paul II visited the Great Synagogue of Rome in the first recorded papal visit to a Jewish house of worship.

In 1992, the Great Chicago Flood took place as the city's century-old tunnel system and adjacent basements filled with water from the Chicago River.

Ten years ago: President Bill Clinton, during a question-and-answer session with newspaper editors, heatedly said "I'm not ashamed" about being impeached and said he was "not interested" in being pardoned for any alleged crimes in the Monica Lewinsky scandal and Whitewater investigation.

Five years ago: A defiant Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to carrying out the deadly bombing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and three other attacks in back-to-back court appearances in Birmingham, Ala., and Atlanta. Contract worker Jeffrey Ake (ayk) was shown at gunpoint on a videotape aired by Al-Jazeera television, two days after he was kidnapped near Baghdad. Gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) received the 75th Sullivan Award as the nation's top amateur athlete.

One year ago: The U.N. Security Council condemned North Korea's April 5 rocket launch. President Barack Obama allowed Americans to make unlimited transfers of money and visits to relatives in Cuba. Music producer Phil Spector was found guilty by a Los Angeles jury of second-degree murder in the shooting of actress Lana Clarkson. He was later sentenced to 19 years to life in prison. Former Detroit Tigers pitcher Mark "The Bird" Fidrych died in an accident on his Massachusetts farm; he was 54. Harry Kalas, whose "Outta here!" home run calls thrilled Philadelphia baseball fans, died after collapsing in the broadcast booth before the Phillies' 9-8 victory over the Nationals in Washington; he was 73.

Today's Birthdays:

Movie director Stanley Donen is 86. Former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is 77. Actor Lyle Waggoner is 75. Actor Edward Fox is 73. Playwright Lanford Wilson is 73. Actor Paul Sorvino is 71. Poet Seamus Heaney is 71. Movie-TV composer Bill Conti is 68. Rock musician Jack Casady is 66. Actor Tony Dow is 65. Singer Al Green is 64. Author-journalist Christopher Hitchens is 61. Actor Ron Perlman is 60. Actor William Sadler is 60. Singer Peabo Bryson is 59. Bandleader/rock musician Max Weinberg is 59. Bluegrass singer-musician Sam Bush is 58. Rock musician Jimmy Destri is 56. Singer-musician Louis Johnson (The Brothers Johnson) is 55. Comedian Gary Kroeger is 53. Actress Sandra Santiago is 53. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa., is 50. Rock musician Joey Mazzola (Sponge) is 49. Chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov is 47. Actress Page Hannah is 46. Actress-comedian Caroline Rhea (RAY) is 46. Rock musician Lisa Umberger is 45. Rock musician Marc Ford is 44. Reggae singer Capleton is 43. Actor Ricky Schroder is 40. Rock singer Aaron Lewis (Staind) is 38. Actor Bokeem Woodbine is 37. Singer Lou Bega is 35. Actor-producer Glenn Howerton is 34. Actress Courtney Beldon is 29. Pop singer Nellie McKay (mih-KY) is 28.

Thought for Today:

"Go on failing. Go on. Only next time, try to fail better." — Samuel Beckett, Irish playwright and author born this date in 1906, died in 1989.

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.

149 years on, Dixie decree stirs debate

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)

— Less than three months into office, Gov. Bob McDonnell was blindsided last week by questions his Confederate History Month decree evoked, and the national furor that ensued.

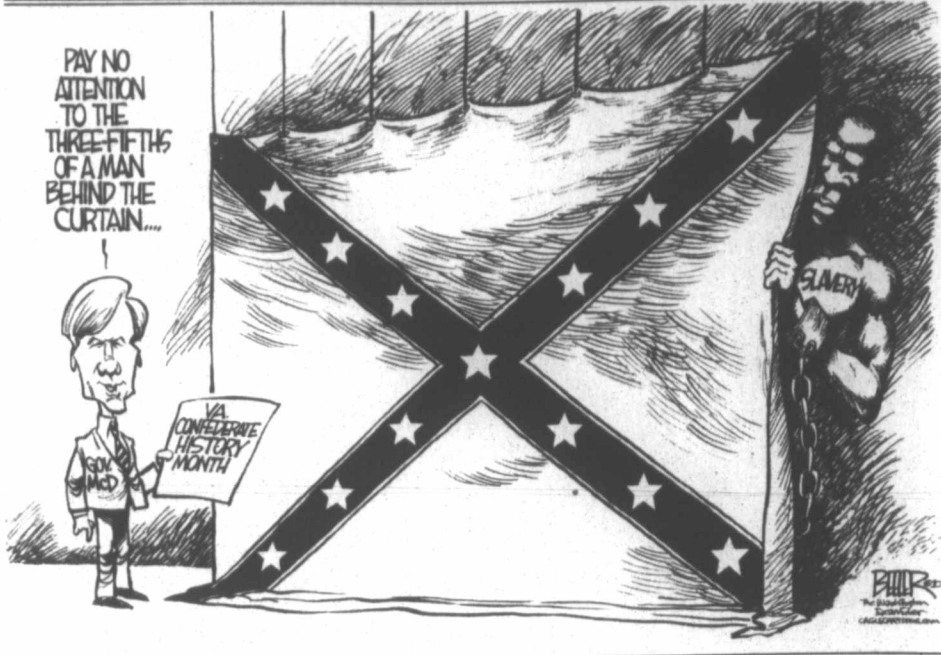
Mentioning Old Dixie without noting the horrors of human bondage brought passions of the past into a quarrelsome political climate that elected the first black president in 2008, and has ignited angry protests over his policies since then.

It's all the more troubling to a former Virginia governor that the words like "usurpation," "nullification" and "state sovereignty" are prominent in bitter protests over a new federal law that expands the federal reach on health care. Those same terms were in vogue around the Civil War in the 1850s and 1860s, and during the civil rights struggle in the 1950s and 1960s.

McDonnell immediately felt the lash of public criticism and swiftly apologized for the omission, adding a paragraph to his proclamation that denounces slavery as "evil and inhumane." But the whirlwind persisted and went global, with Obama saying in a television interview from Prague that McDonnell's omission was "unacceptable."

L. Douglas Wilder, a grandson of slaves whom Virginians made the nation's first elected black governor in 1989, accepted McDonnell's apology and dismissed the flap as "an honest mistake by an honorable man."

Republican Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said the proclamation seemed



like a lot of noise over something that "doesn't amount to diddly."

But Wilder said the abiding desire to celebrate the Old South with official declarations, most recently by Virginia and Georgia, is a worrisome sign that history's lessons have not been fully learned as angry voices again advocate states' rights and preach defiance to Washington.

"They're talking about there being an effort by the government to take away their freedom," Wilder said in an Associated Press interview. "No one is taking away anyone's freedom, but we've heard all of that before. So you ask them, 'You really don't like this nation? You really want to secede?'"

And it's not just activists who energize the growing Tea Party movement who drive the impassioned debate. Last year, Texas Gov. Rick Perry suggested his state could be driven to secede from the union by Washington, though he

emphasized that.

"I guess what offends me is the disregard relative to the facts of what the Civil War was about, what the practice of slavery really was like, and the state of events in this country had the South succeeded in that war," Wilder said.

When he was governor, Wilder issued a proclamation commemorating the strife and loss, both Union and Confederate, in the Civil War, with Virginia being home to more of its battles than any other state. Also during his term from 1990 to 1994, Wilder ordered Confederate flag arm patches removed from the sleeves of Virginia Air National Guard uniforms.

In the states that comprised the Confederacy, proclamations honoring the Lost Cause are never simple or easy. Issue them and invite the wrath of African-Americans who view it as validation of a system that held their ancestors in chains. Refuse them and anger constituents whose ancestors fought for the South, though most rebel soldiers were far too poor ever to own slaves.

It's a difficult choice, said David "Mudcat" Saunders, a Democratic

strategist and descendant of a Confederate soldier who co-wrote a book in 2006 on how Democrats can win back the white Southern voters who abandoned the party for the GOP and Richard Nixon in 1968.

"What upsets them is when slavery is injected into the discussion and it's imputed that their ancestors — their great-great-granddaddies who fought in the Civil War — were racists and when only 3 (percent) to 5 percent of the people in the Confederacy owned slaves," Saunders said.

"We don't like to be called racists, damn it. We don't. Because we're not. The greatest feat the devil ever accomplished on this earth was slavery," he said.

But because the seceded states of the South and the war that restored them to the Union by force will always be linked to race by slavery, it will be hard for black and white people ever to see it dispassionately, much less agree, Saunders said.

"And the way I see it, both sides are right," he said. "A thousand years from now, people will still be arguing about it in these hills."

Transmission infrastructure the first step for wind

BY AJ SWOPE
Executive Director
Class 4 Winds, Inc.

The hottest topic in the field of wind and renewable energy is that of electrical transmission infrastructure. While it may not sound very thrilling, the implementation of additional electrical transmission is the first step in capitalizing on our region's world class wind resource.

I've written before about the CREZ (Competitive Renewable Energy Zone) lines that the State of Texas is in the process of constructing in order to transport our wind energy generation to the growing metropolitan areas of the state like Dallas, Austin and San Antonio. Thanks to this decision by state leaders, the Texas Panhandle can expect roughly 5,500 additional megawatts of wind farm development in the next several years.

These CREZ lines are an excellent start to transmission expansion in our windy region, but this isn't the only project we can expect to spur wind development in the next few years.

Most of the Texas Panhandle is a part of an electrical grid called the Southwest Power Pool. SPP is a regional transmission organization, mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure reliable supplies of power and adequate transmission infrastructure.

The SPP is in the process of planning additional transmission throughout the seven states it serves, including the Texas Panhandle. One of the goals in planning for this

additional infrastructure is to utilize the wind resource of our area, and export that power to other areas of the nation that need it.

Another transmission project that, if completed, could be a catalyst for more renewable energy development is the Tres Amigas Superstation. This ambitious project is a proposed DC tie near Clovis, New Mexico that could connect all three grids in the United States, and allow electric power to be transferred from grid to grid. For example, a wind farm in the Texas Panhandle, through Tres Amigas, could sell its power to a customer in Nevada. If this project goes forward, it could potentially blow the door wide open for renewable energy development in our region.

Because transmission is such an important issue to the wind industry and our region, Class 4 Winds, Inc. is hosting a seminar this month that will better educate those interested in the topic. The seminar, titled "Transmission — Where We Are Now," will take place on the afternoon of April 29th at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo. Speakers include representatives from the following organizations: The Public Utility Commission of Texas, Cross Texas Transmission, Sharyland Utilities, The Southwest Power Pool, Tres Amigas, Scandia Wind, and Underwood Law Firm.

In order to cover costs, there is a fee to attend this seminar. For registration information, log on to www.class4winds.org.

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MEMBER 2010

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Bodies of W. Va. miners found Astronauts take third spacewalk

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) — Recovery teams working before dawn Tuesday finished the grim task of recovering the last of 29 West Virginia miners killed in the nation's worst coal mining disaster in decades.

Jama Jarrett with the state Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training said the last bodies were removed from deep inside the sprawling mine around 2 a.m. or 3 a.m. Tuesday and were being sent to the state medical examiner for autopsies.

Recovery efforts had been stalled in previous days by volatile gases, but teams entered Monday after the tunnels were ventilated.

Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship said the recovery means the company and others can now focus on the task of trying to determine what caused the worst U.S. coal mining disaster since 1970. Jarrett said investigators had not entered the mine by early Tuesday morning.

The team of inspectors from the Mine Safety and Health Administration briefed Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis and MSHA director Joe Main at the Upper Big Branch mine Monday.

Richmond, Va.-based Massey has been under scrutiny for a string of safety violations at the mine, though Blankenship has defended the company's record and disputed accusations that he puts profits ahead of safety.

Authorities have said high methane levels may have played a role in the disaster. Massey has been repeatedly cited and fined for problems with the system that vents

methane and for allowing combustible dust to build up.

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin is calling for greater enforcement at state mines that have similar problems. Manchin is to attend an emergency meeting Tuesday of a state board charged with writing mine safety regulations.

The state has nearly 200 underground coal mines.

New York state's comptroller and a pension fund adviser called for Blankenship's resignation immediately as chairman of Massey's board. Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, trustee of a retirement fund holding more than 300,000 shares of Massey stock worth \$14 million, said the company failed to adequately manage risks at the mine.

A similar challenge came in a letter to Massey from William Patterson, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based CtW Investment Group, which works with union pension funds.

Mourning continued Monday exactly a week after the explosion, with the ceremony at the state Capitol and a moment of silence at 3:30 p.m. President Barack Obama ordered all U.S. flags in the state flown at half-staff until sunset Sunday.

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell also asked people in his state to observe the moment of silence. He restored \$750,000 in funding for mine safety inspections in Virginia to the state's strained budget, saying the tragedy in West Virginia was a wake-up call.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A pair of astronauts finished installing a fresh storage tank outside the International Space Station on Tuesday, accomplishing a main mission objective that required three spacewalks.

Venturing out on the final spacewalk of shuttle Discovery's flight, Rick Mastracchio quickly hooked up the fluid lines for the ammonia tank that feeds the station's cooling system. He was done within minutes.

But as flight controllers began activating the tank to join it with the space station's cooling system, a valve appeared to be stuck. The trouble was on the nitrogen side of the tank, which is needed to provide pressure to the loops.

Engineers tried without success to get the valve working, then stood down to decide on the next step. A NASA spokesman said there was no immediate need to fix the problem; the ammonia in the tank is essentially a backup in the event of a leak in the cooling system.

At the same time, 215 miles above Earth, Mastracchio and Clayton Anderson struggled with a stubborn bolt on the old ammonia tank, which had

been removed on the previous spacewalk.

In what almost seems to be a common occurrence on this flight, one of the four bolts on the tank would not engage. Mastracchio and Anderson were trying to secure the boxy, 1,300-pound tank in Discovery's cargo bay when the problem cropped up. It appeared to be a misalignment, and they pulled out a pry bar to try to fix it. The pry bar wasn't needed, but a torque-increasing device was.

Mission Control told the astronauts that they had to drive in all four bolts all the way, one way or another.

"How you guys feeling?" asked shuttle pilot James Dutton Jr.

"I'll feel better when we get this thing bolted in," Mastracchio said. "No kidding," Anderson added.

When Mastracchio finally drove in the bolt, astronaut Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger shouted, "Now I can finally say good job, we have the ammonia tank in the payload bay." Earlier, she was too quick in offering congratulations.

NASA wants to return the old tank to Earth next week, in order to fill it and fly it back up this summer as a spare.

Singing

cont. from page 1

Nevertheless, Searl said that it will be nice to bring the Singing Men back for a Pampa return engagement, especially for those in the group who call Pampa home.

"It will be good to sing in front of everyone here," Searl said. "You always like to sing in your hometown."

Sunday

cont. from page 1

"We walked all over town," Brainard said. "Everybody knew everybody."

Nor were they the only ones out that Sunday afternoon.

A young Woody Guthrie was playing along the creek behind the Guthrie home on Hill Street with his little sister Mary Jo Guthrie (now Mary Jo Edgerton of Oklahoma) when the big black cloud approached Pampa.

Newly married, Woody excused himself, saying he had to get home to his wife, Pampa native Mary Jennings. They had a small house off Somerville just south of U.S. Highway 60 where they rode out the storm that Sunday.

Mary Jo, attending Woody Guthrie Day in Pampa several years ago, said she went on into the family home on Hill Street.

"We lived on Foster," Brainard said. "My Dad had the Little Texas Café down there."

Brainard said the dust storms of the 1930s were much worse than the ones that rolled across the panhandle in the drought of the 1950s.

"I worked at Celanese then, and you couldn't even see your hand in the hall," Brainard said of the dust storms in the 1950s.

To remember the Dust Bowl and the 75th Anniversary of Black Sunday, the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center will have an open house on Wednesday and a jam session of local musicians at 6:30 p.m.



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Marla Jackson

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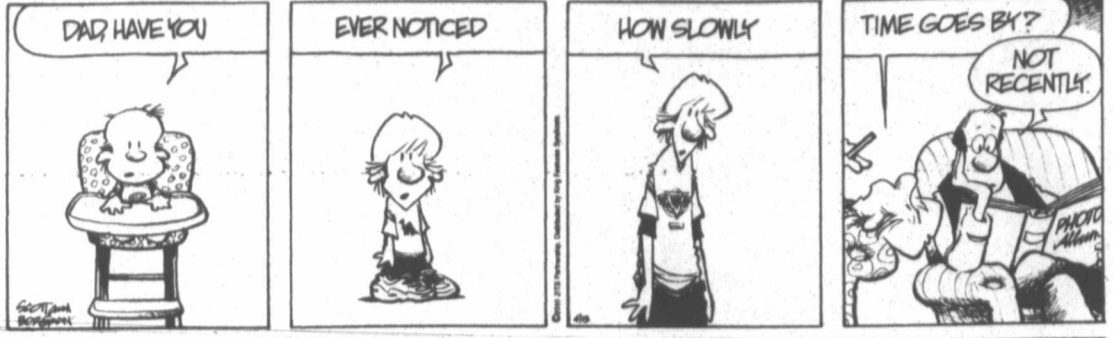


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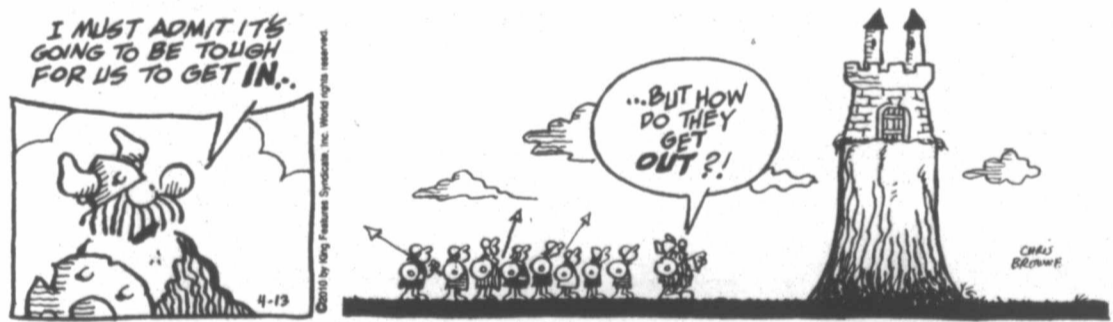
Marvin



B.C.



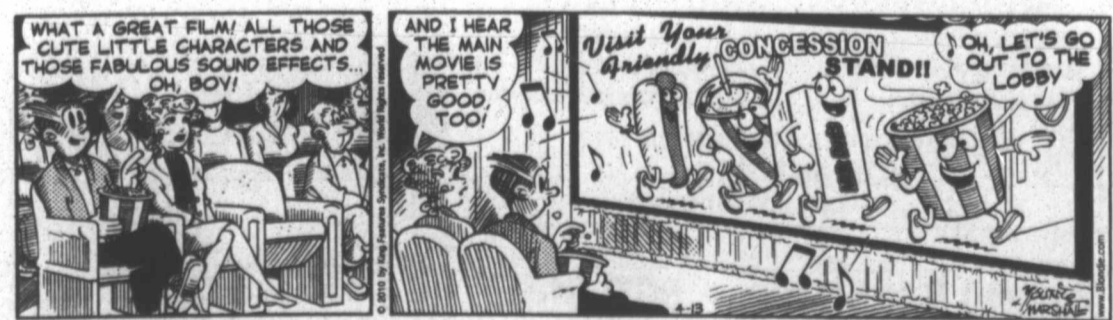
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

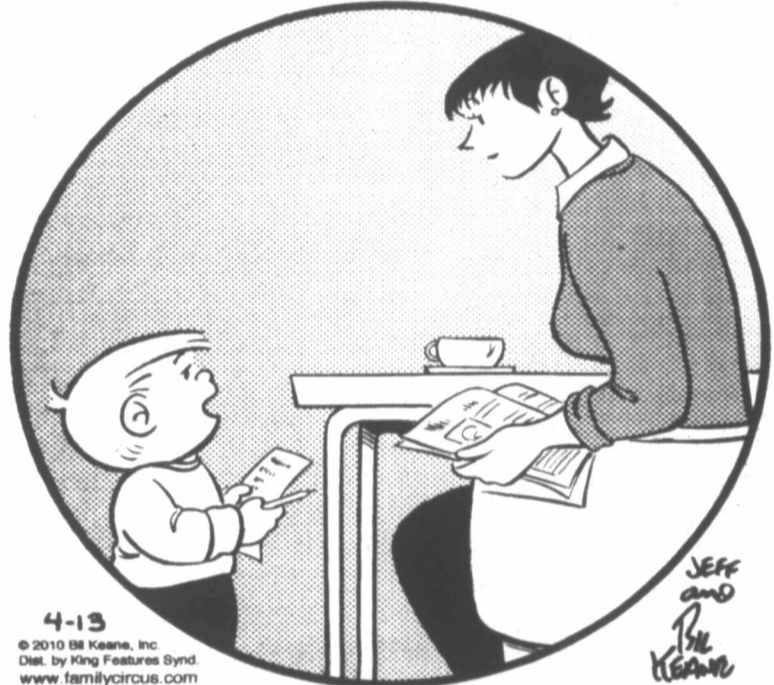


Flo & Friends



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



4-13

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Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 41 Soccer scores
1 Witches
5 Modify
10 Caustic
12 Peter of "Casa-blanca"

- DOWN** 1 Must
2 Thes-pian's job
3 Show sorrow
4 Try the tea
5 Astronaut Shepard
6 Braille unit
7 Out of bed
8 Writer Marcel
9 Look after
- 11 Soft quilts
14 Harvard has one
19 Hole — (golf feat)
20 Our home
24 Car safety feature
25 California peak
26 Wall art
- 27 One way to repay
29 Turndown
30 Maria's husband
33 Intuit
35 Hamilton's duel
38 Holstein comment
39 In addition

P	A	P	A	S	P	E	E	D		
A	L	E	C	C	R	A	N	E	D	
R	O	A	R	R	E	T	I	N	A	
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4-13

Sports

JV baseball storms past visiting Palo Duro 14-1

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters junior varsity baseball team hit well and took advantage of errors in a 14-1 victory over the Palo Duro Dons.

Coach Dustin Miller said the team hit the ball well which helped take pressure off their pitchers.

"It always helps when you get started early and get some runs," Miller said. "Helps our pitchers relax a little bit. We got to use three pitchers today and didn't have to use someone six innings."

Pampa's starting pitcher James Thompson shut down the Dons in the first inning. After allowing a lead-off double, the next three Dons struck out. Thompson led off Pampa's first with a walk and advanced to third off an errant throw by the pitcher on a pickoff attempt. Devin Coleman grounded out to third and Thompson scored to put the Harvesters ahead 1-0.

Thompson continued his dominance in the second inning, striking out the side again. Pampa's starter only needed 13 pitches to get through the inning. In two innings pitched, Thompson allowed one hit and struck out six.

The Harvesters broke things open in the bottom of the second. Rudy Rodriguez and Riley Douglas led off by reaching on errors. Rodriguez would score on a wild pitch followed by a passed ball. Douglas stole second, a passed ball and a wild pitch would bring him home. Taylor Woods reached base with a walk, advancing to second and third on

a passed ball and a wild pitch. Coleman drove in two with a triple to right. In total, Pampa scored five runs on three hits. 11 Harvesters batted in the inning and five scored runs.

Jordan Lemons moved from shortstop and pitched the next two innings. Just like Thompson, Lemons didn't allow much, only one run on one hit, one walk and struck out two. Tyler Powell would pitch the last inning and only allowed a walk and struck out one. Miller said the team's pitching has improved over the course of the season.

"We really really struggled early (in the season) with our pitching," Miller said. "It's gotten a lot better. Even the Canyon and Randall games we actually pitched pretty well. It was a liability early and has become one of our strengths."

Pampa continued where they left off in the bottom of the third, sending 12 batters to the plate and scored eight runs. Woods led off with a single and would score on a wild pitch. Thompson followed with a single and scored on the same wild pitch. Zach Graves walked and would score on a passed ball. Lemons reach on an error by the first baseman and scored on a wild pitch. Hunter Hucks drove in a run with a single. Thompson hit a double and scored Chris Howard who pinched hit for Thompson.

Last week Pampa lost 7-2 at Canyon on April 5 and 13-2 at Randall Saturday. The Harvesters (4-7, 2-4) host Borger 11 a.m. Saturday.



staff photo by **Andrew Glover**

James Thompson throws a pitch in the first inning against Palo Duro Monday at Harvester Field. Pampa won 14-1, with the ten-run rule being invoked after the top of the fifth. Thompson struck out the side in both innings he pitched. Pampa hosts Borger 11 a.m. Saturday.

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Teams	1	2	3	4	5	Final
PD	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pampa	1	5	8	1	X	14

Game Summary

- Winning pitcher: James Thompson
- Doubles: James Thompson
- Triples: Devin Coleman
- RBIs: Devin Coleman 3, James Thompson 1 and Rudy Rodriguez 1
- Stolen bases: Zach Graves 1, Jordan Lemons 2, Tyler Powell 2, Riley Douglas 1, Chris Howard 1

Pitcher	IP	H	R	BB	K
Thompson	2	1	0	0	6
Lemons	2	1	1	1	2
Powell	1	0	0	1	1

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