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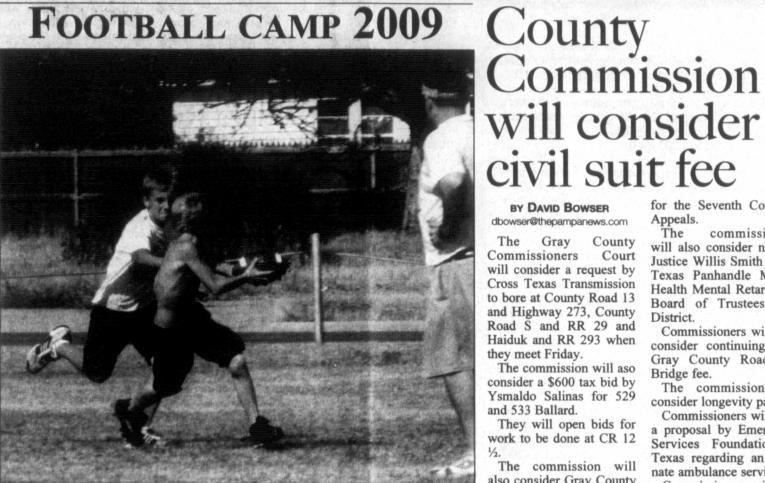
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CSCD's 2010 and 2012 staff photo by Randy Pribble budget.

Area kids are receiving a little extra instruction and having a lot of fun this week during football camp being conducted at Pampa High School.

## Hutchison says she'll leave Senate in fall

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey
 Hutchison said Wednesday she will step down this fall to challenge fellow Republican Rick Perry for governor in 2010, setting the stage for what will be a crowded race to replace

Hutchison told WBAP radio of Fort Worth-Dallas in an interview that she'll quit the Senate in October or November, signaling that she'll return to Texas full time to campaign for the governorship. She reiterated that she would formally declare her candi-

"Then the actual leaving of the Senate will be

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

A New Orleans-based

federal appeals court has

agreed to review a ruling

that several state attor-

neys general warned could

cripple their open meetings

A ruling in April by a

three-judge panel from the

5th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals revived a lawsuit

city council members in

Alpine, Texas, filed after

two members were charged

with violating the state's

open meetings law. The

council members allegedly

violated the law by discussing a city project in an

After the ruling, attor-

neys general for Texas,

Louisiana and more than

a dozen other states asked

for the full 5th Circuit

to reconsider the case.

Lawyers for the Alpine

council members also

exchange of e-mails.

laws.

dacy in August.

some time - October, November - that, in that time frame," Hutchison

The Republican primary is in March 2010. The winner of that race will be heavily favored in the general election.

Hutchison told WBAP she is still working in Washington to fight President Barack Obama's health care plan and a cap-and-trade proposal on greenhouse gas emissions.

"I am trying to do everything that I can while I am in office to responsibly serve as a senator. But it is hard because my heart is in Texas," she said. "There are so many things that I

asked for a rehearing. The

court announced this week

that a majority of its judges

A state grand jury in

Texas indicted two of

Alpine's five city council

members after they circu-

lated e-mails in 2004 about

the hiring of engineers for

a city water project before

a public hearing. A state

judge later dismissed the

In 2005, one of the coun-

cil members who had been

charged — and another

who had not - sued to

block enforcement of the

Texas open meetings law.

The 5th Circuit panel said

U.S. District Judge Robert

Junell incorrectly ruled

that the First Amendment

"affords absolutely no pro-

tection to speech by elected

officials made pursuant to

their official duties."

criminal charges.

voted to rehear the case.

open meetings case

think we have not done in Texas that we need to do. I think we need new leadership in Texas."

Perry is running for an unprecedented third full term, a span in office Hutchison says would be too long. She said she gave him a "free ride" by deciding not to run against him in 2006 and that no one expected him to run again.

Perry's spokesman, Mark Miner, said Hutchison is breaking a promise by not remaining in the Senate for her full term, which expires in 2012. And, he said, Hutchison vowed at one point not to seek a third term but did so anyway. SENATE cont. on page 3

# bearing signature

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. (AP) — A concrete slab that billionaire oilman T. Boone Pickens' scrawled his signature in as a child has been returned to Holdenville.

Ownership of the slab will apparently be determined; in court.

Pickens wrote his name in the wet concrete in his grandmother's driveway in 1946 and recently sent a crew to cut out the slab and take it to his ranch in

David McCart now owns the home and says he owns the slab because of access to his property and his longtime maintenance of the easement. But Holdenville Mayor Jack Barrett contends the city owns the slab because its on city easement.

McCart says he'll ask a court to determine owner-

## Southwest makes bid to buy Frontier

DALLAS (AP) - Southwest Airlines Co. is seeking to trump a rival bid and acquire Frontier Airlines, a Denver-based carrier operating under bankruptcy protection.

A court had already approved the sale of Frontier Airlines Holdings Inc. to the parent of Republic Airways for \$108.8 million, but that deal can be

Dallas-based Southwest said it submitted a nonbinding bid of \$113.6 million. Southwest hopes that making the bid will allow it to talk with Frontier and

get information to help shape its final proposal. Southwest said it faces an Aug. 10 deadline for submitting a binding bid. If there is more than one quali-

We are excited about the opportunity to submit a bid," Southwest CEO Gary Kelly said in a statement. "We see a strong fit between our company cultures, a mutual commitment to high quality customer Service, and similar entrepreneurial roots."

Southwest recently went back into the Denver

OPEN cont. on page 3

#### Appeals court to review Junell to decide whether the Texas Open Meetings Act passes the "strict-scrutiny" test under the First

of proving that the statute pursues a compelling interest which the law is narrowly tailored to further." Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office has warned that the panel's ruling could serve as a precedent for striking down many open meetings laws. The list of attorneys general seeking a rehear-

Amendment and "make

the state carry its burden

ing also includes those for Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia. Rod Ponton III, a law-

The panel directed





FOOTBALL CAMP 2009



civil suits in the county Friday, in the commissionand district courts with the er's courtroom of the Gray money going to create an appellate judicial system

County courthouse. Pickens returns concrete slab

will consider

civil suit fee

County

Court

BY DAVID BOWSER

dbowser@thepampanews.com

will consider a request by

Cross Texas Transmission

to bore at County Road 13

and Highway 273, County

Road S and RR 29 and

Haiduk and RR 293 when

The commission will aso

consider a \$600 tax bid by

Ysmaldo Salinas for 529

They will open bids for

work to be done at CR 12

The commission will

They will also consider

a five dollar filing fee for

also consider Gray County

The Gray

Commissioners

they meet Friday.

and 533 Ballard.

SALES & RENTAL

for the Seventh Court of

will also consider naming

Justice Willis Smith to the

Texas Panhandle Mental

Health Mental Retardation

Board of Trustees East

Commissioners will also

consider continuing the

Gray County Road and

The commission will

Commissioners will hear

a proposal by Emergency

Services Foundation of

Texas regarding an alter-

Commissioners will also

The county commis-

sion will meet at 9 a.m.,

consider a COBRA rate for

nate ambulance service.

health care insurance.

consider longevity pay.

commissioners

Appeals.

The

District.

Bridge fee.

nixed if a better offer comes along. fied bidder, an auction will be held the following day.

SOUTHWEST cont. on page 3

# For the record

#### PAMPA FORECAST

Low 66

Friday Saturday Sunday High 86 High 82 High 88

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Low 68** 

Low 62

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 82. Calm wind becoming south between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 88. South southeast wind between 5 and 10

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#### El Paso firefighters, police officers delay raises

EL PASO, Texas (AP) El Paso police officers and firefighters have voted overwhelmingly to postpone their 2009 raises to hext year, giving up \$1.2 million in compensation to help the City of El Paso meet its budget for fiscal gear 2010.

A statement Wednesday the El from Municipal Police Officers' Association said officers also voted to give up their overtime pay for working Solidays but will instead take additional days off.

Association president Robert Gomez said city officials approached them in June about postponing their raises in light of the "huge budget shortfall."

The officers would have received a 2 percent raise in September. The raise will now be postponed until January.

The president of the El Paso Association of Fire Fighters, Joe Tellez, said he was proud of his membership for agreeing to defer its next pay raise in order to help the city.

#### Man convicted in football fight

EASTON, Md. (AP) — An Eastern Shore man has been convicted of assault for shooting at an SUV full of people during a dispute between Philadelphia Eagles and Dallas Cowboys

Twenty-eight-yearold Damian Alexander of Cordova was acquitted Wednesday of attempted murder but was convicted of first- and second-degree assault and reckless endangerment.

Authorities say Alexander fired between two and five rounds from

a shotgun at an SUV that was driving away from his home on the evening of Dec. 28. Two people were wounded. Prosecutors say Alexander had arranged for a fist fight with a man in the vehicle but brought a gun instead.

The people in the vehicle had been exchanging taunting text messages and phone calls with Alexander about that day's game between the Eagles and Cowboys. Philadelphia won, 44-6, knocking Dallas out of the NFL playoffs.

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The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

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### **Obituaries**

## Ira Wayne Potter, 64

Pampa— Ira Wayne Potter, 64, died July 28, 2009, in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, July 31, 2009, at Memory Gardens Mausoleum, with Rev. Darrell Burton, chaplain for Hospice of the Southwest, officiating.

Entombment will be in Memory Gardens Mausoleum with arrangements by direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

March 9, 1945 in Pampa. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army where he served with the 1st Air Cavalry Unit (the Gary Owen division) during the Vietnam War. During his service time, he received the air medal, expert combat infantryman badge, Vietnam service medal with the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. Mr.

Mr. Potter was born O. Operating Company, retiring in 2007. In his spare time, he liked to shoot his guns, work on cars and ride his motorcycle.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Joyce Potter of Pampa; a son, Wayne Potter and wife Andrea of Amarillo; a daughter, Josette Wine and husband Carl of Pampa; a brother: Lael Potter and Potter worked as a heavy wife Mary of Kilgore; and equipment operator for W. a sister: Annetta Bradley

and husband Dean of Roston, Arkansas: grandchildren; numerous niec-Potter es and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents: William and Dora Potter. MEMORIALS:

Hospice of the Southwest,

1301 S. Coulter, Suite 404,

Amarillo, Texas 79106. Sign the on-line register www.carmichael-whatley. com

#### Fonza Reid Brooks, 83

Pampa - Fonza Reid Brooks, 83, died July 29, 2009, in Pampa, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

#### Gene Rippetoe, 80

Pampa— Rippetoe, 80, died July 29, 2009, in Pampa, Texas. Swervices are pending

with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mr. Rippetoe was born

May 9, 1929 in Carter, Oklahoma, and was reared in Oklahoma. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean Conflict. He married Bernice

Throckmorton on October 21, 1952 in Carter, Oklahoma. She preceded him in death on March 19, 2009. Gene had been a resident of Pampa since 1962. He worked as a security guard at Cabot, retiring after 25 years of service. He was a member of the V. F. W. for many years. Gene was a very family oriented man, and he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and greatgrandfather.

SURVIVORS: a son: Roy Rippetoe and wife at www. Connie of Pampa; a daugh-ley.com

ter: Pat Gibson of Pampa; a brother: Jack Rippetoe and wife Novalene of Pampa; 7 grandchildren and 7 greatgrandchildren. Gene was preceded in death by 5 brothers, 4 sisters, and a daughter: Eva Rene Fritz. The family will receive

friends at 1824 Dogwood. MEMORIALS: Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the on-line register at www.carmichael-what-



Rippetoe

#### Lisa Andrew, 52

Lisa Andrew, 52, died Directors. July 27, 2009, in Amarillo.

She was born April 27, 1957, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Services will be held at p.m. Friday, July 31 in Griggs-Schooler-Gordon Pioneer Chapel with Elder Archie Hunnicutt officiat-

Interment will be in Memorial Park Cemetery at a later date under the direction of Griggs-

Mrs. Andrew was born April 27, 1957, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

She was a 1974 graduate of Pampa High School, and received an Associates Degree from Clarendon Junior College. She was kind, warmhearted, a mother to all, and will be missed.

SURVIVORS: Husband: Michael Andrew of Amarillo

Andrew of Austin Shannon Andrew of Fort Worth Father: Tom Dunham of

California Brother: Chris Dunham

of California Sister: Annette Stevenson of Austin

The family will receive friends and relatives at the funeral home on Thursday; July 30 from 5-7 p.m.

Send on line condolences to @www.mem.



William J. "Bill" Prock, 81

Pampa - William J. "Bill" Prock, 81, died July 30, 2009 in Amarillo, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

#### PAMPA PD

Pampa Police Department responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Monday, July 27 to 7 a.m. Tuesday, June 28.

Animal Control Officers responded to 8 calls or

stops. Pampa Police Officers made 15 traffic stops, had four follow-up investigations, and responded to one request for information.

A traffic complaint was taken at intersection of Montagu and Somerville. An alarm was reported

in the 600 block of Hobart A traffic complaint was

taken in the 2300 lock of Evergreen. Disorderly conduct was

reported in the 1400 block of N. Dwight.

A welfare check was conducted in the 1900 block of N. Dwight.

A 911 hang-up was reported in the 1300 block of N. Hobart. St.

Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident in the 1300 block of N.

A welfare check was conducted in the 800 block of N. Wells. Disorderly conduct was

reported near the intersection of Harvester and Christine. An abandoned vehi-

cle was reported near the intersection of Lefors and Allen. A domestic disturbance

of Deane Drive. Officers responded to motor vehicle accident in the 1200 block of N. Hobart.

as reported in the 600 block

Harassment was report-

ed from the 1400 block of

N. Hobart. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of N. Davis.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 100 block of S. Varnon.

A prowler was reported in the 800 block of E.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1900

block of N. Lynn. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block

of S. Nelson. A welfare check was conducted in the 300 block

of S. Miami St. Officers responded to a motor vehicle accident in the 100 block of N. Hobart.

Officers investigated an alarm in the 300 block of W. Kingsmill.

#### FIRE

Pampa The Fire Department responded to the following call during the period 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, to 7 a.m. Thursday, July 30.

3:56 p.m.—One unit and three personnel responded to an investigation, electrical problem.

8:02 p.m.— One unit and three personnel responded to a medical assist call in the 1400 block of W.

8:42 p.m.— One unit and three personnel responded to a first responder (medical) call in the 1700 block of Aspen.

11:17 p.m.— three units and eight personnel responded to a smoke scare in the 100 block of Varnon. It turned out to be someone burning trash, which is prohibited in the

3:10 a.m.— one unit and three personnel responded to a lift assist in the 900 block of Sierra.

5:21 a.m.— one unit and three personnel responded to a medical asssit call in the 200 block of N. Wells.

#### **AMBULANCE**

Guardian EMS responded to the following calls during the period between 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 28 to 7 a.m. Wednesday, July 30.

Tuesday

10:31 a.m.—An MICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center, transported one patient to

4:57 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the PRMC, patient transfer to UMC.

3:59 p.m.— An MICU unit responded to the 1800 block of Lynn, transported one patient to PRMC.



# Texas crop report

COLLEGE STATION Most of Texas received from 0.25 to 1.5 inches of rain in the last week of July, with a few areas recording 3 inches or more, according to the National Weather Service. (http://

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otter.

water.weather.gov/) South of San Antonio, the state remained rainfree, and record high temperatures continued to hammer crops, rangeland and livestock, according to reports from Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel. Despite the drought, some crops are having a good year. Peanuts, for example, are ahead of schedule and looking very good, said Dr. Todd Baughman, AgriLife based at Uvalde.

Texas peanut acreage totals about 160,000 acres this year, down about 40 percent from 2008, he said. The drop in acreage was only due in part from a drop in prices because of the salmonella scare earlier this year. A larger effect was the drought. "At least 98 percent of Texas peanuts are irrigated and most are grown in West Texas," Baughman said. "Peanuts are heavy water users, and with the dry spring, many producers elected to put in other crops."

Most irrigated cotton is doing well too, though reports from some counties indicate it is from one to two weeks late. "Dryland Extension agronomist crop condition is begin-

ning to decline as plants become moisture-stressed due to lack of moisture," said Dale Dunlap, AgriLife Extension agent for Collingsworth County, east of Amarillo. "Irrigated crops look good, cotton is in full bloom and peanuts are pegging."

"Crops appear to be embracing the moisture as the sorghum and cotton have really seemed to take off this week," said Todd Beyers, AgriLife Extension agent for Lamb County, northwest of Lubbock . "We're seeing several more white blooms and a couple of purple blooms this morning in the cotton fields.'

## 3 accused of fake sheep theft

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) - The theft of a fake sheep with a patriotic flag motif has led to real charges against three teens in San Angelo.

Police say the 5-footlong fiberglass creation was tracked to the apartment of one of the sus-

woman reported

seeing several men take the Freedom for Me and "Ewe" sheep from behind a building early Sunday. The nearly \$3,000 item was recovered hours later.

Individually decorated "Sheep Spectacular" sculptures, promoting art and the region's agriculture, are scattered throughout San Angelo.

The 19-year-old suspects, who posted bond Monday, are charged with felony theft between \$1,500 and \$20,000. The state jail felony is punishable by 180 days to two years in jail and a fine up to \$10,000.

### Senate

cont. from page 1

"Today it's clear that she's put her own political ambitions over the needs of the people of Texas," Miner said.

Hutchison spokesman Jeff Sadosky accused of Miner of lying, saying he could not back up his allegation that Hutchison broke her promise. The senator has publicly indicated several times she may not serve her entire

Her campaign was quick to point out that Perry didn't criticize Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin when she announced this summer she was leaving office early. Palin has endorsed Perry for re-election.

Hutchison's camp said in statement late Wednesday: "Rick Perry should do the right thing for Texas and stop his quest to be governor for life. But if he stays in this race, and continues to put personal ambition ahead of the people, then Kay Bailey Hutchison will resign her seat this fall when the time is right for Texas."

Miner said Perry is prepared to face Hutchison: 'We've been ready to go since Day One. She's the one who has announced three times that she's going to announce (her candida-

The question of when Hutchison would leave the Senate has been swirling for months.

As governor, Perry would get to appoint an interim senator to fill her seat once she leaves until a special election is held. He could call a special election in November or in May 2010, depending on when Hutchison steps down and how much lead time he has to order the election, according to laws cited by the Texas Secretary of State's Office. He also could declare that an "emergency election" be held on another date.

Miner said Perry would call a special election as soon as possible.

Already, a well-known lineup of Republicans and Democrats are considering trying to succeed Hutchison. Among the Republicans are Roger Williams, the former secretary of state; Railroad Commissioners Michael Williams and Elizabeth Ames Jones; and state Sen. Florence Shapiro. The leading Democrats are Houston Mayor Bill White and former Comptroller John Sharp.

Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst also could

"Should a Senate seat open, it's something he would consider, but unless or until that happens he's focusing on his job as lieutenant governor," Dewhurst spokesman Mike

Wintemute said. Miner, of Perry's office, said it was premature to talk about Hutchison's replacement. Asked about the governor's desire to keep a Republican in the Senate seat, Miner took another jab at Hutchison, saying, "Is the seat currently in GOP hands?"

## House panel goes back to work on health care

WASHINGTON (AP) - Health care legislation advanced slowly Thursday in the last of three House concommittees to sider the measure as the Senate's top Republican accused Democrats of cutting Medicare to finance a "massive new governmentrun plan."

"Some in Congress seem to be in such a rush to pass just any reform, rather than the right reform, that they're looking everywhere for the money to pay for it, even if it means sticking it to seniors with cuts to Medicare," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in the latest in a series of daily

Senate speeches on health

Across the Capitol, the House Energy and Commerce Committee plowed methodically through a stack of proposed changes to the bill, one day after the White House, Democratic leaders and a band of conservative party members reached a compromise to clear the measure.

Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., presiding over the session, warned lawmakers against offering amendments that make the bill more expensive — and agreed to a Republican suggestion to limit the time allowed for

#### Southwest

market, where it competes against Frontier and

Shares of Southwest rose

sharply on the news. They

cont. from page 1

were up 33 cents, or 4.4 percent, to \$7.84 in afternoon trading.

public officials from talkexcept at public meetings,' Ponton said Wednesday.

Perry's camp has been trying to portray Hutchison a big-spending Washington insider while casting Perry as a fiscal conservative.

Hutchison won the Senate seat in a special election in 1993 after veteran Democrat Lloyd Bentsen left to join President Bill Clinton's administration as treasury secretary. Hutchison won her first full six-year term in 1994 and was re-elected in 2000 and 2006. She is the only woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate from Texas.

The Republican gubernatorial primary promises to be a rough and expensive showdown between Hutchison, who enjoys general statewide popularity and has won elections by large margins, and Perry, who has never lost a race and has stronger backing from the social conservatives who traditionally dominate the GOP prima-

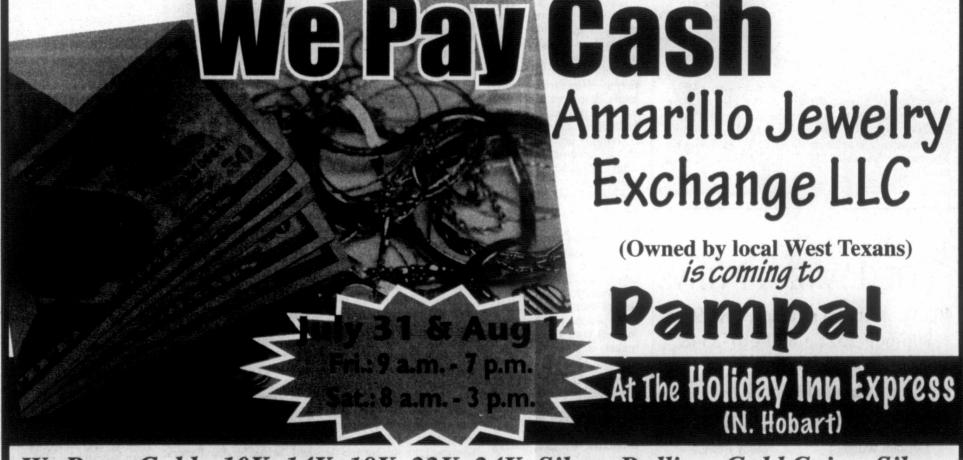
### Meeting

yer for the Alpine council members who sued, said his clients are asking the full 5th Circuit to declare that the Texas open meetings law is unconstitution-

"We've always said we want open government and don't want backroom deals, but this law went too far because it keeps

cont. from page 1

ing about public issues



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# viewpoints

### Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 30, the 211th day of 2009. There are 154 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1419 - Czech Hussites throw seven members of the Prague town council from a window and start a rebellion. King Wenceslas IV dies of a heart attack upon hearing of the incident.

1619 - America's first representative assembly convenes in Jamestown, Virginia.

1646 - French troops, aided by the Swedish army, invade Bavaria to bring Thirty Years' War to a close. 1709 - British forces under Duke of Marlborough and Savoy's Prince Eugene defeat French at Tournai

in Belgium. 1907 - Elections are held in Philippines for the country's first assembly. The new 80-member assembly is directly elected by a restricted electorate, making it the first elective legislative body in

'Incompetents invariably make trouble for people other than themselves.'

> - Larry McMurtry, American writer

Southeast Asia. 1916 - German saboteurs blow up munitions plant on Black Tom Island, near Jersey City, New Jersey, before United States' entry in World War I.

1945 - The USS Indianapolis, which had just delivered components of the Hiroshima atomic bomb to the Pacific island of

Tinian, is torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. Only 316 out of 1,196 men on board survive in sharkinfested waters.

1948 - Hungarian leader Zoltan Tildy is forced to resign. Amnesty is proclaimed in Philippines for Huk rebels, but they refuse to comply.

1967 - The U.S. bomber offensive against North Vietnam is extended to the demilitarized zone separating North and South Vietnam, bringing new Communist protests and adding to the diplomatic

1971 - U.S. Apollo 15 astronauts David R. Scott and James B. Irwin land on the moon. 1974 - Greece, Turkey and Britain sign declaration

for cease-fire agreement on Cyprus. 1977 - Syrian soldiers of Arab League's peace-

keeping force in Lebanon set up gun positions around two main Palestinian refugee camps to help control guerrillas.

1982 - Panamanian President Aristides Royo Sanchez resigns two years before the end of his sixyear term under pressure from the country's military

2007 - Maharashtra state government bans domesticated elephants from India's largest city, Mumbai, saying that forcing the animals to walk the city chaotic, crowded and polluted streets is an act of

Today's Birthdays:

Emily Bronte, British author (1818-1848); Henry Ford, U.S. auto pioneer (1863-1947); Casey Stengel, U.S. baseball player/manager (1891-1975); Henry Moore, British sculptor (1898-1986); Peter Bogdanovich, U.S. producer/director (1939--); Paul Anka, Canadian singer (1941--); Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor/politician (1947--); Laurence Fishburne, U.S. actor (1961--); Lisa Kudrow, U.S. actress (1963--).



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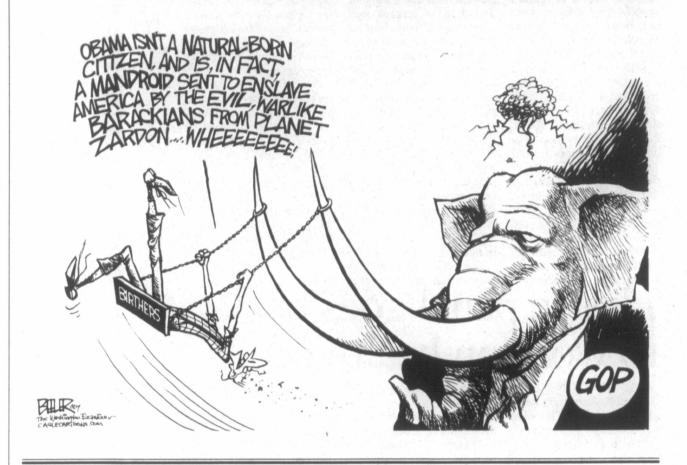
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## Editorial opinion across Texas

#### Fort Worth Star-Telegram on health care reform:

The health care debate is tailor-made for demagogues.

Radio and cable TV talk-show pontificators are proffering silly predictions of socialized medicine and rationed care and invoking the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Internal Revenue Service as models for what "government healthcare" will look like. Entertaining, but there is no basis in fact here.

ObamaCare is more of a slogan or rallying cry. The president has chosen to back certain long-term plan. This approach has strengths and weaknesses.

President Barack Obama has signaled that nearly everything is up for negotiation. His strategy certainly has a greater chance of success because he is attempting to shepherd a bottom-up process to create an organic legislative accord. Notably, President Bill Clinton is top-down approach doomed healthcare reform in the early

But Obama's undue haste is counterproductive. By definition, collaboration takes more time. He knows historically the odds of reform shrink significantly in the second year of a presidential term because lawmakers become timid in a midterm election year. But induced urgency imperils his legislative goals and increases the chances for an ill-conceived plan. This is one-sixth of the U.S. economy we are talking about here.

Taxing healthcare benefits, creating a public insurance option, creating insurance mandates for individuals and business and striving for near-universal coverage are enormous separate issues. Attempting to resolve them collectively is daunting.

We are not backing a particular plan yet because the legislative process is too fluid. But here are 10 principles we will assert (today and tomorrow) about the debate and its outcome.

Don't get too excited or concerned until a bipartisan coalition embraces a plan. We are far from that. There are constantly shifting alliances, with fiscally conservative Democrats swinging back and forth between the Republican and liberal Democratic camps.

The odds of transformational health reform remain slim. The United States has a long political tradition of incrementalism. We tweak; we don-it

change. Too many political players have skin in this game. There will have to be winners and losers, and that's political dynamite. The perception of shared pain and meaningful gain is difficult to achieve. It is unprecedented that so many will be asked to sacrifice so much in a nonemergency situation. Lobbyists for doctors, hospitals, drug makers, insurance companies and medical device manufacturers are powerful and well-funded. So far, these stakeholders cautiously are saying the right things, but knives will be unsheathed as things get more serious.

Access and cost must be addressed simultaneously. Access for the uninsured without addressing cost is financially untenable. Addressing costs without access is morally wrong. The current feefor-service medical model encourages waste and overuse of medical services. We need to pay for outcomes and quality rather than quantity. Obama espouses this frequently, but it is absent from the current legislation.

The Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is the elephant in the room. Its price tag on health reform is more than \$1 trillion over 10 years. Reform advocates must present achievable cost savings and politically tenable tax increases to offset spending. Good luck with Paying physicians less

for services rendered is not the answer. Fewer physicians are taking Medicare and Medicaid patients, because government reimbursement is inadequate. Cutting reimbursements to save money while expanding government insurance eligibility makes no sense. New physicians, weighed down by mortgage-sized student loans, continue to hang their shingles in insurance-rich affluent areas or pursue more highly paid specialties the opposite of what needs to happen.

Beware of fake savings. Obama claimed that a greater emphasis on prevention would produce \$80 billion in savings. Prevention is the right thing to do; it improves outcomes. But mass screening and immunization are expensive. The people who need it most

are the least likely to get it. He claimed similar savings with widespread adoption of electronic medical records while conveniently ignoring the upfront costs. Prevention and EMR will improve the nation's health, but any savings are too distant and unproven to be counted now. What about the chil-

dren? Obama talked during his presidential campaign about insuring all children, but we haven't heard much since. Covering children is a relatively cheap, sound investment. Research shows that chronically ill children with inadequate care fall behind in school and have lifelong health and economic disadvantages. Oddly, Americans consider childhood education a public good, but child health an individual or family responsibility. The two should not be separated.

- Healthcare economic principles do not operate like the rest of the economy, yet we act as if they do. Healthcare is supplier-driven: You generally do what your doctor recommends. Patients do not shop for the lowest-cost doctor, especially when they are sick and there is no easy way to find out what things cost. Consumer-driven healthcare advocates minimize these factors. For those with too little or no insurance, demand is driven by what's in their wallets. One final point: Unlike many consumer goods, more expensive health is not better healthcare; it only costs

The only way truly to cut healthcare costs is to decrease demand. Individual diet, exercise and behavior are factors. But the truth comes in the doctor's examining room: How disciplined will you and your doctor be about not overusing the healthcare system because someone else is footing the bill? Nearly a third of healthcare spending is wasted this way. Ultimately, cutting healthcare costs is up to us. The health reform debate is only about the rules of

the game. San Antonio Express-News on gun smuggling:

The recent congressional testimony of Bill McMahon, deputy assistant director of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, provided some enlightening information about the deadly drug war in Mexico.

A large proportion of the guns being used originate in the United States. Mexican authorities have submitted 20,000 of the 100,000 firearms they've seized from the cartels to ATF for tracing. The bureau found 90 percent of those weapons were manufactured, imported or sold in the United States.

Is this a representative sample?

Possibly not.

But to argue that American guns aren't making a major contribution to the drug cartel violence in Mexico is to ignore reality

The biggest problem isn't with gun dealers. Only 44 percent of the U.S. weapons could be traced backed to purchases at federally licensed dealers.

The rest came from informal transactions, including those at gun shows.

Curbing the flow of guns isn't only in Mexico's interest. The cartels and their drug distribution networks in the United States pose a security threat on this side of the border as well.

McMahon's testimony points out the need for increased emphasis on southbound inspections at the U.S.-Mexico border. And it remains, of course, important for U.S. authorities to work to prevent narcotics from entering the United States. But it is equally important to prevent guns and cash from entering Mexico and empowering the cartels.

The ATF analysis also demonstrates why it's necessary for all gun sales in the United States to be subject to the same background checks and documentation requirements.

Anyone with criminal intent, including those looking for a fast buck by illegally transporting weapons across the border, can buy guns off the street.

That's no excuse to make it easier for them to break the law and harder for law enforcement to track them down.

#### We welcome your letters

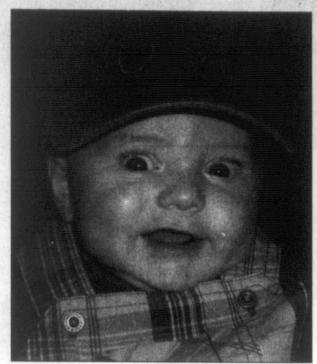
To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

•Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will 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.

## Jaxton Cash Waggoner



Jaxton Cash Waggoner was born on March 18, 2009 to Jonathan and Lori Waggoner of Springtown.

Jaxton was welcomed at 7:53 a.m. at Wise Regional Hospital in Decatur. He weighed seven pounds, nine ounces and 20 inches long at birth.

Jaxton was also welcomed by his brother, Jarrett Cole Waggoner and grandparents Tommy and Susie Lindsey, and David and Lou Waggoner, all of Pampa. He is the great grandson of Billy and Bobbie Waggoner, and Jackie Barrett, all of Pampa.

### Free symphony coaching offered for student musicians

Students whose strings skills have gotten rusty over the summer break can refresh themselves at "Tune Up," a free workshop sponsored by the Amarillo Symphony.

Students with between one and three years of experience can attend one of a pair of two-day sessions on Aug. 3-4 and Aug. 6-7 to get hands-on training from Symphony musicians. Preregistration, which is highly encouraged, can be done by calling the Symphony office at 376-8782.

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"Tune Up will have two great results," said Jill Bradford, Symphony violist and conductor of the Amarillo Youth Sinfonia and Amarillo Youth Philharmonic. "One, the students will get a head start for their school orchestras, with the help of insightful training with the Symphony musicians. And they'll also get ready for a new year with the Amarillo Youth Orchestras.

'We've held this program for two summers now, and we have seen such wonderful improvement across the board with our students," Bradford said.

Tune Up replaces the traditional audition process for students in the Sinfonia and Philharmonic, the ensembles designed for less-experienced student musicians.

"This is a great opportunity for young musicians across the area to get top-notch instruction without having to pay for it," said Susan White, the Symphony's director of operations. The Aug. 3-4 sessions

run from 6-9 p.m. The Aug. 6-7 sessions run from 9 a.m. to noon. Both pairs of sessions will be held at Stephen F. Austin Middle School, 1808 Wimberly St. The Amarillo Youth

Orchestras' first public concert of the season will

be held at 3 p.m. Nov. 8 in the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts.

Since 1924, the Amarillo Symphony has been filling audiences with an unbridled enthusiasm for the performance and discovery of great orchestral music. As the only professional orchestra in the Panhandle area, the Symphony employs 85 skilled musicians to perform for more than 2,300 subscribers each year. In addition to its regular concerts, the Symphony offers an array of successful education programs, from youth orchestras to specialized music programs for underprivileged children, bringing the gift of music to thousands of young people throughout the Texas Panhandle each year. For more information, please contact Susan White, director of operations at 376-8782 or via

e-mail at susan@amarillo-

symphony.org.



### Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I just had to respond to "Daddy Who Cares" (June 2), whose wife is threatening to tell their teenaged daughter, "Gina," she was not wanted. For me a person's most defining trait is not gender, age or race. It's whether or not he or she was wanted. The other traits are things that nature or society put on you. Once you know you were not wanted by the people who put you here, it can easily define you, and it brings pain that will never go

It doesn't matter how much you achieve or how much your parents say they love you. A piece of your life just doesn't fit. Those of us who carry this knowledge understand the sadness very well. It is something that can't be taken

please inform So "Daddy Who Cares" wife that what she felt so many years ago is nothing compared to the sadness that "Gina" will bear and examine throughout her life. There is no unhappiness more lasting than knowing you were not welcomed into this world. --WOUNDED HEART IN **NEW YORK** 

DEAR WOUNDED: Thank you for your heartfelt letter. Readers were

extremely vocal on this subject and agree that telling "Gina" would be devastating and only cause her undeserved and unnecessary pain. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Kudos on your advice to "Daddy Who Cares." When I was a teenager I overheard my mother tell a friend of hers that I was an unplanned pregnancy. To the best of my knowledge, my parents never considered abortion, but nonetheless, it destroyed my self-esteem.

In the case of "Daddy," where abortion was considered and planned, I suspect the emotional damage would be far worse. It's a good thing "Daddy" has custody because the mother seems willing to disregard her child's welfare in order to get vengeance on her husband. You're right, Abby -- absolutely no good can come from the disclosure of that information. -- ONE WHO KNOWS IN **CHICAGO** 

DEAR ABBY: I was a child who was both unplanned and unwanted. When I was 13, my mother, in a fit of anger, told me she wished she had the abortion she planned to have before I was born. It was then that I realized that the "gut" feeling I'd had all my life to that point and beyond was correct -- my

mother never wanted me. Neither of my parents ever told me the whole truth nor did they ever say how glad they were not to have gone through with the plan.

I have always had difficulty trusting my parents, and I have always known I wasn't wanted. Years of therapy have healed the deep wounds. "Daddy' should tell his daughter the story and also tell her how much he loves her and wants her in his life, and that he is glad they never went through with the original plan. If he does, she will be able to trust him and know she was not a "mistake." --DEEPLY WOUNDED IN **NEW HAMPSHIRE** 

DEAR ABBY: Ever since I can remember, my mother has told me her "funny story" about how she was "horrified" when she learned she was pregnant with me and asked the doctor for an abortion. And as a result, I have struggled with low self-esteem and feelings of worthlessness my entire life.

As an adult and mother, I can pinpoint this "amusing anecdote" as the root cause of many of these issues. I pray that the young girl in that letter never finds out that her parents considered abortion. No matter how many times her dad say he 'thanks God everyday that she is here," the damage to her psyche will be forever. -- WISH I NEVER KNEW

#### PETA plans Dallas protest of circus

DALLAS (AP) - An animal rights group plans to show video of what it says is the abuse of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's circus elephants and tigers.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals on Thursday plan to converge on the American Airlines Center and show the video during a protest.

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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2 9 3 7 4 1 8 5 6

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Circus spokeswoman Amy McWethy has previously denied the claims.

PETA says the footage shows circus employees digging sharp metal bullhooks into the skin behind the elephants' knees as well as whipping and jabbing elephants and tigers. The group says in a news release it filed formal complaints with numerous authorities.

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## CC to host reception for Chisum tonight

and the Donley County Republican Party will be hosting a reception in honor of Rep. Warren Chisum on Thursday, August 6, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Bairfield Activity Center in Clarendon.

The groups will be honoring Rep. Chisum for work he did on the college's behalf during in the 81st Legislation which just concluded.

Chisum is a native of the public.

Pampa and has represented Donley County and District 88 in the Texas House of Representatives since 1989. In addition to Donley County, Rep. Chisum serves Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Gray Hall, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lamb, Ochiltree. Lipscomb, Parmer, Roberts, Swisher, and Wheeler counties.

This reception is open to

Vacation Bible School Aug 3rd through Aug 7th 9 am - 1 pm

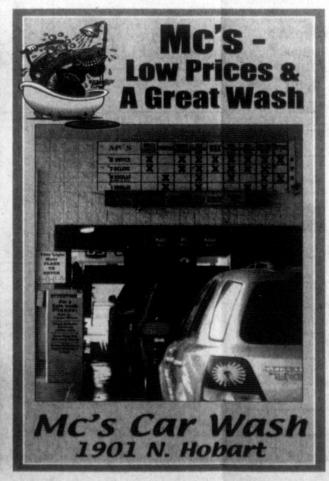
Ages 4 years to 5th grade Friday will be a BBQ, bounce house and obstacle course

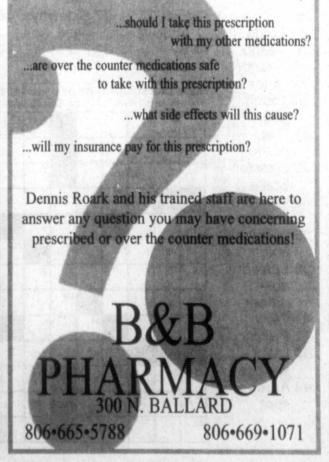
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# Comics

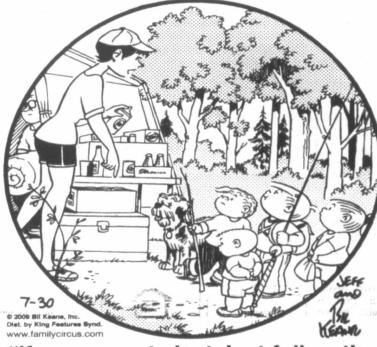
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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Daily Crossword Puzzle

#### **CROSSWORD** By THOMAS JOSEPH **DOWN**

**ACROSS** 

- 1 Cobbler fruit
- 6 Turning tool 11 Uncool
- fan 12 Slangy
- refusal **13** Top
- 14 Spine words 15 Outer
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- 20 Central 23 "Scram!"
- 25 Franc replacer
- 26 Put into words **28** "Fargo"
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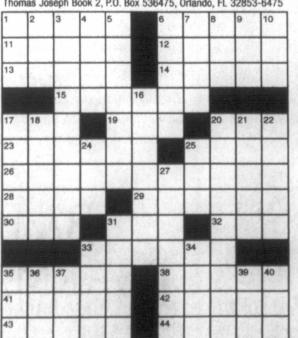
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, July 31,

This year, dip into your creativity and manifest your goals. You could be slightly out of kilter when dealing with friends. Often, they are bellicose or demanding You might want to question what is going on here. What is different? Success follows you as long as you apply your imagination. If you are single, check out new people this year with extreme care, as someone might not be all you think. If you are attached, the two of you need time alone as a couple. You will start to relish and pine for these frequent getaways. SAGITTARIUS ignites your imagination.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

\*\*\* Take on a different perspective or reframe an emotional situation. You also could lose your temper. Your reactions and words could be difficult for the other party to take. Take a walk to chill out the hot Aries temper. Tonight: Take off. Seek the unknown.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\* Deferring works only to an extent, but right now having your say could be close to impossible. Listen to what is being shared. Open up talks. Express kindness and sensitivity. You'll get a positive reaction. Tonight: Dinner for two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\* You have a lot of energy, and you know how to use it. Unfortunately, others could feel challenged by your actions. Understand a key person in your life. An expense might not be avoidable, but it will improve the quality of your life. Tonight: A force to be dealt with. CANCER (June 21-July 22) \*\*\* Emphasize efficiency and getting

the job done. Look toward the weekend

Venus moves into your sign today, draw-

ing many people and opportunities. Express a newfound gentleness. Tonight: Run some errands on the way home; visit with a friend or two. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\* Sometimes you are unstoppable. Part of that gift is your enormous creativity. You can see a situation in

many different ways because of your powerful flights of fantasy. Use that innate gift to make a situation work. Tonight: Dance in the weekend! VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

\*\*\* You could be preoccupied with a personal matter. Focus on your goals. If possible, work from home, where you will feel more relaxed. Pressure builds no matter where you are. A new friend could enter your life shortly. Tonight: Hang out

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\*\* You are in the center of conversations and the person instrumenting talks when others cannot seem to come to an agreement. Someone at a distance could be quite contrary. You actually might change plans to get together soon. Why not? Tonight: Visit with a friend. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\* You could feel pressured by a financial matter. The problem is, some one deems this expenditure necessary. You could have quite a tiff. Ask yourself if it is worth it. Balance your checkbook. Tonight: Indulge a little. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

\*\*\*\* You embody energy and

enthusiasm. Somehow you cannot be

stopped, as you are so goal-directed. Avoid an argument at any cost, as it would be fruitless right now. Indulge a key partner. You are in sync with many people and know how to melt boundaries. Tonight: Whatever you want. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\* Consider your options more careful-

ly. Lately, you might want to approach a situation differently from associates. This difference could be the cause of arguments and discussions. You might ask yourself if the end results justify the process. Tonight: Vanish mysteriously. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\* Zero in on a key goal. Your

creativity will bubble up when dealing with a difficult situation. Keeping a child or loved one chilled out could be close to impossible. You have no control over anyone. Tonight: Be nurturing with others, especially as they are not as resilient as you. Offer a back rub to a pal who is feeling tense. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\* Accept your role without any attitude. Look to positive changes and be willing to make that difference. Yes, you are being asked to carry additional responsibilities. You do the job well. Someone endears himself to you with his attitude or gestures. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

Author J.K. Rowling (1965), actor Wesley Snipes (1962), actor Eric Lively

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2009 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters,

**CRYPTOQUOTE** GJ G RFP VM UFM, G'P VFYC

hints. Each day the code letters are different.

apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all

RCFAXR QFXQRGTE GTHXCFP

PGHCFHC.

GIVING. - HENRY FORD

GTECOHSAA Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TIME AND MONEY SPENT IN HELPING MEN TO DO MORE FOR THEMSELVES IS FAR BETTER THAN MERE

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## Granderson, Tigers beat up Rangers 13-5

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Curtis Granderson opened the game with a bang, then the rest of the slumping Detroit offense followed his lead and took out its recent frustrations on the Texas Rangers.

Granderson led off with a home run and connected again in the second inning, and Justin Verlander equaled a career high by striking out 13 as the Tigers beat the Rangers 13-5 on Wednesday night.

"I'm not trying to hit home runs in the first at-bat," Granderson said. "I'm trying to hit the ball hard and hope the rest of the team keeps that edge."

Detroit scored in each of the first seven innings and matched a season high with 19 hits.

Miguel Cabrera, who had four hits and four RBIs, hit a three-run shot and Marcus Thames also homered for Detroit. The AL Central-leading Tigers improved to 5-8 since the All-Star break and scored more than three runs for just the fifth time in the span

Detroit scored six runs in the first three innings, matching the total it scored in losing the past three games

scored in losing the past three games. "(Granderson) set the tone and everybody fell in place," Detroit manager Jim Leyland said. "That's what we need to do. Get a bunch of our guys going hot. If we can get a bunch of them going at once then

we're in business."
Brandon Lyon and Casey Fien each

Brandon Lyon and Casey Fien each pitched an inning of relief for the Tigers.

The trio combined for 18 strikeouts, the most for a team in a nineinning game this season.

Verlander (12-5) tied for the major league lead in wins. He boosted his AL-leading strikeout total to 172 while pitching seven innings.

After starting the game throwing in the low 90s, Verlander ramped up it up near 100 mph in the later innings.
"That's what he does" Pancers

"That's what he does," Rangers center fielder Marlon Byrd said. "There's a reason he's leading the world in strikeouts."

When Verlander wasn't stifling the Texas offense, the Tigers were giving him ample run support.

Rangers pitching coach Mike Maddux made six trips to the mound, five in the first four innings, to try and settle down his pitchers.

The Rangers' problems started when Granderson homered on the third pitch of the game from Scott Feldman (9-4). It was his 20th career leadoff home run.

After escaping a bases-loaded jam later in the first, Feldman was touched up again by Granderson and the Tigers in the second.

what we need to do. Get a bunch of our guys going hot. If we can get a bunch of them going at once, then Granderson's two-run homer and Carlos Guillen's RBI single gave bunch of them going at once, then Detroit a 4-0 lead. Ryan Raburn pitch.

had an RBI single in the third, and Feldman was chased two batters

"Their bats woke up," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "They got hits all kinds of ways. There was nothing we could do about it."

Feldman allowed a season-high six runs and 10 hits in 2 1-3 innings, his shortest start of the season. The right-hander pitched eight shutout innings in his last start in beating Kansas City ace Zack Greinke.

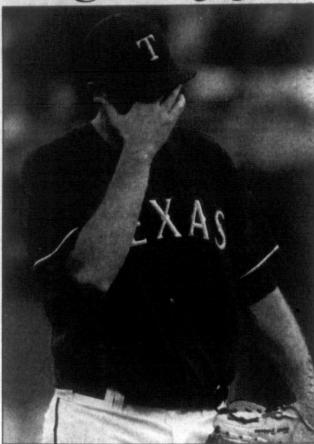
"I did an awful job," Feldman said.
"Bad command cost me the most. It was a frustrating night."

Verlander, who struck out 13 against Minnesota on May 14, improved to 6-1 against the Rangers lifetime with a 2.37 ERA. He gave up four runs and six hits.

"I expected us to turn it around," Verlander said. "We have the talent. It's a matter of stringing some hits together."

Andruw Jones homered twice and Michael Young had a two-run double for Texas, which lost for the only the second time in 10 games.

The Rangers scored three runs in the fifth to come within 8-4 and had runners on second and third with one out. Verlander struck out David Murphy on a 99 mph fastball, then got Byrd looking with a 97 mph pitch.



Texas Rangers' Scott Feldman reacts after giving up a single to Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera in the second inning of a baseball game in Arlington, Texas, Wednesday, July 29, 2009. Feldman was pulled from the game in the third inning. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez)

## Cowboys coach refuses to let broken neck slow him

SAN ANTONIO (AP)
— Dallas Cowboys special teams coach Joe DeCamillis still wears a neck brace and has to sleep sitting up in a chair. Yet he refuses to let the broken neck he suffered when the team's practice facility collapsed keep him from doing his job.

Well, there has been one adjustment.

"In the past, I was able to run down the field after my guys on kickoffs," he said, smiling. "I'm not able to do that right now. That'll hopefully be down the road."

the road."

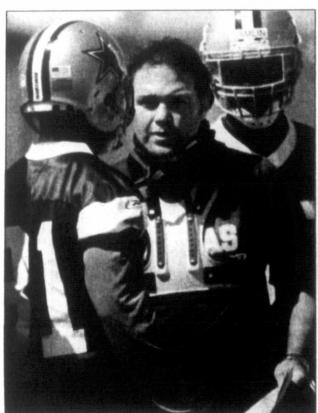
DeCamillis spoke
Wednesday following the
first practice of Cowboys
training camp. It was his
first interview with local
reporters since the May 2
accident that he was lucky
to survive.

His injury required surgery to repair broken vertebrae. Just 16 days later, he was back on the practice field for the start of summer workouts. The toughguy approach to his recovery has impressed everyone in the organization, so much that Cowboys head coach Wade Phillips has held it up as an example to the club.

"I can show the players that hey, this guy's out there working and working hard and don't cry to me about, 'I feel tired today," Phillips said.

DeCamillis laughed off the idea that he's an inspiration, saying, "That's going to last for about a day, I can tell you that. They're going to be complaining about their feet and all of that anyway."

Still, he added, "That's basically how I look at it. I appreciate all those com-



Dallas Cowboys special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, center, talks to players during a team practice in Carrollton, Texas. DeCamillis still wears a neck brace and has to sleep sitting up in a chair after suffering a broken neck when the Dallas Cowboys' practice facility collapsed on May 2. (AP Photo/LM Otero, file)

pliments and all those nice things being said. But I just look at it as I need to be out here doing my job and try to do it to the best of my ability every day."

DeCamillis was hired because that's what he does, get special teams to play better. This is his 21st year in the NFL and his 16th in charge of special teams.

The Cowboys struggled in that area in recent years. When they decided to switch coaches, Phillips brought in his pal Joe D., having worked with him in

Atlanta in 2003. Their connection runs deeper through their mutual boss with the Falcons, Dan Reeves — Phillips' longtime friend and DeCamillis' father-in-

law.

DeCamillis was working with rookies inside a tent-like practice bubble when a burst of high winds made the structure essentially implode. DeCamillis and 11 others were injured, including a scouting assistant left paralyzed by a severed spine.

"I don't even want to talk about it all, to be hon-

est with you," DeCamillis said. "Let's go forward from that day."

He certainly did, surprising everyone by walking onto a practice field with his neck brace and guiding the first OTA workout in June. Doctors said it was OK and the team took all sorts of precautions. Among the little things were giving him a bullhorn to accommodate his weak voice and having his wife drive him to and from the field.

"She put the reins on me a couple of times pretty good," DeCamillis said. "She was a reluctant participant, for sure."

Why did he push to be back so soon?

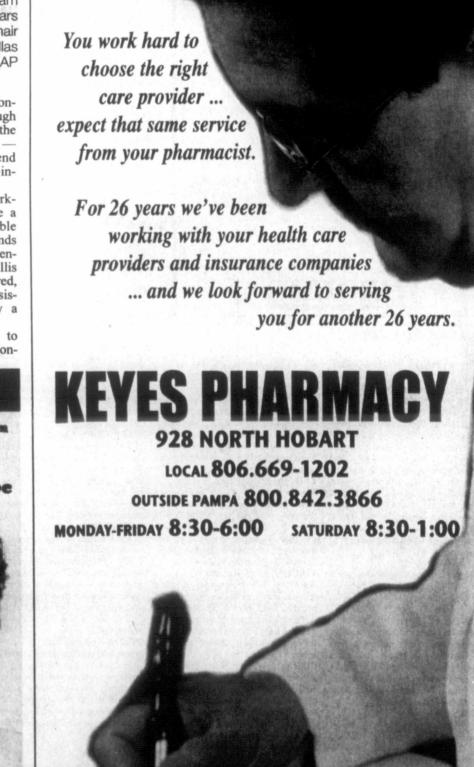
"It was to set a tone, but at the same time you can't get those days back," DeCamillis said. "I mean, the Giants were working on special teams during OTAs. Philadelphia was working on special teams during OTAs. So if I wasn't there, it would've been hard to get those days

The one positive to come from the accident was the outpouring of support DeCamillis received. It was especially meaningful for someone who'd only been part of the organization a few months.

back."

"The fans, getting mail from them and the prayers that people gave to me and for me were unbelievable," he said. "The organization was great, too. The players' wives would bring us dinner and all that stuff. I mean, it was a great feeling. ... I must've had 150 to 200 calls from people and letters and all of that stuff. It was a humbling experience, also."

DeCamillis has ditched the bullhorn, depriving the thousands in the Alamodome of the salty language that was heard so clearly during the summer workouts. He will see a doctor on Aug. 10 and is hoping the brace might come off then. His biggest challenge, beyond the obstacles that come with the neck brace, is making sure he gets enough rest.





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