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The PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 Volume 105 • No. 409 75¢ Daily • Weekend \$1.50

PISD to honor pair of alumni with HOF activities

ARNIE AURELLANO
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The Pampa Independent School District is looking forward to honoring a pair of distinguished alumni during the 2010 Pampa Hall of Fame Induction, slated for Thursday and Friday of this week. The festivities begin with a reception at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Pampa High School Library. The formal induction ceremony will be Friday at 10 a.m. at McNeely

Fieldhouse, followed by a community-wide luncheon at M.K. Brown Auditorium at noon. Those wanting to attend the luncheon must RSVP by calling Karen Linder at 669-4700. Tickets are \$9.



Cain



Martin

P I S D Superintendent Barry Haenisch described this year's honorees, Don Cain Jr. and Steve Martin, as "outstanding alumni" who greatly deserve the honor of being enshrined alongside other great Harvesters

of years past. Cain, who graduated in 1972, was a PHS athlete who went on to play basketball in college. He parlayed that experience into a brief coaching career before joining Southwestern Bell (which would later become AT&T) and playing a big part in the company's global expansion. "He served in an international capacity and really had an important position," said Haenisch. "He **HOF** cont. on page 8

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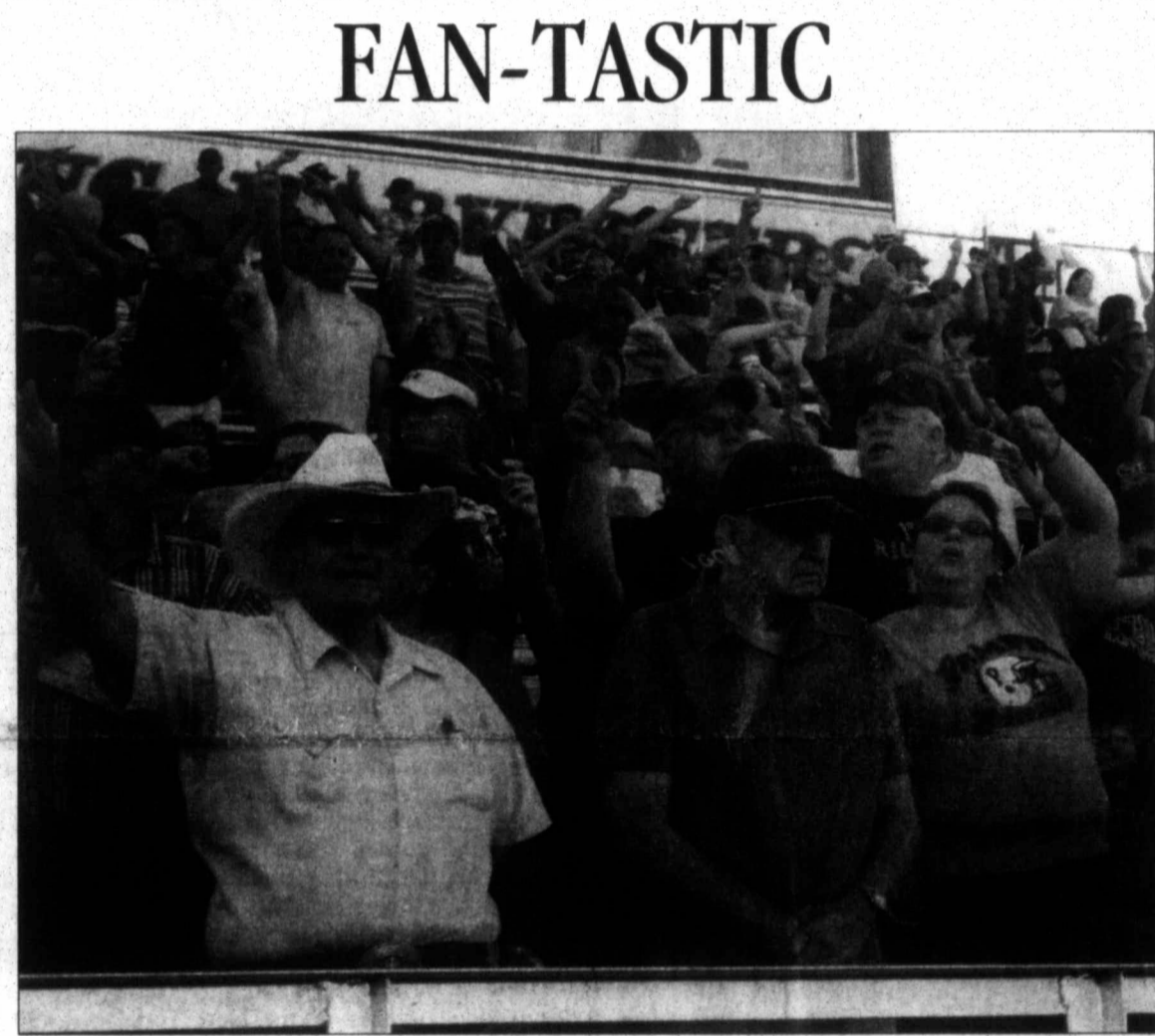
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staff photo by Andrew Glover

Every Friday night, the Harvester Field stands are packed with rabid fans, ready to root their Harvesters on to victory.

Pampa loves its team through thick and thin

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa High School football team may have gone 8-23 the last three seasons (the last winning year was 2005), but you wouldn't be able to tell if you visited Harvester Field on a Friday night.

Instead, what you'd see is evidence of one simple fact: This town is still crazy about its Harvesters.

Thousands of fans pack the stands every game night. Before

every game, just about every group of high school boosters have tents set up and are selling some sort of food.

By the time the school songs are played, the home side of the stadium is always packed.

Pampa EDC Director Clay Rice, the father of senior football player Brenden Rice, said the community always recognizes the effort of the players and coaches.

"The community loves the kids," Rice said. "They support them through thick and thin. The community understands the team

goes through rough spots to get to better spots."

Christy Parker, wife of head football coach Heath Parker, said the town has always been supportive of the team no matter what.

"Being in a smaller town, everybody is a part of everyone's lives," Parker said. "When they win or lose, it makes your Friday night better or worse. When they win you feel good for them, and when they lose, you feel bad for them."

At the end of games, most of the fans stay to shake hands with **SUPPORT** cont. on page 8

House fire leaves baby in burn ward

DAVID BOWSER
dbowser@thepampanews.com

A Pampa baby was in critical condition at a Lubbock burn center after an early morning fire at the baby's home.

Pampa officials reported that 5-month-old Cainan Mills suffered burns a few minutes after midnight Saturday in his home at 1015 North Wells.

Firefighters said the mother, Heather Elsass, had extinguished the flames in the master bedroom of the duplex by the time they arrived.

The baby was rushed by Pampa EMS to Pampa Regional Medical Center and later flown to Lubbock by LifeStar helicopter for medical care. He was listed **INFANT** cont. on page 8

Sales taxes a positive sign, say officials

DAVID BOWSER
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September's state sales tax check to the City of Pampa was 7.5 percent above the same month last year.

While it is down from the 17.27 percent increase recorded last month, it is still higher than any month so far this fiscal year, according to Robin Bailey, the city's finance director.

"We're gaining ground," Bailey said. For the first five months of this **TAX** cont. on page 8

Concerned citizens pack junior high hearings

DAVID BOWSER
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Almost three dozen people showed up for the Pampa Independent School District's public hearings at Pampa High on traffic congestion at the new junior school and the future of the old junior high building.

Sena Brainard addressed the school board concerning both issues.

She said she is concerned about the safety of the junior high principal directing traffic.

"I'm concerned about his safety," Brainard said.

She said she's also concerned about when it snows and it's icy.

"To me," Brainard said, "when you talk about the donation of the land and all the money that

it saves you, it doesn't save you anything if you have a wrongful death lawsuit."

She said that if there is an emergency at the new junior high, emergency vehicles will have a difficult time getting through traffic.

Concerning the old junior high and its proposed use as a rehabilitation center, Brainard said she thinks there are other locations outside the city limits that would be better locations.

She also questioned the district's decision to limit bids on the old school to 21 days. She said that wasn't enough time.

Caprice Mayhew said she is concerned about accidents at the new junior high. She suggested alternating times for buses going to the school and stationing a police car at the school during rush times.

Pampa School Supt. Barry Haenisch said the

district is exploring a second way in and out of the campus without getting on Texas Highway 70. That solution, he said, will depend upon other landowners.

Mike Pederson said he lives on Frost Street and was worried when a mission was established there, but he said there have been no problems.

He said that if the proposed rehab center is run right, it will be a good thing for Pampa.

Kyle Ohsfeldt said he supports selling the old school to the group that wants to use it for a rehab center. He said he fears that if it stands empty, it will become a blight on the community.

Donna Shook told the board that she moved to Pampa from San Diego, Calif., and has **HEARINGS** cont. on page 8

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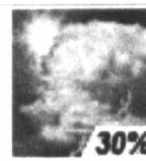



For the record

Obituaries

There are no obituaries today.

PAMPA FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		
High 92 Low 64	High 84 Low 64	High 88 Low 63

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 92. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 84. East wind between 5 and 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 64. Southeast wind around 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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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, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-14 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

T E F Q L E A R V Q M P X T T

B K N A D P : T Q B V P B E E

P V M M Q A I Q M B E T F F Q

— F N M D N T
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ONLY PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT YOU ARE WILLING TO DIE HAVING LEFT UNDONE. — PABLO PICASSO

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police Department

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Officers reported 16 traffic-related calls and three accidents.

Animal control officers reported eight animal-related calls.

Pampa EMS reported five ambulance calls.

Monday, Sept. 13

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 300 block of North Banks.

Harassment was reported to police.

A theft was reported in the 1600 block of North Zimmers.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Duncan.

A theft was reported in the 800 block of East Locust.

Lost property was re-

ported to police.

Officers were put on special assignment in the 100 block of East Harvester.

Phone harassment was reported to police.

Officers assisted another agency at Browning and Doucette.

Harassment was reported in the 1500 block of North Christy.

Criminal trespass was reported to police.

An alarm was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of West Sandlewood.

Suspicious persons was reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather and 1000 block of North Hobart.

A missing person was reported in the 700 block of North Naida.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 900 block

of South Banks.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Graham.

A 911 hangup call was reported in the 400 block of Faulkner.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of North Wells.

An intoxicated driver was reported at Terry and Hobart.

A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of North Hobart.

Officers assisted another agency in the 200 block of West Craven and in the 700 block of North Wells.

Tuesday, Sept. 14

A suspicious person was reported at Craven and Finley.

A prowler was reported in the 2100 block of North Christine.

A suspicious person was reported in the 500 block of West Foster.

An open door was re-

ported at Kingsmill and Purviance.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today.

Monday, Sept. 13

Jose Facundo Benitez, 18, was arrested by deputies on a capias pro fine warrant on charges of fighting with another.

Jose Raul Ramirez, 23, was arrested by deputies on charges of not having a valid driver's license.

Joe Alaniz, 34, of Amarillo, was arrested by deputies on three warrants for forgery of financial instruments.

Pamela Ann Earles, 55, of Borger was arrested by deputies on a charge of public intoxication.

EPA told gas drilling does not taint water

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. (AP) — Rep. Maurice Hinchey told a federal hearing Monday that the Environmental Protection Agency must regulate hydraulic fracturing, the natural gas extraction process that he said has contaminated water near drilling sites around the country.

"There are numerous reports of water contamination related to hydraulic fracturing in states across the country," said Hinchey, D-N.Y. "Despite the fact that EPA is, in many ways, precluded from taking regulatory action in response to these reports, I believe EPA must investigate to understand what is being done — to keep water supplies safe and secure."

The process, also known as fracking, blasts millions of gallons of water mixed with sand and chemicals, some of them carcinogens, deep into the earth to free gas from dense shale deposits. As a gas rush sweeps parts of the vast and lucrative Marcellus Shale region that underlies New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, environmentalists are concerned for the watershed that provides drinking water for 17 million people from Philadelphia to New York City.

Environmentalists fear the process, which leaves as much as 90 percent of the post-fracking water known as "produced water" deep underground, will irreversibly taint aquifers.

No water supplies have been poisoned by fracking, the petroleum industry says, and the process — which promises lucrative industry profits and thousands of jobs in economically depressed areas — is safe.

"Billions of dollars in economic impact on New York and its citizens is at stake here," said Brad Gill of the Independent Oil and Gas Association, with drilling promising more than 60,000 jobs in New York alone. "The positive impact is staggering but it doesn't come at the expense of environmental protection."

John Harmon of the New Jersey-New Jersey African American Chamber of Commerce said full development of the Marcellus Shale would create 280,000 jobs over the

next 10 years, jobs sorely needed in the black community.

"This is not the time to further limit energy job opportunities for those in need," Harmon said.

Congress has ordered EPA to conduct a new fracking study and EPA is considering how broadly to construct it, since the agency's 2004 study that declared the technology safe was widely criticized as flawed. The earlier study had enabled passage of 2005 energy legislation exempting fracking from federal regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, leaving regulation to individual states.

"The EPA must do all it can to insure that its scientists and researchers are not influenced by industry or by politics as they were influenced back in 2004," Hinchey said, "so that the public can be assured that this study is being carried out in the public interest."

Hinchey is one of the authors of the so-called FRAC Act in Congress, which would put fracking under EPA regulation.

DAILY HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010:

This year, you often find yourself challenged both personally and in dealings with others. Though you might want to throw your hands in the air, resolution comes from focusing on what works for both your professional image and your community status. Put that extra effort into your work, and you will see rewards. If you are single, you might meet a lot of people, though it might be difficult to develop a relationship that goes past the dating phase. If you are attached, you might not be very happy with some of the choices of your significant other. Know that this is a phase, not grounds for separation. CAPRICORN provides ideas.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You keep coming up with questions that you pose in order to find solutions. If you are not comfortable with various elements, you veer in a new direction. Too many potential fields of quicksand might point to a new direction, and with good reason. Tonight: Discuss

and take the lead in a key issue.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Just when you thought you were in the winner's circle, you discover there might be reason to back off. Though disappointed, you can opt to move forward in a new direction or explore your options. Tonight: Let your imagination choose a favorite pastime.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Keep pushing for answers. Others seem to balk at the present leadership and issues. You cannot make someone listen. Let this play out, and remain an observer. You will be happier. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer. It is nearly too good to be true.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Stay focused, even if you see many reasons a current project simply cannot draw the support of others. Take news with a grain of salt. You might find that letting others figure this issue out is the best way. Stay clear. Tonight: Why, where and when? You have many options. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You want to allow greater creativity and understanding. Listen to forthcoming information. It is interesting to see the conflict in

details and information from various sources. Your imagination could kick in. Tonight: Follow the trail with the least conflict.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ The instinct to withdraw is not all that abnormal. The real issue is determining the most effective way to stay out of an impending conflict between key elements in your life. Understanding will evolve given time. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Keep communication active. Take news that comes forward with a grain of salt. Focus on accomplishing as much as you can. Be aware that an expenditure might be necessary. A family member proves to be supportive. Tonight: Head home early.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Watch a tendency to go to extremes. Hold off on making any financial commitments. You are coming to a point of view that isn't necessarily grounded to others. Be careful with making any agreements today. Tonight: Meet friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Forging ahead on a set path could be a problem, as there is an enormous amount of flak

coming from someone close. You care about peace on the home front. Hold off, if possible, to see a situation open up. Give yourself time. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might want to pull back and listen more. Questions and conversations point to a snafu. Give yourself time to figure out which is the best path. You know where you want to go. Tonight: Feeling re-energized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You focus on the basics. Listen to friends, but realize you might have to say no to the expenses. At times you might want to say yes, but you simply can't afford to do so. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You take a stand that is long overdue. Investigate an opportunity a boss presents. Understanding evolves to a new level between you and those in charge. You could be in a no-win situation. A late meeting sees resolutions. Tonight: Where the gang is.

BORN TODAY

Mystery writer Agatha Christie (1890), actor Jackie Cooper (1922), director Oliver Stone (1946)

AFTERNOONRUSH County to discuss budgets, grants

Obama wants oil fees doubled

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration wants to double the fees the government charges oil and gas companies to inspect their offshore operations.

The White House Monday asked Congress to approve the fee hikes as part of a request for \$80 million in new spending for the agency that oversees offshore drilling. The increase can be paid for in part by boosting inspection fees and hiring new inspectors, officials said.

The proposal would more than double the amount collected from oil and gas companies, to \$45 million next year from about \$20 million this year.

Obama said in a letter to Congress that the fee hikes and other changes are needed to strengthen oversight of offshore oil and gas operations; address deficiencies in mineral revenue collection; and complete the reorganization of the agency formerly known as the Minerals Management Service.

The White House also wants to find better ways to respond to catastrophic oil spills such as the April 20 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico, which led to the worst offshore oil spill in the nation's history.

Embassy in Mexico to process visas

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City says it will begin processing some immigrant and adoption visas following problems that saw the U.S. consulate in the border city of Ciudad Juarez close briefly in August.

The consulate in Ciudad Juarez is currently the only place that handles immigrant visas in Mexico.

Starting Oct. 1 the embassy will process F4 visas, for siblings of U.S. citizens who have filed petitions on their behalf. The embassy made the announcement Monday.

The border consulate closed for two working days for a review of security threats in August.

Drug gangs killed three people tied to the consulate March 13 and exploded a car bomb elsewhere in Ciudad Juarez on July 15.

Gun-shaped lighter turns out real

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Corpus Christi police say a man accused in the fatal shooting of a woman told investigators he believed he was pulling the trigger of a gun-shaped cigarette lighter, not a real firearm.

Joseph Ryan Douglas remained in custody Tuesday on a manslaughter charge. Bond was set at \$100,000 for the 23-year-old Douglas.

Nueces County Jail records had no listing of an attorney for Douglas, who is charged over the death of 27-year-old Shakarra Ward.

Police say Ward, who was shot Friday night, died later at a hospital. She suffered a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Police say the shooting happened at the home shared by the victim and her husband, when some friends were visiting.

Barber survives bee attack

KYLE (AP) — A central Texas man is recovering from a bee attack that left him with more than 1,200 stings and his body still bruised two weeks later.

Lamar LaCaze of Kyle says he thought he was going to die during the Aug. 31 attack as he was mowing a field. The 65-year-old barber managed to get off a tractor and used his cell phone to call his son for help.

Trey LaCaze told the San Marcos Daily Record that when he arrived his father "looked like a bee hive on his head."

Lamar LaCaze spent a week hospitalized. Emergency room personnel pulled more than 1,200 stingers from his body. Bees had gotten into his ears, nose and mouth.

Relatives believe the bees had been living in an old water heater in the field.

No fair for gay rights group

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A private, Roman Catholic liberal arts college in Austin has barred a gay-rights group from participating in a campus fair to recruit volunteers.

The *Austin American-Statesman* reported Tuesday that St. Edward's University says the homosexual group's support for same-sex marriage conflicts with church teachings.

Chuck Smith with Austin-based Equality Texas says organization still hopes to participate in Wednesday's event.

A statement from the Holy Cross institution in South Austin says the matter is closed.

St. Edward's has given its blessing to a gay rights organization for students called Pride. School spokeswoman Michelle Diaz says the support group exists as a means of pastoral outreach.

Did child steer boat into wreck?

LEWISVILLE, Texas (AP) — Investigators want to know if a child was operating one of two rented boats in a collision at Lake Lewisville that left at least 11 passengers hurt.

The boat that sank was recovered Monday. The accident Sunday afternoon involved two boats rented by three Garland families.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman Mike Cox says it is not illegal for a child to operate a boat, as long as an adult is on board. The department is also seeking witnesses to the accident.

Everyone on board was wearing a life vest. Authorities do not believe alcohol was involved in the collision.

Fugitive monkey in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — W.C. Fields the spider monkey is on the prowl through the hilly suburban subdivisions just northwest of San Antonio.

Primarily Primates president Stephen Tello tells the San Antonio Express-News that the primate escaped from the sanctuary Tuesday when Tropical Storm Hermine tore open his 40-foot wire enclosure.

Since then, W.C. has roamed for six miles through at least two subdivisions, staying in the trees just beyond the reach of sanctuary staff.

Gilbert Rodriguez tells KENS-TV of San Antonio that his agitated wife called him Monday, saying a monkey had chased her into her garage. No one was injured, but the woman's nephew, Matt Meneses, says W.C. kept her trapped for more than an hour.

Sanctuary officials say they think W.C. is checking garages for food.

DAVID BOWSER
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The Gray County Commissioners Court will meet Wednesday morning to consider budgets, grants, contracts and bids for tax properties.

The commissioners will consider the Gray County Appraisal District's budget for fiscal year 2011, when they meet Wednesday.

They will also consider renewing the Gray County Tax Office contract with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and authorizing a county grant with the Texas Department of Agriculture Home Delivered Meal Grant Program.

Commissioners will consider tax bids from the City of Lefors, a road-crossing request from AT&T at Gray K and County Road 8, and paying for a homeowner's damages caused by a wreck involving a county vehicle.

They are expected to reappoint Sharon Braddock to the Texas Panhandle Mental Health and Mental Retardation Board of Trustees.

The commission will consider advertising for comprehensive general liability insurance, property insurance, public officials and employees liability insurance, liability insurance at the airport, a heavy equipment floater, business auto insurance, law enforcement professional

liability insurance coverage and workers compensation. The commissioners court is expected to set their meeting dates for fiscal year 2011.

They will also consider flu shot coverage for full-time county employees not yet covered by health insurance.

The county commission will meet beginning at 9 a.m., Wednesday, in the commission chambers in the Gray County Courthouse, 205 North Russell.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PAMPA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Pampa Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. September 28, 2010 in the Commons at Pampa High School 111 E. Harvester Pampa, Texas

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Pampa Independent School District's rating on the state's financial accountability system (FIRST).

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Dauna Wilkinson



Pam Dalton



Suzanne Wilkinson

Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest Road, has its heart in Pampa, but strives to provide quality in-home health care to the entire locality. The agency is symbolic of the care of a shepherd's staff (crook) guiding those in his care to a better path and safety. So are the goals of the Shepard's staff in assisting our clients to a healthier life.

Owners Ernie and Suzie Wilkinson, both Pampa natives, have been in business for 20 years. They are members and ministers of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa.

Suzie and Ernie have a BA in business and a Masters in Health Management. They both have extensive background and training in federal and state regulations, and have served on many state and national boards and committees representing Home Health.

"Our nurses are board certified in home health, pediatrics and wound care," Suzie said.

The agency currently employs 75 skilled workers including licensed RNs and LVNs, a Licensed Occupational Therapist, a Licensed Physical Therapist, a Licensed Speech Therapist, a Physical Therapy Assistant and a number of Texas Certified Home Health Aides.

Michael Kirkpatrick acts as administrator and director of nursing. Teresa Henson is office operations manager. Both have been with Shepard's Crook since its inception.

Shepard's Crook currently serves all counties in the Texas Panhandle and has offices in Pampa, Amarillo, Borger, Clarendon and Shamrock.

Dedicated to meeting the needs of their individual clients, the Wilkinsons believe a successful business should give back to the community.

Don't trust your in-home health care to just any agency. Give Shepard's Crook a try. The number for the Pampa office is 806-665-0356. Visit our website at:

www.shepards-nursing.com

Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2010. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote a poem after witnessing how Fort McHenry in Maryland had endured a night of British bombardment during the War of 1812; that poem, "Defence of Fort McHenry," later became the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner" the American national anthem.

On this date:

In 1836, former Vice President Aaron Burr died in Staten Island, N.Y. at age 80.

In 1847, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott took control of Mexico City.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, N.Y., of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice, France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1948, a groundbreaking ceremony took place in New York at the site of the United Nations' world headquarters.

In 1960, representatives of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela concluded a conference in Baghdad where they had created the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI opened the third session of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, also known as "Vatican II." (The session closed two months later.)

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, was killed by a bomb.

In 1985, Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon released the Rev. Benjamin Weir (weir) after holding him captive for 16 months. The situation comedy "The Golden Girls" premiered on NBC.

In 1988, Hurricane Gilbert slammed into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula as a Category 5 storm after forcing thousands of residents to flee.

Ten years ago: President Bill Clinton said he was "quite troubled" by the way the Energy and Justice departments had handled the Wen Ho Lee case, and expressed his regrets. Government scientists narrowly rejected a proposal to ease the ban on gay male blood donors, citing uncertainty over whether the move would increase the AIDS risk to the nation's blood supply.

Five years ago: The United Nations opened a three-day summit marking the 60th anniversary of the world body. More than a dozen coordinated bombings killed at least 178 people in Baghdad. Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines each filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. (Both carriers emerged from bankruptcy reorganization in 2007.) Movie director Robert Wise ("West Side Story"; "The Sound of Music") died in Los Angeles at age 91.

One year ago: Lecturing Wall Street on its own turf, President Barack Obama warned financial leaders not to use the recovering economy to race back into "reckless behavior" that could cause a new meltdown. Death claimed "Dirty Dancing" star Patrick Swayze at 57; former White House press secretary Jody Powell at age 65; and comic character actor Henry Gibson at age 73. Roger Federer let the U.S. Open championship slip from his grasp two points from victory against Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. The sixth-seeded del Potro came back to win his first Grand Slam title by upsetting the No. 1-seeded Federer 3-6, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 77. Feminist author Kate Millet is 76. Actor Walter Koenig is 74. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 70. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 66. Actor Sam Neill is 63. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 63. Rock musician Ed King is 61. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 55. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 54. Actress Mary Crosby is 51. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 51. Country singer John Berry is 51. Actress Melissa Leo is 50. Actress Faith Ford is 46. Actor Jamie Kaler is 46. Actress Michelle Stafford is 45. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is 45. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 44. Actor Dan Cortese is 42. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 41. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 41. Actor Ben Garant is 40. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 40. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 39. Rapper Nas is 37. Country singer Danielle Peck is 32. Pop singer Ayo is 30. Singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse is 27. Actor Adam Lamberg is 26.

Thought for Today: "Civilizations die from philosophical calm, irony, and the sense of fair play quite as surely as they die of debauchery." - Joseph Wood Krutch, American author, critic and educator (1893-1970).

We welcome your letters

To ensure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.
- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.
- Defamatory comments will not be published.
- E-mail submissions are welcome.
- The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of *The Pampa News* or its staff.



America has had big challenges before

Sure, the economy is a mess and the future isn't looking so hot. But we've had big problems before -- we've solved them before.

Take polio. According to the book "SuperFreakonomics," it would be hard to invent a more frightening illness. Polio struck children. Nobody knew how it was contracted. There was no prevention or cure. And it hit hard every summer.

My Aunt Cece contracted polio in the summer of 1951, just as she was starting the eighth grade.

She came home from school with a high temperature, feeling very ill. The next morning, her legs gave out as she tried to get out of bed. By that evening, she was so weak she could barely move.

The public was in such a panic that the ambulance driver wouldn't take her to the hospital for fear that other patients might become infected.

The Health Department quarantined her family -- a notice was placed on their front door. My mother and her four other siblings were forbidden to leave their home or accept visitors for

two weeks, the lifespan of the virus.

Within two weeks, polio had ravaged my aunt's body. Her arms and legs were paralyzed to varying degrees. She could barely lift her head. It would be a year before she could go home. She would need crutches for the rest of her life.

In 1952, America had its worst bout with the virus. More than 57,000 polio cases were reported nationwide. Of those, 3,000 died and 21,000 were paralyzed permanently.

Had a preventive for polio not been found, say the authors of "SuperFreakonomics," the United States would now be caring for at least 250,000 long-term polio patients at an annual cost of \$30 billion.

In the 1950s there was an abundance of fear and doubt. But we didn't dwell on what was wrong. We did what Americans always do. We focused on the solution.



TOM PURCELL

The March of Dimes -- the largest charitable army the country had ever known, according to David M. Oshinsky, author of "Polio: An American Story" -- mobilized millions to raise money.

A long line of researchers, including Jonas Salk, refused to accept defeat. Together, we won. On April 12, 1955, Salk's vaccine was declared safe and effective.

It's easy to find clarity regarding events that took place about 50 years ago, but polio in the '50s certainly was dire. We responded well to the challenge.

Though her legs were left partially paralyzed, my Aunt Cece dwelled on

what she could do, not on what she couldn't. It took her two years of rehabilitation before she was able to get around on her own. She'd eventually marry and have four children and seven grandchildren.

We are in the midst of significant challenges now. Our economy is stagnant. We're on an unsustainable spending path. There is an uneasy sense that things will get plenty worse before they get better.

But we've been here before -- hello, late 1970s -- and good people came forward with new ideas, innovations and government policies that resolved our problems.

We kicked polio's butt, and I'm hopeful we'll do likewise to the challenges facing us now.

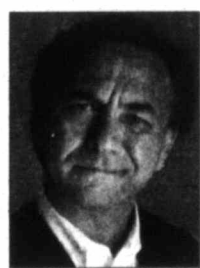
Tom Purcell is a freelance writer and humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

To doom or not to doom

Doom. Impending doom. Deep, dark, impending Democratic Party doom. Losing one if not both houses of Congress -- deep, dark, impending Democratic Party doom. Deep, dark, impending Democratic Party doom of Biblical proportions destined to make 1994 seem like walk in the park with a loved one down a sun-kissed lane strewn with fallen magnolia petals. Then again, wait. Maybe not so much doomishness.

A week ago, the Gallup organization released a tracking poll giving the GOP a 10-point lead when voters answered which party they favor. And much wailing and crowing ensued. Whispers grew into shouts, and fear and joy swept the land. Democratic candidates avoided Obama like a plate full of haggis dipped in botulism toxin. Fox News commentators boasted that independents would prefer having a sack full of snarling weasels dropped into their pants than vote for a Democrat. And being home to Bill O'Reilly, it was assumed they knew what they were talking about.

Then Gallup released a new poll showing the parties dead even. Same question; now we're tied. Double-digit swing in a single week. Why? Nobody knows. Might be a backlash to Glenn Beck's trek to the



WILL DURST

it was a collective sigh of parental relief after returning their budget-busting, vacationing rug rats to school. Or maybe it had to do with Obama coming back from 10 days golfing with the big-time swells on Martha's Vineyard. And no, I'm not talking about Hurricane Earl.

And what a comeback. Worthy of Secretariat. With recharged batteries pinning the brim, the president shifted into overdrive. In Milwaukee on Labor Day he floated a program to rebuild America's infrastructure. And who hasn't rattled their teeth in a pothole big enough to qualify for its own area code? John Boehner maybe, that's about it.

Then in Ohio, Obama proposed cutting taxes on small businesses, placing the GOP on the defensive since they offered up the very same legislation during the Bush years. Of **DOOM** cont. on page 5

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**MEMBER
2010**

Expansion means aging pipelines nationwide could be risks

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP) — The tragic explosion of a gas pipeline in a San Francisco suburb has shed light on a problem usually kept underground: Communities have expanded over pipes built decades earlier when no one lived there.

Utilities have been under pressure for years to better inspect and replace aging gas pipes — many of them laid years before sprawling communities were erected around them — that now are at risk of leaking or erupting.

But the effort has fallen short. Critics say the regulatory system is ripe for problems because the government largely leaves it up to the companies to do inspections, and utilities are reluctant to spend the money necessary to properly fix and replace decrepit pipelines.

"If this was the FAA and air travel we were talking about, I wouldn't get on a plane," said Rick Kessler, a former congressional staffer specializing in pipeline safety issues who now works for the Pipeline Safety Trust, an advocacy group based in Bellingham, Wash.

Investigators are still trying to figure out how the pipeline in San Bruno ruptured and ignited a gigantic fireball that torched one home after another in the neighborhood, killing at least four people. Pacific Gas & Electric Co., the pipeline's owner, said Monday it has set aside up to \$100 million to help residents recover.

Experts say the California disaster epitomizes the risks that communities face with old gas lines. The pipe was more than 50 years old — right around the life expectancy for steel pipes. It was part of a transmission line that in one section had an "unacceptably high" risk of failure. And it was in a densely populated area.

The blast was the latest warning sign in a series of deadly infrastructure failures in recent years, including a bridge collapse in Minneapolis and a steam pipe explosion that tore open a Manhattan street in 2007. The steam pipe that ruptured was more than 80 years old.

The section of pipeline that ruptured was built in 1956, back when the neighborhood contained only a handful of homes. It is a scenario that National Transportation Safety Board vice chairman Christopher Hart has seen play out throughout the nation, as suburbs have expanded.

"That's an issue we're going to have to look on a bigger scale — situations in which pipes of some age were put in before the dense population arrived and now the dense population is right over the pipe," he said.

Thousands of pipelines nationwide fit the same bill, and they frequently experience mishaps. Federal officials have recorded 2,840 significant gas pipeline accidents since 1990, more than a third causing deaths and significant injuries.

Hart said the tragedy in San Bruno could push other states to begin tougher inspections of their lines.

"It would surprise me if other states didn't see this and learn from it and be proactive with it," Hart said.

Congress passed a law in 2002 that required utilities for the first time to inspect pipelines that run through heavily populated areas. In the first five years, more than 3,000 problems were identified — a figure Weimer said underscores the precarious pipeline system.

Even when inspections are done and problems found, Kessler said, there is no requirement for companies to say if or what kind of repairs were made. And Weimer added industry lobbyists have since pushed to relax that provision of the law so inspections could occur once a decade or once every 15 years.

Other critics complain that the pipeline plans are drafted in secret with little opportunity for the public to speak out about the process.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is the federal regulatory arm that enforces rules for the safe operation of the nation's pipeline system, and has direct authority over interstate pipelines. Most state public utility agencies have adopted the federal rules and carry out inspections and enforcement of pipelines running inside state boundaries.

But the system often relies on the pipeline operators like PG&E to survey their own gas lines and to decide which pipelines are high risk.

The American Gas Association disputes the notion that it cuts any corners and says the industry is subjected to stringent state and federal regulations.

"Safety is unequivocally the No. 1 priority for the natural gas transmission and distribution industry and always will be," spokesman Chris Hogan said. "The industry spends billions each year to ensure the safety and reliability of the natural gas infrastructure."

California regulators say current rules are written in a way that relies on industry to report problems and set timetables for repair.

"We're set up to provide an incentive and a deterrent

and to make sure they follow the rules, but we generally avoid telling them how to run their system," said Julie Halligan, deputy director for consumer protection and safety at the California Public Utilities Commission. "They can't endlessly defer things and get away with it, because we'll be looking after the fact to see what they've done."

The challenge of ensuring pipeline safety is compounded by the sheer enormity of the nation's natural gas network. The federal pipeline agency says the U.S. has more than 2 million miles of pipelines — enough to circle the earth about 100 times.

The agency has only about 100 federal inspectors nationwide to ensure compliance, meaning there is no guarantee violators will be caught. "When you look at two-and-a-half million miles of pipeline with 100 inspectors, it's not reassuring," Weimer said. "To a grand degree the industry inspects and polices themselves."

Potential safety threats have grown as the pipeline network has expanded and age takes its toll on existing infrastructure. More than 60 percent of the nation's gas transmission lines are 40 years old or older.

Most of them are made of steel, with older varieties prone to corrosion. The more problematic pipes are made of cast-iron. A few places in Pennsylvania still had wooden gas pipes as of last year, according to officials there.

Pipelines in heavily populated locations like San Bruno fall into a category the industry refers to as "high consequence areas."

Those areas contain about 7 percent of the 300,000 miles of gas transmission lines in the country, or roughly 21,000 miles of pipeline. The category has nothing to do with the safety of pipelines, and was created to put the greatest emphasis on the most populous regions.

Industry watchdogs have criticized utilities for not being willing to spend the money necessary to avoid explosions like the one in California. The cost to replace lengthy stretches of pipelines can exceed \$30 million.

"They (PG&E) will prioritize and put off work to maintain their level of earnings," said Bill Marcus, a California attorney whose firm consults nationally with consumer protection agencies and nonprofits on gas rate cases. "To some extent that's not bad, but it is concerning when those decisions endanger public health or the environment."

PG&E said it has spent more than \$100 million to improve its gas system in recent years, and routinely surveys its 5,724 miles of transmission and 42,142 miles of distribution lines for leaks. The utility speeded up surveys of its distribution lines in 2008 and expects to have completed checks in December, it said.

PG&E President Chris Johns said the pipe that ruptured was inspected twice in the past year — once for corrosion and once for leaks — and the checks turned up no problems.



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Just Wondering in the Bay Area" (July 26) asked about proper protocol regarding dating after a spouse's death. A recently widowed man was dating a widow from his wife's circle of friends. The women were appalled and now shun the couple.

Many men and women who lose a spouse have finished grieving by the time their loved one dies, especially those who suffered through a long illness like cancer. Everyone grieves differently, some in private and some by sharing time with others. It is only natural that two people who have both lost a spouse would find comfort in each other's company; each knows the other understands what they've been through. Those who shared friendship before the deaths of their spouses have even more in common — enjoying the fond memories without feeling threatened.

TRUE friends would be delighted in knowing that friends who suffered such catastrophic losses had found comfort and happiness with each other. If this is the kind of friendship these women have to offer, I'd say John and Peggy are better off without them. — SUSAN IN MINNESOTA

DEARSUSAN: Thank you for sharing your thoughtful viewpoint. Most of the responses I received suggested that these women should have put themselves in their friends' shoes before shunning them. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My husband's first wife died about a month after my first husband, and after each of us had been married for more than 40 years. As members of the same church, we shared our experiences and began dating about two months after his wife's death. We didn't stop grieving; we grieved together. We were married 11 months later. No one realizes how devastating the loss of a spouse is until they have experienced it.

— MARION IN MCHENRY, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: My parents had been married more than 55 years when my father died this past May. Less than a month later, my mother was invited to lunch by a widower from her church. They are now an "item," and I couldn't be happier. My father was an emotionally and verbally abusive man who refused to change or get help for his obvious issues. My sibs and I are thrilled that Mom, at the age of 75, has finally found someone who will love and respect her and make her happy. — HAPPY FOR MOM IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR ABBY: My grandfather remarried at the age of 94, three months after his wife died. The woman he married was a former neighbor. The relatives were in shock, but Grandpa was ecstatic! At his age, a month is valuable time, and he had the good fortune to "start again." I would consider it a compliment if my husband were to marry a mutual friend. After watching my grandfather celebrate life anew, I realized that his second marriage was a testament to his love for my grandmother. — GRATEFUL IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: There is a saying in grief recovery which is appropriate: Women cry, men replace. In my experience, the happier the marriage, the more quickly men remarry. John and Peggy need support and understanding from their friends. They do not deserve to be shunned. — BEEN THERE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I believe that after one's mate has passed, the "contract" is null and void. It's HOW you lived your marriage that is significant. The speed at which you find someone to bring some joy into your life does not diminish the love of your late spouse. Life is too short for sackcloth and ashes. — BARBARA IN PITTSFIELD, MASS.

A section of pipe connected to the line that exploded was built in 1948, and flagged as a problem by PG&E in a memo. PG&E submitted paperwork to regulators that said the section was within "the top 100 highest risk line sections" in the utility's service territory, the document shows.

The fact that it's in an urbanized area that didn't exist when the pipe was built is emblematic of a bigger problem nationwide, experts say.

"People have been waiting for a while for this type of disaster to happen because of expanded construction near pipeline right of ways without adequate prevention," said Paul Blackburn, a public interest lawyer in Vermillion, S.D.

Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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

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Doom

cont. from page 4

course now they're against it. Which, in the middle of an election year is less surprising than a big belt buckle on a rodeo star. Ski wax in a Telluride closet. A fat tortoiseshell cat napping on a bed & breakfast lobby counter.

At this point, all we can be sure of is that people are pissed. At everyone. For everything. At restaurants for stubbornly retaining pre-recession, stratosphere-scraping entrée prices. At the Oakland Raiders for charging 33 bucks to park at a meaningless pre-season game. But then, they're all meaningless. At banks for turning greed into an art form. At Obama and the Dems for waiting so long to address the economy, and at the Republicans for politicizing anything coming out of Congress includ-

Will Durst is a San-Francisco based political comedian who often writes. Such as this.

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COMICS

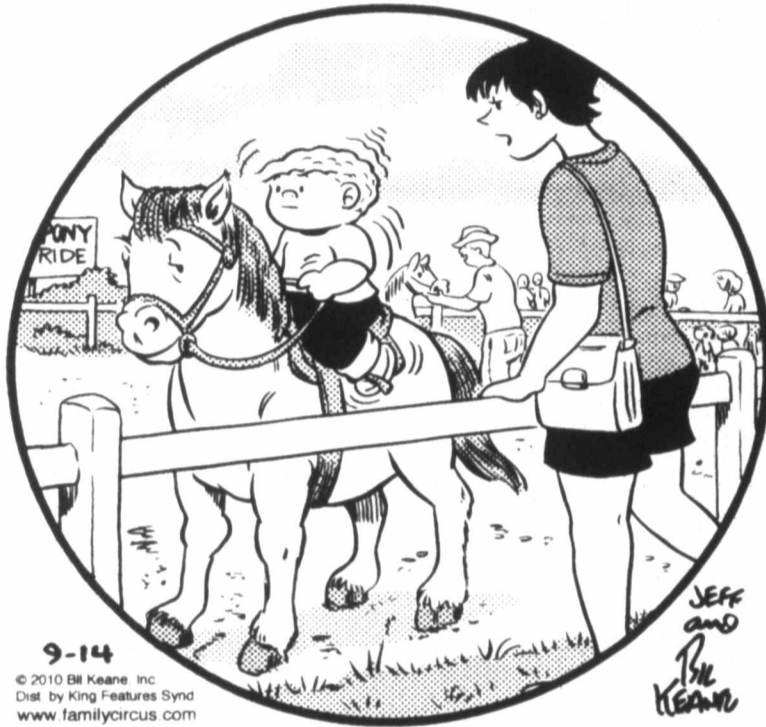
Marmaduke



"No, I don't think he's been raiding trash cans. I prefer to think he has a magnetic personality."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Don't bounce, Jeffy. He doesn't have springs like your pony at home."

Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 46 —
 - 1 Jeans fabric
 - 6 Splinter groups
 - 11 "The Vampire Diaries" heroine
 - 12 Old market
 - 13 Deliberately forgetting
 - 15 Sandy color
 - 16 Caribou's cousin
 - 17 Director Ang
 - 18 Dutch bloom
 - 20 Party prep
 - 23 Some Picassos
 - 27 Turkey neighbor
 - 28 Yucatan native
 - 29 Louvre locale
 - 31 Blasé
 - 32 Order's opposite
 - 34 Plopped down
 - 37 In the style of
 - 38 Ozone, for one
 - 41 Leaving work
 - 44 Pond growth
 - 45 "Keen!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Owed amount
 - 2 Singer Fitzgerald
 - 3 Light filler
 - 4 Co. abbr.
 - 5 Facial application
 - 6 Registered
 - 7 Nest item
 - 8 Put in the fridge
 - 9 Faithful
 - 10 Fill completely
 - 14 Suffering
 - 18 Roman garment
 - 19 Cougars
 - 20 Use a straw
 - 21 Pitcher's stat
 - 22 Road gunk
 - 24 Mom's mate
 - 25 Pupil's place
 - 26 Melancholy
 - 30 Quivers
 - 31 Film's Woodward
 - 33 "The Greatest"
 - 34 Surgery souvenir
 - 35 Friend
 - 36 Roman garment
 - 38 Incite
 - 39 Car
 - 40 Put away
 - 42 Soup buy
 - 43 Mil. bigwig

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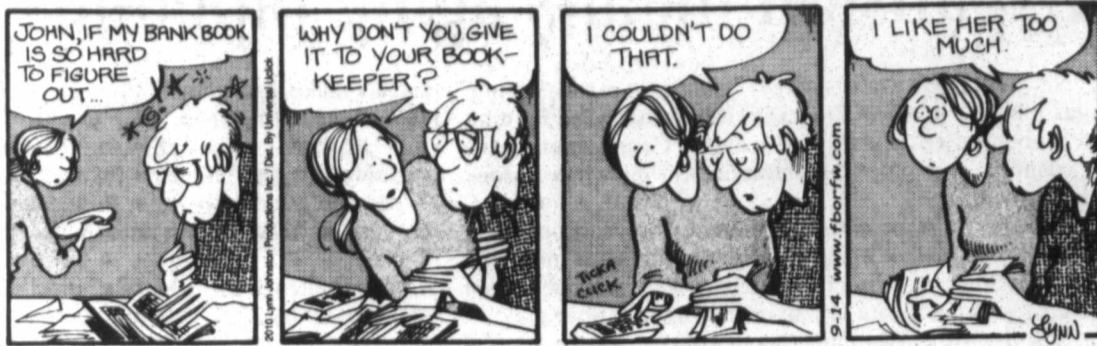
Yesterday's answer

- 1 Owed amount
- 2 Singer Fitzgerald
- 3 Light filler
- 4 Co. abbr.
- 5 Facial application
- 6 Registered
- 7 Nest item
- 8 Put in the fridge
- 9 Faithful
- 10 Fill completely
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For Better Or Worse



Zits



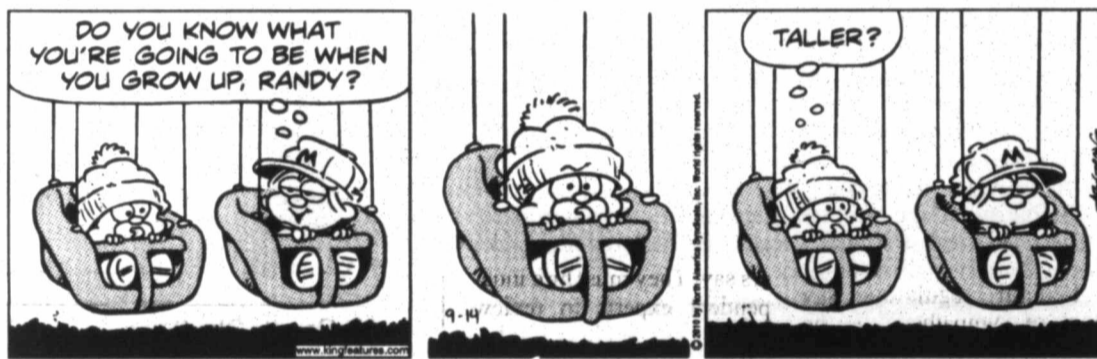
Garfield



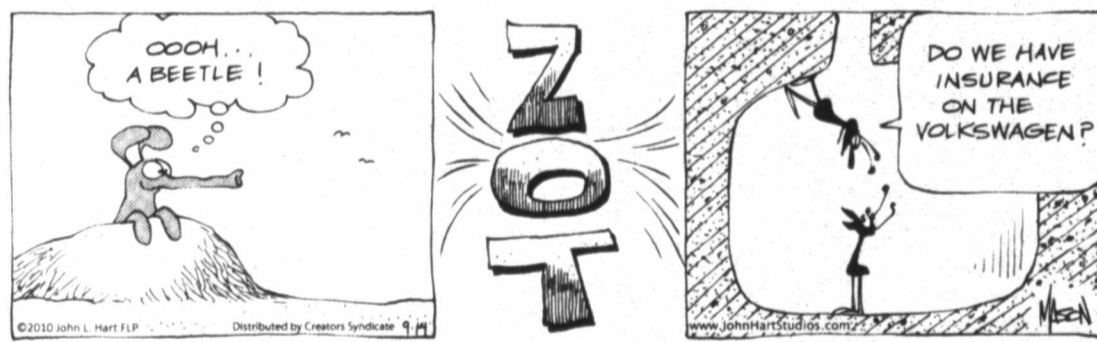
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



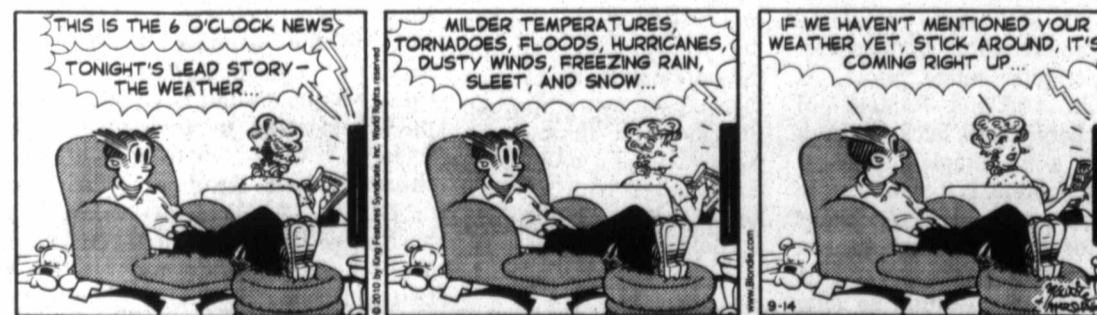
Hagar The Horrible



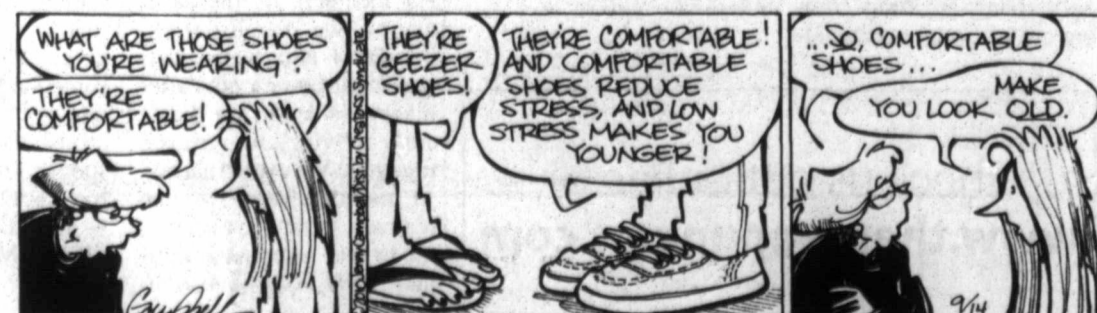
Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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New rules slow Gulf drilling pace in shallow water

CHRIS KAHN
DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writers

The drilling moratorium enacted after the BP oil spill applies only to the deep-water Gulf of Mexico. Yet energy exploration in the Gulf's shallow waters has come to a virtual standstill as drillers grapple with tougher federal rules since the spill.

The pace at which regulators grant drilling permits in water less than 500 feet deep has slowed sharply this summer, an Associated Press analysis of government data shows. Just four out of 10 shallow-water drilling applications have been approved from June through August; 15 applications were sought and approved in the same period last year.

Environmental groups are encouraged by the trend. But drilling executives say the new rules, which require them to produce detailed spill-response plans and estimates for worst-case scenarios, are adding millions of dollars in costs and causing delays that have led to layoffs. Executives worry that when the Obama administration lifts the six-month moratorium on deepwater drilling, where the risks are greater, the permitting process will be even slower.

These worries grew after the Sept. 2 fire on an oil and gas platform owned by Mariner Energy that was working in the Gulf's shallow waters. Thirty-one out of 47 rigs used for shallow-water drilling in the Gulf will be out of work by the end of September, industry officials say.

"It certainly appears there's some kind of agenda in place" to punish offshore drillers, says Kurt Hoffman, chief operating officer of Houston-based Seahawk Drilling, which provides drilling services in shallow Gulf waters. The company has laid off 200 to 300 workers since the BP spill.

Federal regulators say they're sympathetic to the industry's mounting frustrations and that they're not trying to curtail drilling in the Gulf — only to make it safer.

"We will not approve applications until and unless they fully comply with the new requirements," Michael Bromwich, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy

Management, Regulation and Enforcement, said Monday in a statement. "That will not make everyone happy, but it is the right way to proceed."

Shallow-water drilling has been the heart of the offshore industry for decades. Ninety-eight percent of the 3,400 platforms operating in the Gulf are in shallow water. They produce 30 percent of the Gulf's oil and roughly two-thirds of its natural gas. In recent years, oil giants like BP and Royal Dutch Shell have pushed into deeper waters to find bigger oil and gas fields.

Immediately after the deadly April 20 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon, the government put in place a six-month moratorium on drilling at any depth. On June 8, it lifted the moratorium on new shallow-water drilling.

The AP analysis of government data shows that from 2007 until just before the BP spill, 605 shallow-water permits were submitted and 576 were approved. From January through April of this year, 45 permits were sought and 44 were approved.

While the pace of approvals has slowed since the spill, over time the vast majority of drilling applications are likely to be granted — it's just that the process will take longer, according to Melissa Schwartz, a spokeswoman for the ocean energy management agency.

The reduction in applications in recent months is a reflection of drillers' uncertainty about the new rules, industry officials say. On average, drillers applied for 20 permits a month in 2007, 18 a month in 2008 and fewer than nine a month in 2009, as falling energy prices curbed the industry's zeal. In the first four months of 2010, applications were back up to 11 a month.

Complying with the new rules hasn't been easy, drillers say. They must hire independent experts to review well designs and certify that spill-prevention equipment — the very equipment that failed BP — will stop the flow of oil if there is an accident.

The government has held weekly conference calls with oil industry officials to explain the new rules. Still, industry officials say they

remain perplexed by some requirements — like how to calculate worst-case spill scenarios for an exploratory well.

"We just started asking them, 'Tell us what you want,'" says Seahawk's Hoffman. "It's still really confusing."

For Nabors Industries, drilling on one of its shallow-water rigs was held up for almost two months this summer even after it received a permit, spokesman Dennis Smith says. The company had to buy new hoses, choke lines and other equipment to comply with new rules. At one point, the company waited for several days while the government searched for a federal inspector that didn't know anyone on the rig — a policy enacted after the BP spill.

Before the Gulf spill, it typically took one week to begin drilling after a permit had been approved. "Some of this stuff gets borderline silly," says Smith, who estimates that the delays and new requirements to slash about \$30 million from company operating income this year.

Shares of shallow-water drillers have tumbled sharply since the BP spill. Seahawk shares are down 59

percent; Nabors' shares are off 14 percent.

BP's well took 87 days to plug in large part because the company wasn't prepared for a major spill at a depth of 5,000 feet. The company had to rely on remotely operated deep-sea vehicles to plug its well.

Shallow-water wells are considered less risky and easier to repair if damaged because they can be reached by divers.

But major accidents have happened in shallow water. The 1979 Ixtoc oil spill — the biggest in the Gulf until the Deepwater Horizon disaster — was caused by the blowout of a well in just 160 feet of water. Last year's Montara spill off the western coast of Australia was caused by an explosion on a rig in 250 feet.

On a rig operated by Hercules Offshore Inc., a crew of about 100 men are doing maintenance and painting while awaiting orders to start the next drilling gig. Hercules general counsel Jim Noe says workers will be laid off if the company leasing the rig doesn't get a drilling permit soon.

"We have 1,400 jobs swinging in the balance," Noe says.

The deepwater moratorium is in effect until Nov. 30, though regulators have indicated they're considering lifting it before then. While offshore companies have threatened to abandon the Gulf, most have stayed.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar wants to make sure drillers can handle blowouts like the one that sank the Deepwater Horizon rig, and he's considering requiring additional equipment in case another "blowout preventer" fails. Congress is looking at raising the liability cap for oil spills and forbidding companies with poor safety records from receiving new permits.

Oil companies are working on a series of new safety

standards of their own. They've pitched in on a \$10 billion network that could respond to another major spill.

Environmentalists say the government should remain stingy about approving drilling permits.

After enjoying a cozy relationship with regulators for generations, the industry is finally facing a tough posture from the government, says Kieran Suckling, the director of the Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson, Ariz.

"They're just going to have to get used to it," Suckling says. "The cowboy days of the oil industry running (the government) are over."



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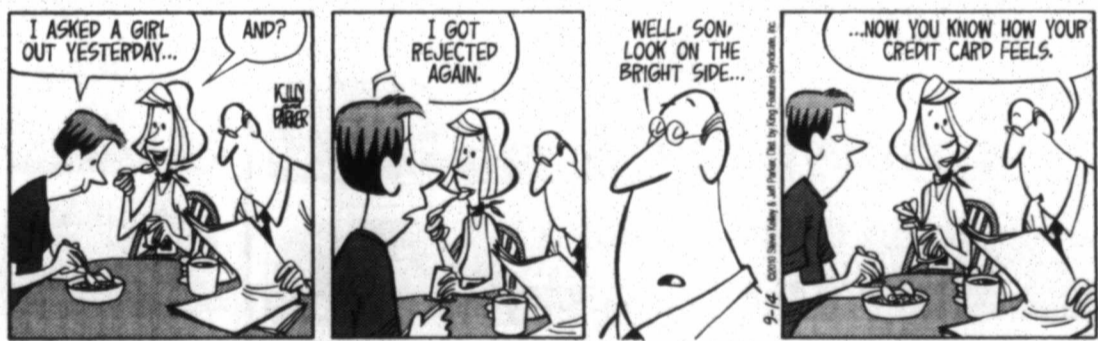
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Border Patrol agent fire into Mexico during bust

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — U.S. Border Patrol agents fired gunshots into Mexico after coming under attack during a half-ton drug bust and giving chase to a truck along the Rio Grande, U.S. authorities said Monday.

No Border Patrol agents were hurt during the "fire fight" early Saturday in Mission, agency spokeswoman Rosalinda Huey said. She did not say whether Border Patrol gunfire hit anyone, citing the ongoing investigation.

"The firing they received came from the Mexican side," Huey said.

Huey said several Border Patrol agents, at least some of whom were patrolling in boats, were seizing a half-ton of marijuana when they came under gunfire. Federal officials said the shots from Mexico began when a truck that was being chased by another group of Border Patrol agents entered the area.

FBI special agent Jorge Cisneros said the truck, which was on the U.S. side, appeared to be connected to the drug seizure. He said the gunfire from Mexico was a "direct result" of Border Patrol agents doing their jobs.

Cisneros described the shootout as brief.

"We're obviously concerned with what happened, that they would be shooting from the Mexico side to us," Cisneros said.

Federal officials did not release how many agents were involved, how many shots were fired or the number of shooters on the

Mexico side. Cisneros said the FBI was working with Mexico authorities, including the Mexican military and the Tamaulipas state police, to determine what happened.

It was at least the second time in three months that Border Patrol agents in Texas have fired into Mexico. In June, a Border Patrol agent fatally shot a 15-year-old Mexican boy after authorities say a group trying to illegally enter Texas threw rocks at officers near downtown El Paso.

Reports of bullets whizzing across the border from Mexico also are on the rise. At least eight bullets have been fired into El Paso in the last few weeks from the rising violence in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where drug violence has killed more than 4,000 people since 2009, making it one of the deadliest cities in the world.

Cisneros said he can recall a handful of times in the last few years that gunfire from Mexico has crossed over the border. He said Border Patrol agents "have always been very good about not shooting back unless there is a life-threatening situation."

Huey who would not say whether the agents involved in the shooting still were on patrol. She said agents are authorized to fire their weapons any time they feel lives are at risk, even into Mexico.

"As long as our agents feel their life is in danger, they are allowed lethal (force)," she said.

Hearings

worked in rehab facilities. She said there was never a problem.

Shook said the town needs to be rehabilitated, and she sees a lot of possibilities. Pampa, she said, is a good town.

Derrell DeLoach, president of the school board, said that the board was presented a document in 2005 that outlined some \$100 million in needs that the school district face.

"We also learned at that time we could only borrow about \$47 million to address these things," DeLoach said.

Following public input, the needs were pared to meet the district's budget. It included a new junior high, renovation of the high school and an administrative building.

The Campbell family offered to donate land where the new junior high now stands, but the gift came with deed restrictions.

"We agreed to accept their restrictions," DeLoach said.

That included access to the new school as it is today, he said. In the long term, DeLoach said there needs to be another

way to the school.

DeLoach noted that the new junior high is the first new school in Pampa in 60 years.

"I'm frustrated about the access issues of the junior high," he said.

DeLoach said he is aware of the traffic congestion and the traffic safety issues at the new junior high.

With regard to the old junior high, DeLoach said there was about \$3.5 million in the bond issue to be used for renovations to the old school to make it an administrative building, but he said that at no time did the school board say it would put the administrative office at the old junior high.

"That was an option that was discussed," DeLoach said.

He said that the school board is still exploring renovating the old building, but they are also discussing renovating Horace Mann for administration offices or building a new building.

DeLoach said the school board is also exploring selling the old junior high.

"The board is in compliance with all

legal requirements," he said. "We put the building out for bid to see who is interested in purchasing the property."

While there have been inquiries, he said there has only been one bidder for the old junior high.

DeLoach said while the situations the school board faces is frustrating, he thinks they will find a solution to the problems.

"On all occasions and at every opportunity," DeLoach said, "we strive to conduct our business with the highest levels of honesty, integrity and transparency."

He said that the board tries to make decisions with the best interests of the students, taxpayers, parents and staff in mind.

"We really do work hard and try to do the very best job that we can," said DeLoach, who has two children attending the new junior high school.

DeLoach said another public hearing would be held at Pampa High School next Monday night to continue the discussion.

cont. from page 1

HOF

cont. from page 1

was positioned in South Africa, and he brought phone service to many parts of that country.

"He's had a very distinguished career and still plays an important role in the communications industry."

Martin, on the other hand, graduated from PHS in 1966 and made his mark in the judicial world. According to the PISD's Evan Smith, he got his start in the prison system, getting an undergrad degree in Criminology and Corrections and a Master's in Correctional Administration before moving on to earn a Jurisprudence degree and branching out into law.

"He has got such a rich history in the judicial system," said Smith. "He's worked very diligently for fairness in the prison system."

"He's an amazing individual, and he got his start right here in Pampa, Tex."

Haenisch said that the entire PISD is always abuzz around this time of year, when the educational community invites the city to help celebrate the achievements of its former students.

"It is always a big time," said Haenisch. "The reception is a fun time for (the honorees) to get to visit with ex-classmates, and then of course, on Friday, they will get to address everyone."

"It's often emotional and enlightening, and it's usually a wonderful time."

Support

the players and encourage them before they leave the field. First Baptist Church Youth Pastor Jeremy Buck said the community loves the team regardless of their record.

"I think the community supports the team because of the close personal connection and knowing people involved."

Rice said the community recognizes that the football team will get better and sees light at the end of the tunnel.

"We have a strong tradition of supporting the school, students, coaches and athletes," Rice said. "We know they are working hard to improve."

cont. from page 1

Tax

fiscal year, sales tax receipts were less than the previous years. For the first three months, they were more than 20 percent less than the corresponding month the previous year.

Things began to turn around in May, according to Bailey's monthly calculations, when the year-to-year comparison showed local sales taxes were above the year before.

Although June dropped back to two percent less in sales tax revenue than the previous year, every month since has been above year ago levels.

The total amount for the year is still \$21,230.95 below what had been budgeted, that deficit is shrinking.

The city had budgeted \$2,723,840 in sales tax collections through September. They have collected \$2,702,609.05. That puts the city to date less than one percent under their projected collections.

While the city sale tax receipts are still less than the \$2,935,026.49 reported through this month last year,

the trend is up, signaling that the recession recovery may have reach Pampa.

Of the total \$325,311.45 reported collected for the month, \$88,077.86 goes to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation.

The sales tax receipts reported for this month reflect sales for the month of July.

There are still two months left to be reported in this fiscal year, Bailey said.

cont. from page 1

Infant

in good conditions today with third degree burns to his head and arm.

His mother was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

Fire officials said the cause of the fire was another child in the home playing with a lighter.

cont. from page 1

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10 CHEVY HHR	510728	\$14,545	76 FORD F-250	A60124	\$2,511	06 DODGE RAM 1500	191856	\$26,588	09 KIA BORREGEO	035407	\$23,333
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Sports

Pampa volleyball's strong play could achieve bigger dream

Two weeks ago, I thought I would be writing a column in a different tone than the one you are about to read, as the Pampa Lady Harvesters volleyball team seemed to struggle with the same issues that left them one game short of the playoffs. The Lady Harvesters are starting to click and could achieve their dream if they keep going in this direction.

In the last two weeks, Pampa has won 12 of their last 15 including two tournaments that they had a combined record of 11-2. Last week, they had a solid week by beating former district rival Canyon at home in four games and winning the River Road tournament last weekend. The key to last Tuesday's win over Canyon was Pampa was able to handle adversity.

Numerous times, the Lady Harvesters



ANDREW GLOVER

had to endure a Lady Eagles rally. What was really key was how Pampa responded after losing the second game. Earlier this season and last season, the end result would usually be the other team wins the final two games. On Tuesday, the Lady Harvesters believed in themselves and encouraged each other. The final result was a four-game victory. In the River Road Tournament, head

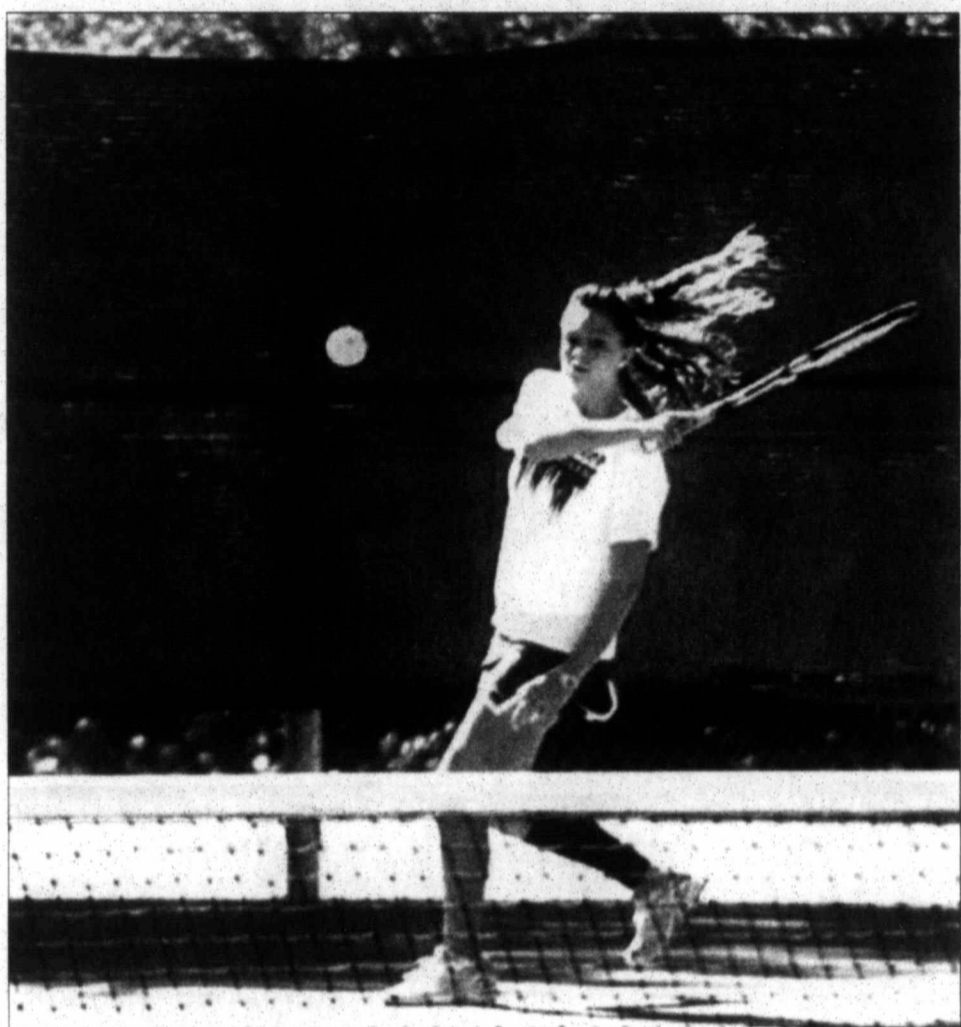
coach Libby Garza said everyone was on. Pampa got two key victories over Dalhart and Borger, who we will see in district. Though the atmosphere against those teams will be different in district, it is nice to know that we can beat at least two of the three teams and give ourselves a good chance to win district.

This team has several good leaders. Taryn Eubank is the only senior on the team, and is always motivating and encouraging the team on the court. Eubank almost always leads the team in assists. Junior Kailyn Troxell has developed into a strong offensive force as she has led the team in kills in just about every game. On the defensive end, she's been one of the leaders in blocks along with Junior Delaney Clendening. Junior Kirsten Kuhn

is a force on back row defense as she leads the team in digs, night in and out. Junior Alanna Stephens is mastering the art of serving as she gets 3-4 aces a game. The new Lady Harvesters this season have stepped up immensely. Junior Ramie Hutto is also a threat on offense as she is usually in double digits in kills. Stephanie Allen always plays hard every game and occasionally finds her self at the top in stat categories.

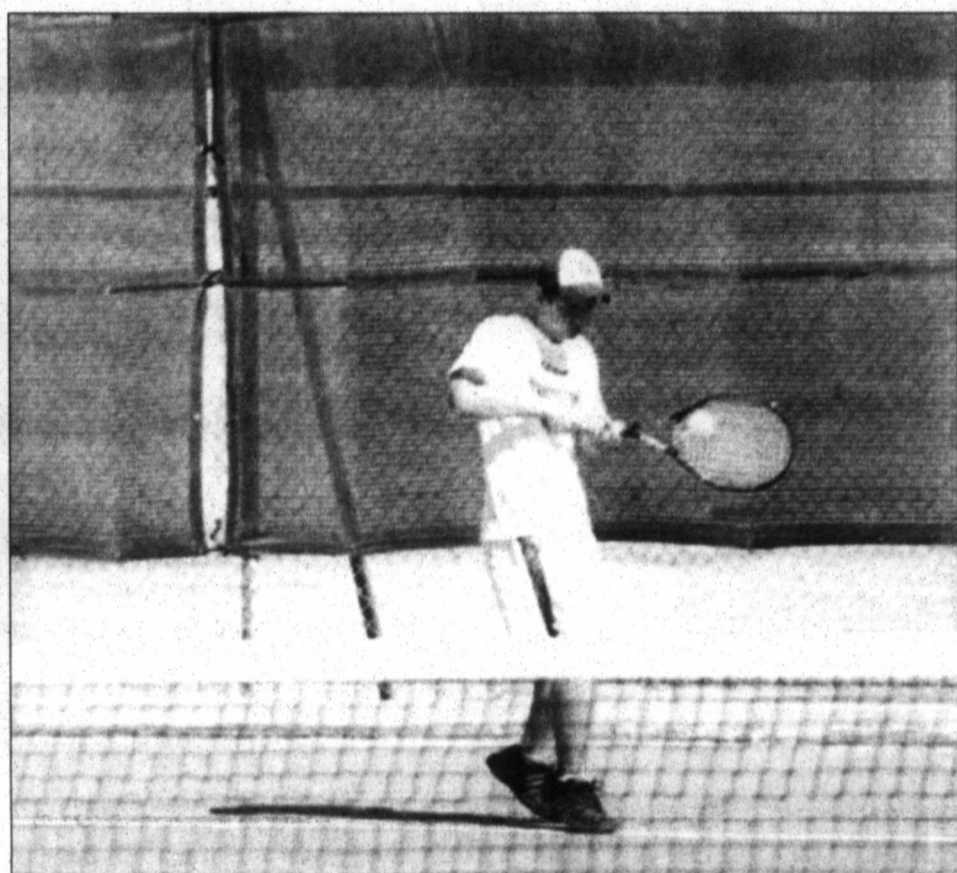
The key for the Lady Harvesters in the last week and a half of non-district is to keep moving forward and improving. They way this team has picked things up, we might see this team play beyond the end of October and possibly delay basketball season.

SERVING IT UP



photos courtesy of Cody Moore

LEFT: Junior Elizabeth Terry returns a ball Saturday against Palo Duro in Amarillo. RIGHT: Junior Braden Russell connects with a ball Saturday in Amarillo. The Harvesters won 10-9 and improved to 3-2 on the season. Pampa hosts Plainview 4 p.m. today at the high school tennis courts.



Check out Wednesday's edition for results of the tennis team's match against Plainview and the volleyball teams matches with Amarillo High and Amarillo Tascosa.

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Sports

Senior Ericson finds place as receiver instead of QB

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

When Pampa High School Senior Garrett Ericson started his high school playing career he came in as a quarterback. In his junior year under new head coach Heath Parker, Ericson became a wide receiver and has developed into a team leader.

Ericson said the transition was difficult at first but it ended up being the right move.

"I've enjoyed working with Coach (Del) Smith and we've had some good quarterbacks throwing the ball," Ericson said. "I've found my place on the team and enjoy it."

Parker said the transition was tough at first but that Ericson developed into a playmaker.

"We fought each other," Parker said. "God, we fought each other. We were teaching him to run routes and he would take little stutter steps...I think every team that we had some great receivers and Garrett is as good as any of them."

Last season, Ericson had 35 receptions for 556 yards and seven touchdowns. After three games this year, Ericson has caught 14 passes for 217 yards and three touchdowns. The senior said although the transition was tough it was easy to learn how to be a receiver.

"As a quarterback, you have to know everyone's position and what they are doing on the field," Ericson said. "I already knew what that position was doing and I had less on my plate as a receiver. So, being a quarterback helped me be a receiver."

Wide receivers coach Del Smith said Ericson has become a leader on the team.

"He just shows up with a good attitude and is ready to go to work," Smith said. "He is a leader on this team and does a great job of keeping this team going in the right direction."

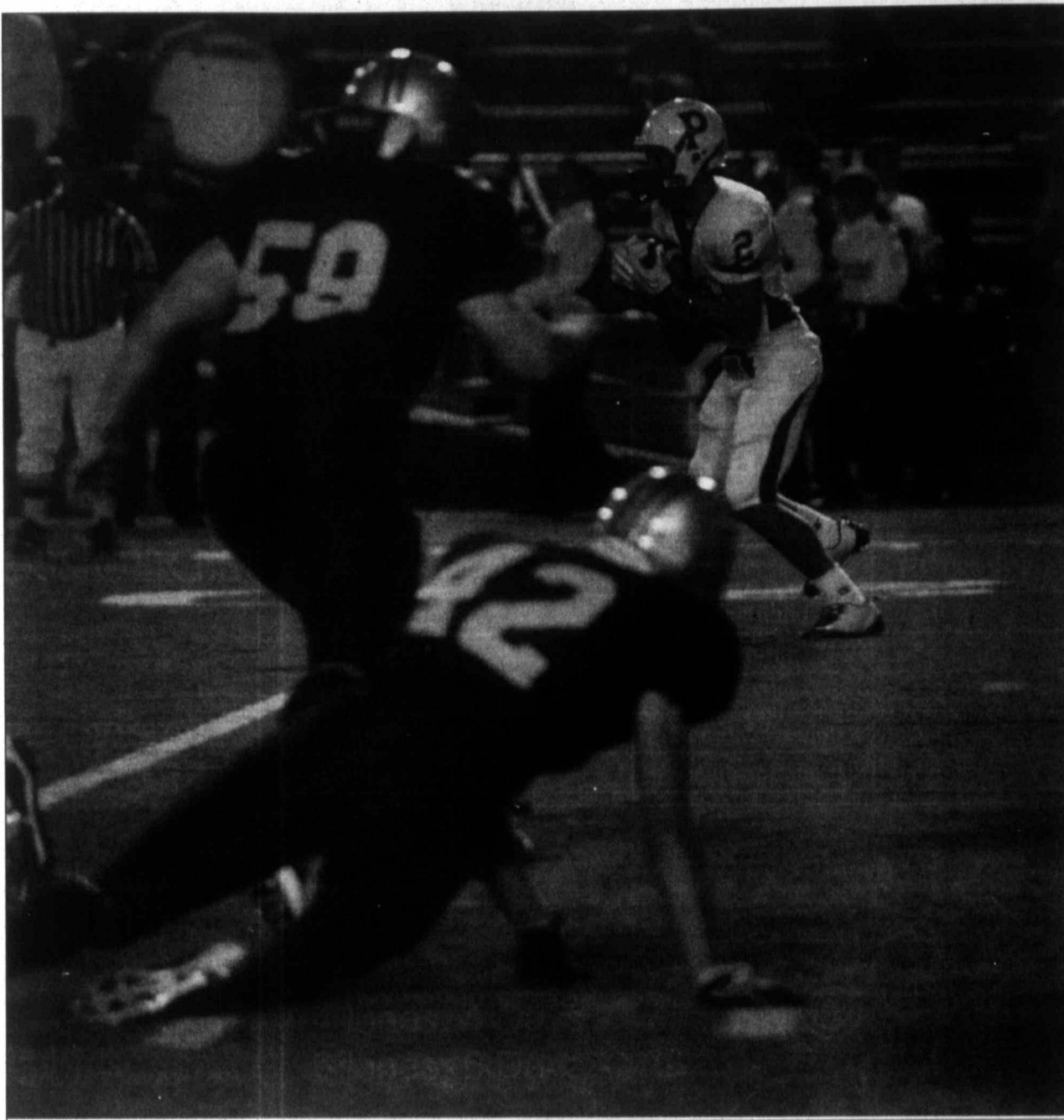
Ericson said if he was to compare himself to an NFL receiver he would chose Wes Welker of the New England Patriots.

"He's a guy that flies under the radar," Ericson said. "He isn't a big show-boater or anything. He just does his job. Catches balls, blocks guys, he helps his team out in any way he can. I've kind of looked up to him in that matter."

This season, Ericson is also playing on defense in the secondary. In Week 1 against Lubbock Estacado, Ericson made a brief return to quarterback, filling in for Reid Miller.

Ericson also plays on the basketball and baseball teams.

In non-athletic activities, Ericson is a member of the school choir and the student council.



Garrett Ericson makes a catch Friday against the Raiders. Ericson scored his first three touchdowns of the season Friday. Ericson who entered high school as a quarterback has been one of Pampa's leading receivers. staff photo by David Bowser

PHS girls golf finishes fourth in season opening tourney

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters golf team tied for first in their opening tournament at Plainview Saturday.

Head coach Alan Segura said he was only able to take four because he had some of his golfers taking the ACT but thought his team fared well.

"They did well for their first tournament," Segura said. "I was pleased with

their performance."

Pampa finished with a score of 426 and was only two strokes from second place Canyon. Amarillo High won the tournament with a score of 339. Alison Alexander had the best score on the team with 98. Samantha Kelly had 99, Lindsey Brown had 105 and Nicole Brashears had a 124.

The Lady Harvesters next tournament is Friday and Saturday in Hereford.

Pampa CxC finishes seventh

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters and Lady Harvesters cross country teams finished seventh in the Wolf Creek Classic at Perryton Saturday.

The Harvesters finished with 160 points and was 17 behind sixth place Gruver. Junior Trent McNear finished 13th with a

time of 18:42.76.

The girls finished with 197 points and was 54 points behind sixth place Dumas. Sophomore J'Cee Holmes finished 12th with a time of 13:37.56.

The cross country teams run at Groom on Saturday Morning. The rest of Pampa's results and head coach Mark Elms' comments were unavailable as of press time.

The Pampa News Fantasy Football Results and Standings

Masked Riders (Andrew Glover) 106, gardenweasles (Bob Cummings) 57
The Editor (Arnie Aurellano) 92, Samuel-Son (Sam Steen) 80
Choir Boys (Cullen Allen) 74, Pampa Team 1 (Garrett Ericson) 46
The Supermen (Travis Tidmore) 115, Pampa Team 2 (Jonathan Polasek) 59
Hard to Kill (Greg Collins) 87, Team of PreDestiny (Kenny Rigoulot) 81

Division 1

Team	Owner	Overall W-L
Masked Riders	Andrew Glover	1-0
The Editor	Arnie Aurellano	1-0
Samuel-Son	Sam Steen	0-1
gardenweasles	Bob Cummings	0-1
Pampa Team 1	Garrett Ericson	0-1

Division 2

Team	Owner	Overall W-L
The Supermen	Travis Tidmore	1-0
Hard2Kill	Greg Collins	1-0
Choir Boys	Cullen Allen	1-0
Team of PreDestiny	Kenny Rigoulot	0-1
Pampa Team 2	Jonathan Polasek	0-1

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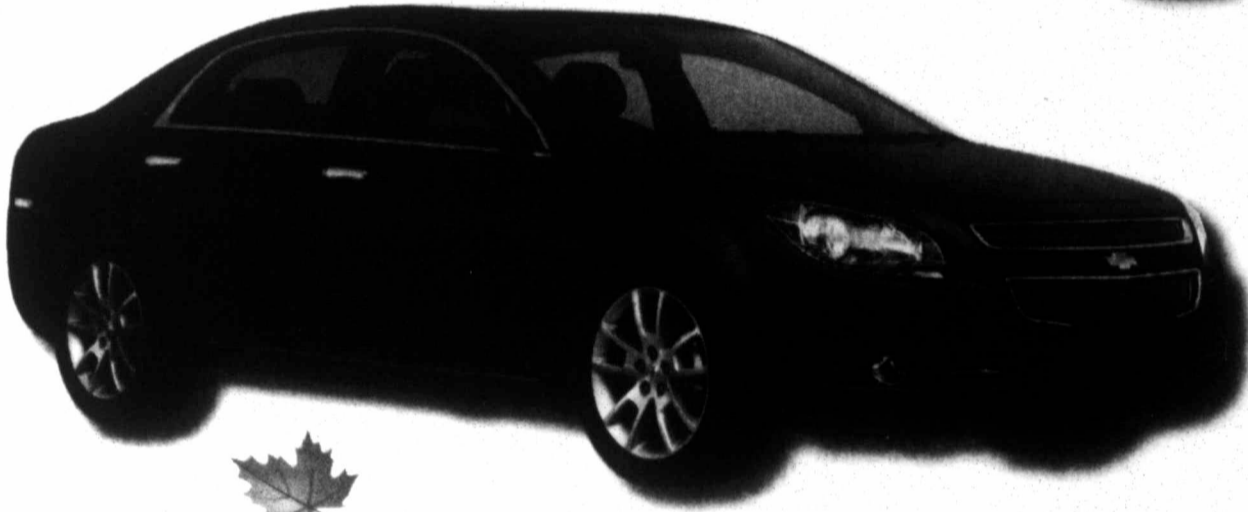
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