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The PAMPA NEWS

Monday, April 11, 2011 Volume 107 • No. 5 75c Daily • Weekend \$1.50

TODAY IN SPORTS



Runs amok
 PHS softball downs Perryton in high-scoring affair
Page 9

inside:
 Social Security and you
 by Tom Mangano
Page 3



Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas accepting entries

ARNIE AURELLANO
 editor@thepampanews.com

The Top O' Texas Rodeo Association has begun accepting entries for the 2011 Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas and Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Teen pageant.

An open call is out to young women 19-24 years old for the competition's Queen division, while the Teen division is open to girls aged 14-18.

This year's pageant is currently set to be a one-day event, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 11. The Horsemanship competition will begin at 8 a.m. at the rodeo grounds, with the Interview portion being held in conjunction.

The Luncheon and Style Show are set for noon. Contestants will deliver a three-minute speech on their hometown, and the current Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas, Pampa's Megan Pirtle, will give her farewell address.

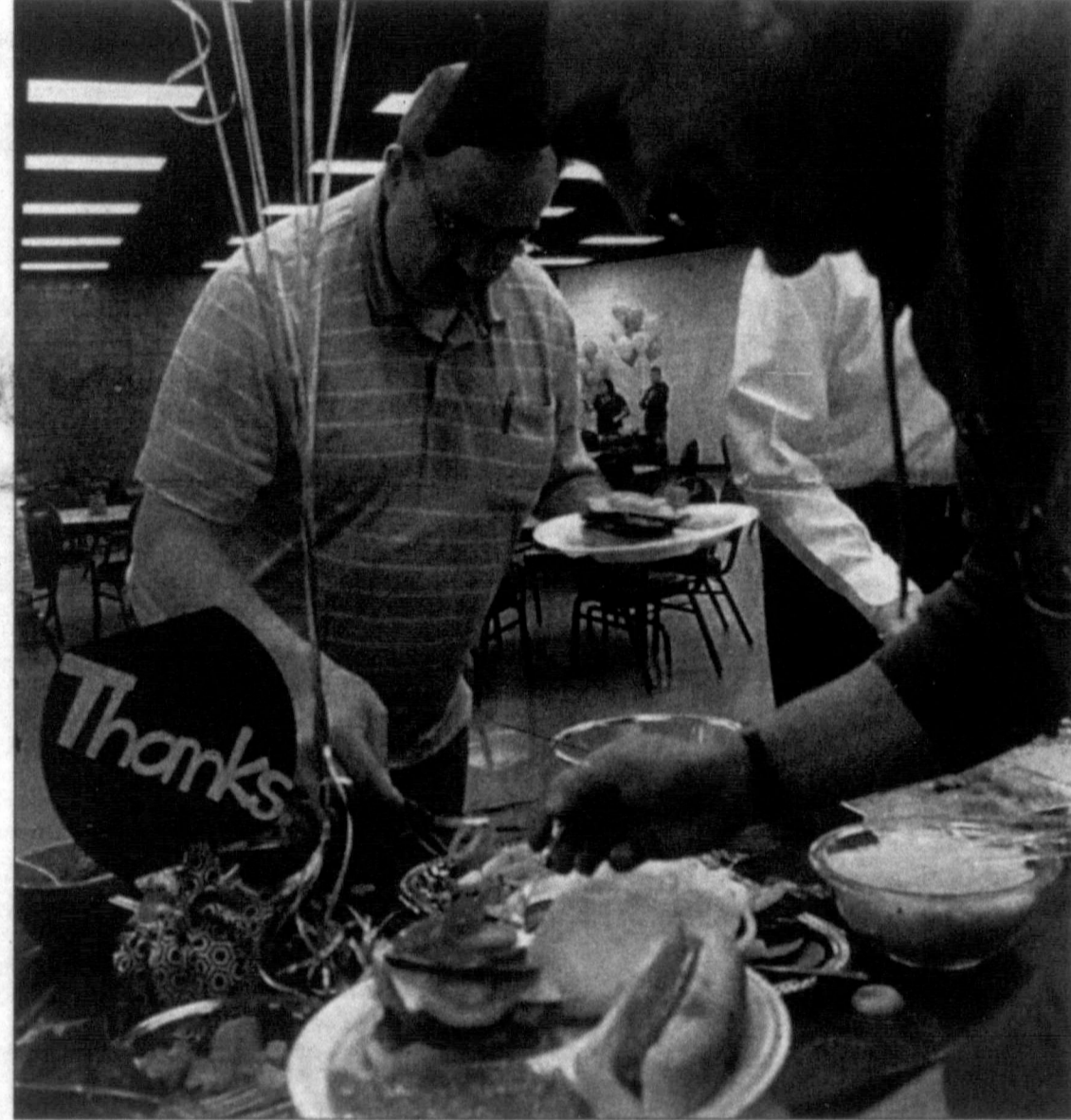
Coronation will be held during the first performance of the rodeo that evening, with the new Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas

and Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Teen reigning over the rodeo performances on Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 11-13.

Winners of the pageant will receive several prizes, including saddles, custom-made belt buckles and tiaras. A scholarship will be awarded to Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas, and prizes

RODEO cont. on page 5

A HEARTY THANKS



staff photo by **David Bowser**
Pampa firefighter Rick Littlefield (right) and Deputy Fire Chief Randy Dunham go through the line at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Trinity Fellowship fed city employees hamburgers and hot dogs Friday in appreciation for the work they do for the citizens of Pampa.

Weekend fires keep units busy

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

This weekend was an active one for local fire units, with grass fires dotting the local coverage area.

"We've been real fortunate up until this last weekend," said Joe Millican, chief of the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department said today.

Gray County Sheriff's Department Lt. Joe B. Hoard said today that fire units were called out beginning about 2 p.m. Saturday. It was late Sunday night before the last of them returned to the barn.

"Everybody got busy Saturday," Millican said.

He said that Lefors Volunteer Fire Department was called out on a grass fire west of Lefors Saturday afternoon. They requested help from Hoover.

Hoard said 125 acres were burned off and three houses between Lefors and Bowers City were threatened by flames amid the 60 mph wind gusts.

Lefors, Hoover, Pampa, county precinct workers, employees of the Texas Department of Transportation and the Gray County Sheriff's Office all battled the blaze Saturday afternoon, Hoard said.

Millican said Hoover sent six trucks and two tankers.

FIRES cont. on page 5

City Commission to talk paperless system

DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The city commission will take steps Tuesday afternoon to go paperless.

The commission will have its first reading of an ordinance amending appropriations for the support of a paperless agenda system and an access control system for City Hall when they meet Tuesday afternoon.

They will consider the purchase of equipment, software and hardware to allow for a paperless agenda system, including agenda projection capabilities for audiences and back-up for main computer servers. It is expected to cost \$21,500.

The commission will also consider purchasing an access control system for city hall at \$13,000 from the Municipal Court Security Fund that would control access at each of the four entrances to the building.

They will also consider publication of the Notice of **CITY** cont. on page 3

'SAVE OUR HOSPITAL' CAMPAIGN HIGH PRIORITY




staff photo by **David Bowser**
Scott Murray (left), Mel Hanks and Dr. James Hall began putting up a billboard today across the Pampa Regional Medical Center for the "Save Our Hospital" Campaign. The campaign is aimed at raising enough money to buy the city's hospital and make necessary improvements.

Chamber Luncheon
 April 19 • 11:45 am • \$10.00/person
 200 N. Ballard, M.K. Brown Room (Kingsmill entrance)
 The presentation will be:
 Wind Energy and Transmission System Construction
 Program and meal sponsored by Accel Energy
 RSVP to Chamber at 669-3241 or admin@pampachamber.com

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AFTERNOON RUSH

Wildfire danger remains high

DALLAS (AP) — The fire danger remains high across the northern and western parts of Texas as dry, hot conditions are expected to persist.

National Weather Service meteorologist Jason Dunn says winds up to 30 to 35 mph are expected.

He says that in North Texas, temperatures will be in the 70s Monday and will climb into the 80s later in the week.

South Texas was expected to get temperatures around 90 on Monday, and highs in the upper 80s were expected for the rest of the week.

Dunn says even though parts of North Texas got rain from storms overnight, it was only a few inches.

In the past week, wildfires across the state have burned about 480 square miles.

16 more bodies found in pits

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Authorities say a suspect in the kidnapping and killing of bus passengers near the U.S. border has led Mexican soldiers to another set of clandestine graves containing 16 corpses.

The latest discovery brings the total number of bodies found this month in a series of mass graves to 88.

Investigators are working to identify the bodies, one of which may belong to a missing U.S. citizen who authorities have said was on one of the buses.

The Mexican Defense Department said in a statement Sunday that the suspect told soldiers he had helped kidnap passengers on March 24 and March 29 in the northern state of Tamaulipas.

The statement said that he also confessed to killing and burying 43 people found in pits last week.

High winds bring damage

DALLAS (AP) — Thunderstorms brought hail and high winds to North Texas, knocking down trees, breaking windows and damaging roofs.

National Weather Service meteorologist Matt Mosier says they believe storms moving through counties south of Dallas got winds from 70 to 80 mph.

Jack Snow, Johnson County's emergency management coordinator, says several homes there have roof damage.

John Rodgers, Waxahachie Fire Department battalion chief, says that in the city about 30 miles south of Dallas there is "sporadic structural damage all over the city."

He says the roofs of several businesses downtown were blown off. Also, the roof of a hotel north was damaged.

An Oncor spokeswoman says that there are about 75,000 outages from the north Texas storms.

Several schools in storm damaged areas delayed school start times by a few hours.

U.S. citizen abducted in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — At least one U.S. citizen was among dozens of men reportedly forced off passenger buses by armed attackers in the northeastern border state of Tamaulipas, where 72 bodies were found in mass graves last week, U.S. officials said Sunday.

The man has yet to be located, said a warden's message posted on the website of the consulate, which is located in the Tamaulipas city of Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas.

It is not unusual for people living or working in Mexican border states to have been born in the U.S.

In a separate warden's message issued Friday, the consulate had warned that Mexican criminal gangs may be planning attacks "in the near future" against U.S. law enforcement or U.S. citizens in Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and San Luis Potosi, three northern states wracked by drug violence as cartels battle for territory.

The report said the information was uncorroborated but was being distributed to all U.S. employees in those three states. There was no mention of closing consulates or sending State Department workers out of the country.

Perry stresses Ky. election

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky's gubernatorial election could send a strong message to the rest of the country that voters remain opposed to Washington's over-regulation, over-spending and over-taxation, the head of the Republican Governors Association told a GOP dinner Saturday night.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who chairs the RGA, also told some 500 Kentucky Republicans at the annual dinner that 2011 "might possibly be one of the most important elections you will ever be engaged in."

"There are those out there who will say 2010 was a fluke," Perry said. "... When you put Kentucky in the Republican column, it will send a strong message across this country that 2010 was real."

Kentucky is one of four states choosing governors this year. The others are Louisiana, Mississippi and West Virginia.

State Senate President David Williams, Louisville businessman Phil Moffett and Jefferson County Clerk Bobbie Holsclaw are seeking the Republican nomination in Kentucky's May 17 primary to run against Democratic Gov. Steve Beshear, who is running unopposed for his party's nomination.

Civil War anniversary marked

FORT SUMTER NATIONAL MONUMENT, S.C. (AP) — The opening salvo of the American Civil War will be recreated in the harbor of Charleston, S.C., as part of events marking this week's 150th anniversary of the start of the conflict.

The island stronghold Fort Sumter will be the focus. Part of the National Park Service, events can go ahead there now that a federal government shutdown was averted.

The superintendent of Fort Sumter National Monument, Tim Stone, says the observance is not a celebration but a somber commemoration of a war in which 600,000 Americans died.

Concerts on Monday evening and before dawn Tuesday will precede a daylong recreation of the canon bombardment Tuesday. Confederate forces demanded that a Union garrison surrender the fort and fired on it on April 12, 1861. Union forces surrendered two days later.

Tea party activists rallied in support of Moffett before Perry's speech, declaring the Louisville businessman the GOP's best hope for defeating Beshear in the fall general election.

Don't believe everything you hear

TOM MARGENAU
Creator's Syndicate

Social Security and you



Q: My husband and I were both getting Social Security. I got about \$10 more per month than he did. He recently died. I was told that I wouldn't receive widow's benefits. This isn't fair! He paid into the program for more than 40 years. And we were married about the same amount of time. Why shouldn't I get any of his Social Security?

I have a friend who was married several times, and she told me she is getting Social Security benefits from two husbands. I also know a woman who moved here from another country. She never paid a dime into our Social Security system, but she is getting monthly checks. How can all this be fair?

A: I hear complaints like yours all the time. They are always some version of this refrain: "I know so and so who is getting such and such from Social Security." And usually those stories are false. And they are in your case, too.

There is no way that a woman can receive Social Security benefits at the same time from two husbands. It's against the law and just isn't possible. Having said that: there are millions of women that are potentially due benefits from more than one husband. But they DO NOT get both benefits. They get whichever benefit pays the higher rate.

So if this so-called "friend" is telling you that she's getting benefits from two husbands, she's lying. Or she really doesn't know herself what she's getting. (And believe me, in my 40-year career of working with Social Security, I've run into thousands of people who really don't know what they are getting from the program.)

And your second story is also untrue. You simply cannot qualify for your own Social Security

benefits without paying into the system. However, it is possible that a non-citizen could be getting widow's benefits if she is living in this country legally and was married to a guy who worked and paid Social Security taxes.

But now let's get to the alleged unfair rule that prevents you from getting widow's benefits on your husband's record. It all comes down to a matter of dependency. Social Security widow's benefits are DEPENDENT'S benefits. To qualify for such a benefit, you have to be financially dependent on your husband. You were working and presumably made just as much as he did. Actually, you probably made a little more because your retirement benefit exceeded his benefit. In other words, by law, you were not financially dependent on your husband. So, you don't qualify for any kind of Social Security "dependent's" benefits.

Here's another way to look at it. I get a much higher retirement benefit than my wife. If she dies, should I get a widower's benefit on her record? If you can get it, why can't I? For that matter, if Warren Buffet's wife dies, should he get widower's benefits? Do you see my point? If we start letting anyone receive dependent's benefits from Social Security, where do we draw the line?

Q: I heard about a guy in town who started getting \$1,500 per month from Social Security, even though he was living here illegally. He's now moved back to Mexico, but he's having his benefits sent to

a bank near the border. He apparently worked on and off at a few jobs for a couple years. When he turned 65, he started getting Social Security. How can this be fair?

A: If it were true, it wouldn't be fair. But it's NOT true. You simply cannot be living in this country illegally and collect Social Security checks. Even if he was living here legally, you cannot work "on and off at a few jobs for a couple of years" and qualify for Social Security.

Q: I know a guy who is getting Social Security disability benefits, even though he's working two jobs and driving around town in a Cadillac Escalade. What can we do to stop all this cheating and abuse?

A: I know what you can do. You can call Social Security's fraud hot line at 800-269-0271 and report the guy. Or you can go to www.socialsecurity.gov and do the same. Click on the "Reporting fraud, waste and abuse" link. Your report can be anonymous. And by the way, you can report him for working, but not for owning a Cadillac. Social Security disability isn't a welfare program, so you can get benefits whether you're driving a Cadillac or a Yugo!

One other point: There is a chance the guy is working legally. There are a series of "work incentives" built into the disability program that encourage people getting benefits to return to gainful employment. In many cases, a person receiving Social Security disability can try working for up to a year before his or her benefits are cut off.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at thomas.margenau@comcast.net.

City

cont. from page 1

Election for the City of Pampa's May 14, general and special election.

Commissioners will also consider entering into an interlocal agreement with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission to upload the city's 911 data into a database for the new Panhandle Area Regional Information System.

The city commission will consider authorizing the Assistant City Manager to issue a change order in connection with the construction of the Outdoor Family Aquatic Center.

The change order will allow for a walking trail around the park. The Payne Foundation is giving the city \$14,113 for the walking trail to be named the David D. and Nona S. Payne Walking Trail.

The Pampa City Commission will meet beginning at 4 p.m., Tuesday, in the commission chambers on the third floor of Pampa City Hall, 201 West Kingsmill.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 11, the 101st day of 2011. There are 264 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 11, 1961, former SS officer Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Israel, charged with crimes against humanity for his role in the Nazi Holocaust. (Eichmann was convicted and executed.)

On this date:

In 1689, William III and Mary II were crowned as joint sovereigns of Britain.

In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated as Emperor of the French and was banished to the island of Elba.

In 1899, the treaty ending the Spanish-American War was declared in effect.

In 1921, Iowa became the first state to impose a cigarette tax, at 2 cents a package.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the notorious Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany.

In 1951, President Harry S. Truman relieved Gen. Douglas MacArthur of his commands in the Far East.

In 1970, Apollo 13, with astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert, blasted off on its ill-fated mission to the moon.

In 1979, Idi Amin was deposed as president of Uganda as rebels and exiles backed by Tanzanian forces seized control.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan returned to the White House from the hospital, 12 days after he was wounded in an assassination attempt.

In 1991, the musical "Miss Saigon," which sparked controversy over charges it was racist and sexist, opened on Broadway.

Ten years ago: Ending a tense 11-day standoff, China agreed to free the 24 crew members of an American spy plane after President George W. Bush said he was "very sorry" for the death of a Chinese fighter pilot whose plane had collided with the American aircraft.

Five years ago: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that his country had succeeded in enriching uranium on a small scale for the first time.

One year ago: Thousands of people stood in the streets of Poland's cities in a silent tribute to President Lech Kaczynski and the other 95 people killed in a plane crash the day before.

Today's Birthdays: Ethel Kennedy is 83. Actor Joel Grey is 79. Actress Louise Lasser is 72. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman is 70. Movie writer-director John Milius is 67. Actor Peter Riegert is 64. Actor Meshach Taylor is 64. Movie director Carl Franklin is 62. Actor Bill Irwin is 61. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 54. Rock musician Nigel Pulsford is 50. Actor Lucky Vanous is 50. Country singer Steve Azar is 47. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 45. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 41. Actor Johnny Messner is 41. Rock musician Chris Gaylor (The All-American Rejects) is 32. Actress Kelli Garner is 27. Singer Jess Stone is 24.

Thought for Today: "If we were to wake up some morning and find that everyone was the same race, creed, and color, we would find some other causes for prejudice by noon." — George Aiken, U.S. senator (1892-1984)

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What could be worse than a completely divided government?

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

PARTIES DIVIDED

Obama, GOP Leaders Under Intense Pressure

WASHINGTON — White House and Congressional leaders continued to disagree Friday over key

A completely united one.

GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN

PARTY UNITED

Chinese Rights Leaders Under Intense Pressure

BEIJING — Human rights activists, artists and other critics of the Chinese Communist Party have been

Rainy Day fund money needed now

If you have been reading newspapers or watching the news on television, you are aware that the State of Texas is facing a revenue shortfall.

Texas is about \$18 billion short of being able to maintain spending at its current level and at least \$27 billion short of being able to maintain services at their current level.

The effect of this shortfall on Pampa ISD could be a reduction in state funding of approximately \$1.5 million to as much as \$3 million.

However you look at it, Texas faces a larger revenue shortfall than during the last recession in 2003 and even larger than during the global energy price collapse in the 1980s.

Debate on how to deal with the shortfall includes using the Rainy Day Fund to minimize cuts to education.

The Rainy Day Fund currently has an accumulated balance of \$9.4 billion. This money can be used for anything. It's been used before to pay for public schools, prisons, and health care during tight budgets.

On Tuesday, March 15, Governor Rick Perry offered the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee the blessing he seeks to go forward with a vote that would authorize the withdrawal of \$3.2 billion from the Rainy Day Fund.

That leaves a balance of \$6.2 BILLION in the fund!

For background on the Rainy Day Fund...in 1987, to cope with any future economic downturn, the Texas Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment to create the Economic Stabilization Fund, commonly called the Rainy Day Fund.

The fund's purpose was to save money in good times to spend in bad times in order to maintain services. Voters approved a constitutional amendment creating the fund in November 1988. The amendment became Article 3, Section 49-g, of the Texas Constitution.

Here is how the fund works: The Comptroller makes deposits to the

County Class



DANNY SEABOURN

fund when: (1) oil or gas production taxes collected in a fiscal year exceed the amounts each tax collected in 1987, and (2) unencumbered General Revenue (GR) remains at the end of a biennium.

The Legislature can also appropriate money to the fund. The state reserves the revenue collected in good times to pay for services when General Revenue drops in bad times. As the economy recovers, General Revenue recovers, and the state picks up paying for ongoing or recurring costs with General Revenue.

The Rainy Day Fund has been used 4 times:

1. 1991, the Legislature spent the entire balance (\$28.8 million) on public schools,
2. 1993, the Legislature spent the entire balance (\$197 million) for criminal justice,
3. 2003, the Legislature appropriated \$1.3 billion from the Rainy Day Fund—almost every penny of the balance the Comptroller forecast through 2005—to deal with the last economic downturn
4. And in 2005, the Legislature appropriated \$1.9 billion in Rainy Day funds, using roughly half for 2005 shortfalls, and the other half for 2006-07, spending almost all the \$2 billion that was forecast to be available.

Higher-than-anticipated oil and gas prices ultimately brought in a

flood of unexpected revenue to the fund, which ended fiscal 2007 with a balance of \$1.3 billion. The Legislature did not appropriate any money from the fund in 2007, when General Revenue for the next biennium was expected to continue to grow quickly, or in 2009, when the federal government provided billions in stimulus aid used in place of General Revenue.

The Rainy Day Fund is designed to replenish itself and was created to deal with financial crisis.

Only your state legislators can put education first and authorize use of The Rainy Day Fund. The Texas legislature has the Rainy Day Fund money available for use as needed. It is needed now.

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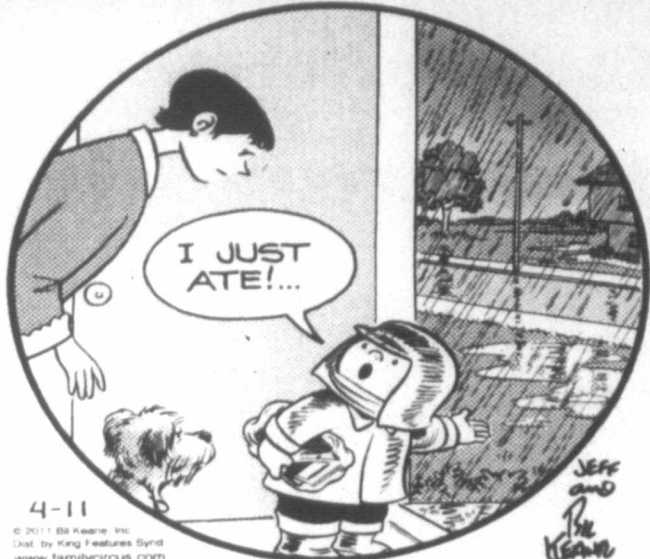
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comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



4-11

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"...Shouldn't I have to wait an hour before headin' to school?"

Non Sequitur



Nest Heads



Tundra



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



daily horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, April 12, 2011:

This year, opportunities tend to tumble into your path. You are probably one of your best resources, as your creativity pinnacles whenever you need it to. Others, though serious, chip right in, brainstorming away or finding an easier path. This month you are christening a new 11-year luck cycle. Let go of what doesn't work, and make an opening for something better. If you are single and ready, you could meet Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, share some of your inner happiness with your sweetie. Count on LEO being fun.

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)

★★★★ Your creativity continues to come forth and save the day. Your high energy mixed with the cooperation of others makes you close to unstoppable. Bridge a gap between you and another key person in your life. Tonight: Allow in more childlike moments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You might want to handle a personal matter more directly. If you understand what is behind another person's actions, you can create a better liaison or interaction. Know that you don't need to agree with him or her. Tonight: Make it easy; order in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You are more than likely to say exactly what you think, with little thought to the ramifications. How you handle a child or loved one who has been difficult can determine your interactions for the next few months. Tonight: Let your hair down. Make a talk possible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You might want to create a greater sense of security for yourself. Eye real estate and other financial investments with care. What you believe is an easy return just might not be. Think like a cynic. Tonight: Pay your bills.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A particular situation that revolves around an idea or a creative person keeps coming back up. You have been unusually serious, and people need to see your old spontaneity return. You might wonder which way to go with a child or loved one.

Tonight: As you like it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might be feeling as if you cannot accomplish everything that you want to. Closing your door might be a smart move. An associate or partner might suddenly become very energetic, to the point of being irritating. You might wonder what is happening. Tonight: Go for what you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Don't hesitate to zero in on what you want. You might feel pushed by others, but what is the difference if you have the same goal? Don't allow details to hold you back unnecessarily. The time is now. You also have the support of many people. Tonight: Celebrate living!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Realize it isn't just you who feels they are under pressure, but many people around you. Ask for important feedback, knowing other people's responses might not always be right-on, but they could give you guidance. Tonight: Out late, whether working or having fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Step back from an immediate issue, and you'll see a whole different perspective. This point of view also might be applicable to other challenging matters. Just don't trigger, as you eye success coming around the corner. Tonight: Let your imagination go.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ How you handle someone and the decisions you make could have a great deal of impact. This person might not be comfortable with the fact that you have so much experience and self-discipline. Tonight: Have a long-overdue chat.

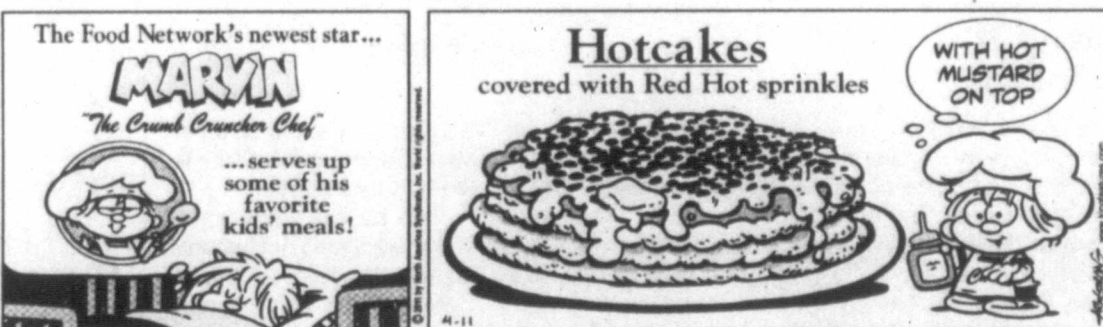
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Let go of having to have everything go exactly the way you want it to go. You don't have that type of control over any situation. Be more forthright yet open to others' ideas. You have the quality of being an avant-garde thinker, but you still can learn from others. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Dive into your work, and keep an eye on your major priorities. You also might inadvertently spend much more money than you realize. One-on-one relating draws more information. Be careful with any commitments. Tonight: Go for easy.

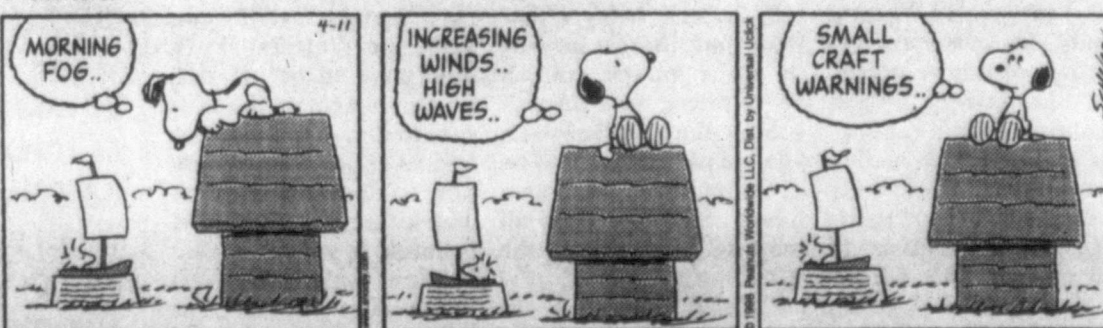
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Peanuts



Blondie



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Sports

Lady Harvesters outduel Rangerettes, district in sight

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

Saturday at Rangerette Field in Perryton, winds were blowing at 25-30 miles per hour and had an effect on the pitching and tracking down fly balls. The Pampa Lady Harvesters didn't let that stop them though, as they defeated the Perryton Rangerettes 24-18.

Both teams combined for 40 hits and 18 errors. Head coach Bobbi Gill said it was a wild game.

"I don't think we've committed that many errors in one game," Gill said. "It's crazy. I'm proud of the girls for giving us run support."

Senior third baseman Jordan Mayhew said the game was exhausting.

"We wanted it so bad and we just scraped it out," Mayhew said. "We played hard and we did our best to get as many runs as we could to get a cushion for our defense."

Pampa only managed one hit in the first and didn't advance past second. Perryton put Pampa in an unfamiliar situation hammering out six runs on four hits and three errors. Stacy Johnson knocked the first run in on a double. Bailey Walker hammered a ball over the center field wall for a three-run home run. Katelon Roberts and Gentry Jones hit RBI singles. The Lady Harvesters trailed 6-0, which was their largest deficit in district-play.

Pampa came right back and equaled Perryton's inning, scoring six runs on six hits and one error. Junior catcher Alanna Stephens led off with a single and advanced on a passed ball. With two outs, senior Madi Shults hit a RBI single to left and advanced to second on the throw home. Sophomore Martecia Alexander drove in Shults with a single. Sophomore Claire Hopkins hit a RBI single and advanced to second on a bobble by the right fielder. Sophomore Bailey Beck followed with a RBI single. In her second at bat in the inning, Stephens scored two with a bases loaded single and tied the game at six.

The Rangerettes responded in the bottom half. Amber Hall led off with a home run to right-center. Johnson followed with a double and Walker walked. Both scored on an error by Mayhew. Perryton led 9-6 after two.

The Lady Harvesters took their first lead of the game in third. Sophomore Tiffany Britton led off with a double. Shults reached on an error by the center fielder and Britton scored. Alexander drove in Shults with a single and cut the lead to one. Hopkins grounded out but scored Alexander to tie the game. Freshman Krysten Miller put Pampa in front with a double scoring Beck. Stephens hit a single to left and scored Miller.

Gill urged her team to not give up the lead but that's exactly what happened in the bottom of the inning. Jones led off with a single and advanced on a ground out. Amber Hall flied out to Beck for the

second out but the sophomore shortstop threw to second to try for a double play but Stokes couldn't handle the throw. Jones scored on the errant throw. Johnson walked and Walker hit her second home run and put the Rangerettes back on top 12-11.

That would be the final lead they would hold. Pampa scored six runs in the top of the fourth. Beck hit a two RBI double with Shults and Alexander scoring on the play. Miller nailed a pitch over the left field wall for her first home run. Junior McKinlee Stokes drove in Mayhew on a groundout and Britton hit a RBI single and scored Stephens.

The Lady Harvesters put themselves in position to run-rule Perryton in the following inning. Beck hit a RBI double for her fourth RBI of the game. Mayhew hit a RBI single to score Beck. Miller scored on an error by the shortstop. Shults capped off the inning with a two-run home run to left field for her first of the season. Pampa led 24-12 after the top of the fifth.

The Rangerettes weren't done playing. After a groundout, Johnson, Walker and Shelby Skaggs singled to load the bases. An error by Mayhew allowed two runs to score. Roberts singled to right and scored Skaggs to extend the game. An error by Beck allowed Cassie Hodge to score. The sophomore shortstop made up for it catching a pop up and throwing to Stokes to complete a double play.

Britton started for the Lady Harvesters and pitched the first inning. The sophomore gave up six runs on four hits and struck out one. Junior Heather Coffee (10-2) pitched four innings and gave up 12 runs (six earned) on 11 hits, walked three and struck out three to earn the win. Freshman Alexa O'Brien pitched the last inning and only had one runner reach base and ended the game with a strikeout.

Coffee said it was a challenging game but was glad her offense came through.

"It was game we really had to fight to win," Coffee said.

Beck led the team in hitting with four hits and four RBI. Shults had four RBI reaching base in five of six at bats.

Johnson took the loss for Perryton and allowed 15 runs (14 earned) on 13 hits, hit two and struck out two in three and one third innings. Walker led the Rangerettes in hitting with three hits including two home runs and five RBI.

Gill said the couple of scoreless innings they got late helped them win.

"I was proud of Heather (Coffee) for coming in and throwing like she did and Alexa (O'Brien) come in and finish like she did," Gill said.

The junior varsity (23-5, 5-0) won 18-4.

The Lady Harvesters (21-7, 5-0) host Dalhart (22-8, 2-3) 5 p.m. Tuesday. A win will clinch the district title.

Mayhew said the team has been looking forward to clinching district.

"We've worked really hard and I think we earned it," Mayhew said.



Senior Madi Shults hits a two-run home run in the top of the fifth Saturday at Rangerette Field. Shults drove in three as Pampa won 24-18. *staff photo by Andrew Glover*

District 1-3A Softball Standings

Team	W	L	W%	W	L	W%
y-Pampa	5	0	1.000	21	7	.750
Dalhart	2	3	0.400	22	8	.733
Borger	2	3	0.400	17	15	.531
Perryton	1	4	0.200	14	12	.538

BETWEEN THE CHALK: Inside the Numbers

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Pampa	0	6	5	6	7	0	0	24	25	10
Perryton	6	3	3	0	4	2	0	18	15	8

- The seventh inning was the only scoreless inning.
- The game was over two hours long.
- Pampa batted around in four innings
- Every pitcher except Pampa's Alex O'Brien gave up at least six runs
- There were over 220 pitches thrown.

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Sports

Harvesters' rally falls short against Rangers, fall to third

ANDREW GLOVER
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters rallied late but couldn't overcome their early deficit as they lost to the Perryton Rangers 11-9 Saturday at Mike Hargrove Field.

The Harvesters lost their second straight district game, but head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said it's still not time to panic.

"I commend their effort," Snelgrooves said. "They didn't quit, they stayed in the game the whole time and battled..."

Junior third baseman Jared Lusk said he wished they had to get off to a better start. "We left a lot on base," Lusk said.

Pampa took their only lead of the game in the top of the first. Green led off with a single and scored on a single by Lusk. The junior scored later in the inning. The Harvesters recorded two hits and reached base with two hit batsmen and a walk. The inning ended with the bases loaded as senior Garrett Ericson struck out with the bases loaded.

The early lead was short lived as the Rangers scored seven runs on four hits, one walk and two hit batsmen. Senior Tyler Malone started for the Harvesters and only lasted the first because he was dealing with flu-like symptoms. Snelgrooves said he was proud that Malone gave it what he had.

"Hats off to a kid like that," Snelgrooves said. "We already had the rotation set and he pitched."

The Rangers sent 11 batters to the plate. Seven of their nine starters scored runs.

Perryton led 7-2 after the first. In the second inning, Blake Turner led off with a single and scored on a single by Braiden Vernor.

Perryton expanded their lead to 11-3 before the Harvesters rallied in the seventh. Sophomore Jordan Lemons hit a lead off home run to cut the lead to seven. With one out, senior Zach Murray and junior Devin Coleman singled. Sophomore James Thompson followed with a walk. Lusk hit a grand slam to right and cut the lead to three.

The junior third baseman said it was a big hit but wish it mattered more.

"It was a good hit but I wish we would have won the game instead of lose," Lusk said.

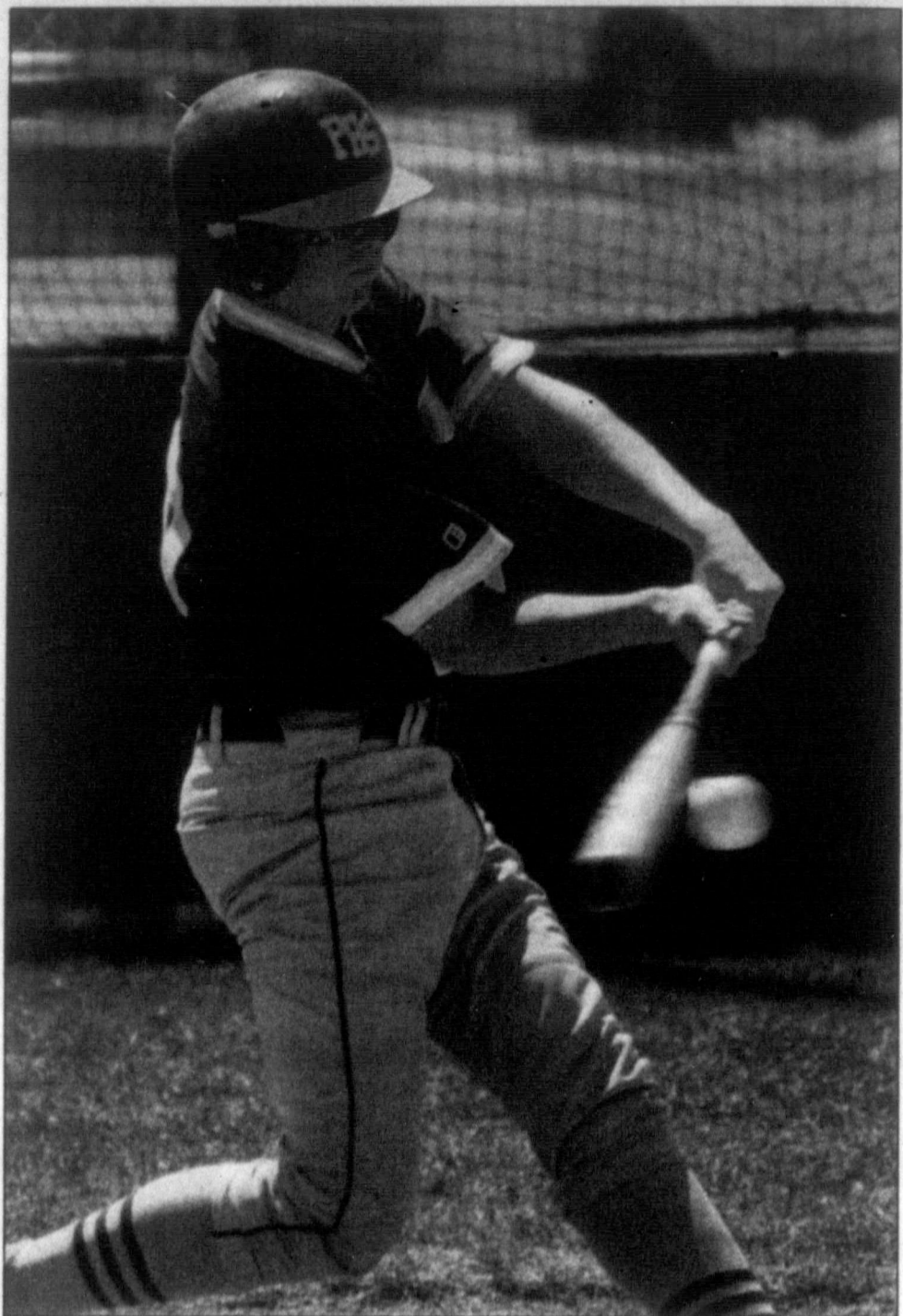
Junior Collin Killgo followed with a solo home run. Sophomore Zach Graves struck out and junior Cole Engle flied out to end the game.

The junior varsity (7-3, 3-1) lost 8-1 ending a three game winning streak. Pampa who scored at least 15 runs the last four games only scored one on two hits. Taylor Woods scored the only run when Lemons grounded out. Sheldon Reeve and Ethan Hunt recorded the only hits.

Coach Tyson Hickman said it was a good reality check.

"It's going to happen from time to time," Hickman said. "We got to run ruling people and sometimes it's good to have a reality check every once in awhile."

The Harvesters (10-12, 2-2) host Dalhart (6-9, 0-4) 5 p.m. Tuesday.



Senior Brent Green connects on a ball against Perryton Saturday. Green scored, singled and stole a base but the Harvesters lost 11-9. photo courtesy of Joe Murray

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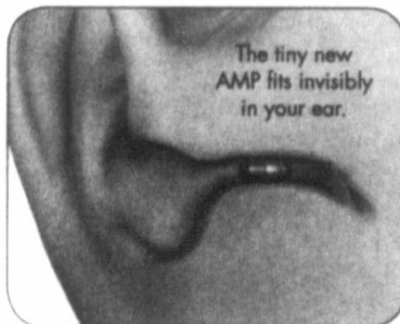
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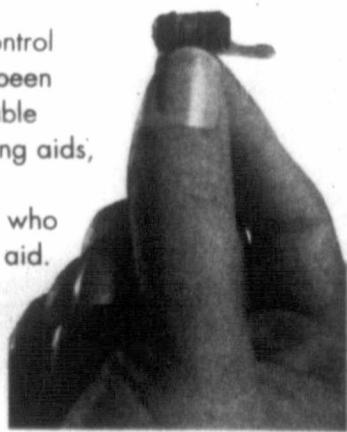
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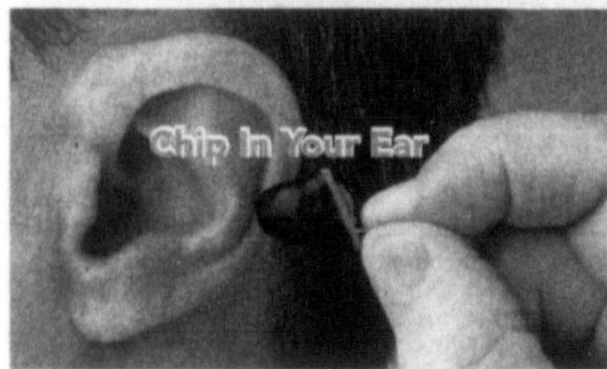
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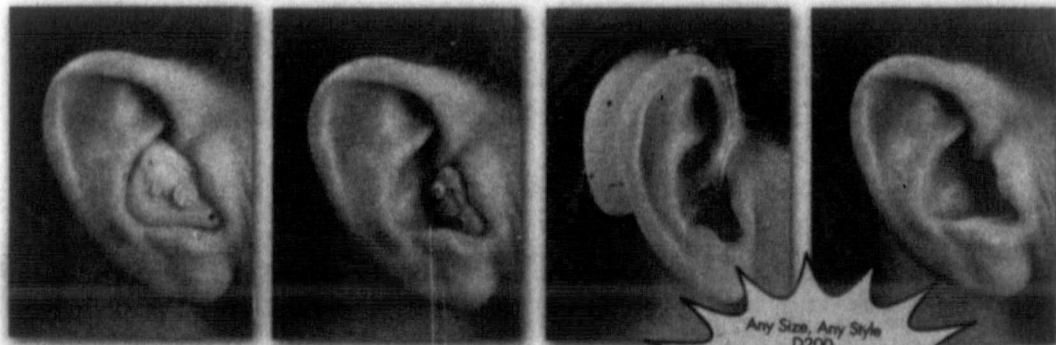
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